

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:24-21  
(date entered 5-12-80)

1. Name: Pleasant Hills

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 24/21

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 13  
Coordinate I-84. Address: 14800 Dawsonville Road  
Germantown, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category buildingOwnership privatePublic Acquisition N/AStatus occupiedAccessible noPresent use private residence:Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC  
Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory  
1976, HABS-1936 (Fed)Federal x State x County x Local \_\_\_\_\_

6. Date: c. 1763

agriculture

7. Original Owner: Charles Gassaway

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This large house is 11 bays by 1 bay with a 5 bay central 2½ story portion flanked on 2 sides by 2-story wings. It is of Flemish bond and common bond construction on fieldstone foundations. Black wooden louvered shutters flank the windows of the wings. Centered on the main section is a porch supported by paired wooden columns. Two of the wings have screened porches. The remaining wing has a 2-story screened porch. The roofs are gabled and have slate shingles.

The interior has 6 fireplaces, 4 bathrooms, office, parlor, dining, living and 7 bedrooms.

Outbuildings include two smaller houses, a horse barn, garages, tool sheds and an inground swimming pool.

10. Significance: This is a good illustration of a Maryland Georgian house of the Colonial period, and is one of the oldest brick homes in the County.

The Gassaway family was one of the first to settle here. In 1763 a descendant, Charles Gassaway, built the original section with bricks made on the farm by his slaves.

During the Civil War Union troops were quartered in the house, and camped on the grounds.

In 1868 the current owner's grandfather bought the property, then amounting to 272 acres. The wings were added during the 20th century. 20 acres of Pleasant Hills are now used by new housing subdivisions. Thomas Kelly, however, still makes his living farming, custom farming for many owners in the locality. He is known especially for the sweet corn he sells, and furnishes the County fair dining hall each August.

Candy Reed/arch. description

11. Researcher and date researched: Donald M. Leavitt August 1979

12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman

13. Date Compiled: 9/79

14. Designation  
Approval \_\_\_\_\_

15. Acreage: 20 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 24/21  
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Pleasant Hills  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 14800 Dawsonville Road, Route 28  
 CITY, TOWN Germantown  VICINITY OF Darnestown 8 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME Thomas Kelley Telephone #: unlisted  
 STREET & NUMBER 14800 Dawsonville Road (Route 28)  
 CITY, TOWN Germantown  VICINITY OF Darnestown STATE, zip code Maryland 20767

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse Liber #: 861 Folio #: 304  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites HABS 1936 (Fed) Library of Congress  
 DATE 1976 10 First St., SE Washington, D.C.  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 CITY, TOWN Derwood STATE Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This eleven bay by one bay, two and a half story house has a five bay central section which faces northeast, which is flanked on the south-east and northwest elevations by three bay, two-story wings.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the southwest and northeast elevations of the main section are constructed of Flemish-bonded brick as are the three exterior walls of the southeast wing and the northeast elevation of the northwest wing. The northwest wing shows signs of having been one and a half stories at one time. Its northwest elevation is common bonded brick.

On the northeast elevation, centered on the main section is a porch with a gabled roof supported at its outward corners by paired wooden columns. Wooden benches flank the wooden paneled door which is surmounted by a four light transom. The southeast and northwest wings each have L-shaped screened porches on the northeast elevation with shed roofs which are attached to the main section and to the wings. There is a flagstone patio on the southwest elevation. The southwest door of the main section is wooden paneled and surmounted by a four light transom. There is a two-story screened and enclosed porch on the southwest elevation of the northwest wing.

There are nine-over-nine double-hung windows at the first level and nine-over-six double-hung windows at the second level of the main section. The flanking wings have six-over-six double-hung windows. These windows have black wooden louvered shutters.

The gable roofs have slate shingles. There are southeast and northwest interior end chimneys above the main section and a southwest interior end chimney above the southeast wing.

In the main house, the dining room is located to the left of the hall with a living room in front of it. Each room contains a fireplace. On the right of the hall is an office and behind that a parlor flanked with a bathroom. Also there are fireplaces in the office and parlor. Chair rails extend along the walls of the main rooms on the first floor.

