



INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Elton

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 3801 Elton Farm Road

CITY, TOWN Brookeville VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. George Simms

Telephone #: 774-4436

STREET & NUMBER 3801 Elton Farm Road

CITY, TOWN Brookeville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20729

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 693  
Folio #: 81

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:23-9

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The house is a two-story, stone building erected in several sections. The oldest part is the rear wing. It has two doors on the east facade and a flush gable brick chimney on the north end. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. The surrounds are beaded boards set behind the plane of the wall. On the west facade there is a solid doorway replacing one of the windows.

The east wing is three bays with the transom-lighted doorway in the east bay. It has an external chimney at the west end. The windows are 9/6 double hung sash on the first floor and 6/6 on the second. The cornice is boxed, with bed and crown mouldings.

The west end is a three bay Federal style house with a single chimney on the west end. The doorway in the east bay has 2/2 double hung sash sidelights and a three light transom. The windows are large 6/6 double hung sash. The cornice is boxed with a quarter round bed moulding and two part crown moulding with a cove and ogee sections. The raking roof trim is plain, with the roof sheathing boards exposed. The west end wall is plastered; originally, the entire house was plastered.

The main section consists of two, one room deep, end hall and single parlor sections. The rear wing is two rooms, the northern one, the kitchen has a large fireplace. The parlors mantels are elaborate, the Federal sections. The rear wing is two rooms, the northern one the kitchen with a large fireplace. The parlors' mantels are elaborate, the Federal section having a grey marble surround with columns and the east end having a carved wooden surround.

North of the house is a stone meathouse with a stone dairy attached on the north side. Both have A-roofs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES oldest section - late 18th century  
 main section - pre-1836  
 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elton is a handsome example of the eastern County's Federal style fieldstone farmhouses.

Associated with an early settler of the eastern County, with the Gaither family, and with a local Civil War hero, it is an important two-century old farmstead. The original part of the house may have been built by 1783; the Tax Assessment for that year shows Henry Griffith as the owner of "Barber's Outlet", containing 53 acres and improved by "one old dwelling 16 x 24, log tobacco house and 45 acres cleared". In 1800 the Executors of the estate of Henry Griffith sold to John Burgess part of "Barber's Outlet", "Gaither's Forest", and part of "Snowden's Purchase".<sup>1</sup> John Burgess sold these lands to George Gaither in 1813.<sup>2</sup> included in the sale was a parcel of land known as "Rich and Level", which John Burgess had bought from Samuel Thomas in 1800.<sup>3</sup> In 1808 George Gaither purchased land from Henry Chew Gaither which Henry had inherited from his father. This sale included parts of "Gaither's Forest", "Snowden's Purchase", and "Diamond".<sup>4</sup> George Gaither also bought a tract of land from Ninian Benson known as "Lythaicum's (Linthicum's) Discovery".<sup>5</sup> Gaither entered into this transaction with a partner, Charles Crockett, whom he bought out in 1822. The small amounts George Gaither paid for these properties suggests that the main sections of Elton had not yet been built.

Not much is known about the life of George Gaither. His father, William, was the son of Capt. Henry and Martha (Ridgely) Gaither. His mother, Elizabeth Howard, was the daughter of Cornelius and Rachel (Worthington) Howard. In the Census of 1850, George Gaither is listed as a farmer, aged 69.

Although few written records remain concerning the life of George Gaither, one very important one still exists. This is the deed of sale by which George Gaither sold most of the land he had acquired in the transactions listed above to Thomas Griffith. The deed was dated March 7, 1836, and recorded the sale of 331 acres of land plus all improvements. The land mentioned in the deed are: "Gaither's Forest", "Lythaicum's Discovery", "Snowden's Purchase", "Rich and Level", "Barber's Outlet" and "Diamond".<sup>6</sup> Because of the large price Griffith paid for the land (\$8,690.34) it seems Elton (as we now know it) was included in the sale.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Elton

