

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

1. NAME			
COMMON: Montpelier			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Broadfording Rd., about 2 miles northeast of Clear Spring			
CITY OR TOWN: Clear Spring			
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington	
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 <i>(Specify)</i> _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Alliene S. Downes			
STREET AND NUMBER: Broadfording Road, Route 1			
CITY OR TOWN: Clear Spring		STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 308/73			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey #4012			
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1967 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input 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"/> Unaltered </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>Montpelier is located along the Broadfording Road about two miles north-east of Clear Spring in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on the north side of the road on a bluff, facing south.</p> <p>The house is a two-story stone and brick dwelling which is five bays in length. The exterior woodwork and the brick portions of the structure are painted white and the gable roof is covered with modern grey shingles. A four-bay, two-story brick projection extends behind the brick or east portion of the main section. Brick chimneys with corbeled caps are located inside the east and west gable ends of the main section and at the interior where the brick and stone portions of the house join. Two brick chimneys are also located in the rear el projection.</p> <p>Walls of the brick section are laid in common bond above foundations of local fieldstone. Coursed local stones were used to construct the walls of the west end section. Flat stone arches are present over the first floor windows and an elliptical stone arch is located over a door in the west end of the house.</p> <p>Windows are concentrated on the broad sides of the house. In the brick portion of the main section of the dwelling is a modern bay window dating from circa 1955. At the second story of the brick section are three two-over-two pane double-hung sash windows. Above each of these windows is a small round glassed opening which is not original. Simple wooden trim encases the window openings. The facade of the stone section contains two window openings at each story. Windows at the first floor have two-over-two pane double-hung sashes while those at the second story contain six-over-six sashes under wide wooden lintels. The windows are framed with simple molding.</p> <p>In the main section, doors are located in the east bay of the facade and in the west gable end of the stone part. The front door which enters into a stair ahll is a wide opening flanked by sidelights. A transom is carried above the entrance. The opening at the gable end of the stone section is an elaborate entrance into a large room. Symmetrically molded wood facing flanks the sides of the opening while an elliptical arch, finished with a carved wooden piece resembling a fan, extends over the door. Paneled jambs and a transom complete the framing.</p> <p>Other decorative woodwork consists of two molded bands which finish the boxing at the eaves. The roof has an overhang at the gables which is also faced with molding.</p> <p>There is no substantiated date indicating the year that this house was built. The owner reports that what was possibly an original part of Montpelier, built of brick, existed at the south end of the present brick section but was removed in the late 19th century. The brick section which remains has been greatly altered. Its long narrow windows and the round openings above them are typical elements of late 19th century detail. The owner has stated that extensive changes to the exterior as well as the interior woodwork and floor plan were made in the late 19th century during the ownership of William Seibert. While some interior woodwork is similar in design to that of Gunston Hall, there was no evidence available to suggest that it is original to this house or the period of Mason ownership.</p> <p>The property contains 393 acres and is used for agriculture. Adjacent to the house is a one-and-a-half story stone structure which appears to be an early building although its age and original use have not been determined.</p> <p>(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET.)</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Montpelier's significance lies in both its history and its architecture. Historically, the property is worthy of note for its distinguished owners. However, much of Montpelier's early history is not clearly recorded and remains a mystery. According to an unpublished paper by Gerald J. Sword, there is evidence that the land where Montpelier is located may have been part of a 1,000-acre tract called "Maiden's Choice,"¹ patented to Evan Shelby, Sr. on August 7, 1739.² The Shelby family owned thousands of acres in Washington County in the 18th century but the exact location of their dwelling houses has not been determined. However, Isaac Shelby, who became the first Governor of Kentucky was probably born at Maiden's Choice. Gerald Sword notes evidence which suggests that both Evan Shelby, Sr. and his son, Evan, Jr. may have had dwellings situated very close to Montpelier.³ Between 1765 and 1772 most of Shelby's lands in the area northeast of Clear Spring were acquired by Abraham Barnes of St. Mary's County. According to Sword, however, Evan Shelby, Jr. "continued to live at or near Montpelier until 1773 when he and his family moved from Maryland to southern Virginia."⁴

Little is known of Abraham Barnes' connection with the Montpelier tract, although he appears to have owned several thousand acres which once belonged to the Shelby family. It may have been Abraham Barnes who gave the property the name Montpelier.

