

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**FOR**

**MONTANVERDE**

**14601 BERRYVILLE ROAD, DARNESTOWN**

Montgomery County Survey Prefix & Site Number: M-24/24

Approximate Building Date: circa 1806-1812

Town or Vicinity in which Resource is Located: Darnestown

Access: Private

Montanverde, erected c1806-1812, is a two and one half story, side gable, clapboard sheathed brick dwelling with a five bay main block, and one and a half story wings on each gable end. There are a number of contributing outbuildings on the site. Montanverde (which is located within the National Register-listed Seneca Historic District) is architecturally significant because it is an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century farmhouse which has retained much of its original architectural character. It is historically significant because it is associated with Major George Peter, a large landowner and a member of a prominent family who held important posts in the state and federal governments and the military. Additionally, in 1848, Abraham Lincoln, then a Congressman, attended a political rally at Montanverde as the guest of Major Peter. He spent the night and the bedroom in which he supposedly stayed in the west wing has since become known as the Lincoln Room.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

 MARYLAND INVENTORY OF <sup>OF</sup> yes no  
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

 historic Montanverde

and/or common

### 2. Location

 street & number 14601 Berryville Road not for publication

 city, town Darnestown vicinity of congressional district 8

 state MD 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

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

 name William M. Harman

 street & number 5829 Bent Twig Road telephone no.: (703)522-5829

 city, town McLean state and zip code VA 22101

### 5. Location of Legal Description

 courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 4145

 street & number 51 Monroe Street folio 489

 city, town Rockville state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

 title Montgomery County Locational Atlas of Historic Sites

 date 1976  federal  state  county  local

 repository for survey records M-NCPPC

 city, town Silver Spring state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. M:24-24

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The estate known as Montanverde is accessed off Berryville Road by a long, narrow, winding dirt driveway lined with trees and bushes. Surrounded by pastures and woodland, the property has maintained its rural character in spite of large-scale residential development nearby. The existing natural setting is important to maintaining the nineteenth century character of the house.

Montanverde, erected c1806-1812, is a two and one half story, side gable, clapboard sheathed brick dwelling with a five bay main block, and one and a half story wings on each gable end. The house is simple in design and has a long, low profile. The main (south) facade faces open fields while the rear (north) fronts the driveway. The roofs of the main block and wings are raised-seam metal and the foundation is Seneca sandstone. At both ends of the main block are two story, external brick chimneys with free-standing brick stacks above the second floor. Windows are six over six sash with wide surrounds finished with half round moldings and flanked by louvered shutters.

The five bay main facade has a center door with a three-light transom and louvered shutters. It is reached by three stone steps and entered from a small landing with metal railings. The remaining bays on both levels have shuttered six over six sash windows. The north (rear) elevation is nearly identical to the main facade with the exception of the doorway which has no transom and is without shutters. The entrance is now partially obscured by large bushes.

Both of the frame wings are one and a half story with side gable roofs. Windows are six over six sash with louvered shutters. The first level of each gable end has a pair of these windows, which, on the west wing, flank an exterior brick chimney. On the south elevations, both wings contain a centered window. The west wing also contains a paneled door east of the window. On the north elevation, the west wing also has one centered window, while the east wing has two windows and a paneled door.

According to an article on the interior of Montanverde which appeared in a local publication, "the main section is one-room wide [deep] and of window-opposite-window design, with the center-hall having a door at either end. These features combine to catch the north-south breezes and keep the house cool and airy. The parlor and dining room are on either side of the center hall and the stairway here leads to two large bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. There are external chimneys at both ends of this section which accommodate fireplaces in the parlor, the dining room, and each of the

(Continued,

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bedrooms above. All of the floors are of random-width boards and all are original. The west wing contains the "Lincoln Room" and a bath; the east wing is the kitchen. The kitchen fireplace is back-to-back with that in the dining room and shares a common chimney. The fireplace block in the kitchen is all brick and is very large - 7 and 1/2 feet wide and extending four feet into the room...It is possible that there was a large cooking fireplace and/or an oven which was covered over."<sup>1</sup>

There are several outbuildings on the property. Immediately south of the house, at its southeast corner, is a small, square, one story shed built in the 1940s. The structure has a hip roof, exposed rafter ends, wide clapboard sheathing, with an entrance in the north elevation. A metal weathervane is centered on the roof. A partially-screened, partially clapboarded hip-roof addition of similar size is attached at its south elevation. (Shed #2).