The house was purchased by Griffith for his sister, Sarah R., who had married Amos Brown in 1808. It was put in a trust, where it was to remain until the last of Sarah and Amos' children died. In 1845, after the death of Amos, Sarah and her children continued to live at Elton. One son, Ridgely, was a soldier in the Civil War. He was killed in battle in 1864. His body was returned to Elton, where it was laid to rest. It has been written of Ridgely: "Col. Brown has had few superiors in any age or country. He combined with exalted courage a rare degree of intelligence and a purity and gentleness of nature which would have been creditable to a Bayard. He was the idol of his men, and was the recipient of marked commendations from all the general officers under whom he served".<sup>7</sup> The love and affection his men felt for him was shown in their action following his death -- they voted him the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The last surviving child of Amos and Sarah, Annie, died in 1892. At this time the fate of Elton became wrapped up in Equity Case #1161. It was agreed upon by both parties that the house should be sold and the proceeds divided among the various heirs. In 1894 Elton was put on the auction block.<sup>a</sup> But as no suitable bid was received, the house was not sold. The house was finally sold in 1906 to Clinton C. Royer.<sup>8</sup> He kept possession of the home for a very short period -- the next year he sold Elton to John W. Frazier.<sup>9</sup>

Frazier was born in Montgomery County, where he learned farming. He had worked as an overseer before he bought Elton. In 1926, after the death of Frazier and his wife, the house was inherited by their two daughters, Constantia and Susie. In 1938, Constantia bought out her sister's share and became the sole owner of Elton. She had married George E. Simms in 1927. Mr. and Mrs. Simms are now retired and live at Elton, where Mrs. Simms has maintained residence for the past seventy-one years.

#### FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., I/266.
2. Ibid., Q/336.
3. Ibid., I/111.
4. Ibid., O/185.
5. Ibid., T/568.
6. Ibid., 7/473.
7. Scharf, Thomas J., History of Western Maryland, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), pp. 675-6.
8. Land Records, Op. Cit., 188/16.
9. Ibid., 194/455.

a. Equity Case No. 1161, Montgomery County Equity Records.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Attachment Sheet B

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 141 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Joy Pigman

Mike Dwyer  
Arch. Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

January 16, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Elton

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Boyd, T.H.S., History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore: Reginal Publ. Comp., 1968. A reprint of a work first publ. in 1879.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke, Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History. Silver Spring: By the Author, 1952, 1962.

Griffith, R.R., Genealogy of the Griffith Family: The Descendants of William & Sarah Maccubbin Griffith. Baltimore: Press of William K. Boylet & Son, 1892.

Hiebert, Ray E. & MacMaster, Richard K., A Grateful Remembrance The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville: Mont Cty. Gov't & Mont. Cty. Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M., The Hopkins Atlas 1878. Philadelphia: By the Author, 320 Walnut St. 1879.

Martenet, Simon J., The Martinet and Bond Map of Montgomery County, Maryland 1865. Baltimore: By the Author, 6 South Street, 1865.

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Montgomery County, Maryland, Orphans Court Records, Rockville, Maryland.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Office of Land Records, Rockville, Maryland.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Tax Assessment Records, Rockville, Maryland.

Newman, Harry Wright, Anne Arundel Gentry. Annapolis: By the Author, 1970.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Simms, Constantia, personal interview, Brookeville, 28 Oct., 1978 & 7 Dec., 1978, with the author.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1605155204

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

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Elton				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 3801 Elton Farm Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Brookeville				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. George Simms				
STREET AND NUMBER: 3801 Elton Farm Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Brookeville		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 American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE				
CITY OR TOWN: ingtr		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<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
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two-story, stone building erected in several sections. The oldest part is the rear wing. It has two doors on the east facade and a flush gable brick chimney on the north end. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. The surrounds are beaded boards set behind the plane of the wall. On the west facade there is a solid doorway replacing one of the windows.

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North of the house is a stone meathouse with a stone dairy attached on the north side. Both have A-roofs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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)**

**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**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:23-9

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O 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:

[Empty space for Acreage Justification]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 7 Nov 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:

National       State       Local

Robert and Hannah Stabler were the parents of eight children. One son and five daughters grew to maturity. The son lived a very active life, to the ripe old age of eighty-six. Robert Stabler died in March, 1896, and one of his fellow club members paid him the following tribute, "As a farmer and a businessman he was unusually successful owing to his persistent industry, his good judgment, his love of order and his scrupulous attention to little economies, which never generated into meanness." His wife survived him by twenty-five years.