In his will, probated August 7, 1804, Richard Barnes left Montpelier to his nephew, Abraham Mason on the condition that he change his name to Abraham Barnes. Richard Barnes' will directs that his real estate not be inventoried, but it is known that he was taxed for 5,096½ acres in the Conococheague Hundred district in 1783. Montpelier remained in the Barnes and Mason families until 1839. The Masons, a distinguished family in Washington County were related to George Mason of Gunston Hall in Virginia, who authored the Virginia Bill of Rights, model for the first ten amendments of the Constitution. During Mason ownership of Montpelier, Mary Ball Washington, mother of George Washington, is supposed to have been a visitor at the house when she died.⁵ The Masons, however also owned Stafford Hall (WAV-010)

1 Gerald J. Sword, "The Birthplace and Childhood Home of Isaac Shelby in Washington County, Maryland" prepared for John Frye, Chairman, Washington County Historical Advisory Committee, July, 1972, p.2.
 2 Thomas J. Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Regional Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1968, p. 982.
 3 Gerald J. Sword, op cit, p.7.
 4 Ibid. p. 8.
 5 Thomas J. C. Williams, A History of Washington County, Maryland, Mail Publishing Company, Hagerstown, 1906, p. 128.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William, T. J., A History of Washington County, Maryland, Mail Publishing Company, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1906.

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **393 acres**

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Washington County Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **September, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN: **Hagerstown** STATE: **Maryland**

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA V-008 -- Description (Continued)

A large barn and ruins of a stone foundation are located nearby. A small one-and-a-half story stone dwelling, used as a tenant house for Montpelier is situated a short distance from the main dwelling and is described in form WA V-017.

Although Montpelier has been considerably altered from its original appearance, the structure is in excellent condition and is being remodeled with an effort toward restoration. The building is in no danger of destruction at this time.

WA V-008 -- Significance (Continued)

and other houses in the area which have been referred to as part of the Montpelier tract and it is difficult to determine which was considered the main dwelling house where Mrs. Washington would have visited.

