Shearn House
3916 Old Columbia Pike
HO-627

Located approximately 200 feet north of the Old Columbia Pike, this stone Tudor Revival house was built in 1936 and sits on a 1.2 acre lot. The 1 1/2 story crossgable house has a sidegabled roof and prominent steeply pitched front gable and symmetrical wings. Constructed of roughcut coursed stone, the house has deeply recessed openings which gives definition to the facade.

This house is significant as an example of early planned suburban development in Howard County and as a fine example of Tudor Revival architecture. Like many prosperous Ellicott City merchants, August Stigler, a wholesale flour dealer, moved outside of town to the hillside along Columbia Pike in the early 1920s. After purchasing 20 acres from Caleb Rogers in 1928, Stigler subdivided his land into 12 lots of nearly equal size, roughly 1/3 acre each.

HISTORIC PERIOD CONTEXT:

Region:	Piedmont
Period:	Modern Period
Theme:	Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Resource Type:	Residence/rural vernacular
Site Types:	Standing structures

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HO-627

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name) Shearn House

historic

and/or common Shearn House

2. Location

street & number 3916 Old Columbia Pike (MD 987) ___ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City ___ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Howard

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Allan and Margaret Shearn

street & number 3916 Old Columbia Pike telephone no.:(410) 465-8362

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County liber 1074

street & number 8360 Court Avenue folio 381

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-627

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house is in excellent condition and is an important example of Tudor Revival architecture with a high degree of architectural integrity.

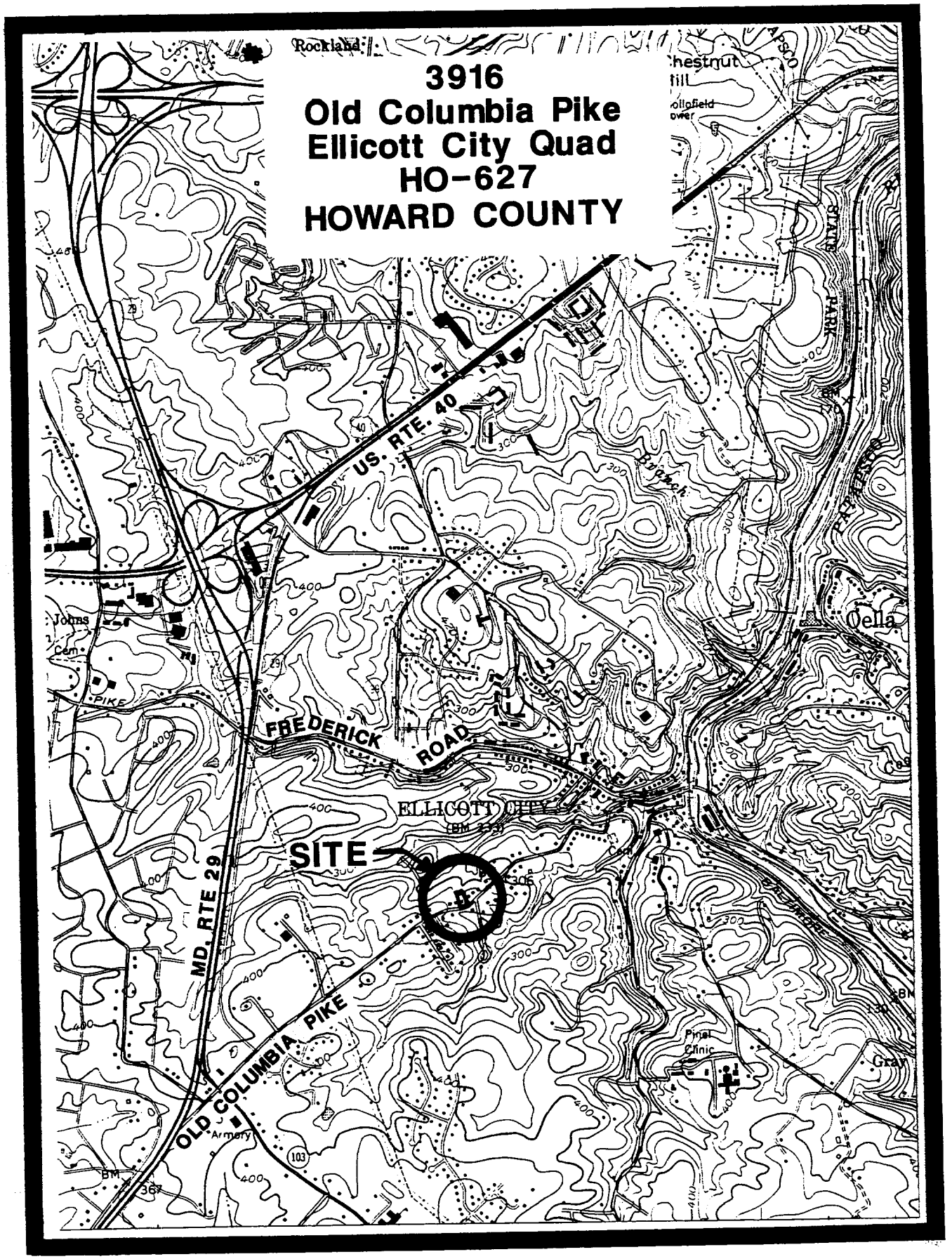
This house is significant as an example of early suburban planned development in Howard County and as a fine example of Tudor Revival architecture. It is part of an intact corridor of the early 20th century houses that line Old Columbia Pike on the outskirts of Ellicott City.

While suburban style developments were planned along the B&O Railroad's Washington branch near Laurel in the late 19th century, this development was one of the first of its kind in the northern section of the country. Unlike neighboring counties, Howard County never experienced the housing boom created by the arrival of rail and streetcar lines. This small development along Old Columbia Pike represents one of the few pre-World War II developments that exist in the county.

Like many prosperous Ellicott City merchants, August Stigler, a wholesale flour dealer, moved outside of town to the hillside along Columbia Pike in the early 1920s. After purchasing 20 acres from Caleb Rogers in 1928, Stigler subdivided his land into 12 lots of nearly equal size, roughly 1/3 of an acre. The lots were all 70 feet wide and about 200 feet deep abutting the Cat Rocks Branch stream valley.

According to his son, August Stigler Jr., Stigler was capitalizing on the success of the street car line which connected Ellicott City with Baltimore. He believed that potential homeowners would be attracted to affordable lots within walking distance of the Ellicott City station.

Most of the houses were built in 1928, but at least three lots, like this one known as "Lot #10," remained empty for years because of the Depression. Deed research reveals that this property along with Lots number 8 and 9 to the west were sold to A. Morris Johnson in 1928. Although no documentation has been found to confirm their origin, Stigler's son believes a number of the houses eventually built at this time were ordered from popular catalogues of the period. In the case of this house, the plan might have been from a catalogue, but the material (stone) and construction style suggests it was built by a professional.


3916
Old Columbia Pike
Ellicott City Quad
HO-627
HOWARD COUNTY
Rockland
US. RTE. 40
FREDERICK ROAD
ELLICOTT CITY
SITE
MD. RTE 29
OLD COLUMBIA PIKE
Armory
Pinel Clinic
Oella
Johns
Cem
PIKE
Branch
STATE PARK
PATAPSCO
Gray