HO-910 Norman and Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Road Private

#### **Description:**

The Norman and Edith Choyce House faces northeast toward the road and is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay by one-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, wood shingles, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a cross gable on the front and a brick chimney in the center, on the ridge. The rear of the building has a two-story ell that is two bays by one bay and has a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a two-story shed roof section on the southeast side of the ell that is probably original and a matching section on the northwest. On the northeast elevation, the first story has a door in the east bay. There is a one-story, three-bay shed-roofed porch on the front that has four brick steps up to a new wood deck. The gabled wall dormer has asbestos shingles and a semicircular-arched two-over-two sash. The gable end has staggered butt wood shingles with a wood louvered vent at the peak. There are deep boxed eaves. The interior has a hall-parlor plan with one room in the ell. The southeast room has a two-run stairway an open stringer, rectangular balusters with a natural finish, a square newel post in pine, and a moulded handrail. On the second story there is a vestibule at the top of the stairs containing doors into chambers on the northwest and southeast. About 20 feet south of the house, is a one-story, one-bay by two-bay CMU garage with German siding in the gable ends, a northeast-southwest gable ridge, and asphalt shingle roofing. It has roll-up doors on the northeast

#### Significance:

The Norman and Edith Choyce House is the earliest dwelling constructed in the "Columbia Woodlands" subdivision. The land had originally been part of Caleb Dorsey of Caleb's "Dorsey Hall" farm in 1933 The Halloway Company purchased the Miller tract and subdivided it, recording a plat that was dated June 1933. Large and small lots were created in the triangle formed by the intersection of Columbia Pike (Clarksville Pike) and the Old Annapolis Road, overlooking the Allview Golf Course. The small lots, facing onto Columbia Pike, started at \$69, "small farms" began at \$149, and "large woodland tracts" went from \$199 and up. The latter were apparently located to the west, along the Little Patuxent River. Lots were first offered for sale in June 1934, and The Halloway Company placed restrictions on the lots in order to control the development. In 1935 some of the homes at "Columbia Woodlands" were illustrated in the newspaper, including that of the Choyces. The ell had not yet been added to the rear, but the house is otherwise identical. Its existence raises some difficult questions, however, since the Choyces did not buy the property from Halloway until 1945. Norman Choyce was a house builder, so it is possible that Choyce built this house. However, it is not known whether Choyce lived here before he bought the house, and whether he had some connection to the Halloway Company. He did build at least one other house in the subdivision, and he probably built the addition to his house.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-910

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name) historic Norman and Edith Choyce House other 2. Location street and number not for publication 9565 Old Annapolis Road city, town Columbia vicinity county Howard 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners) name Dorsey Crossing LLC street and number PO Box 417 telephone 410-465-4244 city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21041-0417 4. Location of Legal Description courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 30-63 city, town Ellicott City liber 8647 folio 395 5. Primary Location of Additional Data Contributing Resource in National Register District Contributing Resource in Local Historic District Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register Recorded by HABS/HAER Historic Structure Report or Research Report Other 6. Classification . . ...... -

Cate	gory	Ownership	Current Function		Resource C	ount	
<u>x</u> 	district building(s) structure site object	public _X private both	agriculture commerce/trade defense domestic education funerary government	Iandscape recreation/culture religion social transportation work in progress unknown	Contributing10001	Noncontr 0 0 0 1	ibuting buildings sites structures objects Total
D			health care industry	X vacant/not in use other:	Number of C previously lis		

## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-910

#### Condition

	excellent	(	deteriorated
X	good	I	ruins
	fair	6	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Norman and Edith Choyce House is located at 9565 Old Annapolis Road in Columbia, in central Howard County, Maryland. The house faces northeast toward the road and is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay by one-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, wood shingles, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a cross gable on the front and a brick chimney in the center, on the ridge. The rear of the building has a two-story ell that is two bays by one bay and has a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest ridge. There is a two-story shed roof section on the southeast side of the ell that is probably original and a matching section on the northwest.

