

Capsule Summary

Olney Historic District (Montgomery County #23/98)

Intersection Rts, 108 and 97, Olney, Maryland

Late 1900's - Mid-late 1800's

Public/Private

The earliest settlement at the site of what is now Olney was the village of Fair Hill, which developed before 1800. Fair Hill became known as Mechanicsville after a number of artisans and craftsmen settled in the area. In 1851 the name of the community was officially changed to Olney.

Olney became an important crossroads community in the mid-late 19th century, providing goods and services to travelers on the Sandy Spring/Mechanicsville Road (Route 108) and the Brookeville/Washington Pike Road (Georgia Avenue). An 1865 map shows, near the intersection of the two roads, a number of businesses in addition to a schoolhouse, a seminary and the Episcopal Church.

The rapid growth of Olney in the last two decades has resulted in the loss of most of the community's historic structures. The only remaining historic buildings at the crossroads are St. John's Episcopal Church (1842) and Rectory (1913) and the Olney House (c. 1841).

1606035929

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Olney Historic District				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: intersection of Rtes. 97 and 108				
CITY OR TOWN: Olney				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mussum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: various owners				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

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="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncluttered </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Originally known as Mechanicsville, due to the number of tradesman here, Olney grew up around the intersection of the Baltimore, Washington, and Westminster roads. Several present structures in the village represent this commercial era, although they are of more recent vintage. Located immediately at the intersection are:</p> <p><u>SW Corner-Murphy House</u>-a two-story, T-shaped, frame house of three bays, built about 1892 by the father of the present owner, Albert Murphy. The house faces north on Rte. 108 and features a peaked center-gable and a one-story, open Victorian porch. Extending southeast around the corner along Rte. 97 is a three-part, two-story, frame tinsmith's shop and carriage barn.</p> <p><u>NW Corner-Olney Drugs</u> (formerly Williams' and Boyers' Store) A square, two-story, frame structure of three bays on its main (south) facade, with deep two-bay, gable-ends of equal length. There is a small, low-pitched center gable on the south facade. Just west of this is a similar building that was the home of Emory Boyer in 1878.</p> <p><u>NE Corner</u>-The store and post office of George W. Hyatt sat here until it burned in the summer of 1973.</p> <p>South of the intersection along Rte. 97 are Finney-frock's Blacksmith Shop, a low, one-story frame structure, and a small frame house adjacent to it. On this same side of the avenue is the Olney Inn, a large, frame farmhouse of three bays that faces north. It is similar in styling to those buildings at the intersection, and was built in the 1870's for Granville Farquhar.</p> <p>Nearly opposite this is the James F. Barnsley House (now the Bo-Kay Florist Shop) at 17900 Georgia Ave. This is a narrow, Federal-style, frame structure with a very steeply pitched A-roof. There are three bays on the main (east) facade, and there is a hood-type of portico over the central doorway. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung, and the clapboards appear to be original-especially the rough, wide boards on the south gable-end. There is a tall, exterior brick chimney at this end and, like</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

a. 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)			
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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Higgins Tavern and Rockland, it features stepped weatherings. An exterior fireplace has been filled in. The one and a half story wing on the north is a later addition. This may be the house pictured in the 1936 HABS survey.</p> <p>Also included in this district are "Fair Hill" and "Olney"-see separate forms.</p>			

SEE INST. INSTRUCTIONS

9. 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				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 6/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

To: The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission

From: Lois Snyderman

Subject: Proposed Olney Historic District (23/98)

Date: October 5, 1984

With the rapid growth of the Olney area in the last two decades, and the widening of the main roads leading into what was once a quiet country village, very little of historic or architectural significance remains at the crossroads of Routes 108 and 97 (the Olney-Laytonsville Road and Georgia Avenue), the site of the proposed historic district. Of the properties which were of some significance, the Barnsley House, Finneyfrock's Blacksmith Shop, the Boyer House, the Olney Inn and Barn, the Murphy House, Olney Drugs, and Fair Hill (all on Routes 97 or 108, near or at the main intersection) have been demolished or were destroyed by fire. The Olney House on Route 108, now converted to office and retail use, is still standing and appears to be well maintained; its log smokehouse was destroyed by a falling tree several years ago but its stone springhouse is still standing. St. John's Episcopal Church and the adjacent **white frame building, which was used as the Church's Rectory** from 1913 to 1975, also remain, west of the intersection, on Route 108.

With the loss of these buildings and the widening of the intersection of Routes 108 and 97, the character of the village has been radically changed. The only reminder of what once existed there is a low stone wall at the southeast corner of the intersection; erected by the Rotary Club, it lists the dates of important events in the town's history.

Based on the above, I would recommend that the Olney Historic District be deleted from the Montgomery County Index of Historic Sites and that the Commission consider, instead, the placement of two remaining historic resources, St. John's Episcopal Church and the building which formerly served as the Church Rectory, on the County's Master Plan of Historic Sites.

