

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1615255404

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Retirement or Ulyses Griffith I. House				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Retirement or Ulyses Griffith I House				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 5501 Griffith Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Laytonsville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> <i>(Check One)</i>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<b>Public Acquisition:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<b>Yes:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PRESENT USE</b> <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: P. W. Willett				
STREET AND NUMBER: 5501 Griffith Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Laytonsville			STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland	

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unciteded <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a two story, stone house, covered with plaster. The facade is five bays with a central doorway with an arched light with a foliated muntin pattern. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash with narrow frames and wood sills. Across the center three bays is a porch with square posts with brackets over each post supporting the boxed cornice. The main cornice is boxed but narrow above a narrow frieze. The flush gable chimneys are brick.</p> <p>To the north is a two story ell with a large chimney. It is three bays with 6/6 double hung sash windows.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1842			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The present house is on the site of an earlier house that burned.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			C R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In 1918-1919 the old estate containing 206 acres was sold to Dr. A. L. Quaintance, who at that time gave the place the name by which it has been known ever since. Dr. Quaintance was Associate Chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture at the time he came to the Shaw farm. He developed a successful nursery, and an outstanding orchard, which he managed with marked success. The nursery is still operated by his son, Howard W. Quaintance, to whom the doctor gave a plot of one and one-half acres upon which he built a modern brick house.

The old Shaw home was sold to a real estate broker by Dr. Quaintance in 1940. He subdivided the property, upon which a number of

new houses have since been built. The Shaw home with about two and one-half acres was later sold to F. W. Williams, an automobile dealer of Silver Spring after it had been extensively modernized and beautified by the realtor. Mr. Williams sold the old Shaw home in 1956 to Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Smith, who are owners in 1962.

The lovely house is typically Colonial in design. The front is toward the east. The dining room has an elaborate wood mantel, probably of a much later date than the house. North of the hall is a parlor with a very plain old mantel which was apparently in the original house, as it looks to be a century old.

## Retirement

**T**HE house shown is one of the finest and most substantial of the numerous homes of the Griffith family in Montgomery County. The Griffith family has been prominently identified with Montgomery County history since the Honorable Henry Griffith I established himself there some years before the Revolutionary struggle.

Of rough stone covered with cement-mortar, the house faces toward the south. It was built in 1842 to replace a house that burned that year. Henry Griffith III inherited a plantation of 595 acres from his father, Colonel Henry II, which was part of the large estate that the Honorable Henry Griffith I acquired in the county. Honorable Henry I is credited with ownership of 15,000 acres at his death. The earlier house is presumed to have been built about 1790 when Henry III married Mary Riggs. Henry III was born in 1767; and his wife, Mary, in 1768.

After their marriage, Henry and Mary established themselves at Retirement. He became a prosperous planter and was a vestryman of St. Bartholomew's Church when it was established in a meeting at Bowman's store in 1814. Henry III was on the Levy Court in 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1838 and 1841. When he died he left five farms, one each to his widow, three children, and one grandson. His wife, Mary, died in 1846, and both are buried in the family graveyard near the house at Retirement.

In 1816 Henry Griffith III obtained permission from the land office of the State of Maryland to have his own farm and several adjoining tracts re-surveyed in order to obtain title to some vacancies that he claimed existed. The old grants involved were Elk Ridge, Addition to Elk Ridge, New Year's Gift, Tusculum and Addition to Brooke Grove. As a result of this re-survey filed with the land commissioner in November, 1816, Henry III acquired about six acres of vacancies not covered by previous deeds which, when added to his own acreage, gave him 601½ acres, which he named Retirement. This grant was made as if it were an original conveyance, and was approved by the Chancellor of Land Operations, and the great seal of the State was affixed on January 31, 1818. The author has the plat on file.

Ulysses Griffith, a son of Henry III and Mary, was born at Retirement in 1810, and in 1838 married Julia Riggs. He inherited the home farm of Retirement by his father's will. Ulysses built the present house, shown right, the year after the old house on the site was burned. He owned many slaves, and they were used to carry the heavy stone up the hill from a nearby quarry to the masons working on the walls. Ulysses died in January, 1869, and his wife Julia in 1886; both are buried in the family plot at Retirement.