On the northeast elevation, the first story has a door with four lights over two lying panels in the east bay, and no opening in the center bay. The north bay has a two-over-two double-hung sash with head-cut trim. There is a one-story, three-bay shed-roofed porch on the front that has four brick steps up to a new wood deck. The porch has five square posts, square balusters, and aluminum on the soffit. The gabled wall dormer has asbestos shingles and a semi-circular-arched two-over-two sash. There is a wood box cornice. The southeast elevation has a three-light sash in the foundation and a two-over-two double-hung sash with head-cut trim on the first story. The gable end has staggered butt wood shingles with a wood louvered vent at the peak and a two-over-two double-hung sash with head-cut trim. There are deep boxed eaves.

The southeast elevation of the ell has a recessed porch with a shingled balustrade in the south bay of the first story. There are five steps with stone veneer, and a door with four lights over two lying panels and head-cut trim. The east bay of the first story has a one-over-one sash with head-cut trim. On the second story, the south bay has a recessed porch with a shingled balustrade and a door with four lights. The east bay matches that of the first story. The southwest elevation of the main block has a door under the porch in the center bay of the foundation. It has one light over two panels. The south bay has a six-light sash. The first story has a typical two-over-two sash, and there is a boxed cornice. The southwest elevation of the ell has a six-light sash in the foundation and a one-over-one sash with head-cut trim on the first story. The gambrel end has a six-over-one sash with head-cut trim, and there is an octagonal louver in the end above this window. The rake boards have what appears to be an ogee and bevel moulding on them. The northwest elevation foundation has two one-light sash, and the first story has a typical two-over-two sash set to the north. The ell has a one-over-one sash on the upper story. The gable end rake board has a plain rectangular moulding.

The interior has a hall-parlor plan with one room in the ell. The southeast room has 2 1/4-inch oak flooring that runs northeastsouthwest. There is modern baseboard and plain head-cut trim that was originally varnished. The door has a natural finish on the interior. The sash is hung on cords and has parting beads and check rails. There is a two-run stairway on the northwest, with three pine steps below the landing which ascend to the northwest. The stairway then turns to the northeast. The stairs have an open stringer, rectangular balusters with a natural finish, a square newel post in pine, and a moulded handrail. There is a wall beneath the stringer as well as the doorway to the northwest room, which never had a door here. The northwest room has 2 1/4-inch pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest, the same baseboard and trim as the southeast room, new chair rail, and a wood ogee cornice. There is a chimney on the southeast wall. A door to the cellar is set beneath the stairs, and has two panels, natural finish, and butt hinges with ball finials. It also has a mortise lock. There is a heating grate on the southwest wall at the baseboard level, just southeast of the door and another on the northeast, beneath the window.

There is a doorway on the southwest, but the door is gone. The ell room is a kitchen with linoleum over pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest. There is knotty pine plywood on the walls above new chair rail and painted plywood below the chair rail. The ceiling has ceiling tiles. There are metal cabinets, and wood cabinets over the sink. On the southeast is a two-panel door that leads to a powder room. This room has linoleum, ceiling tiles on the walls and ceiling, and new fixtures.

On the second story, the southeast wall of the stairway is old drywall. There is a vestibule at the top of the stairs containing doors into chambers on the northwest and southeast. Both have 2 1/4-inch pine flooring that runs northwest-southeast. The southeast

Inventory No. HO-910

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Norman and Edith Choyce House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

chamber has a natural-finish two-panel door with plain butt hinges with pins, and a mortise lock. There is 2 1/4-inch pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest. The baseboard and architrave are typical, and the ceiling follows the rafter pitch. The northwest chamber never had a door in the doorway. The flooring matches the southeast chamber, and the baseboard and architrave are typical. On the southeast wall, south of the chimney, is a built-in cupboard with two drawers at the bottom, three two-panel doors, and three small one-panel doors at the top. The ell chamber has typical flooring that runs northeast-southwest, typical architrave, and plain baseboard. There is a two-panel door on plain butt hinges that leads to this room from the main block. The six-over-one sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, hung on cords, and have parting beads and check rails. The vestibule sash is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, and the muntins are also pinned. This sash has no parting bead and no sash cord. On the southeast side of the ell chamber is a bathroom with a linoleum floor and fake tile on the walls. It has a two-panel door, and a cupboard built in on the northeast that the back of which follows the pitch of the rafters. The fixtures are old, and the water closet is a Standard Cadet dated "Feb. 18, 1942."

