

Spence House
HO-863
5500 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
1948
Private

The Spence House (ca. 1948) is a 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, end-gable, Arts and Crafts style bungalow with a near-rectangular footprint. The house is constructed of concrete parged concrete masonry units. A projecting water table details the elevations and the gable ends are sided with wood clapboards. A wood porch is located under the main roof, which is asphalt. The house retains its wood three-over-one windows with vertical muntins and has brick lintels. The Spence House is located on Montgomery Road south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The house is set back from the road on a 2.38-acre lot and is the only building on the property.

The Spence House has significance as an intact mid-20th century, 1 1/2-story, Arts and Crafts style bungalow located south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The Spence House distinguishes itself from several post-World War II houses located along this section of Montgomery Road through its use of modern construction materials and the complexity of its form, which implies that it has a specialized interior plan. Its Arts and Crafts style detailing, integration of the garage into the house, and utilization of 20th c. design innovations, such as corner and ribbon windows, also make the house notable.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-863

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Spence House
 other n/a

2. Location

street and number 5500 Montgomery Road not for publication
 city, town Ellicott City vicinity
 county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Christopher Brown
 street and number 4228 Columbia Road telephone 410-992-8535
 city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21042

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Land Record liber 6610 folio 697
 city, town Columbia tax map 31 tax parcel 196 tax ID number 01-180770

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 at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>0</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Spence House (ca. 1948) is a 1 1/2-story Arts and Crafts style bungalow located on Montgomery Road south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The house is set back from the road on a 2.38-acre lot. The house is the only building on the property.

The Spence House (ca. 1948) is a 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, end-gable, Arts and Crafts style bungalow with a near-rectangular footprint. The house is constructed of concrete parged concrete masonry units. A projecting water table details the elevations and the gable ends are sided with wood clapboards. A wood porch is located under the main roof, which is asphalt. The house retains its wood three-over-one windows with vertical muntins and has brick lintels.

The principal facade of the Spence House faces east. The front of the house consists of a 3-bay main block with a south porch and a north (altered) garage. The 3-bay main block of the house is symmetrical about its entry bay. On the 1st story, the main entry consists of a wood door framed by wood pilasters and entablature. Three brick and concrete steps lead to the front door. Two gently curved bays flank the front door. Three window openings punctuate the bays. A low wide dormer pierces the east slope of the roof. The dormer is detailed like a balcony with a wood railing and paired square columns with slanted sides.

A porch with square wood posts extends from the south end of the main block of the house. The garage extends from the north end of the main block of the house. The east elevation of the garage retains wood pilasters and entablature that framed the original garage door, but the bay has been infilled. The garage door area now encloses an entry door opening and a window opening with a projecting greenhouse window. Shrubs cover the basement story of the front facade and it is not visible.

The north, gable end, of the garage has one centered window opening that holds an 8-light steel sash, and a rectangular vent is located in the peak of the gable. West of the garage, a 1-story, hipped roof breezeway projects from the main block of the house and is slightly stepped back from the garage. The north elevation of the breezeway has one door opening that holds a half-glass wood door. A ribbon window opening holding a triple window is located west of the door opening. The attic story of the main block of the house is visible above the breezeway. One window opening is located in the attic story. A rectangular vent is centered in the peak of the gable.

The west (rear) elevation of the breezeway is slightly stepped back from the main block of the house. It has a ribbon window opening that holds a double window. The northern half of the rear (west) elevation projects a few feet beyond the southern half of the rear (west) elevation. The 1st story of the northern, projecting section of the rear elevation has two ribbon window openings. The northern 1st story opening holds a double window and the southern 1st story opening holds a triple window. The basement story has two window openings, which are vertically aligned with the 1st story openings. The northern basement opening holds one 2-light window and the southern basement opening holds a pair of 2-light windows. The southern section of the 1st story of the west (rear) elevation has two window openings. The northern 1st story opening holds one window and the southern 1st story opening holds a double window. The basement story has one window opening, which is offset north of the northern 1st story window opening. A shed-roofed entry porch hood, that covers the basement door, projects from the west (rear) elevation.

The south, gable end, of the main block of the house has one 1st story door opening onto the porch. One 1st story window opening holds a double window. One centered window opening is located in the gable and a rectangular attic vent is located in the peak of the gable. The basement story has one window opening that holds a 6-light window. The opening under the porch is infilled with plywood. The south elevation of the northern, rear projecting section has a below-grade basement door opening. A flight of concrete steps with a metal pipe rail leads to the door.