The second floor has a total of six rooms, two of which contain fireplaces. There are two baths. On the next floor, there is a large room and a bathroom has been added.

The doors have six panels and old pine floors are in good condition. On the first floor the shutters are in the inside and the shutters on the second floor are on the outside.

Outbuildings include a tenant house, horse barn, garages, another (smaller) house, tool sheds and storage bins.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input 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                      c. 1763                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pleasant Hills is a good illustration of a Maryland Georgian house of the Colonial period and is one of the oldest brick homes in the county.

One of the earliest families to settle in Montgomery County was the Gassaways. In the mid-18th century a descendant of this family, Charles Gassaway, owned several large tracts of land outside of the present town of Darnestown. Gassaway's land was made up of such grants as "Good Will" and "Partnership". Tradition states that Gassaway had the original section of the Pleasant Hills house built in 1763 with bricks made on the plantation by his slaves. According to Farquhar, in the year 1799 Gassaway sked for a new patent to be made up of several older tracts of land. He called this new estate "Pleasant Hills".

At his death in 1816 Gassaway left Pleasant Hills to his son Thomas.<sup>1</sup> Seven years later Thomas sold the estate to his brother Charles,<sup>2</sup> who oversaw operation of the plantation until 1829.<sup>3</sup> In that year it was purchased by James Hawkins Sr. and his son James Hawkins Jr. The elder Hawkins eventually sold his share to his son<sup>4</sup> who continued farming the estate.

James Hawkins Jr. died at age 57 in 1855, and Pleasant Hills was sold at public auction to Hawkins' son-in-law William Offutt in 1863.<sup>5</sup> War disrupted operation of the farm as Union troops from Massachusetts were quartered in the house and camped on the grounds. Soon after the Civil War John Kelley agreed to purchased the 272 acre property.<sup>6</sup> Pleasant Hills is stillowned by the Kelley family.

John Kelley's son J. Thomas Jr., a noted surgeon in Washington, took ownership in 1914.<sup>7</sup> An east wing had been added around the turn of the century and Dr. Kelley added a west wing onto the mansion in 1918. Thomas Kelley, Dr. Kelley's son and a judge of the Orphan's Court, became the owner in 1941.

In the early 1970s most of the surrounding farm land was sold off to make way for new suburban sprawl. Pleasant Hills, however, is separated from the tract homes by a 20 acre lot and today is a showcase among Montgomery County mansions.

(footnotes on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land and Will Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
 Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County,  
 Maryland. Washington, D.C.: Judd and Detweiler, 1962.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20.00 acres**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Located 4 miles SW of Route 28, approx. 1 mile NW of Darnestown

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Donald M. LeavittL. Douglas Fillak/Candy Reed/Arch. Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

August 1979

STREET &amp; 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

Attachment Sheet A  
Pleasant Hills

M: 24/21  
Mag1 #

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Will Records of Montgomery County, Md. J/453 (12/11/1816).
- 2 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. W/549 (5/9/1823).
- 3 Ibid., BS 2/338 (9/27/1829).
- 4 Ibid., STS 3/552 (7/9/1848).
- 5 Land Records, JGH 9/289 (9/23/1863).  
Judgment Records of Montgomery County, Md. JGH 3/17 (9/13/1858).
- 6 Ibid., Bond of Conveyence, EBP 5/320 (4/20/1868).
- 7 Ibid., 246/4 (6/11/1914).



PLeasant Hills

FRONT VIEW



back view

Pleasant Hills  
24/21

Resolution No. 10-777  
Introduced: June 11, 1984  
Adopted: June 11, 1984

M. 24-21

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS A DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION  
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT  
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland

WHEREAS, in September, 1983, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the Montgomery County Council the Final Draft Amendment to the Historic Preservation Master Plan, proposing the addition of several historic sites for inclusion in the Master Plan and the removal of several sites from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 1983, the Montgomery County Council held a public hearing wherein oral and written testimony was received concerning the Final Draft Amendment to the Historic Preservation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1984, the Council Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee reviewed the Final Draft Amendment to the Historic Preservation Master Plan and the issues raised at the public hearing with the Montgomery County Planning Board, staff and affected parties; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council reviewed the recommendations of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee at a worksession held on June 11, 1984.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council, sitting as a District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District within Montgomery County, that -