The basement is under the main block of the house only and has CMU walls. There are circular-sawn 2 by 8 joists with cross bridging, they run northeast-southwest, and are spaced 16 inches on centers.

About 20 feet south of the house, is a one-story, one-bay by two-bay CMU garage with German siding in the gable ends, a northeast-southwest gable ridge, and asphalt shingle roofing. It has roll-up doors on the northeast and a door in the gable end, and has two-light steel sash. A shed-roofed CMU addition is on the northwest, and has a door with three lights over three lying panels on the northeast side.

#### 8. Significance Inventory No. HO-910 Period Areas of Significance Check and justify below 1600-1699 agriculture health/medicine \_\_\_\_\_ performing arts economics \_\_\_ 1700-1799 \_\_\_\_ industry archeology education philospohy \_ 1800-1899 X architecture engineering invention politics/government X 1900-1999 art entertainment/ landscape architecture religion \_\_\_\_2000recreation law science commerce ethnic heritage social history communications literature community planning exploration/ maritime industry transportation conservation settlement military other: Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder N/A **Construction dates** c. 1915-35 Evaluation for: National Register Maryland Register Х not evaluated Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of

the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.) The Norman and Edith Choyce House is the earliest dwelling constructed in the "Columbia Woodlands" subdivision. The land

The Norman and Edith Choyce House is the earliest dwelling constructed in the Columbia woodlands' subdivision. The land had originally been part of Caleb Dorsey of Caleb's "Dorsey Hall" farm, and 107 acres were purchased by Junie Miller in 1924 for \$6,000. Miller was foreclosed upon and his property offered for sale in 1933. At that time it was described as having "improvements thereon consisting of two (2) bungalows, barn, and other buildings. This is an ideal tract of land for subdivision." The Halloway Company purchased the Miller tract and subdivided it, recording a plat that was dated June 1933. Large and small lots were created in the triangle formed by the intersection of Columbia Pike (Clarksville Pike) and the Old Annapolis Road, overlooking the Allview Golf Course. The small lots, facing onto Columbia Pike, started at \$69, "small farms" began at \$149, and "large woodland tracts" went form \$199 and up. The latter were apparently located to the west, along the Little Patuxent River. The small farms faced on Old Annapolis Road, and according to The Halloway Company's sales pitch, were "for the man who seeks an easy way to save money by raising his own fruit and vegetables," as well as chickens for your own table. The focus of the advertising was probably a direct reflection of the economic conditions resulting from the Great Depression. (1)

Lots were first offered for sale in June 1934, and The Halloway Company placed restrictions on the lots in order to control the development. One required that any building had to have "plans and specifications showing architecture, color scheme and location" approved by the company. Privies and cesspools had to be approved by the company, probably to force the adoption of modern, indoor plumbing. Halloway also had the right to come onto the property prior to the building of a house in order to grade the property, cut grass, and plant flowers and trees. The company also restricted the property from being "sold, leased or transferred to, or occupied by any negro or person of negro descent." An exception was made for servants or employees of the owner. Racial restrictions were common in Maryland suburbs in the early 20th century, though by the 1930s in Catonsville they were beginning to be left out of deeds. The Halloway Company continued to use them until at least 1945, just three years before they were struck down by the Supreme Court. (2)

In 1935 some of the homes at "Columbia Woodlands" were illustrated in the newspaper. One of the homes shown was that of Norman and Edith Choyce. The ell had not yet been added to the rear, but the house is otherwise identical. Its existence raises some difficult questions, however, since the Choyces did not buy the property from Halloway until 1945. The Halloway Company stressed that their development offered one the opportunity to own your own home. All of the houses pictured in 1935 were some variation of a bungalow, and it is possible that the two that Junie Miller owned were cut off on their own lots and sold. If so, the Choyce house could have been one of these. It contains several features that are more typical of the 1890-1915 period than 1934, especially the staggered butt shingles in the gable ends and the semicircular-arched two-over-two sash in the front cross-gable. The use of pinned joints in some of the window sash typically dates even earlier, though there is the possibility that they were salvaged and reused. The house is typical of national housing types, though many of these were conservative and