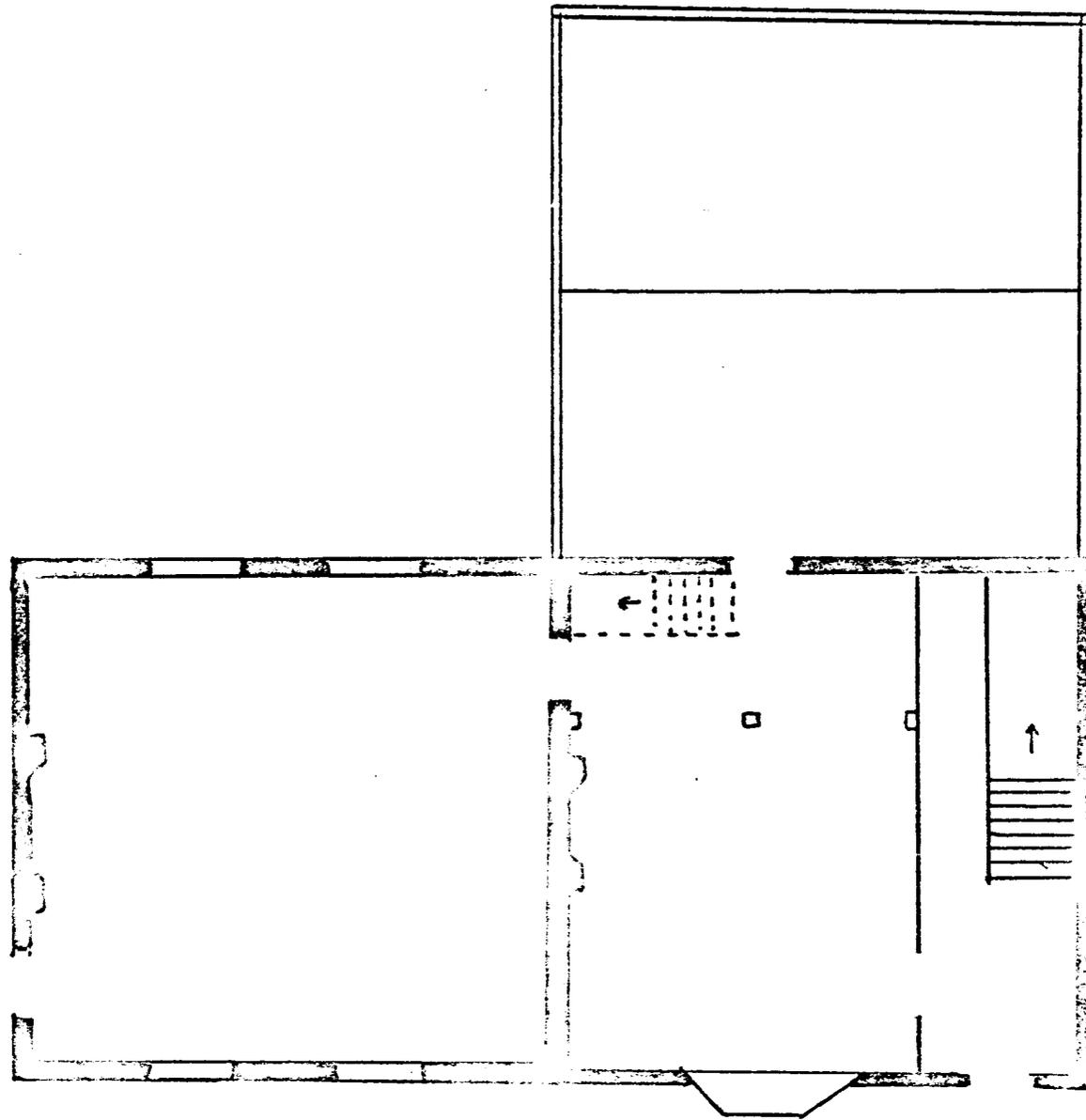
Samuel Seibert acquired Montpelier in 1863 and it has remained in the Seibert family until the present.

Architecturally Montpelier reflects several periods and styles. Although there was possibly a Shelby dwelling on or near the site of the present structure there is no apparent evidence of it. The stone outbuilding located adjacent to the Montpelier house has not yet been researched and may be an early house.

The earliest remaining parts of Montpelier are probably encased within or incorporated into the present brick section. Although the house has had numerous alterations, it does reflect several periods of western Maryland building. In addition to the historical significance of Montpelier, the property includes several very early structures which merit further study.

Deed Records, Washington County WA V-008

1. Liber 308, Folio 73, January 12, 1956
Grantor: George B. Haugh, executor of the will of Allan B. Seibert, deceased
Grantee: Alliene Seibert Downes
2. Liber 197, Folio 167, November 8, 1934
Grantor: William W. Seibert
Grantee: Allan B. Seibert
3. Liber I. N. 17, Folio 110
Grantor: William M. Marshall, trustee and John T. Ankeney
Grantee: Samuel Seibert
4. Liber U.U., Folio 505, October 11, 1839
Grantor: Abraham Barnes, Melchior B. Mason, John T. Mason
Grantee: William Price and David Gost, trustees
5. Liber P.P., Folio 663, March 23, 1835
Grantor: Abraham Barnes
Grantee: Melchior B. Mason
6. Will of Richard Barnes, Liber B, Folio 31



WA-V-008 APPROXIMATE FLOOR PLAN