To the east of the above is a small one bay, hip roof shed with wide vertical plank siding and exposed wood eaves. There is a plank door with metal strap hinges on the north elevation and a metal weathervane on the roof (Shed #1).

To the north of the above is a two story, three bay, front gable, frame tenant house with clapboard siding and a center entrance flanked by six over six sash. A shed roof porch with narrow square posts extends across the width of the main, west facade. The roof is raised-seam metal and the foundation is concrete block. Attached to the rear (east) elevation of the tenant house is a one story, three bay shed roof addition with an exterior chimney on its east elevation and an entrance from a small porch on the south elevation.

To the northwest of the tenant house is a front gable, clapboard sided garage with a raised seam metal roof and wide overhead doors across the main (south) facade. Immediately adjacent to the garage on its west side is a small, square shed with a hip roof, exposed wood eaves, and wide vertical plank siding. A plank door with metal strap hinges is centered in the south elevation. (Not shown on topographical map.)

To the east (rear) of the tenant house is another group of outbuildings (shown but not numbered on topo map) consisting of four wood sheds covered with a variety of plank, plywood, and board-and-batten sidings and raised-seam metal roofs. At least one has metal strap door hinges. They are in fair to poor condition.

(Continued)

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A large three bay, gambrel roof, bank barn stands to the east of these outbuildings. The upper two-thirds of the barn is covered in vertical wood siding, the remainder is concrete block. Entrance is from the south elevation through a plank door with metal strap hinges reached from a raised wood platform from which the steps are missing. There is a nine-light casement window in the south gable end and six and nine-light casement windows in the concrete section, south elevation. The east elevation has a facade-wide shed roof addition with three stables with Dutch-door entrances.

The other outbuildings were extant when the current owner bought the property in the 1920s.

The original estate was said to have included a number of two room houses occupied by the Peters family children.<sup>2</sup>

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

M:24-24

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1806-1812 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Summary: Montanverde is historically significant because it is associated with Major George Peter, a large landowner and a member of a prominent family who held important posts in the state and federal governments and the military. Architecturally, it is significant because it is an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century farmhouse which has retained much of its original architectural character.

Montanverde (which is located within the National Register-listed Seneca Historic District) was built between 1806 and 1812 by Major George Peter on land acquired by his father, Robert Peter, in 1781. The property on which Montanverde stands belonged, before the Revolution, to Daniel Dulany, a Loyalist whose lands were confiscated and sold at auction. Robert Peter bought lots two through seven of Dulany's land in the Seneca Creek area and leased it for farming in 100-acre parcels.<sup>3</sup>

Robert Peter was a wealthy and influential merchant and landowner who served in 1789 as the first Mayor of Georgetown, an important port on the Potomac River, and whose relatives included members of the Lee and Custis families. When he died in 1802, Robert Peter left his Seneca land to his sons: Thomas, who married Martha Custis, the granddaughter of Martha Washington, and built Tudor Place, a Georgetown mansion; George, who married the wealthy Ann Plater and erected Montanverde; and David, a bachelor. Of the approximately 2500 acres owned by Robert Peter in Montgomery County, his son George inherited about 1/5 of his holdings.

The Peter heirs developed the sandstone and marble quarries along the banks of the Potomac and built large, substantial homes on their property. Stone from their quarries was used in the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and important early public buildings in the Washington area, such as the original Smithsonian Institution building.