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No HO-910

Name Norman and Edith Choyce House Continuation Sheet Number <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

continued to feature motifs that had passed out of vogue amongst trendsetters. One of these is the hall/parlor plan that is used, with an open stair in the large entrance room. (3)

The most recent owner of the house purchased the building from the Choyces, and stated that Norman Choyce was a house builder. She moved to "Columbia Woodlands" c. 1942, when she was 6 years old. Norman Choyce's obituary also describes him as a builder, so it is possible that Choyce built this house and that he had access to reused material. However, it is not known whether Choyce lived here before he bought the house, and whether he had some connection to the Halloway Company. He did build at least one other house in the subdivision, and he probably built the addition to his house. Norman Choyce was born in Pennsylvania to a family involved in furniture building, so his choice of occupation is not surprising. It is not known when or why he came to Howard County. (4)

Edward and Shirley Meldrom bought the house from the Choyces in 1960 and the Meldrom family sold it to developers in 2004. Shirley Meldrom moved out in 2006, and the house was slated to be demolished. (5)

Notes:

(1). Howard County Land Records, 120-392. Ellicott City (Maryland) Times, 2 March 1933, p. 7, col. 4.

(2). Howard County Land Records, BM Jr. 186-178. David L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, Historic Residential Suburbs (Washington, D. C.: National Park Service, National Register Bulletin, 2002), p. 33.

(3). Ellicott City (Maryland) Times, 20 June 1935, p. 8. Howard County Land Records, BM Jr. 186-178.

(4). Interview with Shirley Meldrom, 31 May 2006. Ellicott City (Maryland) Times, 9 August 1978, p. 6C, col. 6. Genealogical information on the Choyce family available at info@bettychoyce.com

(5). Howard County Land Records, RHM 354-231; MDR 8647-395.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet. footnotes

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property31,624 sq ftAcreage of historical setting31,624 sq ftQuadrangle nameSavage

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries follow the existing property boundaries.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning	dat 10/1	8/2006
street and number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone 410-313-4	335
city or town	Ellicott City	state MD zip code 21	043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

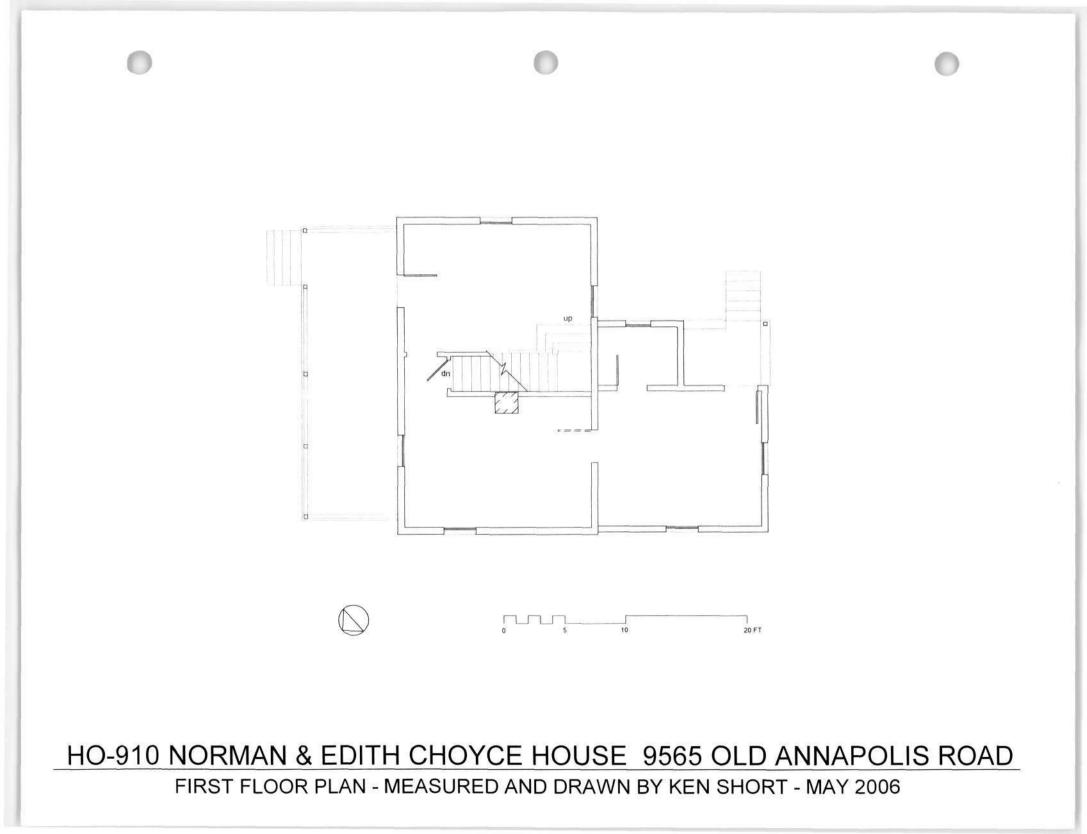
return to: Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032 410-514-7600 Inventory No. HO-910