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 breeze-way 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



NO. 30 E-9 EAST END BY COL. RICHARD BROOKE 1760 BRICK WEST END BY WILLIAM H. DORSEY, SON-IN-LAW OF COLONEL BROOKE CA. 1780-'90 FRAME

Georgetown at The Oaks, now Dumbarton Oaks (also see Oakley of Montgomery County) where the first Mrs. Dorsey died in November 1802, and "Pretty Billy" as he was called married Rosetta Lynn an aunt of his first wife, and a younger sister of Mrs. Richard Brooke. In 1802, William H. and Ann his wife conveyed the property to his brother Walter Dorsey who soon thereafter conveyed it back to his brother William H.—transfers evidently made to clear the title. The deeds refer to forty seven acres of George The Third, and parts of Charley Forest and parts of Brother's Content containing 397 acres more or less.¹

Following these transactions, William contracted to sell the farm to one Peter Casanave, of Georgetown, but following the latter's death the property was advertised for sale at public

auction, Samuel Brooke being appointed to conduct the sale. The auction was held at Fair Hill, on March 18, 1803, and George Frazer Warfield was the successful buyer, for the sum of 2,127 Pounds Sterling 10 shillings. Ten days later he sold the place to George Ellicott of Baltimore, a businessman who probably never lived there. It is evident that during the following years until May 30, 1817, when Ellicott sold the farm to Whitson Canby, the latter kept it filled with workers employed in his pottery in the village then known as Mechanicsville, and in August of that same year Canby sold to the committee of Baltimore Meeting headed by Roger Brooke V.¹

In 1815 the Baltimore Friends decided to start a school in the fast-growing community of Sandy Spring, and the Fair Hill farm of 350 acres was purchased in August, 1817. The old manor house, which was occupied by eight fami-

¹ Land Records Montgomery County, Liber K, Folio 361, & 535, & 539, and Liber T, Folio 435.

lies of pottery workers was in bad condition and required repairs and remodeling as well as enlarging before the school could be started in 1819.

Carrie Miller, mother of the Author, attended this school before the Civil War.

The school prospered for most of the forty-six years it was in operation until 1865, when it was sold to Richard S. and Mary W. Kirk. Kirk had married Mary Willis Farquhar in 1850, and the next year they were called to Fair Hill to take charge of the school. They were most successful until the Civil War interfered with its operation. Richard S. Kirk died in 1893, and his wife in 1899. Their son, Charles F. Kirk, who married Annie Brooke of Brooke Grove, purchased the farm.

Charles was a most competent farmer and a responsible citizen, who had worked most energetically on the place since a boy. His operations were very successful, clearing the place of debt. Becoming prosperous, he was a director for years of the Savings Institution and of the National Bank of Sandy Spring, was president of the Union Turnpike Company and of the Montgomery County Hospital, and his judgment and keen business sagacity were universally admired.

With the passing of Charles Kirk in January, 1923, his widow soon gave up management of the farm, having it sub-divided into small farms of twenty-five to fifty acres and small building lots to be sold at auction. The old house with twenty-eight acres was purchased by Henry Mathews, a retired banker of Washington.

When the farm was sold by the school in 1865 to the Kirks, it was divided into lots of various sizes, and brought \$33.50—\$50.—\$63.—and \$91.—per acre. When again sold in 1923, the prices received per acre were in most cases doubled. Small lots with twenty-five foot frontage on the Olney-Washington highway brought a top price at the rate of \$1,600 per acre.

Annie B. Kirk, a remarkably keen, industrious woman, died in 1943 in her eighty-fourth year. Henry Mathews passed away in September, 1935, and after his widow continued at Fair Hill for about four years she sold the place to Brockett Muir, a Washington lawyer, who in turn sold it in 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. Don R. Lamborne, who are the present owners.

During the harrowing days of the Civil War dramatic events nearby disturbed the school

and this quiet village. Gen. Bradley T. Johnson with 2,000 troops marched along the quiet roads, and at another time Gen. Burnside and Gen. Hooker came through. J. E. B. Stewart did not allow Olney to escape. He came with a force estimated at 10,000 to 20,000, took many horses, a four-horse team and wagon, bivouacked in an eight-acre field, and burned all the rails in the fence surrounding it. His soldiers took all the potatoes from a four-acre patch. The roads were filled with clouds of dust from marching men, horses and cattle, and Mary Coffin, at the school, hid her bonds in a box just the size of a brick, under the hearth in the fireplace of her room. The cannonading of the upper Potomac River battles shook the windows and knocked plaster off the old walls.



The Lamborne children: Charles Michael, 14; Edythe Ann, 12; Cynthia Lynn, 10; Philip Allen, 8; and Larry Colin, 6. The oldest Lamborne child, D. Roger Lamborne, Jr., is not in the picture. The gentleman shown is State Comptroller Louis Goldstein.

A delightful Quaker novel, "Gilbert Elgar's Son," was published with Sandy Spring as the locale by Harriet Riddle Davis, daughter of the Honorable A. G. Riddle, eminent District Attorney of the District of Columbia, and the wife of the Honorable Harry E. Davis, who likewise served in that high office. While visiting Fair Hill Mrs. Davis wrote the novel, which describes the activities of those idyllic days of 1880 and 1890 in an unusually attractive country community.