Albert Stabler, the only son, born in 1863, married Helen Janney, a daughter of Bernard and Isabella Janney of Washington, in October, 1893. Bernard Janney was Supervisor of the Georgetown Schools for a number of years. Upon the death of his father Edgewood came under the exceptional care and management of Albert, who with unusual skill looked after the home and farm until his death in 1949. After 1900 he built an addition onto the west side of the house, where he and his family spent the summers. They always lived in Georgetown in the wintertime.

For over fifty years Albert Stabler was a very successful insurance underwriter in Washington, representing the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia with unusual capability. At his death he was the oldest underwriter on the company's staff, which he served for over fifty years. During all these years he managed the farm and belonged to the local clubs and societies in the Sandy Spring community. One of the sons of this couple, Albert, Jr., has managed the farm for a number of years, and lives in a modern house on part of the Edgewood farm. "Bert's" part contains twenty-one acres.

Lillis B. Stabler, in 1961, the last member of the Edgewood family, who survives, is quite active around her home, has a good appetite, is cheerful and has a good memory, although well past 90 years of age. She is in remarkably sound health.

Of the five daughters of Robert and Hannah Stabler, only one, Lydia B., is living today, in the old home where she was born. Mary M. Stabler, the oldest daughter, lived to an advanced age, passing away in August, 1943. Mary Stabler was a delightful companion with charm, intelligence, vivacity. She had a warm heart for everyone, high and low alike, and had hosts of friends. She became an antique collector, was a capable appraiser of furniture and art objects, which she bought and sold, and built a warehouse which she kept well filled near the Edgewood lawn.

Alice T. Stabler had charm of personality, and cleverness which made her a successful solicitor of life insurance for many years until her retirement to Edgewood where she died in November, 1936. Emma T. Stabler's talents were applied to art, her paintings in water color attracting attention in Washington and Baltimore. She studied art in Baltimore, and for some years earned a competence in buying and selling antiques. Florence, the youngest daughter of the Edgewood family, became the wife of Charles E. Bond, and lived near The Manor for many years, passing away in 1948.

The farm proper now contains 120 acres. The house, which faces toward the south, has a combination hall and reception room to the west or left of the front door, and a dining room on the right, and four bedrooms on the second floor.

## Elton

**T**O a true country lover the setting of this very sturdy, rough stone manor house is unusually attractive. Standing on a rounded knoll which slopes in all directions like the top of a loaf of bread, the house with its unique site is the center of a pretty picture.

To add to the charm, around the edge of the lawn winds a babbling brook, a branch of the Patuxent River not far away. In bygone days

it turned the wheel of a grist mill located a few yards in front of the house, long since disappeared. A number of giant sycamores and a large evergreen or two encircle the house. These trees appear to be at least 150 years old, one of the sycamores being over six feet in diameter.

The date of the house is lacking, as is usually the case, but indications are that the right-hand or eastern half was built between 1780 and 1800.

One law the Colonists should have enacted would have been to compel the builders of stone or brick houses to plainly mark the date thereon. Many such houses standing today after a century or two of service are of enduring construction and of real historic interest. Perhaps the builders did not dream of the interest their handiwork would arouse in future centuries. Elton is believed to be another Gaither-built house. The houses built by the Gaithers were rugged rough stone with thick walls.

Elton is located about a mile north of the little village of Unity, six miles beyond Olney, and twenty-five from Washington. Unity, a half-mile west of Sunshine, is just as peaceful and sleepy as it was when founded 150 years ago. It once had a post office, but this went out with the arrival of BFD.

Sarah Ridgely Griffith, born September, 1792, was a daughter of Nicholas and Ann Ridgely Griffith, of Edgehill. She was thus a granddaughter of Henry Griffith II, and a great-granddaughter of Hon. Henry Griffith I of Revolutionary fame. In January, 1808, she married Amos Brown, of Philadelphia, and it is believed that they came to live at Elton which at that time was undoubtedly part of the estate of Hon. Henry Griffith, and adjoined Sundown Farms also his own home which later he devised in his will, probated in October, 1794, to his son Joshua.