The house is kept as a rental property and the interior was not made accessible

Site

The Spence house is set on a 2.38-acre country lot that was part of a farm through the mid-20th century. The Spences originally purchased 7.8 acres, which was later subdivided for additional nearby houses. The house has mature landscaping, now somewhat

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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neglected, that is indicative of both the historically rural location of the site and is complementary to the Arts and Crafts ethos. Mature trees line the roadway. A curving drive leads to the house. A grape arbor is located behind the house. Fruit trees and the traces of a garden plot are located at the rear of the site.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1948 **Architect/Builder** George Spence, builder

Construction dates 1948

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Spence House has significance as an intact mid-20th century, 1 1/2-story, Arts and Crafts style bungalow located south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The Spence House distinguishes itself from several post-World War II houses located along this section of Montgomery Road through its use of modern construction materials and the complexity of its form, which implies that it has a specialized interior plan. Use of concrete construction materials, integration of the garage into the house, and utilization of 20th c. design innovations, such as corner and ribbon windows, also make the house notable.

The house displays elements of the Arts and Crafts style, which is rare in Howard County. The Arts and Crafts influence is visible in the bungalow form and especially in the low, shed-roofed dormer that displays short square posts with sloping sides. The flared slope of the roof over the porch is also a common Arts and Crafts style feature.

Located at 5500 Montgomery Road on a country lot previously part of the Emma and Everett Pierson farm, local house builder George Spence built the house in 1948 as his own home, presumably for his retirement. In 1930, George Spence (aged 48), Elizabeth (aged 37), and their six children lived on Old Frederick Road.¹ Elizabeth Spence died in March 1977 and George Spence sold the property in September 1977. The property has had three owners since 1977.

¹ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fifteenth Census of United States: 1930, Population Schedule**, E.D. 14-4, Sheet 4B.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-863

Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule 1930.**
Foster, Gerald. **American Houses.** Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.
Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. **Field Guide to American Houses.** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.38 acres
Acreage of historical setting 7.8 acres
Quadrangle name Savage Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Spence House corresponds to Howard County Map 31, Grid 20, Parcel 196, which is the building's current legal lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	February 28, 2005
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

HO-863
 Spence House
 5500 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS.	PRICE	ACREAGE	COMMENTS
Richard Keys Ochs and Susan A. Arnold	Christopher L. Brown	10-23- 2002	6610	697	Deed	410,000.00	2.38 acres	
Blaine S. See and Lorretto N. See	Richard Keys Ochs and Susan A. Arnold	12-06- 1982	1133	64	Deed	118,000.00	2.38 acres	
George W. Spence, widower	Blanie S. See and Lorretto N. See, his wife	09-15- 1977	845	126	Deed	5.00	2.38	Being a part of the same land which was acquired by George W. Spence and Elizabeth D. Spence, his wife, by Deed of Assignment dated July 2, 1948, Liber No. 204, folio 491 from Clayton W. Bordley, Inc. and also being a part of the same land described in a Deed dated November 28, 1950, Liber No.221, folio 272, by and between Ralph L. Poehlmann, unmarried, and the said George W. Spence and Elizabeth D. Spence, his wife, wherein the ground rent was extinguished. Elizabeth D. Spence died on march 19, 1977.
Ralph L. Poehlmann, unmarried	George W. Spence and Elizabeth D. Spence, his wife	11-28- 1950	221	272	Deed	5.00	7.8 acres	
Clayton W. Bordley, Inc.	George W. Spence and Elizabeth D. Spence, his wife	07-02- 1948	204	491	Deed of assignment	5.00	7.8 acres	Being part of the second tract described in a Deed from Reuben D. Rogers and Nellie P. Rogers to Clara C. Kraft et al., Liber 111, folio 101.
George W. Spence and Elizabeth D. Spence	Ralph L. Poehlmann	07-02- 1948	204	489	Deed	5.00	7.8 acres	Being part of the second tract described in a Deed from Reuben D. Rogers and Nellie P. Rogers to Clara C. Kraft et al., Liber 111, folio 101.