Following Ulysses' ownership of the old

home, it passed to his son William R. Griffith, born in April, 1852, who married his cousin Isabella Griffith in 1872. William's whole life was spent on the plantation. At the age of seventeen he had assumed full responsibility for the management of the farm and was very successful. He died in December, 1921, and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

William's son, Jeffrey M. Griffith, fifth generation in direct line of ownership of the Retirement plantation, was born in 1881, and in 1910 married Lillian Neel. He died in 1946 at the age of sixty-five years. Since that date Retirement has been operated by Jeffrey's widow, Lillian,



NO. 95 C-8 ULYSSES GRIFFITH 1842 STONE-  
STUCCO TO REPLACE AN OLDER HOUSE

assisted by her son Jeffrey M. Griffith, Jr., born in 1913.

It is sad to have to report the death of Jeffrey M. Griffith, Jr. in 1960 at the age of 47 years.

Allen Griffith, son of Henry III and Mary, was born at Retirement in 1801. A successful business man in Baltimore for some years, he later moved to California, and became an artist of some repute. He married Mary A. Stansbury in 1833. At his death in 1875, according to stipulations in his will, Allen Griffith's remains were returned to his birthplace, and a small marble shaft marks his grave in the family burial plot near the house, along with other markers over numerous other graves of Griffith descendants.

This house has a center hall with a door to the rear yard. To the right is a dining room with a kitchen adjoining it on the back. (Originally there was a detached kitchen.) The colonial fireplace with crane in place and bake oven to one side is still in the kitchen.

An unusual feature is the presence of a dozen or more British brass stamps on door locks in this house. These are the familiar reproductions of the Great Seal, the lion and the unicorn, of Great Britain. Whether these locks were taken from another house or were "war surplus" in the hands of English hardware dealers who shipped them here for the house being built in 1842 is a matter for speculation.

## Riverside

**N**EAR where the Hawlings flows into the Patuxent River stands the delightful old house appropriately named Riverside. It is on a promontory of four hundred feet elevation, the land sloping steeply to the Patuxent through thick woods.

In October, 1853, Caleb Edward Iddings, born in 1829, purchased sixty-three acres for \$600 from Zephaniah Cissel and Mary Ann, his wife. When he made this purchase, Caleb was unmarried. He spent two adventurous years as a "49'er," sailing around Cape Horn and returning across Central America. Before Caleb married Harriet Retzer in 1859, his father, Caleb P. Iddings, took the land off his hands and built the house upon it in 1855. The pleasant commodious country place has been the

home of the Iddings family ever since and is owned today by a great-granddaughter of Caleb P. Iddings, Rebecca Iddings Small.

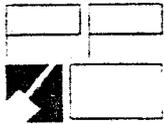
Born in 1785 in Pennsylvania, Caleb P. Iddings married Harriett Jackson (born May, 1789) in 1812. They came to Riverside in 1855 when well along in years and built the house. Caleb died in August, 1863, and his wife in October, 1876. Their ninth child and youngest son, Charles A. Iddings, married Elizabeth Stabler of Sharon in 1855 and came to live at Riverside.

Before his marriage Caleb Edward Iddings became a doctor, obtaining his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and moved to Sandy Spring into a frame house along the south side of the village road after his marriage in 1859.

MIN

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



M: 23/19

RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM

March 21, 1986 MAR 24 1986

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
John L. Menke, Director  
Department of Environmental Protection  
✓ J. Rodney Little, Director  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Philip Cantelon, Chairperson  
Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator  
Community Planning North *MCB*

SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for  
Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern  
Montgomery County Resources

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I am pleased to transmit to you this Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources.

