

1605365304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME					
COMMON: Sundown Hills Farm					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Pleasant Fields or HENRY Chew Gaither House					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 4615 Sundown Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Laytonsville					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Norman Bernstein					
STREET AND NUMBER: 2700 Virginia Avenue NW					
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission					
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, stone building with a stone rear wing that is a story and a half with a gambrel roof. The gambrel roof wing may be older; the facade is obscured by additions. The roof has one double shed-roofed dormer window. On the north end is a large, flush gable chimney with a brick stack. The kitchen was formerly a shed-roofed, frame section on the north end of the stone wing.

The main block of the house has a five bay, main (south) facade with a central transom lighted doorway. It is laid up in coursed, rough cut stone with quoining blocks at the corners. The lintels are all blocks of stone splayed on the ends. Windows are 9/6 double hung sash on the ground floor and 6/6 on the second. At either end are flush gable brick chimney stacks. The cornice is boxed, with a deep bed moulding and an ogee profile crown moulding. There are now three double window dormers on the main facade. The Victorian porch has paired square posts, a jig-saw worked rail, and flat roof above a cornice.

The smoke house is an A-roofed, stone building with a doorway on the west elevation. Tall narrow slits in the gable ends and rear elevation vent the building. The roof has hewn rafters, mortised, tenoned and pegged at the ridge, and collars half-lapped and pegged over the rafters.

The graves of Henry Chew Gaither, his wife and child, and Ephraim Gaither are west of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ |
|---|--|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blank area for the 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:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 8 Nov 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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Pleasant Fields



NO. 89 C-8 PROBABLY HENRY GAITHER 1ST CA. 1775

AMONG the number of stone houses owned and built by the well-known Gaither family, the one shown is one of the most historic and interesting. The home of numerous Gaithers, it has stood firm and solid, a somewhat stern monument through the decades during which the family played its part in the history of Maryland.

It remained undamaged by the severe hurricane which swept past its rugged walls in September, 1896. Many other buildings, some of stone, were leveled to the ground.

The author finds in authentic records of the Gaither family that many of that name have been active in the affairs of the county for two centuries. The Gaithers came from England, first settling in Virginia, and they moved to

Riggs Family of Maryland, by John Beverley Riggs.

Maryland as early as the year 1663. Some of them may have come from Wales.¹

Benjamin Gaither obtained Benjamin's Lot, a tract of 516 acres, in 1725. It is believed that Pleasant Fields is located on part of that tract and on part of "Addition to Brooke Grove." By purchase from prior grantees the Gaithers acquired hundreds of acres of land in what is now Montgomery County.

Henry Gaither I, born in 1757, was a notable member of the family. He was a gallant soldier in the Revolutionary War; and a strict disciplinarian. He became a lieutenant in July, 1776, a captain the next year, and a lieutenant colonel serving in the Third Sub-legion from 1793 to 1802 when he was honorably discharged from military service. He was Major of Levies in 1791 and a member of the Society of The Cincin-

nati. It is believed that Henry I lived for a time after his retirement at Pleasant Fields. He died in Georgetown in June, 1811.

Col. Henry Gaither I filled important assignments given him by the Colonial Assembly before the shooting war began in April, 1775. He was appointed by the residents of Lower Frederick County to the "Committee of Observation" to see that the resolves of the Continental Congress be carried into execution. He was appointed with Henry Griffith his near neighbor, Richard Brooke, and others to obtain subscriptions to funds for purchases of arms and ammunition. The will of Col. Henry Gaither I, probated September, 1811, disposes of several tracts of land to his relatives.

William Gaither I, born in 1745, married Elizabeth Howard Davis, born the same year. She was the widow of Ephraim Davis, with a son eight months old. Soon after marriage they purchased Pleasant Fields. A large family blessed this union. Henry Chew Gaither, son of the colonel, sat in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1808, 1809, and 1810. In the family plot are slabs to Henry Chew Gaither, (son of William and Elizabeth Gaither) born January 25, 1778, departed this life February 12, 1845. Also to his wife, Eliza Gaither, daughter of William Worthington, born March 20, 1793, died June 19, 1851, aged fifty-eight.

William Gaither II, son of William I, was born October, 1789, and attained early notoriety in Baltimore; his blood was spilled in defense of freedom of the press. He violently espoused the cause of the Anti-War Party during agitation in 1812, was wounded seriously, and was left for dead in the street by a mob which attacked the office of the *Federal Republican*. He recovered from a long illness, spending the remainder of his life as a planter at Pleasant Fields. He died in 1834. His wife was Ann Dorsey² whose ancestors were early settlers in Maryland. She died in 1844.

Henry Chew Gaither, a son of William II, was born at the old homestead in February, 1824, and became the owner of Pleasant Fields. Henry Chew married Juliet E. Maynard of Frederick County in 1852. They were living on the 350-acre farm, Pleasant Fields, in 1880, although a map dated, 1865, shows the farm in

the name of Miss Lucy Worthington. In a deed recorded April 11, 1903, Harriet E. Maynard conveyed to Charles P. Higgins 264 acres of land, reserving ingress and egress to a family burial plot of 12.8 square perches. This deed refers to a conveyance made by Lucy A. B. Worthington dated October 28, 1880.

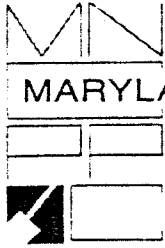
It is known that Miss Worthington lived at Pleasant Fields for a number of years with Dr. Maynard, a relative of the second Henry Chew Gaither's wife, Juliet. Following Miss Worthington at Pleasant Fields was Charles Higgins, who sold to August Prievy. The Prievy family lived there until 1940, operating the farm as a dairy. Pleasant Fields was then sold to Everett R. Hurt and his wife, Mercedes Hurt.

