Form 10-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

M-23-51
For HCRS use only
received
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic: Clover Hill

and/or common: Clover Hill

2. Location

street & number: 21310 Zion Road — N/A not for publication

city, town: Brookeville — X vicinity of — congressional district: Eighth

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Montgomery — code: 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Mr. and Mrs Sheldon R. Mandel

street & number: 21310 Zion Road

city, town: Brookeville — ___ vicinity of — state: Maryland 20729

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number:

city, town: Rockville — state: Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: 1978 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland

7. Description

M-23-51

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Clover Hill as it exists today is a mid-nineteenth century, probably late 1850s, stuccoed masonry farm house located on a knoll to the west of Zion Road. The house is essentially rectangular in shape, two and a half stories high with a dormerless gable roof and a five-bay symmetrical facade characterized by a central cross gable, bracketed cornice, and tripartite windows and entranceway in the center bay. The building has a general Itanianate influence with strong Gothic and Greek Revival details seen in the windows and interior trim. The interior is assymmetrical in arrangement and dominated by a free hanging circular staircase that rises to the attic level. The house was constructed in three or possibly four stages with the present general appearance, which covers the earlier details, completed about the late 1850s. The principal windows of the house have double-hung wood rectangular sashes with six-over-six lights. The property is enhanced by four nineteenth century outbuildings.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Clover Hill is situated facing north on the west side of Zion Road at its intersection with Gregg Road near Brookeville in Montgomery County, Maryland. It appears to be a two-story, five-bay structure with cross gable and two-story rear wing. The house was, however, built in four stages, beginning with a log house of the 1760s. This was extended between 1799 and 1817 by the addition of a hall and room. Later a four-room addition was added to the south and then a further change to its present appearance in the mid-nineteenth century. Built on fieldstone foundations, most of the house has 18-inch thick rubblestone walls. The stuccoing, apparently added in the 1850s, was repaired by the present owners.

At the south (front) facade, four fieldstone steps lead from the driveway to a short fieldstone walk and poured concrete stoop. The entrance, set into the wall with panels reveals, consists of a six-panel door (with small panels in the center flanked by pilasters and surrounded by three-light sidelights and a five-light transom. The door surround was executed in cement by the present owner and has a floral design scratched into the sides and reads "EST:1764", "Clover Hill", and "Mandel 1978" across the top.

Above the entrance on the south is a three-part window with 6/6 sash flanked by narrow 2/2 sash. An iron railing extends out from the lower half of the window. Above this in the cross gable is another three-part window. This one consists of a lancet window containing a casement sash with four lights per panel flanked by two narrow, three-light lancet sash. The remaining windows on this facade have 6/6, double-hung sash and new louvered shutters.

The boxed cornice has a plain frieze decorated with paired brackets on the south facade and east and west ends. The north facade and rear wing have plain boxed cornices.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The west end has two six-light windows in the gable. The chimney flue is exposed to second story height, and there is a gable-roofed, stone cellar entrance to the north of the flue. On the east end there are two four-light windows in the gable. The north facade of the main house is visible for two bays to the west of the wing. There are two 6/6 windows on each story.

The north end of the wing has one four-light window in the gable. The west facade has three openings on the second floor and a door in the south bay and a window in the north bay of the first floor. The three windows have 6/6 sash. The south bay on both floors contains a door. That on the second floor has a transom and multi-paned glass door with an iron balcony. The first floor also has a multi-paned door, with three-light transom. The east facade of the wing has a Dutch door in the center of the first floor.

The wing and house have perpendicular gable roofs, covered with brown asbestos shingles.

The present floor of the house consists of a central hall with a single room on either side in the main block, and two rooms in the wing with a hall running across the entire south end of the wing between these two rooms and the main block.

The south entrance opens into the central hall, which has rounded corners at its north end and a free-standing, circular, open-string stair as focal point. The stair has a carved cherry newel post, turned cherry balusters, and a walnut railing; the step-ends have a scroll decoration. The door surrounds in the hall are deep moldings with crossets. The hall was added to the house as two rooms circa 1800 with alterations, including the present stair, circa 1857-1858.

The parlor to the west of the hall (living room #1) is thought to have been the last addition to the house, built circa 1857. Door and window surrounds in this room are identical to the door surrounds in the hall. The windows here have paneled reveals.

The parlor to the east of the hall (dining room) was added to the house circa 1800 as two rooms.

A six-panel door with the small panels in the center and paneled reveals opens into the rear hall from both the main hall and the dining room. This hall, built in the late 18th century, has a stair in the northeast corner. This is an open-string stair with a straight run and three winders at the top. It has a simple hand rail, square balusters, and an octagonal newel post. The door surrounds in the hall have flat boards on two planes on the sides topped with a simple cornice. This section of the house is lower than the main block.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The northwest room in the wing (living room #2) is the oldest part of the house, a log structure built in the mid-18th century and rebuilt in stone later. The window and door surrounds are like those in the hall, and the mantel is a plain wooden one with unornamented pilasters and simple shelf/ The windows have paneled reveals. The original log structure was rebuilt in the late 18th century and the woodwork has dates from that time.