The frame part to the left has a wide hall with two rooms on each side, and the same number over these on the second floor. There are two large rooms on the third floor. The main

part of the right-hand brick wing has a large entrance hall with a fireplace and two rooms on the right, each with fireplace back to back, in the same chimney. The second floor is duplicate of the first, except for a small stairway leading to an attic room. The small one-story extension, shown at the extreme right, with the large chimney was built by the school.

Since the purchase of this historic manor house by Mr. and Mrs. Lamborne, extensive improvements have been made, outside and inside the house. Noticeable outside are the blinds, added to the windows, and the box bushes along the front of the home. In the rear a formal

English box-wood garden, with walks of oyster shell, has been installed.

Added as part of the rear of the house is a new all-purpose library room, 36 feet by 16 feet, with beam ceiling. From this room an entrance to the box garden is provided, an attractive feature. A raised hearth fireplace is in this room. With this we can count five usable fireplaces on the first floor, and two on the second floor.

In the remodelled old home the Lamborne's count a family dining room, as well as a formal dining room, and family and formal living room, each with its own fireplace.

Fair Hill II

ONE mile east of Laytonsville on the north side of the road to Unity, and twenty-five miles north of Washington, the house shown below is sure to attract attention. Covered with siding painted white, it has the appearance of a well-preserved house of Colonial days with its simple lines and proportions. It was built before 1813, for in that year it was a country store and was the meeting place of a group of prominent citizens who met to reorganize Saint Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal Church.

On Easter Monday in 1813 this meeting of parishioners was held in the building below, part of which was Fred Bowman's store, for the election of vestrymen. The left-hand or

west end of the house shown was the store, and among those present at that time were Ephraim Gaither of Clover Hill, John H. Riggs, of Locust Grove II, Henry C. Gaither, of Pleasant Fields—all persons referred to in this series on old homes—and four other persons of note.

On May 2, 1814, a meeting of the vestry was called at Bowman's to select a site for the church, and the site chosen was on a branch of the Hawlings River in a grove of trees near the highway on the edge of the Edgehill farm of the Griffith family. This site had been occupied by a log building used as a chapel of ease established more than half-a-century before. The old chapel had been established sometime before the Revolution by a petition to the Governor, dated 1761, to divide Prince George's Parish—the probable date being shortly after that.

The new church building, replacing the ancient log structure, was built of stone covered with cement mortar, was completed in May, 1819, and consecrated soon after by Bishop Kemp. Thus, Bowman's store, now the Fair Hill home of the Fry family, filled an important place in local affairs, one hundred and forty-five years ago.

The Fair Hill II farm of today, containing 287 acres of rich land, is formed from parts of "Addition to Brooke Grove," a grant to James Brooke of 7,906 acres, in September, 1762, and also includes a part of "Retirement," an indenture of November, 1816, for 601 acres made



NO. 31 C-8 LEFT END LOGS, BRICK NOGGED
CA. 1800 WAS BOWMAN'S STORE 1813

II

First thing dey did, jumped clean off de ground,
And de animals paired for a grand walk-around,
De buffalo and de bull caught partners for de dance,
An you just oughter seen dem varmints prance,—
De badger and de bear dey jumped Jim Crow,
De fox and de hare dey danced de heel an toe,
De possum and de coon dey danced de Highland
Fling,

De otter and baboon dey cut de pigeon wing.
De camel and de horse, went right han' cross,
De jinny and de jack came left-hand back,
Looked kinder strange, in de grand change,
To see de nanny goat swap places with de shoat,
Dey tried de grand-chain over an again,—
An a cussed little pup come and mixed 'em all up,
Dere liked to been a fight,—when de ladies to de right,
De hyena bawl, and de cat began to call,—

PROMENADE ALL,—AND,—COME
Chorus: repeat.

III

Nex thing dey did de table was set,
Each one tried to eat all he could get,
My friends it surely was a treat
To stand and watch dem varmints eat,!!!!
De badger and de bear took soup-consomme,
De fox and de hare took chickens fore der day,
De possum and de coon, took simmons arter frost,
De otter and baboon took fish wid cream sauce,
De pig he died eatin' canter-melon rine,
De goat got drunk off'n huckleberry wine,
De mink had cramps, and de ground-hog died,
An dey all was chuck full, when de hyena cried,—
Chorus:

Author Unknown

Mary Chichester du Pont, who married
J. Dudley Clarke of Boston, in April, 1951, who

is the last of the immediate Oatland family living in 1961, purchased some outstanding interests in the farm after the death of her sister Margaret Smith, and became sole owner of the old homestead. About 1940 she had the gratification of modernizing the house of her birth which had for some years been unoccupied and in need of repairs. She was the only one of the five children born in the frame house shown.

Mrs. Clarke replaced the half-mile driveway from the public road to the house, installed modern plumbing and heating, and decorated the interior with taste, putting the property in excellent condition throughout. She then deeded that part of the old plantation which had been in her family for 120 years to her nieces and nephews, the children of her brother, Washington Bowie Chichester, Jr. In 1950 Robert H. Chichester, and his wife Henrietta Riggs Chichester bought out the other part-owners and are now sole owners of the farm. Samuel Riggs IV, brother of Mrs. Chichester, also resides at Oatland.