This document contains the recommendations of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission on approximately 80 historic sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, and Burtonsville areas of the County.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Draft Amendment on Monday, April 21, 1986, at 7:30 P.M., in the Auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Should you have any questions concerning this specific Preliminary Draft Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:dws  
Attachment

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED  
MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

NORTHERN AND EASTERN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES

Including sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring,  
Aspen Hill, Norbeck and Burtonsville Areas

March 1986

An amendment to the 1980 Olney Master Plan, 1980 Sandy Spring/  
Ashton Special Study Plan, 1970 Aspen Hill Master Plan, and the  
1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan; being also an  
amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the  
Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of  
Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090

## IMPLEMENTATION

Once designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, any substantial changes to the exterior of a resource or its environmental setting must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and a historic area work permit issued. The Ordinance also empowers the County's Department of Environmental Protection and the Historic Preservation Commission to prevent the demolition of historic buildings through neglect.

It is the intent of the Master Plan and Ordinance to provide a rational system for evaluating, protecting and enhancing Montgomery County's heritage for the benefit of present and future residents. The accompanying challenge is to weave protection for this heritage into the County's planning program so as to maximize community support for preservation and minimize infringement on private property rights.

## THE AMENDMENT

The purpose of this Preliminary Draft Amendment is to consider the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's recommendations that the following sites be designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and protected under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. A copy of the Ordinance is provided in Appendix B of this document.

(NOTE: Unless otherwise specified in the Preservation Commission's nomination, the recommended environmental setting for each site is the entire parcel on which the resource is located as of the date it is designated on the Master Plan as defined in Section 24A-2 of the County's Preservation Ordinance. Where additional buildings of historical or architectural importance are associated with a site, these buildings are noted in the nomination as being part of the recommended setting.)

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
15/55	Spencer/Carr House	2420 Spencerville

- Dating from 1855 with a rear section added in the 1870's, this three-story house is distinguished by three over three windows on the third floor and a one-story porch with bracketed pillars on the front facade.
- Significant as an example of the "Spencerville style", a local style characterized by a special grouping of architectural detail most notably half windows on the third story extending into the boxed cornice and roof line.

23/14 Richard Landsdale House 4015 Damascus Road

- Circa 1840's -- Interesting farmhouse, the main block of which was built of stone native to the property. Original kitchen was connected in the late 19th Century and a 2-story frame addition built in 1929.
- Significant as an example of vernacular architecture typical of that constructed in Montgomery County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries.
- Included in the setting are all outbuildings associated with the site.

23/19

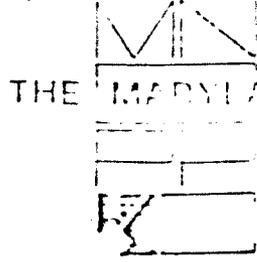
Retirement 5501 Griffith Road

- Built in 1842 on the site of an earlier house, this large stone house is a holdover of the Federal style in a rural area; the porch, possibly of a slightly later date, shows Revival influences.
- Architecturally, it is clean and understated in its stylishness and is a good example of the traditional house of the landed gentry in early 19th century Montgomery County.
- This property was associated from 1816 until the 1960's with the locally prominent Griffith family.
- The recommended environmental setting of approximately 5 acres includes the house, log meat house, and the Griffith family cemetery.

23/29

Fair Hill II 5929 Sundown Road

- This Federal style building was constructed in several sections in the early 19th century. The left-hand, earlier section is log; the right-hand side is of brick-nogged frame construction and was added circa 1820; a rear wing was added later.
- Architecturally, the structure is an organic whole of simple style and proportion, the front being united by a one-story porch and continuous pebble dashing.
- The earliest section housed Bowman's Store in the early 1800's, which served as an important and visually prominent meeting place in the Laytonsville area. It is one of only a very few commercial structures of that period remaining in the County.
- The recommended environmental setting includes all outbuildings associated with the site.



M:23-19

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 10, 1986

ACTION TAKEN

The purpose of this Final Draft Amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

- M: 15/67.....Maiden's Fancy
- M: 23/19.....Retirement
- M: 23/33.....Bleakwood
- M: 23/82.....Grafton Holland Farm (Sunnymeade Farm)
- M: 23/103.....John D. Berry House
- M: 23/123.....Jacob Allnutt Farm



#23-19

NAME RETIREMENT

LOCATION GRIFFITH Rd UNITY, Md

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74 MOWYER