

Capsule Summary
SM-495
Physic Hill
Great Mills
Private

Circa 1890

Physic Hill is significant as the site of the combined residence and office of a series of St. Mary's County doctors dating from the 1830s to 1918. The house currently located on the property dates to about 1890. This building replaced an earlier structure that burned in 1883.

Among those doctors who have lived and practiced here are Dr. John Delany (1802-1852), Dr. William Matthew Abell (1825-1876), Dr. Tom Lynch (1859-1942), and Dr. Henry Richardson (1841-1915). It was under Abell's ownership that the property, originally part of "White Plains" and "Charles Park," became known as "Physic Hill." According to an article published in the St. Mary's Beacon, the original Physic Hill house burned during ownership of John J. Allstan in 1883. The article, dated September 13, 1883, notes,

"The dwelling known as Physic Hill, located near Great Mills, in this county was destroyed by fire on Monday last about 4:00 in the evening. The fire was communicated to the roof by a spark from the kitchen chimney and had obtained a full heading and control before it was discovered. It was in the occupancy of Mr. Alexander Milburn, undertaker, and belonged to Mr. John J. Allstan. The building was a handsome structure, finely furnished, about thirty years old, and its original cost is stated to have been \$14,000...Both the building and furniture were insured in the Montgomery County Mutual."

SM-495, Physic Hill
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural/Industrial Transition, 1815 - 1870.
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Economic
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Dwelling
Doctor's Office

Known Design Source: None

7. Description

Survey No. SM-495

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Physic Hill is located on a steep rise in the landscape on the north side of Great Mills Road (Route 246) in Great Mills, St. Mary's County, Maryland. There are no outbuildings on the property. The house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1890, the two-story, frame house is an ell-shaped structure with a one-story porch infill dating to about 1970 and a one-story rear addition dating to around 1950. It is sheathed with artificial siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The foundation consists of brick piers infilled with cement blocks.

The east (main) elevation consists of an ell with a one-story enclosed porch infill. The porch is pierced by a series of six-light windows. Above the former porch, the second floor of the main block is pierced by one six-over-six sash window. The southern gable end wing is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows on both the first and second floors. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridge line.

The south elevation of the ell is pierced by one six-over-six sash window on the second floor. The south side of the main block's gable end is pierced by one eight-over-eight sash window on both the first and second floors.

The west elevation consists of a one-story wing that extends across the full width of the elevation. This wing is pierced by a door and two one-over-one sash windows. The second floor is pierced by three eight-over-eight sash windows. The roofline is broken by a cross gable and is pierced by a two-light window with a triangular cap.

The north elevation of the main block gable end is pierced by one six-over-six sash window on the first and second floor. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this gable end. The first floor of the ell is mostly obscured by the enclosed porch infill which is pierced by a modern door and window. The second floor of the ell is pierced by a six-over-six sash window.

The interior consists of a center hall, single pile plan. The entrance door behind the enclosed porch has a two-light transom. The central hall has an open string stair fitted with turned balusters. The first floor consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen and rear sun room. The second floor consists of three bedrooms and a bathroom.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates Unknown 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.

Physic Hill is significant as the site of the combined residence and office of a series of St. Mary's County doctors dating from the 1830s to 1918. The house currently located on the property dates to about 1890. It is unoccupied and is in a deteriorated condition.

In 1835, Dr. John Delany (1802-1852) purchased fifty acres of land from Clement M. Williams, which later became known as part of "White Plains." In 1842, Delany purchased "Charles Park," part of the real estate of Grandison Asquith. By 1842 Delany was already resident on the Charles Park property. Delany received his degree from the University of Maryland Medical School in 1823. At his death in 1852, he was described as "one of the ablest and most advanced doctors in Southern Maryland."

Before Delany's death, he conveyed 180 acres of Charles Park and part of White Plains to Young P. Dawkins. No deed was recorded, however, and Eliza Delany formerly transferred this property to Dawkins in 1855 for \$2000. Dawkins sold these tracts to James B. Thomas in February of 1859 for \$3500. A mere four months later Thomas sells the property to Beal Kiebard for \$6000, suggesting that considerable construction occurred here during Thomas' ownership.