The Historic Preservation Master Plan is hereby amended by the inclusion of the following sites and/or resources:

1. Dickerson Station
2. Brewer Farm
3. Bussard Farm

- 4. Pleasant View Church #2
- 5. Pleasant Hills
- 6. Glen Store and Post Office
- 7. Locust Grove I (Magruder House)
- 8. Ellerslie
- 9. Mayes Manor
- 10. Woodend

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following sites and/or resources are hereby removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland as not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code:

- 1. Darby/Offutt Farm
- 2. Frank Higgins (Hoskinson) House
- 3. Rudolph Beall House
- 4. Nathaniel Clagett
- 5. Jones House
- 6. Travilah Baptist Church
- 7. Greenbury Jackson House
- 8. Samuel Ford House
- 9. Granger Estate (Holton Arms School)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision regarding the proposed deletion of the Samuel Higgins House and Rammed-Earth House (Oakmont) from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland, is hereby deferred for further review and consideration by the Council.

A True Copy.

ATTEST:

  
 Kathleen A. Freedman, Acting Secretary  
 of the County Council for  
 Montgomery County, Maryland

1606475204

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Pleasant Hills				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Kelley House				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14800 Dawsonville Road (Rte. 28)				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input 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 (Specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____		
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Thomas Kelley				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14800 Dawsonville Road (Rte. 28)				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<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
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, brick structure with a five bay, main (north) facade. It is laid up in Flemish bond with a moulded water table and a string course marking the second floor level. The central doorway, with a four-light transom, is slightly off-center. The flanking windows are 9/9 double hung sash. At the second floor, the windows are 9/6 double hung sash. At either end are flush-gable chimneys.

The rear facade is identical to the main facade except that it lacks a porch.

A lower, two story wing extends to the west. It has a flush-gable chimney and is also laid up in Flemish bond. A similar wing also extends to the east. Both a set back from the plane of the facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communications<br><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Invention<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Literature<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theater<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
|--|--|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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:

Acreeage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 22 May 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:  
National     State     Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

1882, to Annie S. Hollowell, daughter of James S. Hollowell of Oak Grove, the widow of Remus Riggs moved to the Madison House in the village, where she died in 1893. William C. Riggs resided at the old homestead for a number of years before retiring to live at Brookeville. He

died in 1906 in an accident, and was the last of his family to be buried at Pleasant Hill. The property passed to his daughters, Florence and Margaret, who sold it in 1913 to Mr. and Mrs. Austin T. Powell, whose heirs sold to a corporation owner in 1961.

## Pleasant Hills



NO. 86 F-5 PROBABLY BY A GASSAWAY CA. MAIN SECTION 1765 EAST WING JOHN T. KELLEY  
CA. 1900 WEST WING DR. JOHN T. KELLEY, 1918 ALL BRICK

**T**HE old saying, "What's in a name?" is emphatically answered when one surveys the surroundings and inspects the interior of this charming Colonial brick house. The main part of it has stood in its quiet dignity for nearly 200 years, surveying its rolling hills, dales and meadows. It was no doubt built about 1763-1765 as its details of construction, together with other evidence, indicate that it belonged to that period.

The name was given to the plantation in 1799 by Charles Gassaway, who asked for a new patent for about 1700 acres, to be made up of

parts of several tracts, including Good Will, Partnership, and others.

Pleasant Hills has been the home of the Kelley family since 1864. When John T. Kelley moved into the home, his son, J. Thomas Kelley, Jr., was an infant. This son became an eminent surgeon of Washington, was hale and hearty at 85 in 1950 and the writer had the pleasure of a long visit with him to look over the home and its surroundings.

Dr. J. Thomas Kelley obtained his medical degree in 1890 from Columbian College, now George Washington University, and in 1950

maintained an office in the same building on 15th Street, where he had been located for fifty-two years. He married Virginia L. Ogden in London, England, in September, 1896. He had been actively interested in county affairs for many years, maintaining his residence in Washington. Dr. John Thomas Kelley died August 1, 1953.