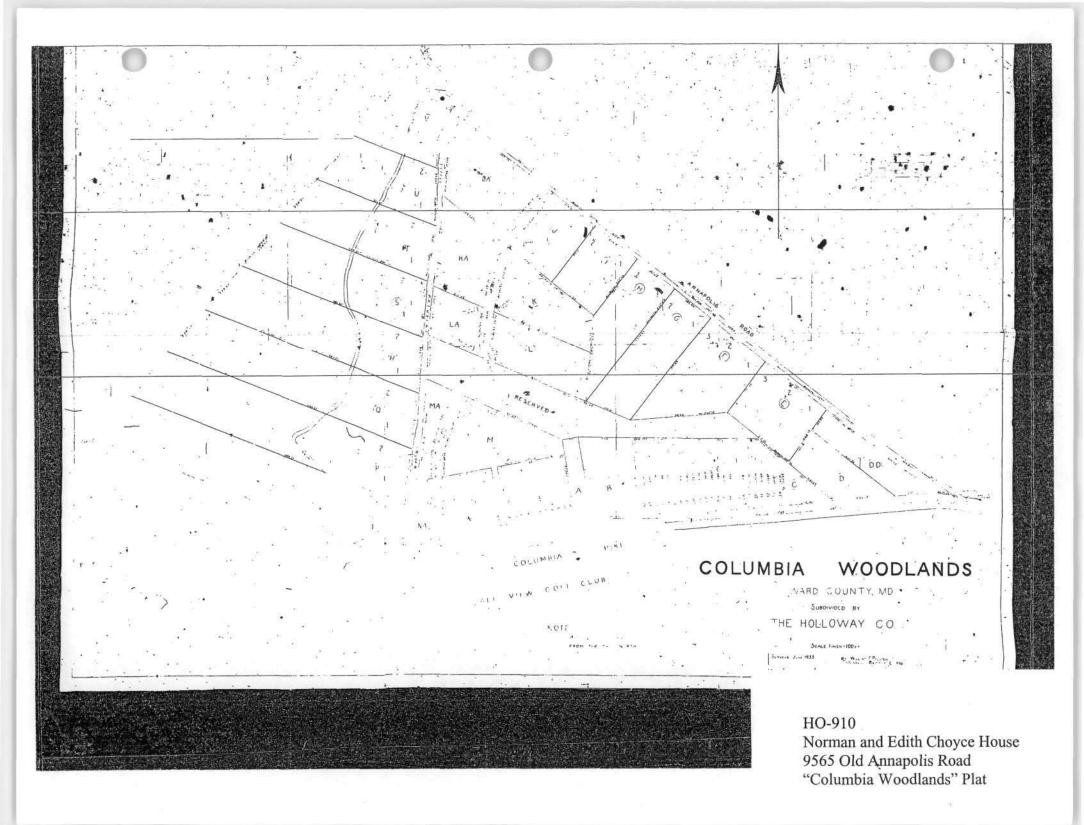
### Norman & Edith Cnoyce House HO-910 9565 Old Annapolis Road CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Shirley M. Meldrom Gary W. Meldrom John P. Meldrom Linda A. Meldron	Dorsey Crossing LLC/MD	9.15.2004	MDR 8647-395	Deed – fee simple	\$400,000	?	Lot 3 & p/o Lot 2, Block F Columbia Woodlands June 1933 Plat HSK 1-71 SW side Old Annapolis Rd., (Rt. 2) - p/o Lot 2 sold already- 1950
Edward C. & Shirley M. Meldrom (H/W), Howard	Shirley M. Meldrom Gary W. Meldrom John P. Meldrom Linda A. Meldrom	4.5.1995	MDR 3550-649	Deed – fee simple	\$0	?	
Norman & Edith M. Choyce (H/W)/ Howard	Edward C. & Shirley M. Meldrom (H/W)/Howard	6.14.1960	RHM 354-231	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	?	
Halloway Co./MD Corp.	Norman M. & Edith M. Choyce (H/W)	8.14.1945	BM Jr. 186-178	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	?	Has deed restrictions
Maryland-Virginia Joint Stock Land Bank of Baltimore/MD Corp.	Halloway Co./MD Corp.	5.26.1933	BM Jr. 145-482	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	107.61 ac.	
Elmer M. Harper, assignee/Baltimore City	MD-VA Joint Stock Land Bank of Baltimore/MD Corp.	5.26.1933	BM Jr. 145-477	Deed – fee simple	\$2,600	107.61 ac.	Public sale 3.24.1933 Equity 5-47, case 3325 Mort. Of Junie G. & Minnie G. Miller (H/W) (no prev. ref.)
Junie G. & Minne E. Miller (H/W)/Howard	MD-VA Joint Stock Land Bank of Baltimore/MD Corp.	6.9.1924	120-395	Mortgage	\$2,500	107.66 ac.	