Kiebard sold the property to Dr. William Matthew Abell (1825-1876) in 1859. Abell had received his medical degree from the University Maryland School of Medicine in 1850. It was during Abell's ownership that the property became known as "Physic Hill." During the year of 1860, Dr. Abell was joined in his practice by Dr. John Wise Hebb (1839-1910) who also received his degree in medicine from the University of Maryland. A St. Mary's Beacon announcement of April 1860 noted "Drs. W.M. Abell and J. Wise Hebb offer their services to the people of the Factory District and can be found at the residence of Dr. Abell at Physic Hill."

During the Civil War Dr. Abell was arrested as a Southern sympathizer. In 1861 he was imprisoned without charges at Fort Lafayette in New York Harbor for one year. Shortly before his death in 1876, Abell's property was sold by virtue of a Circuit Court

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-495Fresco, Margaret K. Doctors of St. Mary's County, 1634 - 1900 (n.p.: N.p., 1992)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acresQuadrangle name St. Mary's CityQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

<input type="text"/>							
Zone	Easting		Northing				

B

<input type="text"/>							
Zone	Easting		Northing				

C

<input type="text"/>							
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D

<input type="text"/>							
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E

<input type="text"/>							
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F

<input type="text"/>							
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G

<input type="text"/>							
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H

<input type="text"/>							
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

Acreage surrounding house

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

--	--	--	--

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning datestreet & number 328 Washington Street telephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

SM-495, Physic Hill
St. Mary's County
8.4 Significance

decree to George Combs, agent and president of the St. Mary's Savings Institution. In 1880, the property was again transferred as the result of a court-ordered sale.

John J. Allstan purchased Physic Hill in 1880. An advertisement of December 1882 shows that Dr. Tom Lynch (1859-1942) was offering his professional services at Physic Hill. According to an article published in the St. Mary's Beacon, the original Physic Hill house burned during his ownership in 1883. The article, dated September 13, 1883, notes, "The dwelling known as Physic Hill, located near Great Mills, in this county was destroyed by fire on Monday last about 4:00 in the evening. The fire was communicated to the roof by a spark from the kitchen chimney and had obtained a full heading and control before it was discovered. It was in the occupancy of Mr. Alexander Milburn, undertaker, and belonged to Mr. John J. Allstan. The building was a handsome structure, finely furnished, about thirty years old, and its original cost is stated to have been \$14,000...Both the building and furniture were insured in the Montgomery County Mutual."

In 1887, Allstan sold the 180 acre property to S. Spencer Greenwell of Baltimore County for \$950. In 1893, the tract was sold to John F. Ching as the result of a court-ordered sale. Ching then sold Physic Hill to Susan Matilda Richardson, wife of Dr. Henry Richardson (1841-1915) for \$805. Dr. Richardson received his degree in medicine from the University of Maryland in 1864. The Richardson family continued to own the property until 1918.

SM-495, Physic Hill
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Vivian J. Steele
FROM: Burl T. Steele
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 111, folio 132.
DATE: January 1982
NOTES: Transfer of part of "Physic Hill" being on the left side of Route 246 from Great Mills to Lexington Park.

TO: Burl T. Steele and Vivian J. Steele
FROM: William A. Chapman and Elizabeth M. Chapman
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 66, folio 127.
DATE: October 25, 1956.
NOTES: Transfer of part of "Physic Hill."

TO: William A. Chapman and Elizabeth M. Chapman
FROM: Ada Lucy Norris, widow.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 22, folio 107.
DATE: October 4, 1948.
NOTES: Transfer of "Physic Hill" being 40 acres.

TO: Charles P. Cox and Theodosia Cox
FROM: George C. Herbert and Nellie C. Herbert
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 17, folio 372.
DATE: October 23, 1918.
NOTES: Transfer of "Physic Hill" being 40 acres. Price: \$2500

TO: George C. Herbert
FROM: Susan M. Richardson
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 17, folio 271.
DATE: August 24, 1918.
NOTES: Transfer of "Physic Hill" being 40 acres.