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George Peter was born in 1779 in Georgetown. At the age of 15 he joined the Maryland troops "putting down" the Whiskey Rebellion, but General George Washington, a family friend, ordered him home. In 1799, Peter was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the 9th Infantry by President Adams, receiving his commission from Washington at Mt. Vernon. He served in the Missouri Territory, supposedly firing the first salute upon the return of the Lewis and Clark expedition. He was later assigned to watch the movements of Aaron Burr and, in 1807, served as a witness at Burr's trial. In the same year, he was made a Captain in the Artillery, and, in 1808, a Major. Although he resigned from the army in 1809, Major Peter volunteered to command a battalion of the so-called flying artillery during the War of 1812, serving at the Battle of Bladensburg in 1813.

At the time of his resignation from the army in 1809, Major Peter had already inherited part of his father's substantial estate, including the lands in Seneca. According to a descendant of George Peter, he purchased an additional 500 acres from General Montenverd, a member of General Lafayette's staff, hence the name of the estate. The purchase was said to have been made on the advice of George Washington, who was a family friend and had done surveying in the area. George married in 1809 and began to build his home about that time.<sup>4</sup>

Major Peter had a long and active career in government service as well as in the military. In 1815, he was elected to the Fourteenth Congress from the Sixth District of Maryland, which included Montgomery, Frederick, Allegany, and Garrett Counties; the first Democrat elected from that district, he was, at the time, also a member of the Georgetown Town Council. Major Peter was re-elected to the Fifteenth Congress, serving from 1816 to 1819 and, from 1819 to 1827, he was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. He was re-elected to Congress in 1828, but was defeated in his bid for re-election at the end of that term. Major Peter also served as Montgomery County delegate to the first and second sessions (1823, 1826) of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Convention and, in 1855, was appointed Commissioner of Public Works for the State of Maryland.

In 1848, Abraham Lincoln, then a Congressman, attended a political rally at Montanverde as the guest of Major Peter. He spent the night and the bedroom in which he supposedly stayed in the west wing has since become known as the Lincoln Room.

George Peter at first used his Seneca home only in the summer, returning to his residence in Georgetown in the winter.

(Continued)

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The construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal through the area in 1828 encouraged longer periods of occupancy, however, and Peter made Montanverde his year-round home in 1827.

Major Peter was married three times and had 16 children. One of his sons, George, was president of the Maryland State Senate and a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1864; two other sons served as judges of the County Circuit Court. Another son joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War, was caught behind Union lines, and was hung as a spy in 1863. The original Montanverde estate was said to have included a number of two-room houses for the Peter children, when they had reached a certain age, to live in with a personal servant.<sup>5</sup>

Major Peter died at Montanverde in 1861 and was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown. The house was owned by the Peter family until its sale in 1913 (with some 98 acres) to William Barnum, reputedly the brother of P.T. Barnum, of Barnum and Bailey's Circus. At the time, it had been in the Peter family for more than 100 years.

In 1916, Montanverde was sold to Frank P. Harman, Sr. and, in 1937, the house was bought from his father's estate by his son, Frank P. Harman, Jr., Executive Vice-President of the National Bank of Washington. It was the son who installed electricity and plumbing in the house. Montanverde was used as a summer home by the Harman family, and, at the younger Frank Harman's death in 1984, descended to his three children. It has remained in the Harman family for almost 80 years.

The house is now used as a multi-family rental and horses are boarded on part of the property.



Continuation Sheet  
M: 24-24 - Montanverde

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological/Development Periods: Rural Agrarian  
Intensification A.D.  
1680-1815
- c) Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
and Community Planning; Government/Law
- d) Resource Type: Category: building(s); Historic Environment:  
rural; Historic Function: farming; Use(s): residential

**Endnotes**

- 1 Nancy Houston, "Montanverde," **Little Acorn**, date unavailable  
[c1980-1986].
- 2 **Sentinel**, October 14, 1965.
- 3 Major sources of historical information: Nancy Houston,  
"Montanverde," **Little Acorn**, December 1990; Jane Sween, "Darnestown,  
As It Was," **Montgomery County Story**, February 1982; Christopher  
Owens, MHT Form, 1974; Roger Brooke Farquhar, "Montanverde," in **Old  
Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland** (1962), 215-217.
- 4 **Sentinel**, October 14, 1965.

