

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Temperance Hall (Virginia Griffith House)
 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 14/37/5 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 8
 Laytonsville H.D. I-10
 4. Address: 6920 Sundown Road, Laytonsville

5. Classification Summary
 Category building Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
 Ownership private Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of
 Public Acquisition N/A Historical Sites
 Status occupied
 Accessible yes: restricted Federal State x County x Local
 Present use commercial

6. Date: c. 1850 7. Original Owner:

8. Apparent Condition
 a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This north facing "L" shaped 2½ story frame house is constructed with geometric Federal style simplicity. The siding is German style except the facade which is clapboard; all facades are painted white and trimmed with green shutters. A one story shed addition is attached to the inside of the "L" on the east side.

An unusual feature of this building is the proximity of two front entrances side by side beneath a moderately sized portico. The windows are six-over-six and the roof is a pitch roof covered with sheet metal shingles painted red. At the eastern end of the roof there is evidence of a chimney no longer in place and there is an exterior masonry chimney at the rear south. The foundation is of local cut stone.

10. Significance: This property, once owned by an early county family, became the home of a blacksmith. The house was once a Temperance Hall, then a doctor's office, a dwelling, and now a shop.

In 1842 the heirs of Deborah Brooke Pleasants sold this section of "Addition to Brooke Grove" to John Adams. The deed mentioned buildings and appurtenances near the road to Unity. Nine acres were sold in 1849 to John F. D. Magruder. Two months later he sold ½ acre to Frank Bell, the son of Adam Bell, an Irish wheelwright who lived at Fair Hill II. Frank Bell was 24 and established a blacksmith shop in buildings already on the site. Then, in 1852 John Magruder sold about 1/6 acre to the trustees of the Mountain Dew Division of the Sons of Temperance for their use for Hall #152. Frank Bell was one of the five trustees, and evidently the land was passed on to him, at the demise of the Mountain Dew Division and Hall #152.

In 1901 Bell sold the Temperance Hall plot and his blacksmith shop lots to Uriah and Laura W. Griffith. Griffith and George Mobley operated a livestock business, buying and reselling herds being driven to Baltimore from the west. In 1936 Laura Griffith transferred the property to her two daughters, who in 1977 turned the house and property over to the Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. The church uses the house as a good as new shop.

1. Researcher and date researched: Anne Wolf-9/79 Candy Reed
 Arch. Description
 12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval
 15. Acreage: c. 1 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 14/37/5
Laytonsville H.D.
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Temperance Hall
AND/OR COMMON Virginia Griffith House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 6920 Sundown Road
CITY, TOWN Laytonsville VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6
STATE Maryland 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Telephone #: 948-2151
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN Laytonsville VICINITY OF _____ STATE Maryland zip code 20760

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE _____ Liber #: 5001
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse Folio #: 820
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland zip code 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites
DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office
CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland zip code 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This north facing "L" shaped two-and-a-half story frame house is constructed with geometric Federal style simplicity. The siding is German style except the facade which is clapboard; all facades are painted white and trimmed with green shutters. A one story shed addition is attached to the inside of the "L" on the east side.

An unusual feature of this building is the proximity of two front entrances side by side beneath a moderately sized portico. The windows are six-over-six and the roof is a pitch roof covered with sheet metal shingles painted red. At the eastern end of the roof there is evidence of a chimney no longer in place and there is an exterior masonry chimney at the rear south. The foundation is of local cut stone.

The building appears to be basically sound, although it is beginning to show signs of minor deterioration of the gutters, roofing, and paint surface.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This section of "Addition to Brooke Grove" was inherited by Deborah Brooke Pleasants. In the 1840's, her heirs gave Henry Howard their power of attorney to sell the lands near Cracklintown (later Laytonsville) and Brookeville. Her son Basil and his wife Phebe kept the land near Brookeville as their own farm, and the section near Laytonsville was bought by John Adams in 1842.¹

Adams died in 1845, and his will instructed the heirs to sell all the land extending southeast of Cracklintown (Laytonsville) along the road to Unity in order to pay off his debts.² Those named as administrators refused to carry out the instructions in the will, so the actual sale of the land was delayed until 1849 when a court-appointed trustee took over.

The land was bought in a parcel of 36 acres by Joshua and Mary Dorsey,³ with payment in May of 1847 although the legal technicalities were not straightened out until 1849. Both the deeds in which Adams and then the Dorseys bought the land mention buildings and appurtenances and proximity to the road. The Dorseys finally recorded their clear title in June 1849, and in July of that year they sold nine acres of the land to John F.D. Magruder.⁴

The acreage purchased by John Magruder is described as being south of the Unity road, extending west to John Layton's lot at the corner (the Routes 424 and 108 crossroads), and having buildings and appurtenances.