The first members of this family came from England in 1690 and settled near Towson, Baltimore County. There is an old family residence still standing there and a burial plot with markers. Other owners of Pleasant Hills were Dr. Kelley's father, John T. Kelley, who acquired the place which then contained 272 acres from trustees for the children of James Hawkins, Jr., in 1864. Before that in reverse, the owners were James Hawkins, Jr., 1848; then James Hawkins, Sr., who acquired the place from Charles Gassaway in 1839. He received it from his brother Thomas Gassaway in 1823.

The Gassaways have long been prominent in Montgomery County. We find other areas of the state represented by Nicholas Gassaway, who was among the troops in the Revolution. Major John was one of the members of the Society of Cincinnati, and a Thomas Gassaway was in the House of Burgesses in 1739.

One of the neighbors, in the rear and to the south of Pleasant Hills, was Major George Peter, resident of the county for over fifty years, whose home was "Montanverde." Sometime before his death in 1861, he donated a log church building, which stood for many years on the Kelley farm near the entrance on the Darnestown road. Dr. Kelley remembers attending services there when a young man.

Some years ago, Dr. Kelley acquired an adjoining farm of 268 acres, making the total acreage at present 540 acres, and in 1941 he transferred the place fully equipped for efficient farming operations, to his son, Thomas C. Kelley, who married Catharine Merrill. The late Judge Kelley and Mrs. Kelley had four children. John Thomas Kelley III, whose wife was Patricia Bailey, lives in a separate house on the place, near the manor house. He is the farmer of the family, who operated a dairy farm until two years ago, when the dairy was discontinued. The fields are now in grass, for grazing Hereford cattle.

Paul Merrill Kelley lives at the home with his mother and is in business in the county, at Germantown.

The daughter of the family is Elizabeth Louise Kelley, a graduate of Middlebury College, now taking advanced study at the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Thomas C. Kelley, an active lawyer of Rockville, was Judge of the Orphans Court from 1934 to 1938, and was a member of the first County Council elected in 1948 under the Charter movement. In 1951 he was appointed Chairman of the Upper Montgomery County Planning Commission.

The main central section of the manor house fronting north is the original structure, dating from about 1763-1765, and is built of red brick with Flemish bond walls. It is of a plan and has details typical of other Maryland and Virginia manor houses of the Colonial period. When the Kelleys came to the farm in 1864, they were told that the house was at least 100 years old.

It is believed that the bricks in the original main structure were made nearby. The wings on each side are symmetrical and are of carefully selected brick, laid up in Flemish bond, to so well match the main structure that it is difficult to detect any difference. The east wing was added by Dr. Kelley's father before 1900, and Dr. Kelley added the other wing in 1918. Many of the bricks used in each were taken from old slave quarters on the farm.

To the left of the hall in the main house is a dining room, with a living room in front of it, each with a fireplace; and on the right of the main hall is an office, and behind that, a parlor, each with a fireplace; and a bathroom flanks the parlor.

The second floor has six rooms, two of them with fireplaces; and there are two baths. The third floor has been made into one large room, and a bathroom has been added. Typical chair rails are along the walls of three of the main rooms on the first floor. The doors have six panels and old pine floors are in fine condition in the original structure.

Judge Thomas C. Kelley died on April 18, 1961. But the big farm is being well cared for by one of his sons, and the mother remains in the old home.

- Associated for more than 100 years with the Magruder family, prominent in the early history of the State and County.
- Farm cultivated as early as 1734, reclaimed in the mid-1800's by Otho Magruder, an early proponent of agricultural innovation in the County.

## 24/13 Pleasant View Church #2 (p. 10)

- 19th Century vernacular rural black church with unusual truncated steeple.
- The three acre parcel includes a cemetery, privy and the Quince Orchard Negro Schoolhouse built c. 1875. The entire parcel should be retained as the environmental setting.

## 24/21 Pleasant Hills (p. 11)

- Built circa 1763--Fine example of Georgian brick construction and one of the oldest brick homes in the County.
- Originally associated with the Gassaway family early settlers in the Darnestown area of the county.
- To preserve the integrity of this site any development that occurs on the property should be effectively clustered away from the main house.