The Bowie family burial plot at Oatland, which has a massive stone wall around it, contains many markers in memory of members of the family. There are, shading the graves, three huge box bushes which must be at least 135 years old. If planted when Washington Bowie was buried, they would be just that age.

The house shown in the photograph has a parlor, library, den, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor; four bedrooms and two baths are on the second floor, and one bedroom and bath on the third floor.

Olney

THIS serene old homestead has been a familiar landmark in the village of Olney for a century and a half. Set in a park-like lawn, surrounded by gigantic trees of a dozen varieties, it seems to mellow with the passing years while all around are growth and change.

This was the home of the Farquhar family for one hundred years, with the exception of

one eight-year period when it was owned by relatives. It came into their possession through marriage with the Brooke family. Similar unions occurred, in a number of other cases, through which the vast lands of the Brookes were ultimately devised to daughters, who passed them on to their progeny.

Allen was the first Farquhar to come from Ireland to Pennsylvania in 1721. They were a



NO. 80 E-9 PROBABLY WHITSON CANBY ORIGINAL PART BEFORE 1800 FRAME

Scotch clan, the Farquharson chiefs of the Highlands of Aberdeenshire, Braemar Castle and Invercauld on the River Dee. Braemar Castle is now one of the summer homes of the British Royalty, it having been acquired by Queen Victoria as her summer home, and Invercauld is still owned by a Farquharson chief. The Farquhars apparently had been driven to Londonderry by religious dissention, and the constant fighting among the Clans in the Highlands of Scotland.

William Farquhar, son of Allen, married Anna Miller, and their son, Allen, Junior, married Phoebe Hibberd in 1765. A son of this union was Amos, born in 1768, who married Mary Elgar in 1795. The latter couple were the first Farquhars to come from York, Pennsylvania, to Montgomery County in 1825.

Amos came to teach at Fair Hill School, and no doubt lived in the big schoolhouse located just across the road from the Olney homestead.

Born July, 1800, Charles Farquhar, Sr., son of Amos and Mary, married Sarah Brooke, daughter of Roger Brooke V, of Brooke Grove, in 1833. During 1821-1823 he taught at the Fair Hill School. Between 1825-1826 he taught at Benjamin Hallowell's School in Alexandria. In 1826 he attended the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, receiving his degree in 1832. His account book shows that he opened his office in Alexandria on May 17, 1832, charging patients fifty cents for visits.

Charles and Sarah Farquhar began house-keeping over his office on King Street near Saint Asaph Street, where he began practice of his profession. The young doctor was assigned by the city council to cope with the terrible cholera epidemic raging at the time in Alexandria. Witnessing indescribable scenes of suffering and deaths by the score was his portion.

During these years the post office, now Olney, was known as Mechanicsville. Amos Farquhar,

for a number of the eleven years he lived there, was the postmaster. Letters to his son in Alexandria bear his signature, "A Farquhar, P. M. Free." When the name was changed to Olney, it is reported that the widow, Sarah B. Farquhar, did not desire to have the name of her home thus publicized.

The Farquhars and Elgars were great admirers of poetry, especially that of William Cowper, and the name "Olney" given the home was so designated after the village of that name in Buckinghamshire, England, where Cowper lived for many years. Charles Farquhar, Sr., left a number of poems of some merit written in his own hand.

It is believed that Whitson Canby, an ancestor of that well-known Montgomery County family, built the Olney house about the year 1800. Before 1836, Roger Brooke V, bought Olney and wrote his daughter Sarah in Alexandria, "The little house in Mechanicsville is now vacant." He suggested that she and Charles come to Mechanicsville to live. They moved to the Olney home in 1837, and remodelled the place with some additions.

In a deed recorded June 12, 1840, Roger Brooke V, conveyed to his daughter, Sarah, and son-in-law, Charles Farquhar, for a consideration of ONE DOLLAR, (\$1.00) one tract of 167 acres, another containing eighty-two acres, and a "lot on which the said Sarah and Charles now reside," a total of over 250 acres. These tracts were parts of "Shepherd's Hard Fortune," and "Charles and Benjamin," and "Brother's Content."

The large chimney on the extreme left was built in 1841. The stone in its corner shows the initials "C. F.," and the date. In the kitchen a large fireplace was included with bake oven and crane, and above this was the "carding" or "spinning" room with its rafters left exposed. The whole right half of the house, to be seen between the two main chimneys, was built at a cost of \$400. It had a parlor on the first floor, a bedroom on the second floor, each with a fireplace, a cellar, and an attic. A front hall with a stairway was included.

A year or more after the above additions, a rear "T" was added. This contained one room on the first and second floors, each with a fireplace. This wing was occupied by Dr. Farquhar's mother, Mary (Elgar) Farquhar, where she continued to live until her death in 1853.

While in Alexandria, Dr. Farquhar wrote a letter to his brother, "Granville Farquhar, druggist, Washington City," asking where he could obtain "The whole apparatus, including a handsome slab and silver fountain, as I have been thinking it would be an advantage to keep soda water."