The northeast room in the wing (kitchen) was part of the first, late 18th century addition, when the interior of the original structure was redone. It has a large stone fireplace with brick hearth in the north wall and trim that matches the rest of this section.

The house has random-width floors of soft pine, poplar, and white oak.

Evidence of the early log house was found during renovation work in 1978. When the exterior stucco was removed from the northwest corner of the wing, it was found that this room had a fieldstone foundation separate from the rest of the house. Also, the fieldstone walls above the first story differed from those on the second story, and the interior walls of the fireplace were a mixture of decayed mud brick and fieldstone completely different from the construction of other fireplaces in the 18th century portion of the house. This evidence indicates an early rebuilding in stone of the log house in which only the fireplace of the original survived. Some time after this the kitchen and hall were added.

In the early 19th century (circa 1800) four rooms were added to the south wall of the long, late 18th century hall. When deteriorated stucco was removed in 1978 a doorway was found between the two windows.

This section was altered in 1857-1858, when its two west rooms were done over into the central hall and its two east rooms were made into one large room. At this time the third, attic level with cross gable was added, and the chimney in the east end of the south addition was rebuilt to match the chimney in the end of the new west room, giving the two interior end chimneys of today's main block.

The early 19th century (circa 1800) addition became the main portion of the house for a time, as evidenced by the original doorway found between the two windows of the east wall under deteriorated stucco work removed during restoration. The wing was connected by an entrance hall to the 18th century dwelling, which included a staircase, whose only reminder left is the pieced wooden floor of the east wing. Again, as in the 18th century section, the builders failed to match the floor levels of the old and new sections. The hall connecting the two structures drops 8 inches as one goes from the newer to the older section in the first floor and ascends 18 inches on the second floor.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Since 1858 the only major changes have been the installation of modern bath and kitchen facilities - the latter in the same room where the original hearth still stands, with its crane to hold kettles over the fire - and the removal of the stucco which had earlier been applied to the exterior walls. Due to the deterioration of the mud between the supporting fieldstone walls, it was necessary to replace the old stucco with new.

There are four outbuildings on the property, all of which are constructed in a similar manner.

A. The closest to the main house on the east side is a nineteenth century all fieldstone smokehouse.

B. At the northeast corner of the property is an all-fieldstone spring house with the cornerstone laid in 1877, which is the only water supply to the house.

C. On the north side of the house is a nineteenth century large blacksmith's shed with fieldstone foundation, dowel and peg framing, and red clay brick hearth which still functions.

D. On the southwest side of the property stands a large nineteenth century bank barn of fieldstone foundation and original dowel and peg framing.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

The justification for the 12+ acres stems to an eighteenth century transfer. Clover Hill property has always been transferred as approximately 12+ acres. In the 1783 tax records in the upper Newfoundland district, it is described as "eight acres cleared and five acres marsh." Since that time the property has always been transferred essentially the same way. When purchased by the present owners, it was described as 12.107 acres.

8. Significance

M-23-51

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

Specific dates 1850s **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C

The significance of Clover Hill in Montgomery County is derived from the architectural character of the house. the house. The house embodies distinctive features of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture in mid-and western Maryland. Characteristically these houses are two-and-a-half story masonry structures with dormerless gable roofs, symmetrical facades, and eclectic stylistic influences. In this particular example are seen the rectangular shape, the symmetrical facade and the eclecticism in design but also two features that are generally unusual, a stuccoed exterior and a free hanging circular staircase, particularly in Montgomery County. The stucco was added to the house when it took on its present appearance about the late 1850s. Unfortunately, little is known about the people associated with the house after it took on the present character.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Situated high on a knoll, on the tracts of land known as the "addition to Brookegrove" and "Ridgley's Ridge", Clover Hill began as a one-room planter's dwelling, possibly the residence of James Brooke in the Frederick County Debt Books of 1763. It appears in the 1783 Tax Assessment, in the Upper Newfoundland District as "one old log dwelling house - approximately 25 miles from town with 8 acres cleared and 5 acres marsh, which may be made meadow and sapling."

The "Addition to Brookegrove" was one of many tracts of land owned by James Brooke, who at the time of his death in 1784 owned approximately 20,000 acres. This tract was transferred to his son, Thomas, when the 2,000 acres left in James' will, including the "Addition to Brookegrove", were divided among eight family members.[2]

In 1794 Thomas Brooke died, and Margaret Brooke was left the "Addition to Brookegrove".[3] She maintained ownership until 1799, when she sold her share of the inheritance, 245 acres, for $2,000., to Ephraim Gaither, distinguished for his roles in the Maryland Legislature and humanitarian causes. By then, the "Addition to Brookegrove" was described as "land and premises together with all houses and buildings".[4]

Transformation of the humble log dwelling of 1783 into something grander is hinted at in the 1794 deed, which describes the house as a dwelling plantation.