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M: 24-24 - Montanverde  
Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES  
Page 9.1

Unpublished Sources

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Continuation Sheet

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Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Page 9.2

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----- . **Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change**.  
Woodland Hills, Cal: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1984.

**Washington Post**, December 25, 1981. (MCHS Vertical File)<sup>5</sup> **Sentinel**,  
October 14, 1965.



**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM**  
**LOCATIONAL MAP**

**SURVEY NO.:** M: 24/24  
**PROPERTY NAME:** Montanverde  
**TOWN:** Darnestown  
**COUNTY:** MONTGOMERY  
**QUADRANGLE:** Seneca, MD-VA



Montanverde

M. 24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

DARNESTOWN MD 20874 (MONT. CTY)

L Snyderman

11/93

SOUTH (main)

NEG: MD SHPO

1 of 16

8910-2



Montanverde

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

DARNESTOWN MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

SOUTH (MAIN) (RIGHT)

WEST (LEFT)

NEG: MD SHPO

20J16

8910-3



Montanverde

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown, MD 20874 (Mont. Cty.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North (right) & East (left)

NEG: MD SHPO

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Montanverde

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

DARNESTOWN MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

NORTH (REAR) (WEST END)

NEG: MD JHPD

46/16

8909-36A



Montanverde

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

DARNESTOWN MD 20874 (MONT. CTY)