The massive cast door knocker, showing the face of Juno with a bright brass plate inscribed "Dr. Farquhar," which he brought from Alexandria over a century ago, is now on the front door of his great-grandson, Roger B. Farquhar III's home Riverton.

In 1844 Dr. Farquhar's life was cut short at the age of forty-four. Death was due to pneumonia which he contracted on a trip to Baltimore. His young widow was left with five children and a large farm to care for, but her father took charge of her affairs, and she continued to live at Olney for forty-four more years, and raised all her children to maturity. A sixth child was born shortly after the death of the father. Sara B. Farquhar died in August, 1888, at the age of eighty-three. In her will, probated in September, 1888, the daughters were devised seventy acres of land on Rock Creek, and equal shares in the home and furnishings.

In 1866 Sarah Farquhar divided her property among her children. Eight acres were retained with the Olney home, at the time appraised at \$2,000. Her son, Granville, received 121 acres immediately south of the home which he named Mt. Olney when he built a house there later. The latter is now the site of the Olney Inn. Charles, Jr., received the same acreage south of Granville's part, where he built a house he called "Menden." Roger, the oldest son, was assigned 229 acres along both sides of Rock Creek near Norbeck, which, with an addition made later, became known as "Rock Spring," containing 400 acres. The daughters received mortgage notes from their brothers to equalize the divisions.

Anna Farquhar, the oldest daughter married Charles H. Brooke, in 1865, and lived thereafter at Falling Green the old Brooke home inherited by Charles. The other two daughters Miss Eliza and Miss Edith, after the death of their mother and the sale of Olney, made their homes with the brothers.

The land in the Olney farm, when divided, extended from the village south along the east side of the highway toward Washington for

over a mile to the Old Baltimore Road. The old Menden farm south of the Olney Inn, was for many years owned by George ("Bud") Nicholson, a highly regarded county farmer, and one-time sheriff, and about twenty years ago he sold the place to John M. Beane, a successful business man of Washington. Mr. Beane removed the original frame farm house and built a handsome modern Colonial type brick house on the old site, one of the finest houses in the whole area, and has developed Menden into a really handsome estate.

During the War between the States, many stirring scenes were witnessed around the quiet village. Thousands of soldiers marched along the highways, horses by the score were taken, and supplies requisitioned. On one occasion General Hooker had dinner with Mrs. Farquhar in her home, and she reported him to be courteous and gentlemanly. On another day, her son Roger rode on horseback along with General McClellan from Norbeck to Olney and wrote in his diary that McClellan was "a fine looking man."

In 1898 the home was purchased by Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., who had married Cornelia Strain in 1892. He had been a farmer at his Menden farm for years, but late in life ob-

tained a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and began to practice. He was for some time county coroner and president of the Montgomery County Medical Society.

Dr. Farquhar, Jr., died in 1916 at the age of seventy-five. In 1924 his widow sold the home to Estelle M. Gilmore (Mrs. Robert C.) of North Carolina whose husband was a retired Presbyterian minister. They completely modernized the house, added two bathrooms, heating, and put the whole place in excellent condition. The large central section to the left of the front hall contains large rooms on both floors, each with a fireplace, and an attic room.

In 1946 the Olney home was purchased by Mrs. Clara May Downey. Mrs. Downey has further beautified and improved the interior with tasteful decorations, furnishing the house with a wealth of antiques appropriate to its period. The old stone springhouse has been retained and adds its pleasing rustic touch as it nestles below the extensive box walks.

Mrs. Clara May Downey has continued to own the dear, cherished old Farquhar home, and has spent large sums in improving and beautifying the house and grounds. For a few years, it has been leased to the Catholic Diocese as a Rectory for the local priests.

Olney Manor

THE land upon which this handsome Georgian Colonial manor house was built was part of the estate of Sarah Brooke Farquhar, wife of Dr. Charles Farquhar, Sr., of "Olney."

In the division of her lands which she inherited from her father, Roger Brooke V of Brooke Grove, this farm containing 121 acres was passed to Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., by a committee which met in June 1866 to divide the property of the widow, Sarah Brooke Farquhar. According to the Diary of Roger B. Farquhar, Sr., father of the Author, the Committee was composed of George E. Brooke of Brooke Grove, William Henry Farquhar of The Cedars, Richard Kirk of Fair Hill, and Henry C. Hallowell of Rockland.

Charles Farquhar's portion was valued at \$40.00 per acre. Granville, another son, was

assigned the same acreage valued at \$40.00 per acre; and Roger, the eldest son, was assigned 229 acres fronting on both sides of Rock Creek, valued at \$25.00 per acre. This last portion was developed by Roger into the Rock Spring farm where land recently has been sold at an alleged price of \$1,500 per acre.

The portion which Charles received ran along the east side of the Olney Pike from the portion Granville received—now the famous Olney Inn—to the Old Baltimore Road. He built a small frame house, where he lived for many years as a bachelor, called his home "Menden," studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and practiced for some years. Late in life he married, and sold his Menden farm to George Nicholson, a highly regarded citizen, and bought Old Olney, home of his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Beane bought the place

Fair Hill

East end with pediment supposedly built 1788
of brick painted white

West end, frame supposedly built 1770

Porch across front addition of present
century

Chimneys on 1770 section entirely too
small to be original. There are no

original fireplaces in this section.