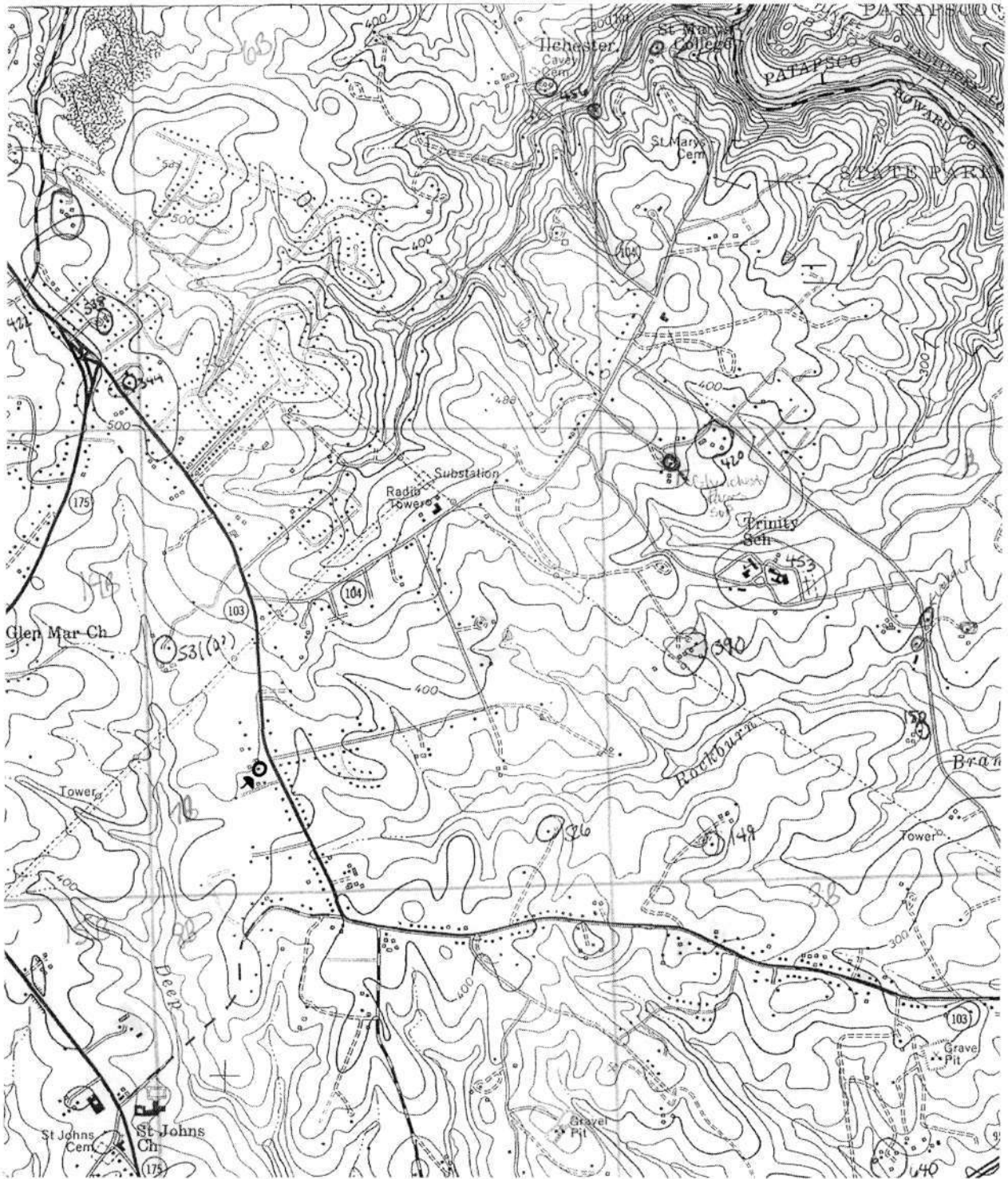
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Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

George W. Spence and Elizabeth D. Spence	Clayton W. Bordley, Inc.	07-02- 1948	204	487	Lease	60.00 semi- annually	7.8 acres.	Being the same lot of ground, which by Deed, bearing even date herewith, and intended to be recorded prior hereto granted by Emma A. Pierson and Everett H. Pierson, to the lessors herein.
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Spence House (HO-863)
5500 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
Site Plan/Aerial Photo



Spence House (HO-863)
5500 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, Howard County
USGS Savage Quad



HO-803

Spence House
Howard County, MD
Jennifer Boold

02105

MD SHPO

View W, Shows house in setting.

1063

ART-2611 <NO. 25 >004
969 1217 -1 N N-5-30
(044) ©



HO-863

Spence House
Howard County, MD
Jennifer Gould

02105

MD HPO

View W. Show front facade.

2 of 3

ART-2611 <No. 27 >006
969 1212 -1 N N-5-20 <044>0



HO-863

Spence House
Howard County, MD
Jennifer Gould

02/05

MD SHIP0

View E, Shows rear facade.

3 of 3

ART-2611 <NO. 26 >005
969 1717 - 1 N N-2 13 <044>0