L Snyderman

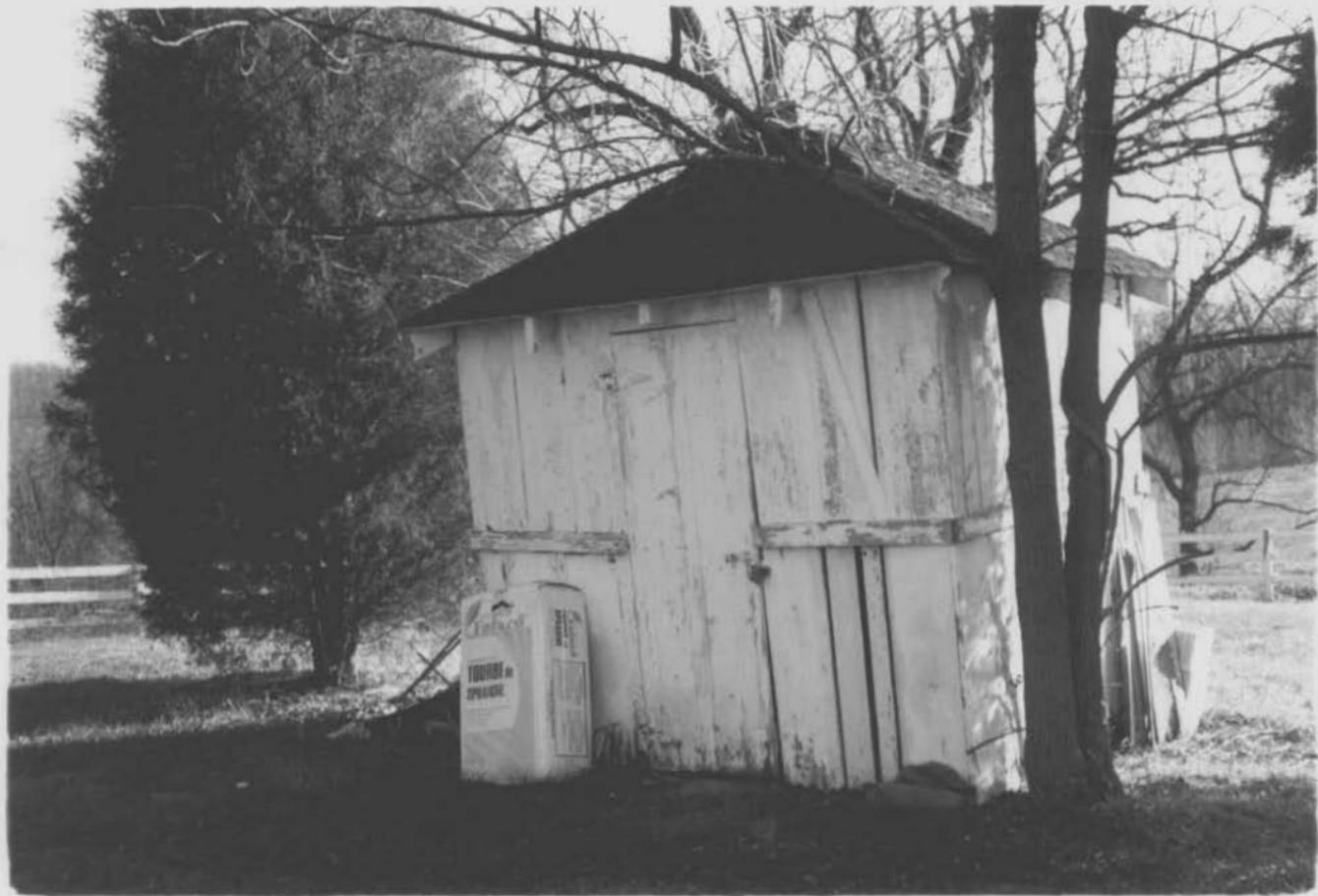
11/93

North (REAR) (MAIN BLOCK & EAST END)

NEG: MD SHPO

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8909-36



Montanverde (Outbuilding) (SHED #1, MAP)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North

NE6: MD SHPO

6 of 16

8909-31



Montauverde (Outbuildings) (STORAGE - RIGHT;  
SCREENED PORCH -  
LEFT)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

(SHED #2, MAP)

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

East

NEG: MD SHPO

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8909-33



Montan verde (Outbuildings) (STORAGE/SCREENED  
PORCH)

M-34/24

(SHED #2, MAP)

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North

NEG: MD SHPO

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8909-32



Montanverde (Outbuildings) (GARAGE)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

South

NEG: MDS HPO

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8909-34



Montanverde (Outbuilding) (SHED)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Barnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTX.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North (LEFT)

NEG-MD-SHPO

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8910-4



Montanverde (Outbuilding) (SHED)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

North (LEFT)

NE6: MD-SHPD

11 of 16

8910-5



Montanverde (Outbuilding) (SHED)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CR.)

L. Snyderman

11/93

North

NEG: MD-SHPD

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8910-6



Montanverde (Outbuilding) (SHED)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY)

L Snyderman

11/93

South

NEG: MD SHPO

13 of 16

8910-8



Montanverde (Outbuildings) (SHEDS)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Barnes town MD 28874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

South

NEG: MD SHPO

14 of 16

8910-10



Montanverde (Outbuilding) (BARN)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darcsaloon MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

SOUTH (RIGHT)

NEG: MD SHPO

15 of 16

8910-7



Montanverde (Tenant House)

M-24/24

14601 Berryville Rd

Darnestown MD 20874 (MONT. CTY.)

L Snyderman

11/93

NORTH (LEFT) + WEST (RIGHT)

NEG: MD SHPO

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8909-30

1606505204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Montanverde				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14601 Berryville Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown				
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
				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 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: Frank Harman				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14601 Berryville Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown			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	



M:24-24

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communications<br><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Invention<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br><input type="checkbox"/> Literature<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-<br>losophy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theater<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/> |
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:24-24

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box 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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 22 May 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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

place in 1860, and kept "bachelor's hall" until 1867 when he married Hannah S. Magruder.

The only children of William E. and Hannah S. Muncaster were John E. and Luther M. Muncaster. William Muncaster died in 1922. He was president of the Rockville Fair in 1888-1889, and to Luther, who had married Mary Willson, he left a farm near Redland which had been inherited from his mother, Rachel. John E. Muncaster, who married Alleta Waters of "Belmont" in 1901, was taken into partnership by his father, William, in 1895, and was devised the Milton property of about 350 acres. Alleta W. Muncaster died in 1945. They had two sons and three daughters. John E. Muncaster sold Milton in 1928, moving to the old Colonial brick house on a 375-acre farm, near Redland, which belonged to his ancestors, the Magruders. (See The Ridge.) John E. was secretary of the Rockville Fair for about forty years. His services to it were invaluable.