The next to last owners made the two
rooms to left into one and so did away
with the last remaining vestige of the
old.

Dormers in a picture do not have
the proportions of old dormers.

Cornice seems to be a wood dentiled
type but could be brick set on diagonal.
I was not asked to come look at house.

The connecting link between 1770 and
1780 sections had an enclosed stairway,
I was told, which is now an open some-
what grand staircase.

When I was in the house about twenty
years ago the floors were all covered with
wall to wall carpet

I am told and they are in the two
bed rooms on the second floor of the
pedimented addition.

Also the owner claims he is going
to move the house in about two years
as the land is part of an Olney plan
for a shopping center.

The house has more local history
than any thing original left. It was
first remodeled for a Friends school
and apparently changed several times
at later dates.

Located in Olney on Olney
Sandy Spring Road Route 108

Cannot be seen very well from
road.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis
1984 Montgomery County: A Pictorial History.
Norfolk: Donning Co.



Montgomery citizens did not forget their Southern bonds. Years after the end of the war, local citizens built a memorial to the Confederate soldiers who had died July 12, 1864, in a skirmish near Silver Spring. Photograph by Dr. Leonard Tuchin

Sandy Spring's Fair Hill School was held in the building pictured. Before and after the school's use of the building, it was a dwelling. Richard Brooke, a Quaker who fought in the Revolutionary War against the pacifistic principles of his religion, constructed the building. Later Whitson Canby, a member of another well-known Quaker family, purchased the house for eight Irish families. The commune manufactured pots and sold their wares at the markets of Mechanicsville (now Olney).

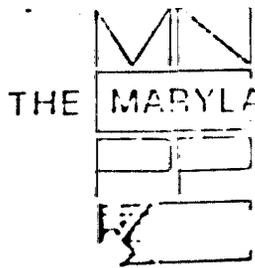
The Baltimore Yearly Meeting, in association with Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, purchased the building in 1815 and later opened

Fair Hill School, where Benjamin Hallowell taught. It remained a school under various names from 1819 until 1865, when Civil War activity closed it.

During the Civil War, troops from both sides crossed the schoolyard, including those of generals Johnson, Burnside, and Hooker. Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart reportedly brought to the girls' school thousands of his troops who stole horses, bivouacked in the fields, burned the fence rails, and dug up four acres of potatoes! Understandably, the girls were terrified. Teacher Mary Coffin hid valuables under the hearth in a box the same size as the bricks. As a result of the invasion, parents withdrew their daughters, and Fair Hill School closed.

A series of private owners lived at Fair Hill until it burned down in the 1970s. This photograph was taken about 1900. Fair Hill's lot is now the site of the Village Mall Shopping Center in Olney. Courtesy of Roger Lamborne





M:23-98

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated April 8, 1987

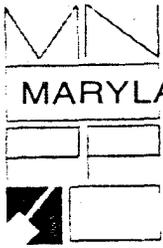
ACTION TAKEN

The following sites will be removed from the Locational Atlas.

23/1	23/28	23/96
23/2	23/32	23/98
23/3	23/43	
23/4	23/44	*23/98-3
*23/5	*23/50	23/99
23/10	23/52	23/107-2
*23/14	23/55	*23/110
23/16	23/56	23/113
23/20	23/59	23/114
23/22	23/61	
23/25	23/74	23/116
	23/88	23/117

M. 23/98

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



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

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

APPENDIX A

SITES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REGULATION UNDER THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24A OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE

The following sites have been reviewed by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and were found not to merit designation of the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. If not included in the Master Plan, these resources may be removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County. If removed from the Locational Atlas, the sites will no longer be governed by the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition, Section 24A-10 of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The sites will, however, remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory.

The following sites were found by the Preservation Commission to be too greatly altered from the period of their architectural or historical significance or not to meet Ordinance criteria for designation.

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
15/31	Tyson House (Mrs. W. Chandlee House)	18600 Brooke Rd., Ashton
13/32	Brinklow Store & Post Office	18930 New Hampshire Ave. Brinklow
15/40	Rawlings Mill House	1820 Tucker Lane, Ashton
15/44	Pat Cuff House	1515 Ednor Rd., Ednor
15/48	Chimney Ruins	Oak Hill Rd.-North of Rt. 198, Spencerville
15/51	Drayton	16000 Oak Hill Road, Silver Spring
15/57	Murphy Ford Log House	16500 Block of Batson Rd., Spencerville
15/70	Harriet Lea House	18900 New Hampshire Ave., Brinklow
23/1	Gaither/Gray House	24241 Hipsley Mill Rd., Gaithersburg
23/2	Leamon/Faucett House	24405 Hipsley Mill Road, Gaithersburg
23/3	Dennis Thomas House	24501 Hipsley Mill Road, Laytonsville