Between 1799, when Ephraim Gaither took ownership, and approximately 1817, a south addition was added, consisting of four rooms.[5] Major Ephraim Gaither married Sarah Elizabeth Goldsborough.[6] Ephraim served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1817 through 1820 and in 1829, then continued to represent Montgomery County until his death in 1857.[7] His obituary referred to him by

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

stating that Montgomery County had lost one of its most useful, influential, and valued citizens, no matter what the cause, be it military, legislative, or defending freedoms as he had done in 1812, when he volunteered his services to the "Federal Republican Press" in Baltimore and suffered a musket shot.[8]

The plantation was left to Sarah, Ephraim's wife, but under management by their son, Thomas Davis Gaither. In the event of her death, Thomas received all of the estate.[9]

In the same year as his father's death, 1857, Thomas Gaither began extensive additions to the old stone house. He converted two rooms of the south addition into a hall with a rare spiral staircase running from the first to the third floors. This was built of walnut, cherry, and long leaf pine from trees cut and cured on the farm by the plantation balcksmith, George Davis. A corner stone signed and dated by George Davis upon completion in 1858 stands near the eaves in the attic of the 19th century structure.

This stair, unique in Montgomery County, is the high point of Clover Hill's architectural design. It has no supporting posts or rails and is anchored to the wall on the outside diameter of the spiral, supported on the cantilever principle. Hidden passages behind the staircase are rumored to have hidden Colonel Gaither, a Confederate cavalry officer, when he was pursued by Federal soldiers from Washington during the Civil War. Lending credibility to this romantic legend was the discovery in 1927 of a Civil War bayonet at the bottom of these passages.[10]

West of the main hall, Thomas built another room to replace the space of the two rooms used for his magnificent staircase. With its completion in 1858, the fabric of Clover Hill as it stands today was essentially complete.[11]

Clover Hill remained in the Gaithers' ownership until 1891, when State Senator Henry Benson purchased it at a sheriff's sale.[12] The sale was ordered after foreclosure of a mortgage which Thomas Davis Gaither's heirs had failed to pay. Senator Benson's only addition to his new plantation was an orchard he planted on the site of an old slave burial field. To do this it was necessary to remove over 350 gravestones, which eventually found their way into a garden wall which adjoins the house, built in 1927, when Clover Hill came under the ownership of Major J. W. Swaren.[13]

Clover Hill has changed hands many times since the construction of that garden wall, the most recent being its present owners in Mary of 1978;[14] but nothing has changed since 1857, when Thomas Davis Gaither, with the help of the multi-talented blacksmith, George Davis, created his magnificent spiral staircase.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

FOOTNOTES

[1]Farquhar, Roger Brooke, History and Homes of Montgomery County, p. 123.

[2]Montgomery County Land Records, F6/58; Frederick County Will Records, GM 2/101.

[3]Montgomery County Deed F6/71/Montgomery County Will Records, B-405.

[4]Montgomery County Deed H/536

[5]Farquhar, pp. 123-4.

[6]Gaither Family Bible.

[7]Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, pp.132-3.

[8]Scharf, J. Thomas, Chronicles of Baltimore, pp. 312-3

[9]Newman, Harry Wright, Anne Arundel Gentry, Vol. I, pp. 140-3.

[10]Interview with Major J. W. Swaren, then owner of Clover Hill, Montgomery County Sentinel, December 22, 1955.

[11]Cornerstone of Clover Hill staircase addition, sighed and dated.

[12]Montgomery County Deed JA23/333; EPB 18/254.

[13]Montgomery County Deed 422/242.

[14]Montgomery County Deed 5141/216.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
Gaither Family Bible (in possession of R. H. Hutchinson, Jr.)
Cornerstone for Clover Hill staircase addition.
Frederick County Debt Books, 1763.
Tax Assessments, 1783, Upper Newfoundland District

SECONDARY SOURCES

Scharf, J. Thomas. Chronicles of Baltimore. Baltimore: Turnbull Bros., 1874.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Vol. I. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