TO: Susan Matilda Richardson, wife of Henry.
FROM: John F. Ching and Sarah I. Ching
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 1, folio 148.
DATE: June 6, 1893.
NOTES: Transfer of "Physic Hill" formerly called Charles Park and part of "White Plains" being 180 acres, the same that belonged to the late Dr. John Delaney...
Price: \$805

SM-495, Physic Hill
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: John F. Ching

FROM: L. Allison Wilmer, Trustee

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 1, folio 147.

DATE: June 6, 1893.

NOTES: Transfer of "Physic Hill," formerly Charles Park and part of White Plains being 180 acres as a result of a decree in Circuit Court dated February 6, 1893 in the case of Charles A. Councilman and William T. Councilman vs. Spencer S. Greenwell (see Decree Record JJG 1/117).

Price: \$805.

TO: S. Spencer Greenwell of Baltimore County

FROM: John J. Allston

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 10, folio 8.

DATE: May 17, 1887.

NOTES: Transfer of "Physic Hill" consisting of Charles Park and part of White Plains being 180 acres. Price: \$950.

TO: John J. Allstan

FROM: J. Frank Smith, Sheriff

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 4, folio 134.

DATE: March 17, 1880.

NOTES: Transfer of "Physic's Hill" being 180 acres as a result of a decree dated October 17, 1879 in the case George C. Combs vs. Jeannette A. Abell, Benjamin Hewett, John B. Pursell, John J. Allstan, John M. Brome, George Thomas, Thomas A. Lynch, Benedict I. Abell, and John W. Clements, surviving obligors of James S. Downs, William M. Abell, and J. Frank Greenwell.

TO: George Combs, Agent and President of the St. Mary's Savings Institution.

FROM: Robert Ford and Robert C. Combs, Trustees.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JFF 2, folio 84.

DATE: March 21, 1876.

NOTES: Sale of property as a result of decree in Circuit Court dated June 18, 1862 in the case of Cornelius Combs vs. William M. Abell. Transfer of tract on which Abell resided and now resides called Physic Hill, composed of parts of Part of Park Hill and part White Plains being 180 acres. Price: \$4300.

TO: William M. Abell

FROM: Beale Kiebard and Ellen S. Kiebard

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 2, folio 13.

DATE: June 9, 1859.

NOTES: Transfer of Charles Park being 130 acres and part of White Plains being 50 acres. Price: \$6000

SM-495, Physic Hill
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

TO: Beal Kiebard

FROM: James B. Thomas and Benenia A. Thomas

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 3, folio 128.

DATE: June 9, 1859.

NOTES: Transfer of Charles Park being 130 acres and part of White Plains being 50 acres. Price: \$6000.

TO: James B. Thomas

FROM: Young P. Dawkins and Alethia E. Dawkins

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 3, folio 66.

DATE: February 4, 1859.

NOTES: Transfer of Charles Park being 130 acres and part of White Plains being 50 acres. Price: \$3500

TO: Young P. Dawkins

FROM: Eliza Delany

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 2, folio 29.

DATE: January 4, 1855.

NOTES: States that John Delany did covenant and sell to Dawkins for \$2000 the parcels Charles Park, being 130 acres, and part of White Plains, being 50 acres, which John Delany bought of Clement M. Williams on May 16, 1835. John Delany is now deceased. In his will (GC 2/408; July 13, 1852) he devises all of his estate to his wife.

TO: Dr. John Delany

FROM: George Combs, Trustee

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 12, folio 461.

DATE: June 21, 1842.

NOTES: Transfer of real estate of Grandison Asquith, deceased, as a result of a Chancery Court decree dated January 23, 1840. Sale of "Charles Park" being part of the real estate of Grandison Asquith, the plantation whereon the said John Delany now resides.

TO: John Delany

FROM: Clement M. Williams

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JTB 2, folio 31.