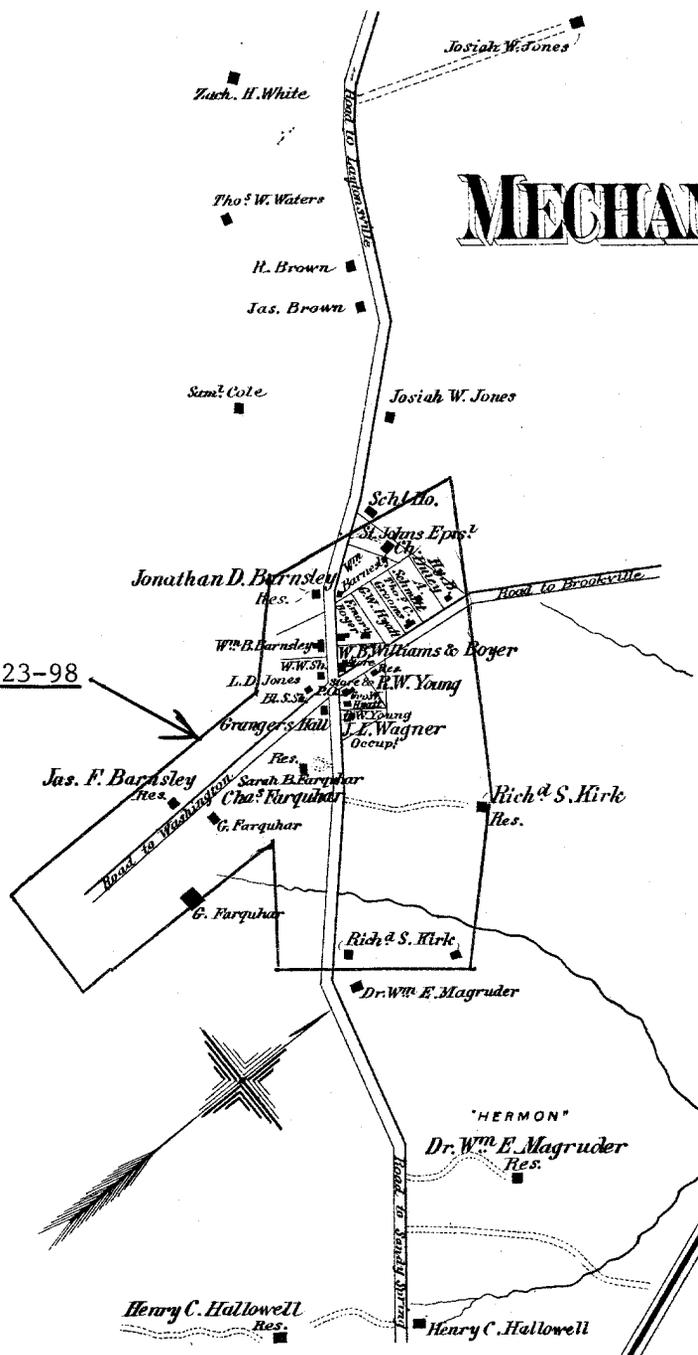
M:23-98

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
23/91	Chandlee Miller's House	19320 Chandlee Mill Road, Sandy Spring
23/94	Avalon	1601 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring
23/96	Brooke Grove	End of Brooke Grove Road North of Rte. 108, Olney
23/98	Olney Historic District	Crossroads of Georgia Ave., and Rte. 108/Olney- Laytonsville Road
23/99	Samuel White House	4000 Olney-Laytonsville Road, Olney
23/107-2	Hyatt/Barnesley House	16640 Georgia Avenue, Olney
23/108	Brooke Manor/James Barnesley House	16300 Georgia Avenue, Olney
23/113	Norbeck Historic District	Crossroads of Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Rd.
23/116	Woodburn	16320 Batchellors Forest Road, Olney
23/117	Flint Hill I	Norbeck Road, Sandy Spring
27/8	Oak Lea Farm	14700 Argyle Club Road, Silver Spring
27/14	Houses at Layhill and Atwood Roads	Vicinity of Layhill and Atwood Roads, Silver Spring
28/4	Phillip T. Stabler Farm (Ruins)	New Hampshire Avenue near Rte. 108, Ashton
28/21	Bonifant Houses & Cemetery	1111 and 520 Bonifant Road, Layhill