Elton cannot be identified in the will of Hon. Henry I, and in some way it appears to have come into the possession of George Gaither. Elton has been known as the "Gaither-Brown" house locally, and it is not known whether it was built by a Griffith, or a Gaither, but it is possessed of the characteristics of a "Gaither-built" house—thick walls of rough stone, of two stories in height.

Before the death of Amos Brown, which occurred about 1845, a deed of trust was recorded on March 6, 1836, in which it was stated that in consideration of \$8,690 paid to George Gaither "out of the estate of Sarah R. Brown" two tracts, aggregating 331 acres, are transferred to Thomas Griffith as trustee. In this unusual instrument Thomas Griffith, who was Sarah Brown's brother, is given absolute powers over her affairs, or of any future husband.

A deed by which the above property was actually conveyed to Thomas Griffith by Gaither is recorded twenty-three years later, or on Jan-

uary 11, 1859. The trusteeship of Thomas Griffith is extended to the children of Sarah Brown "and their heirs and assigns forever," in order that they may have and hold and enjoy the above-described premises until each and every one shall have married. It is interesting to note that this trust did not expire until after the death of Miss Annie Brown in 1892, the last surviving child of Sarah R. Brown, and Elton passed to other hands.

Among the children of Sarah R. Brown, three daughters require mention. Lydia H. became the wife of Washington B. Chichester, Sr., in 1854, and went to Oatland to live. Another child was Ridgely Brown who entered the Confederate Army in the First Maryland Cavalry when it was organized in 1862. When it was reorganized later, he became a major. In the campaign of 1864, his Cavalry was given credit for saving Richmond from capture. In June of that year this brave Marylander was killed in a battle at Dabney's Ferry on the South Anna River. By a vote of his battalion he was given the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Colonel Brown was buried in the family cemetery at Elton. On the walls inside St. John's Church at Olney a bronze plaque has been placed to his memory, giving his birth as 1833 and death June 1, 1864, and his rank in Company A, First Maryland Cavalry, C.S.A.



NO. 26 C-9 EAST END PROBABLY BY HENRY GRIFFITH II CA. 1780-'90 WEST END BY THOMAS GRIFFITH, TRUSTEE CA. 1860

On a map, dated 1865, the owner of Elton is given as "Mrs. A. Brown" and after her death the next year, the farm was looked after by her son-in-law, Washington Chichester, Sr., until his death in 1902. For three years, 1886 to 1889, the farm was turned over to Ernest Iddings of

Riverside and his bride as tenants. After Miss Annie Brown died the Elton farm was sold by Washington B. Chichester, Jr. to Clinton C. Royer, after he had acquired some of the outstanding interests of certain heirs of Sarah R. Brown.

In July, 1907, Royer sold the old home, then containing 141 acres, to John R. W. Frazier, a Montgomery County farmer. His wife was Susie A. McAbee. They were married in May 1891, and the farm was left to two daughters, Constantia and Susie Frazier, when the two parents died in 1926. Constantia Frazier married George E. Simms in 1927, and in 1938 Mrs. Simms bought out the interest of her sister, Miss Susie, and since that time has been sole owner of Elton. George E. Simms was at one time principal of one of the largest elementary schools in the East, located in Baltimore, and his wife and her sister, Susie, were employed as teachers in the public schools of Baltimore.

As noted in the above photograph, there are two front doors, and each has a hall and stairway. The house is rough stone painted white, and the right-hand or eastern part is the original part of the house, the left-hand section having been built much later. Each hall has a lovely stairway with landings half-way up.

In the older eastern section, there are a dining room and a parlor, and in a rear wing are a back hall with side entrance and a kitchen with a large fireplace and crane. On the second floor of this part are three rooms with a fireplace in one of them. The details of construction of this part, including proof that a breezeway from the detached kitchen of Revolutionary days was filled in later, indicate construction about 1780 to 1800.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Simms in 1961 are, still proud to retain this picturesque home where they have lived since retirement from busy lives in Baltimore.

## Fair Hill I

ONE of Montgomery County's most interesting old homes, one built before the Revolutionary War, is situated at Olney about twelve miles north of the District of Columbia Line. Facing to the south, the brick part in the right of the picture was built about 1770 and the left-hand frame construction about 1780. The home of a Quaker who attained the rank of colonel in the Revolutionary War and fought with distinction, it housed a Quaker school for forty-six years. The historic home later became the scene of a delightful novel describing life in an unusual country community in the 1880's.