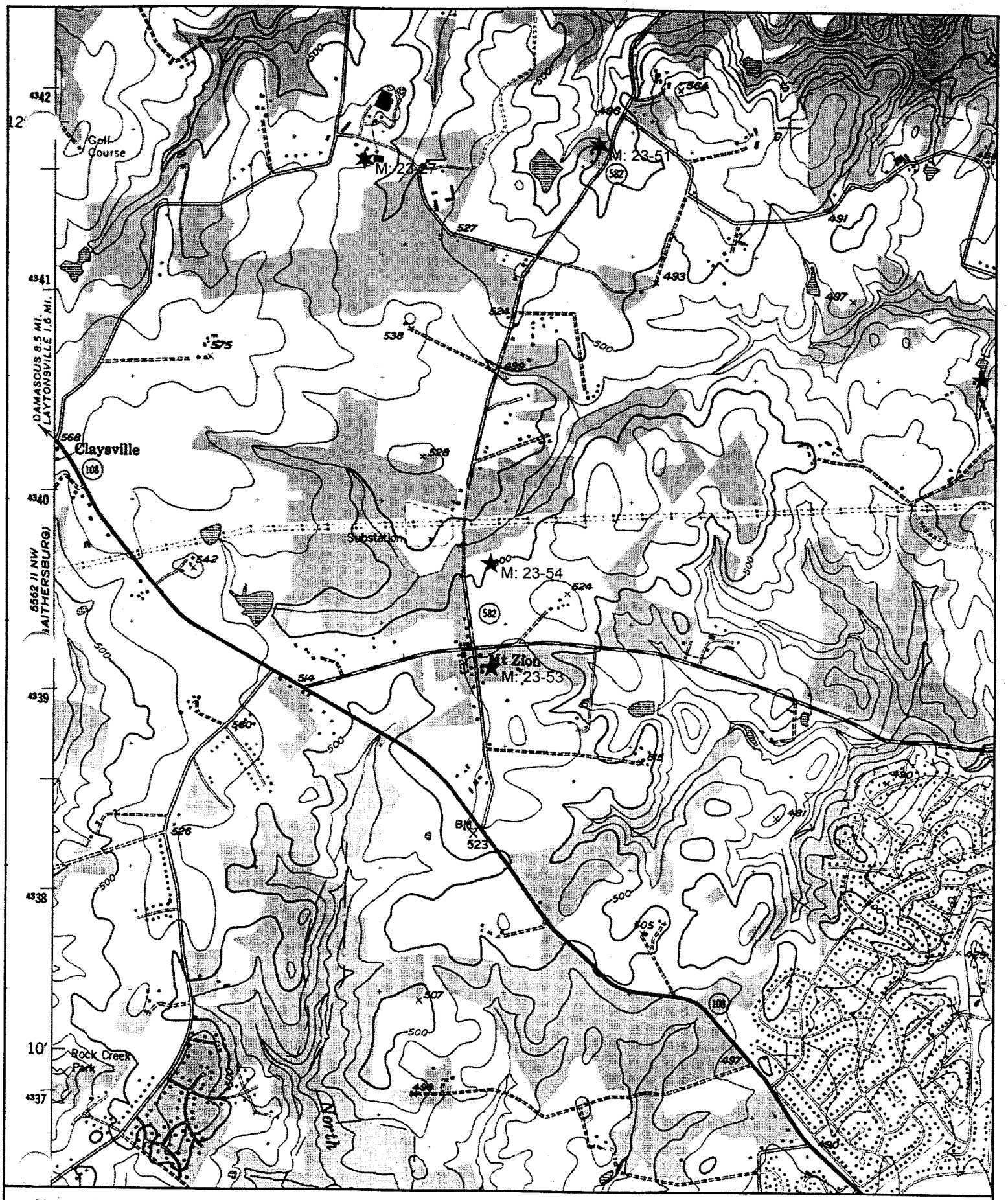
Farquhar, Roger Brooke. History and Homes of Montgomery County. Washington, D.C.: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1952-1962.

Stein, Charles Francis, Jr. Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore: Howard County Historical Society, 1972.

Mongtomery County Sentinel, 12/22/55, "Brookeville Farm Has Been Home to Succession of Military Men".

Newman, Harry Wright. Anne Arundel Gentry. Vol. I. Annapolis, Maryland: by the author, 1970

Interviews: Mr. Samuel Riggs IV, Laytonsville, Maryland
Normal Sealing, restorer of old homes, Mount Airy, Maryland.



Name: SANDY SPRING
Date: 7/13/99
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 11' 12.9" N 077° 05' 58.4" W
Caption: CLOVER HILL (M: 23-51)
21310 Zion Rd.

Copyright (C) 1997, Maptech, Inc.

M:23-51

M:23-51
Clover Hill
21310 Zion Road, Laytonsville

Jennifer K. Cosham
March 7, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT

23-51
CLOVER HILL
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING NORTH
1 OF 4

23-51
CLOVER HILL
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-99
MARYLAND SHPO
EAST ELEVATION LOOKING WEST
2 OF 4

23-51
CLOVERHILL
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTH
3 OF 4

MD23-51

23 ~~34~~

CLOVER HILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

1-4-09

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

4 OF 4