Two months later, in September of 1849, Magruder sold half an acre of this land to Frank Bell.⁵ He was the son of Adam Bell, an Irish wheelwright who lived at Fair Hill II, about a mile east on the same road. This deed, also, mentions buildings and appurtenances. Frank Bell was 24 years old and unmarried. In 1847 he had acquired from his father the right to live in and farm the land around the Howlings River Episcopal Church land. This agreement involved living in the deconsecrated cabin which had preceded the St. Bartholomew's Church constructed nearby. Part of the deal was to make no noise disturbing the congregation at worship. In 1850 Bell was a blacksmith and living alone,⁶ so it seems that he began his blacksmith shop in 1849 in the buildings already on the site.

In 1852 John Magruder sold 27 perches, about one-sixth of an acre, to the trustees of the Mountain Dew Division of the Sons of Temperance for their use for Hall #152.⁷ The trustees were Frank Bell, Basil B. Crawford, James W. Cashell, Perry Etchison, and William Waters. Basil Crawford was 20 years old and the first doctor in Laytonsville. The previous year, after one year of training at the University of Maryland, he had opened up an office in Laytonsville next to the recently closed Cracklin Tavern. It is hard to avoid conjecturing that this sequence of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continued on Attachment Sheet A

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land and Orphan's Court Records.

Maps: Martenet and Bond (1865).

Hopkins Atlas (1879).

Interview: William Duvall.

U.S. Census Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Anne Wolf	John Barrow	Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE	September 1979
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	TELEPHONE	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	STATE	Maryland 20753

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

events, with a young doctor opening an office next to the main watering hole for animals and drivers heading for Baltimore, led to an effort to upgrade the town and crossroads.

The deed describes the small plot as south of the Cracklintown to Unity road and west of Frank Bell's blacksmith shop. Since the site of the blacksmith shop is still remembered by town residents, this deed does seem to describe the land on which Temperance Hall is built. The deed contains a specification that should the organization cease to exist, the property should be used for the benefit of those who had contributed the most toward the effectiveness of the movement while it had lasted. Evidently there was no argument about passing the land on to Frank Bell, since there are no land records detailing the demise of the Mountain Dew Division and Hall #152. Laytonsville itself went on to become powerful W.C.T.U. territory and still permits no sale of liquor within the town or the surrounding Election District.

In 1883 John and Martha Magruder acknowledged receipt and full payment from Frank Bell for the land and premises along the Laytonsville to Unity road, "said land being now in possession of F.L. Bell and on which he now resides."⁸ In two deeds in 1901, Bell, described as a widower, sold the lots to Uriah and Laura W. Griffith, specifying that they would have the right to use the water from the well which was not actually on their parcels as well as ingress-egress rights to get water.⁹ The deed does not state whether Bell actually lived in the house at that time. It had been rented for a while to Dr. DeVilbis as an office.

Uriah Griffith and George Mobley operated a livestock business. They had cattle pens in front of the present-day Laytonsville Cemetery and hog pens across the street. Cattle were driven to Baltimore from the west through Laytonsville, and Griffith and Mobley would buy and resell the herds.

In 1936 Laura Griffith transferred the property to her daughters Elizabeth Waters Griffith and Virginia Maccubbin Griffith.¹⁰ After Virginia Griffith died in 1977, her surviving sister Henrietta Shearman turned the house and property over to the Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Laytonsville. The church has used the house as a good-as-new shop, open on Fridays from 10-12.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., BS 11/207 (June 8, 1842) and BS 11/275 (June 8, 1842).
2. Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, will of John Adams, probated June 25, 1845.
3. Land Records, op. cit., ST 4/139 (May 11, 1847).
4. Ibid., STS 4/318 (July 14, 1849).
5. Ibid., STS 4/433 (September 8, 1849).
6. U.S. Census Records.
7. Land Records, op. cit., JGH 2/45 (June 26, 1852).
8. Ibid., EPP 32/443 (December 17, 1883).
9. Ibid., TD 16/338 (January 24, 1901) and TD 17/55 (April 19, 1901).
10. Ibid., 628/64 (June 9, 1936).

Attachment Sheet B
Temperance Hall

M: 14/37/5
Laytonsville H.D.

Temperance Hall