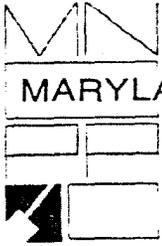
The land on which the house was built was originally part of the 2,550-acre "Addition to Charley Forest" granted to James Brooke in 1720. He deeded the beautiful home site and 300 acres to his son, Richard Brooke (A tract of forty-seven acres called George the Third, was also included.)

Col. Richard Brooke was born July 8, 1736, and when he died in 1788 at fifty-two, was buried near the old house on a quarter acre burial plot reserved in later deeds. When in 1932 the

Janet Montgomery Chapter, Daughters American Revolution, placed a marker on his grave, representatives of other patriotic organizations were present as well as members of the Brooke family. One of the several speakers declared: "We are met today to pay tribute to a Quaker who fought."

Although the ghost of Colonel Brooke is believed at times to ride his horse up one flight of stairs and down the other at midnight, one dislikes to believe his final rest is disturbed by any feeling of guilt because of his departure from the Quaker line of non-resistance. Perhaps the eerie sounds on the stairs are made by an Irish potter who is reported to have hung himself in the cellar.

There were a number of transfers of the property recorded on land records, as revealed below. Ann Brooke, a daughter of Colonel Brooke and his wife Jane Lynn Brooke, married William Hammond Dorsey in March 1790. This marriage took place in the old homestead according to a contemporary newspaper notice. The couple lived at Fair Hill for some years following their marriage, but later lived in



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

M 23/9

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.

- The house is reputed to have been built by William Spencer the founder of Spencerville, and is therefore important to the heritage of that community and that part of the County.

15/67 Maiden's Fancy 15701 Aitcheson Lane

- 1807 -- Two and one-half story, Federal style, brick house with front facade laid in Flemish bond, featuring flat arches on the 1st floor windows and a doorway with a transom light and flat arch with keystone.
- Associated with the Waters family and Benjamin D. Carr; both significant in the history of the Burtonsville community.
- Included in the recommended setting is the main house and a stone smokehouse associated with site.

23/5 Israel Griffith House 5900 Damascus Road

- Circa 1880 -- Good example of Gothic Revival architecture exhibiting such characteristics of the style as the center gable, turned porch posts, porch brackets, and corbelled chimneys.
- The recommended environmental setting includes the small board and batten shed, the frame meat house and the frame corncrib associated with the site.

23/9 Elton 3801 Elton Farm Road

- Handsome Federal style fieldstone farmhouse dating from 1780.
- Associated with Henry Griffith, early settler of the eastern part of the County.
- The recommended environmental setting is 25 acres and includes the stone meat house, dairy, and the cemetery, resting place of Colonel Ridgely Brown, local Civil War hero.

23/12 Greendale Farm 23200 Howard Chapel Road

- Early 20th century farm residence built in two sections; the first portion in 1907, the second added in 1924.
- Excellent example of transitional architecture which is representative of the period in that area of the county.

M:23-9

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated April 8, 1987

ACTION TAKEN

Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan  
OLNEY AREA HISTORIC RESOURCES

The purpose of this 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; 23/9	Elton
M: 23/29	Fair Hill II
M: 23/31	Pleasant Fields/Sundown Hills
M: 23/58	Gustavus Jones Farm
M: 23/63	Longwood
M: 23/66	Bordley's Choice (Merrywood)
M: 23/71	Far View
M: 23/73	Gittings Ha Ha
M: 23/79	Roslyn Bank Barn
M: 23/84	Brooke Meadow
M: 23/89	Walnut Hill
M: 23/98-4	St. John's Episcopal Church
M: 23/196-106	Oakdale-Emory United Methodist Church
M: 23/112	Sycamores
M: 23/113-1	Mount Pleasant Church
M: 23/119	Holland Store & House

Elton



The eastern section of the house appears to have been built first. The western section (left side) was added on later. The kitchen is behind the eastern section (right side).

This is how the house looks from Elton Farm Road. The photographer was facing north





#23-9

NAME *ELTON*

LOCATION *ELTON FARM Rd UNITY, Md*

FACADE *NW*

PHOTO TAKEN *11/7/74 MOWYER*