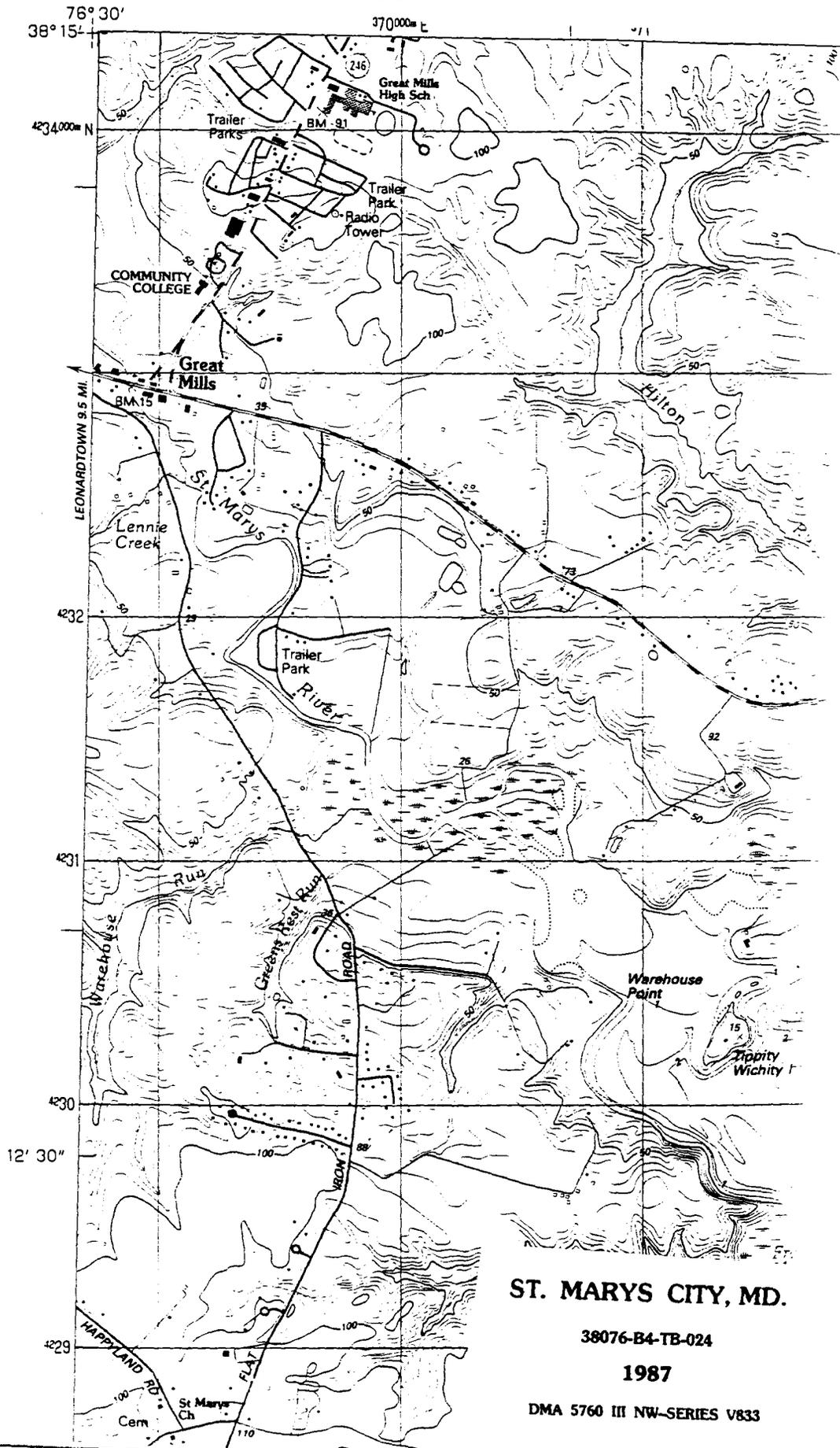
DATE: May 16, 1835.

NOTES: Transfer of a lot adjoining a lot of land on which John Delany now resides and by him purchased of Clement M. Williams containing 50 acres being part of a tract of land known and called by the name of not known. Price: \$600.

58801 SE
(HOLLYWOOD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE I
GEOLOGICAL SURV

SM-495
Physic Hill
Great Mills
St. Mary's City Quad



ST. MARYS CITY, MD.

38076-B4-TB-024

1987

DMA 5760 III NW-SERIES V833



SM-495

Physic Hill

St. Mary's County

E. Highes

March 1995

MD SHFD

1/2

NE Elevation



SM-495

Physic Hill

St. Mary's [unclear]

E. Hughes

March 1995

MD SHFD

2/2

SW Elevation