## 29/3 Glen Store and Post Office (p. 12)

- Built circa 1899--Good example of a rural, turn-of-the-century combined residential/ commercial structure.
- Rural Victorian design which is the last remnant of the historic Glen community.
- The Approved and Adopted Master Plan for the Potomac Subregion recommends improvement of South Glen Road to a primary street. If and when the road is widened, this amendment recommends the center line be shifted to the east in the vicinity of the store so the improvement does not adversely affect the store and the historic relationship of the site to the roadway can be retained.

## 29/16 Locust Grove I (Magruder House) (p. 13)

- Built circa 1773--Original Federal style brick residence; remodeled circa 1895 in the Victorian style.
- Associated with Samuel Wade Magruder, a patriot in the American Revolution and one of the "founding fathers" of Montgomery County.
- The boyhood home of William Wurt, well-known author and lawyer who served as the Attorney General of the United States from 1817 to 1829 under the presidencies of James Monroe and John Quincy Adams.



M:24-21

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated

MAY 1983

ACTION TAKEN

Resources one through seven for placement on the Master Plan

Resources eight through fifteen found not to meet Ordinance criteria for placement and are recommended to be removed from Locational Atlas

1. Samuel Higgens House, Site 24/10  
12901 Meadow View Dr.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760
2. Pleasant View Church #2, Site 24/13  
Darnestown Rd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760
3. Pleasant Hills, Site 24/21  
14800 Darnestown Rd.  
Germantown, MD 20767
4. Glen Store and Post Office, Site 29/3  
11530 S. Glen Rd.  
Potomac, MD 20854
5. Locust Grove (Magruder House), Site 29/16  
7401 Lakeview Dr.  
Bethesda, MD 20034
6. Ellerslie, Site 29/36  
9030 Saunders Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20034
7. Brewer Farm, Site 12/38  
20201 Darnestown Rd.  
Beallsville, MD 20753
8. Darby Offut Farm, Site 24/3  
15330 Darnestown Rd.  
Germantown, MD 20767
9. Frank Higgens (Hoskinson) House, Site 24/9  
13415 Darnestown Rd.  
Germantown, MD 20767
10. Rudolph Beall House, Site 24/11  
15700 Norman Dr.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760
11. Nathaniel Clagett Farm, Site 24/31  
13611 Deakins Lane  
Germantown, MD 20767
12. Jones House, Site 25/7  
Potomac Horse Center  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760
13. Travilah Baptist Church, Site 25/10-2  
12811 Glen Rd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760
14. Greenbury/Jackson House, Site 29/14  
10220 Kentsdale Dr.  
Potomac, MD 20854
15. Samuel Ford House, Site 29/24  
10800 Cripplegate Rd.  
Potomac, MD 20854

M:24-21

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated September 19, 1983

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites are recommended for inclusion in Chapter 4 of the Master Plan:

M: 12/21-1	Dickerson Station
M: 12/38	Brewer Farm
M: 22/7	Bussard Farm
M: 24/13	Pleasant View Church #2
M: 24/21	Pleasant Hills
M: 29/3	Glen Store and Post Office
M: 29/16	Locust Grove I (Magruder House)
M: 29/36	Ellerslie
M: 35/10	Hayes Manor
M: 35/12	Woodend

The Planning Board did not find the following site warranted placement on the Master Plan as an individual site:

M: 35/24	Reading House
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M:24-21

DARNESTOWN  
18300



24/3

DARBY/OFFUTT FARM

ROAD  
15750

15000

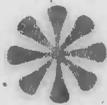
28

ROAD

14900

BROOKMEAD DRIVE  
FINE LEAN

PAGANO  
PIONEER HILLS DR



24/21

PLEASANT HILLS

11





NAME PLEASANT HILLS

#24-21

LOCATION Rt. 28 DARNESTOWN, Md,

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 M DWYER



#24-21

NAME PLEASANT HILLS

LOCATION Rt 28 DARNESTOWN, Md

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 MOWYER



#24-21

NAME PLEASANT HILLS  
LOCATION Rt 28 DARNESTOWN, Md  
FACADE S  
PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74 MDWYER