## Norman & Edith Choyce House HO-910 9565 Old Annapolis Road CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Frank H. & Sarah Irene Driver (H/W John H. & Annie R. Hoover (H/W) Rockingham Co., VA	Junie G. Miller, Howard	5.24.1924	120-392	Deed – fee simple	\$6,000	107.66 ac.	On Old Annapolis Rd. & Columbia to Clarks Rd. (Formerly Old Montgomery Rd.) EMH d. 7.3.1921 JHH his only heir
Archie S. White & wf. Lydia M.	Frank H. Driver Ernest M. Hoover/?	4.12.1921	HBN 112-392	Deed – fee simple	\$3,000	106-0-31 3 ac 167.66 ac.	One-third interest in 3 tracts
Eugenia Rogers Smith, et al	Frank H. Driver Ernest M. Hoover Archie S. White	3.7.1919	HBN 107-387	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	167.66 ac.	p/o Dorsey Hall Farm
Ephraim Gaither et al	Caleb Dorsey of Caleb	6.16.1840	JLMI 93				
Charles W. Dorsey	Caleb Dorsey of Caleb	12.30.1828	WSC 14-298				



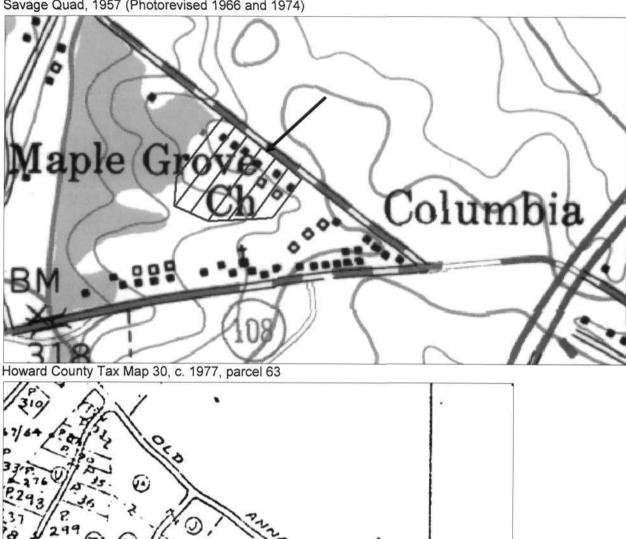


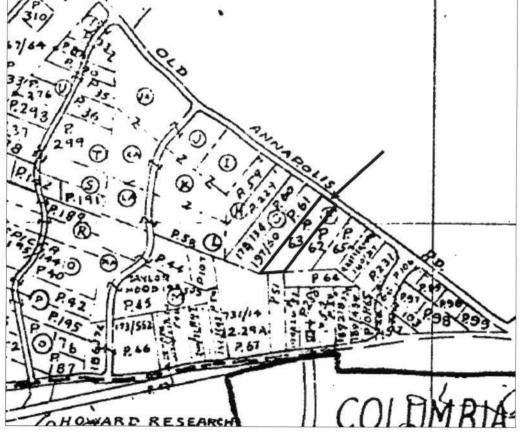
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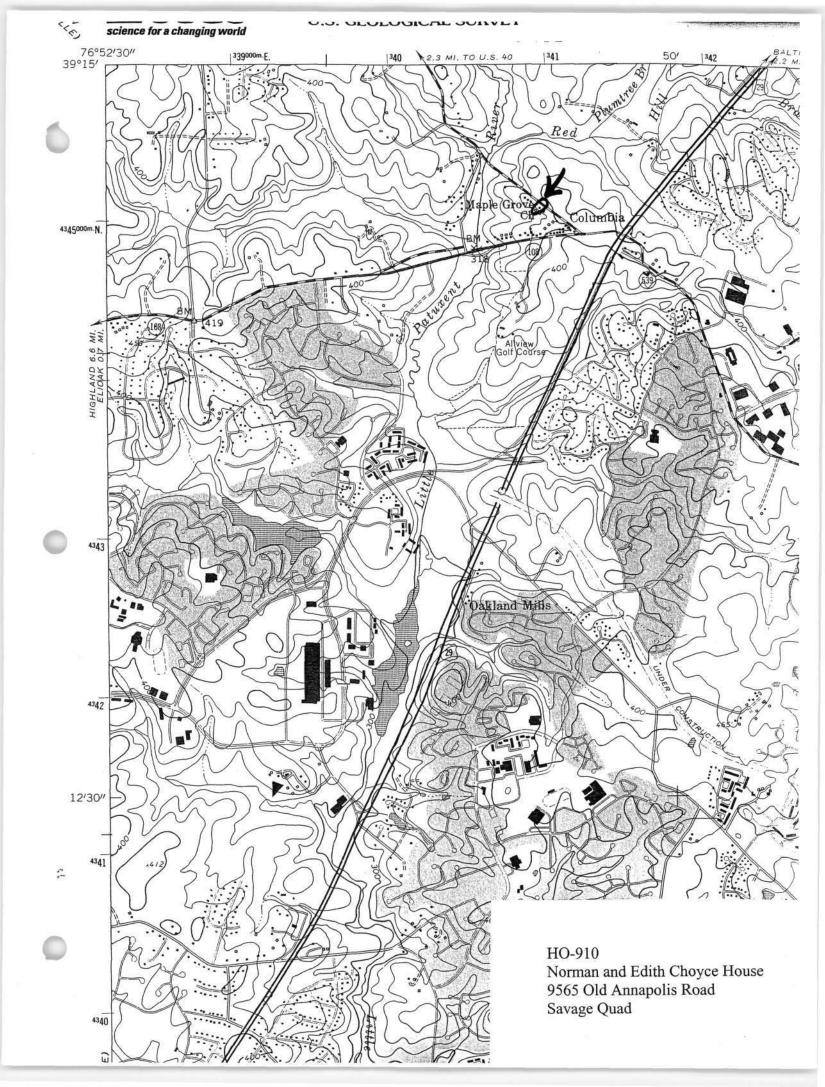
Norman and Edith Choyce House, site 9565 Old Annapolis Road Howard County GIS Howard County Aerial Photography Viewer Demolished c. 2006