John E. Muncaster died on June 27, 1955, one of Montgomery County's most highly esteemed citizens. He was 85 years of age. He was a graduate of Hampden Sidney College, with honors. He founded the Clan Gregor Society, in 1909, and served as its Treasurer for 35 years. He belonged to the Senior Farmers Club, and served as its secretary for 35 years.

He was survived by two sons, John E., Jr. of Waterford, Va., and William T. of Woodstown, N. J. Three daughters survive him, Margaret Stabler of Sandy Spring, Jessie Richardson of Blandensburg, and Emma Muncaster of Bethesda.

William E. Muncaster was an ideal neighbor, friendly, good natured, and generous. His judgment was highly prized. For twenty years, 1901 to 1921, he was a director of The Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County.

A congressman from the deep South, J. H. Smithwick, bought Milton in 1928 and failing to meet his obligations, he was forced to sell Milton in 1930 to William R. Winslow, a prosperous owner. Winslow remodeled and modernized the house, which had been built in 1897 after the removal of the cottage.

The handsome gentleman's country house shown above, was built in part in 1897, replacing the Joseph Elgar cottage, which had stood on the site since 1772. In 1930 when Mr. Winslow purchased the farm then containing about 350 acres, the small house of 1897 was completely enlarged and modernized into a real commodious house of 10 rooms and two baths, with hot water heat, and modern furnishings. The first floor ceilings are ten feet high, and high window frames came out of the famous Old Ebbitt Hotel in Washington.

Mr. Winslow has had a very prosperous business in the Washington area for many years. In 1961 he has three paint and hardware stores, and eight paint stores in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

He was a prime mover in organizing the Montgomery County Agricultural Center at Gaithersburg, incorporated in 1948. During the year 1951, 73,000 contributed in one way or another to that most worthy project, which each year since has been increasingly patronized by the public.

## Montanverde

**T**HE pleasant task of writing the story of an interesting old homestead is much easier when the personalities involved, and not the house itself, dominate the theme. Such is the case with Montanverde.

It was the summer home of Major George Peter from about 1812, when he no doubt built the house, until his death in June, 1861. He had a handsome town house in Georgetown, which was built in 1800 for him by his father, Robert Peter, who was wealthy and had been the mayor

of Georgetown. Robert Peter died in 1802 and his son George was one of the executors, and inherited about one fifth of the 2,500 or more acres in Montgomery County.

When the Major was elected to Congress from the Sixth District in 1815, his seat was contested on the grounds that he was a resident of the District of Columbia. The House of Representatives, however, decided in his favor and he was seated. This lovely country home is on a ninety-seven acre farm, in a secluded spot on a high



NO. 63 F-4 MAJOR GEORGE PETER 1806 BRICK COVERED WITH SIDING

plateau, bordered by Seneca Creek near Seneca Village in upper Montgomery County.

The first Peter to come to America, from Garn Kirke, Scotland, in the middle of the eighteenth century, was Robert Peter. He served as mayor of Georgetown in 1789. George Peter was his son, born September, 1779. When only fifteen years old, the lad joined the forces sent against the "Whiskey Rebellion," but he was ordered sent home by General Washington. Four years later he had the gratification of receiving his commission as a second lieutenant from Washington himself at Mt. Vernon.

In 1808 he was made a major of artillery, but having received a sizable fortune by the will of his father he resigned. Later he volunteered to command a battalion of light artillery which he organized and which was said to have been the first of its kind in the country. Francis Scott Key and other notables were in the battalion during the War of 1812. Peter had a distinguished military career, and was given

important assignments by Presidents Jefferson and Madison.

Major Peter was a large land owner in Montgomery County, having several other farms in addition to Montanverde which takes its name from the General Montanverde from whom this farm was purchased. Major Peter served in Congress in 1815, 1817, and again in 1828. He was the first Democrat to be elected from the Sixth District. He is described as having had an outstanding personality, a strong physique, tall, dignified, courteous, and very hospitable. For fifty years his home was seldom without guests. One visitor, on at least one occasion, was Abraham Lincoln. In fact the first floor room (the addition to the left in the photograph) has ever since been called the "Lincoln Room."