MECHANICSVILLE DIST. No. 8. Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

M: 23-98



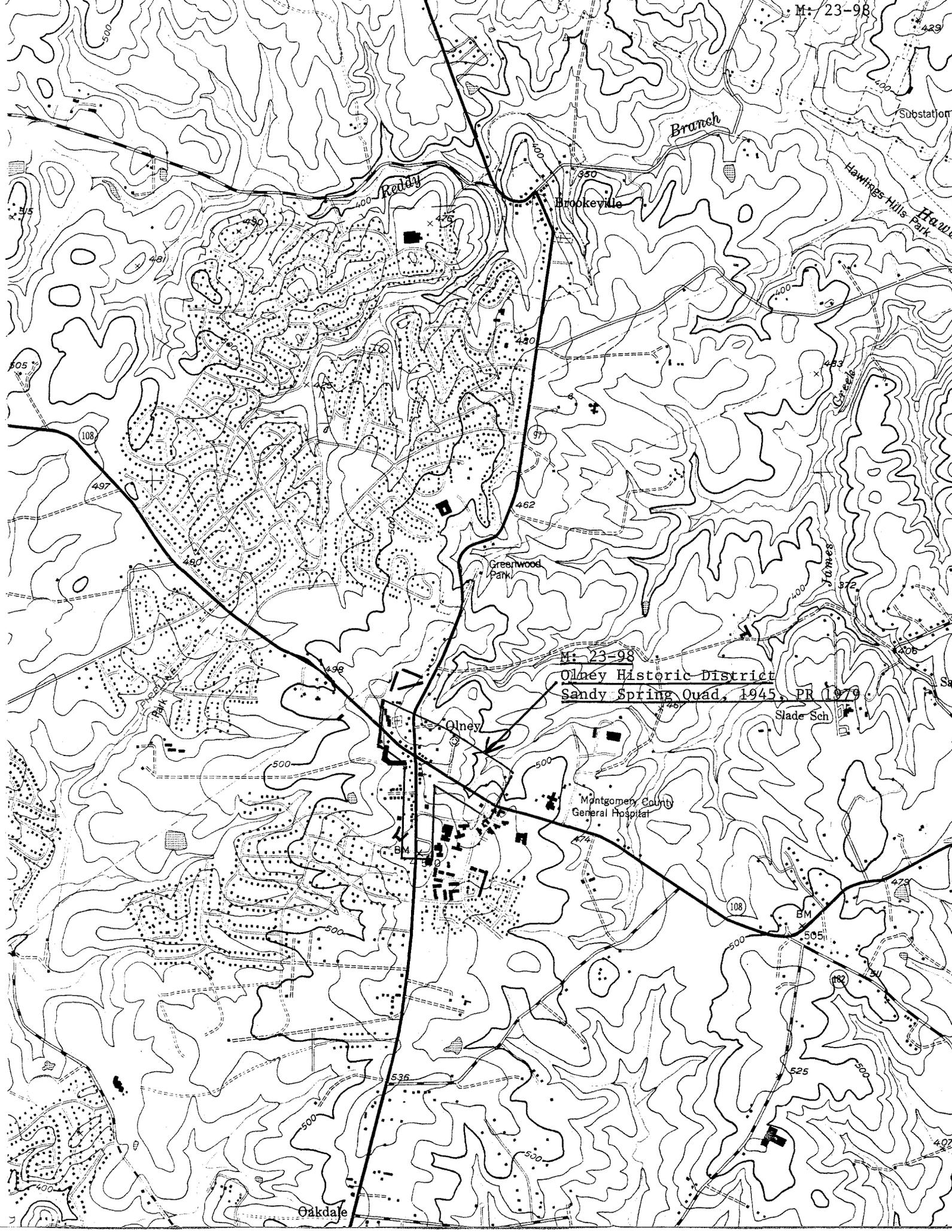
MECHANICSVILLE OLNEY P.O.

Scale 600 feet to the Inch.

BUSINESS NOTICES

<p>J. D. Barnsley Dealer in all kinds of Merchandise, Mechanicsville Md.</p>	<p>Williams & Boyer Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hardware, Boots, Shoes etc. Mechanicsville.</p>	<p>Joseph L. Wagner Manufacturer and Dealer in Stoves, Tin & Sheet Iron Ware, also Roofing, etc. Mechanicsville.</p>
---	---	---

Entered according to Act of Congress



M: 23-98
 Olney Historic District
 Sandy Spring Quad, 1945, PR 1979



#23-98

NAME FAIR HILL

LOCATION RTE. 108 E. OF RTE. 97, OLNEY, MD.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75

M. BOWYER



#23-98

NAME "OLNEY" (M:23-98-2)

LOCATION RTE. 108, E. END OF RTE. 97, OLNEY, MD.

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75

M. AWYER



#23-98

NAME OLNEY, MD. (MURPHY HSE. AT LEFT, WDM'S. + BOYER

LOCATION RTE. 97 + RTE. 108

STORE AT RIGHT)

FACADE LOOKING W ALONG RTE. 108

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75

M. DWOYER



423-98

NAME OLNEY, MD INTERSECTION (MURPHY HOUSE AT LEFT)

LOCATION RT 97+ RT 108 OLNEY, MD

FACADE LOOKING N ON RT 97

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75 MDWYER



#23-98

NAME OLNEY INN

LOCATION RTE. 97, OLNEY, MD.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75

M. DWYER



De-Ann's
FLORIST
SHOPPE
774-406
774-402

NAME BARNESLY HOUSE

#23-98

LOCATION RTE. 97, OLNEY, MD.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75

M. RUYER



#23-98

NAME MURPHY HOUSE (TO RIGHT) MIDDLE PART - UNDERTAKER'S + TIN SHOP
LOCATION SW CORNER Rt. 97 LEFT SECTION - " + WHEEL WRIGHT'S
FACADE NE + Rt. 108 OLNEY, Md.
PHOTO TAKEN 8/14/75 MOWVER