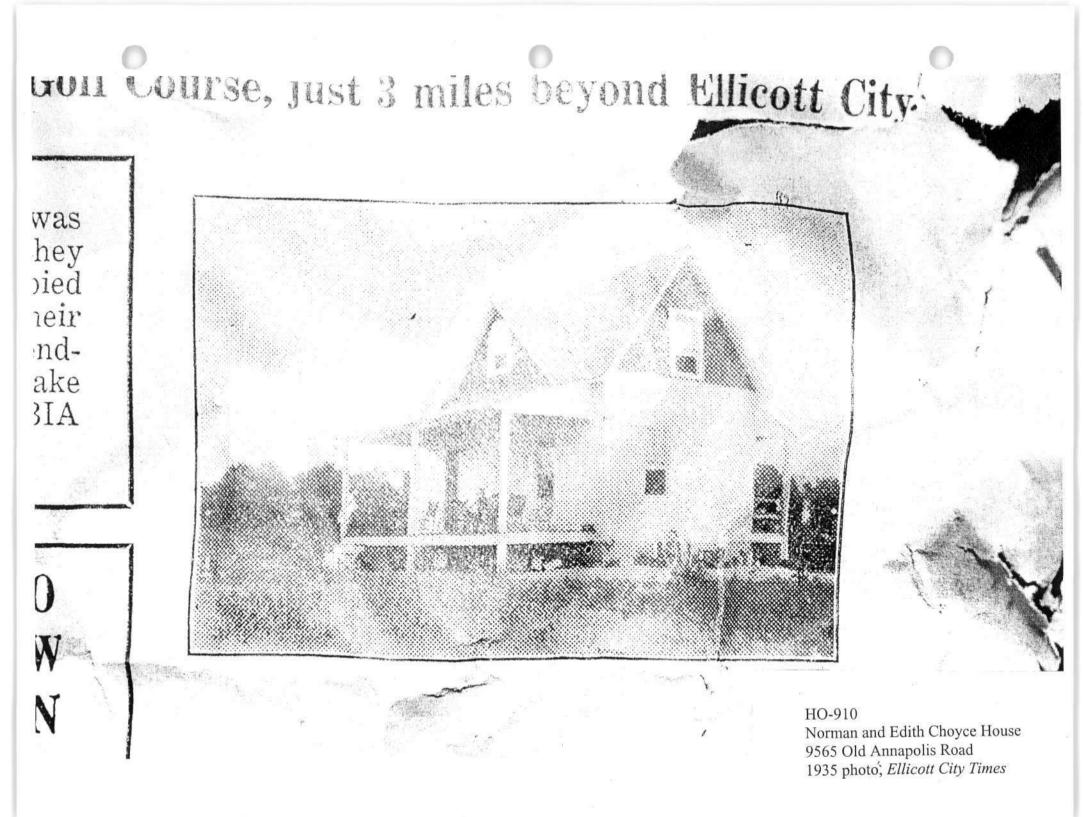


HO-910 Norman and Edith Choyce House, site 9565 Old Annapolis Road Savage Quad, 1957 (Photorevised 1966 and 1974) Demolished c. 2006









#### Photograph labels

HO-0906\_20060531\_01 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Northeast elevation Ken Short May 2006 1/7

HO-0906\_20060531\_02 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Southwest & southeast elevations Ken Short May 2006 2/7

HO-0906\_20060531\_03 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Northeast & northwest elevations Ken Short May 2006 3/7

HO-0906\_20060531\_04 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Southeast room, view west Ken Short May 2006 4/7 HO-0906\_20060531\_05 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Southwest ell room, vw. SE Ken Short May 2006 5/7

HO-0906\_20060531\_06 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Northwest chamber, view south Ken Short May 2006 6/7

HO-0906\_20060531\_07 Norman & Edith Choyce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd. Howard County, MD Garage, southeast & northeast elevations Ken Short May 2006 7/7 HO-910



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- NE elevation
- KW SHORT
- 5 2006



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- HO-910 Normanie Edilh Coxce House 9565 Old Annapolis Rd Columbia
  - NE and NW elevations Ken Short 5-2006



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Norman & Edith Chorce House
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SE Room, View West Showing Star
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