A distinguished member of the Pleasant Fields family was William Lingan Gaither. He was a member of the Maryland State Senate from 1842, several times as presiding officer, until the time of his sudden death in 1858. He was in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1839. He was also a State Director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. At Pleasant Fields he lies buried in the family plot which is enclosed by an iron fence. A slab of marble over the grave is carved: "Sacred to the memory of Hon. William Lingan Gaither, only child of Henry Chew and Eliza Gaither. Born A. D. 1813, died at Berkeley Springs, 2nd, of August, 1858, aged 45 years."

Pleasant Fields was transferred by a deed dated November 7, 1940, to the Hurts. The deed calls for 375 acres of land, parts of tracts known as Snowden's Purchase and Brown's Mistake, it being part of the same land conveyed by Harriet E. Maynard to Charles P. Higgins by deed referred to above. The family burial plot is reserved.

The house, of rough stone, has a parlor to the left of the front hall, a dining room to the right, back of which is another dining room, pantry, and kitchen. Fireplaces in these three rooms, the one in the kitchen, a very large one. The first floor kitchen was originally detached, a general rule before the year 1776. The basement slave kitchen in the rear wing has a fireplace five feet wide and four feet high with an old crane still in place. The second floor has four bedrooms and a bath.

² Scharf's History of Western Maryland, Vol. I.



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

M 23/31

RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM

March 21, 1986 MAR 24 1986

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director
Department of Housing and Community Development
John L. Menke, Director
Department of Environmental Protection
✓ J. Rodney Little, Director
State Historic Preservation Office
Philip Cantelon, Chairperson
Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator
Community Planning North *MB*

SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for
Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern
Montgomery County Resources

I am pleased to transmit to you this Preliminary Draft
Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation:
Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources.

This document contains the recommendations of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission on approximately 80 historic sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, and Burtonsville areas of the County.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Draft Amendment on Monday, April 21, 1986, at 7:30 P.M., in the Auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Should you have any questions concerning this specific Preliminary Draft Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:dws
Attachment

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED
MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

NORTHERN AND EASTERN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES

Including sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring,
Aspen Hill, Norbeck and Burtonsville Areas

March 1986

An amendment to the 1980 Olney Master Plan, 1980 Sandy Spring/
Ashton Special Study Plan, 1970 Aspen Hill Master Plan, and the
1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan; being also an
amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the
Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of
Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090

IMPLEMENTATION

Once designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, any substantial changes to the exterior of a resource or its environmental setting must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and a historic area work permit issued. The Ordinance also empowers the County's Department of Environmental Protection and the Historic Preservation Commission to prevent the demolition of historic buildings through neglect.

It is the intent of the Master Plan and Ordinance to provide a rational system for evaluating, protecting and enhancing Montgomery County's heritage for the benefit of present and future residents. The accompanying challenge is to weave protection for this heritage into the County's planning program so as to maximize community support for preservation and minimize infringement on private property rights.

THE AMENDMENT

The purpose of this Preliminary Draft Amendment is to consider the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's recommendations that the following sites be designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and protected under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. A copy of the Ordinance is provided in Appendix B of this document.

(NOTE: Unless otherwise specified in the Preservation Commission's nomination, the recommended environmental setting for each site is the entire parcel on which the resource is located as of the date it is designated on the Master Plan as defined in Section 24A-2 of the County's Preservation Ordinance. Where additional buildings of historical or architectural importance are associated with a site, these buildings are noted in the nomination as being part of the recommended setting.)

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
15/55	Spencer/Carr House	2420 Spencerville

- Dating from 1855 with a rear section added in the 1870's, this three-story house is distinguished by three over three windows on the third floor and a one-story porch with bracketed pillars on the front facade.
- Significant as an example of the "Spencerville style", a local style characterized by a special grouping of architectural detail most notably half windows on the third story extending into the boxed cornice and roof line.

23/31

Pleasant Fields/Sundown Hills

4615 Sundown Road

M:23-31

- Circa 1775 -- Georgian style stone house of tremendous proportion and of a scale not usually found in houses of the era.
- The house shows touches of high quality such as the suggestion of brick flat arches in the lintels of the first story windows and the use of larger cut stones in the water table in the front of the house.
- Associated with Henry Gaither I, an important Revolutionary era figure, and with other generations of the Gaither family, throughout much of the 19th century.
- Included in the recommended setting is the main house, the small stone smokehouse, and the Gaither family cemetery.

23/33

Dr. Dwyer House (Bleakwood)

3730 Damascus Road

- Built in 1877, this two-story frame house features a central gable with arched window, a central entrance with transom and side lights, internal, end chimneys and a one-story porch across the front facade.
- Significant as a largely unaltered example of the Gothic Revival architecture prevalent in the County in the late 1800's with notable mill work on the front porch.

23/47

Pleasant View

21000 Georgia Avenue

- Dating from 1870, this two story frame house has undergone successive sympathetic additions which chronicle its growth from a late Federal style residential structure through the turn of the century into the 1940's.
- Believed built by Allen Bowie Davis, extensive land holder and one time State senator, as a residence for his mill hand, operator of the estate's mill located on Gold Branch.
- A number of excellent outbuildings as well as remnants of the mill race are included in the recommended setting.

23/50

Charles A.C. Higgens Farm

4300 Gregg Road

- Dating from 1869, this two and one-half-story frame farmhouse features white novelty siding, wrap-around porch with turned posts and jigsawed brackets and an intersecting gable roof with red, raised-seamed, metal covering.