There is a definite record of one visit made by Lincoln to enjoy the major's hospitality when the former was in Congress in 1848. During the Presidential campaign of that year a

novelist named Henshaw from Georgetown called for Mr. Lincoln in his carriage, and they drove the long twenty-five miles to the farm, where a lawn party had been arranged by Major Peter. Apparently the party was planned as a political rally.

Lewis Cass of Indiana was the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and General Zachary Taylor the Whig candidate. The guests gathered around the barbecue fire, and after the feast they sat for a long time listening to the inimitable story-teller. Lincoln so fascinated the group with his magnetism that they did not wish to let him go to bed.

In that campaign Major Peter is reported to have supported General Taylor, although Peter had been three times elected to Congress as a Democrat, and General Taylor won all the eight electoral votes from Maryland.

Major Peter was married three times. One of his sons was the Hon. George Peter, distinguished at the bar, president of the State Senate, and a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1864. The latter's sons, Edward C. Peter and Robert B. Peter, both served as judges of the Circuit Court in the County. Another son of the Major was the late Dr. Armistead Peter of Washington.

After the Major's death in 1861, one of his daughters, Miss Maggie Peter, tried living at the farm but she gave it up after a few years. It was owned for a number of years by William Barnum said to have been a brother of P. T.

Barnum of Circus fame, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Frank P. Harman, Sr.

There is a tradition among the descendants of the Major that in his older years he had a toddy or "night cap" brought to his bedroom before retiring. When he had drained the glass, he made it a practice to throw the glass violently into the fireplace. One evening when there was no one in the house but Mr. Harman and a local mechanic discussing some plans, they heard a loud shattering of glass upstairs. Mr. Harman asked in surprise: "What can that be?" The man with him replied: "That is only the ghost of Major Peter throwing his last toddy glass into the fireplace."

The house faces to the south. The photograph of the house is of the south front. It is of brick construction, weather boarded, and is two stories high except the "Lincoln room," on the west end and has center hall with exit to the rear yard. To the west of the hall is a living room, and to the east a dining room, each with a fireplace. The main part has two bedrooms, and two fireplaces on the second floor.

This estate was purchased in 1916 by Mr. Frank P. Harman, Sr. and in 1937 from his father's estate by his son and namesake, Frank P. Harman, Jr., executive Vice President of The National Bank of Washington who is owner in 1961, has one son, Frank P. Harman III, who is with the U. S. Information Agency. He graduated from St. Albans, served in the Navy for a year, then obtained his degree from Yale in 1950. He is unmarried, and lives in Georgetown.

## Montevideo

THE story of this ponderous manor house is of more than ordinary interest among the many historic homes of Montgomery County. We use the adjective, ponderous, advisedly. Montevideo has an air of somber dignity that is impressive. It is weighty for the reason that the rough stone walls are two feet thick, plastered all over outside and in. It is two stories high without an attic, and the first floor ceilings are 13 feet in height. It is thirty-six feet wide, fifty feet long, and about thirty-four feet from ground to eaves.

Montevideo is important because it was the home for many years of the Peter family, prominent for generations in Georgetown and Montgomery County. It is identified with Martha Washington, wife of our first president. Martha Washington's granddaughter, Martha Parke Custis, married Thomas Peter. A son of this union, John Parke Custis Peter, made it his summer home.

The huge manor house on a plateau 360 feet above tidewater with very extensive mountain views, hence its name, is located just west of the



#24-24

NAME MONTANVERDE

LOCATION BERRYVILLE Rd SENECA Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 N. DWYER



#24-24

NAME MONTANUERDE

LOCATION BERRYVILLE Rd. SENECA, Md

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 M-DWYER



#2424

NAME MONTAN VERDE

LOCATION BERRYVILLE Rd SENECA, Md

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 M. DWYER



#24-24

NAME MONTANVERDE

LOCATION BERRYVILLE Rd SENECA, Md

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 H. DWYER