

Clover Hill

Baltimore County Government  
Landmarks Preservation Commission



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May 5, 1994

Mr. James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA  
600 Craigs' Corner Road  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

Dear Jim,

I picked up the chain of title for "Clover Hill" in 1878 when Arunah S. Abell bought it from the Merryman Trustees (Deeds JB 106, folio 428).

That deed stated that Charles Merryman, the deceased, had bought "Clover Hill" on a 5½-acre home tract at public sale following the partitioning of the estate. The deed to Charles Merryman shows that he paid \$8,300 following a public sale at the Exchange on May 24, 1865 (Deeds JHL 50:77).

An advertisement for the sale appeared in the Gazette, May 13, 1865, including the key sentence, "Lot No. 1 as laid down on the plat contains the family mansion, a large double stone building, and the various outbuildings, all of which are in good repairs."

Calling it a "double stone building" certainly means the large squarish house we saw yesterday. The sales plat that was attached to another Merryman recorded deed (Deeds JHL 47, folio 355) showed a square footprint rather than a rectangle. The footprint of the house in the 1876 city atlas shows the square outline with a small north wing, just as it is today, except for the front vestibule.

This property was in Patapsco Lower Hundred in the 1798 tax list, a district where the assessor failed to take measurements. Joseph Merryman was listed with a dwelling house, 154 acres, and 2 slaves.

The 1804 Assesment of Patapsco Lower Hundred valued Joseph Merryman's improvements at £100, with the same number of slaves, but acreage down to 136½.

The 1823 Assessment of Old District No. 2 shows one slave, 180 acres, and \$350 worth of improvements on the tracts:

Merryman's Lot  
Merryman's Addition  
Mount Pleasant.



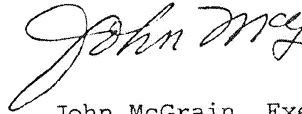
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I forgot to check the 1783 tax list for the value of the early house.

Possibly the transfer books between 1853 and 1865 (Election District No. 9 would show a substantial pump in Joseph Merryman's assessment. That book is now in the Hall of Records.

*jump*

Sincerely,



John McGrain, Executive Secretary  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

JM/mjm  
WOLLON/PZONE/LANDMARK

Enclosure: Enlarged section of G.M. Hopkins 1876 city atlas