

May not exist.

Ask Claire
or Gwen
if there is
a cem at Mt
Airy

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 17

Name: Richardson Farm Cemetery

Alternate name:

Address: Mt. Airy, Aston, Ashton

Town:

ADC Map Page 22 Grid C7

Type

Religious
 Family
 Private
 Other

Association

Free black
 Enslaved
 Ethnic
 Prehistoric

Setting Rural Urban Suburban Forested Other

Condition Excellent Good Fair Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc)

Approximate no. of burials _____ Date range of burials _____

Description (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

Surveyor(s) _____ Survey date _____

Photographer _____ Date _____ Photo no. _____

Current owner _____

Address/Phone No. _____

Historic Status Locational Atlas ID _____ National Register
 Master Plan ID 28/3 Other _____

UTM _____

Additional sources of information: Farquhar p. 223-24: grave in field west of house. large tombstone

SEE NOTE ON PHOTO LOG. ALSO OWNER OF HOUSE TO S. OF MT. AIRY WILL CALL WITH ANY INFO

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RICHARDSON FAMILY CEMETERY
18120 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE
ASHTON

RICHARDSON FAMILY BURYING GROUND AT MT. AIRY AT SANDY SPRING

On land tract called *Mt. Airy at Sandy Spring*. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 25, grid coordinates K-1.] Condition of cemetery: Unknown. This cemetery is non-extant. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Author: Roger Brooke Farquhar. Title: *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland*, pages 223-224. Publisher: American History Research Associates, Brookeville, MD, 1952. Comments: Only 1 marker left, other markers thrown into pond.

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after its purchase. He married Amanda Sallie Griffith of Retirement in 1872. She was a daughter of Ulysses and Julia Riggs Griffith. Their son George Burnap Bartlett, born 1877, married Virginia S. Riggs in 1906. His widow still lives at the old home with her daughter in 1951, where she has remained all these years.

George Washington Burnap Bartlett lived for over thirty years at the farm, and died at the age of 96 in 1939. He bequeathed the farm, which in 1950 contains 170 acres, to his granddaughter Dorothy Riggs Bartlett, who in 1939 married George Francis Viault of Rhode Island. The Viaults have a son George Bartlett Viault and a daughter, Sally Riggs Viault.

The house was of a pattern and size which an aristocrat of southern Maryland would build as a manor house. It is fifty feet square and has a front hall eight feet wide from front to rear. The ceiling on the first floor is eleven feet high,

foundation walls of brick are twenty-four inches thick, and the interior brick partitions are twelve inches thick. There are fireplaces and fine wooden mantels with hand carvings in the rooms. There are five fireplaces on the first floor and three on the second. On the right-hand side of the front hall is a handsome dining room with fireplace, behind which is a modern kitchen with a huge fireplace and crane. This room was the original detached kitchen with breezeway, but a second story with two rooms has been added.

On the second floor there are three bedrooms on each side of the wide hall, and two modern baths are now installed. Heavy oak beams, hewed on top, are visible in the cellar with bark still in place on many of them. The outside of the main house has been covered with pebble dash in recent times. The frame construction of the part to the rear of the side porch, including the bay window, is a recent addition.

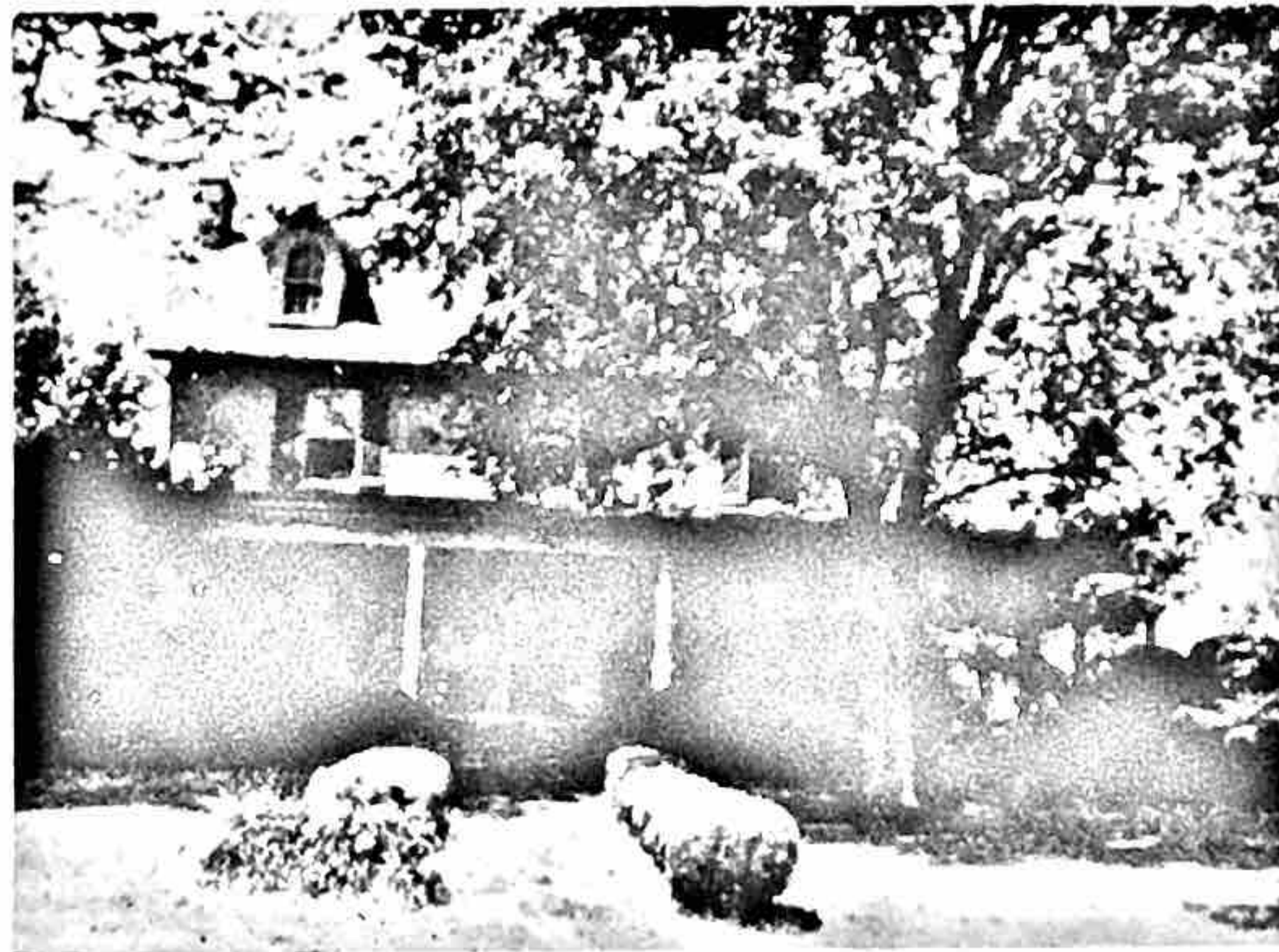
Mount Airy

ONE-half mile north of Ashton and twenty miles from Washington, on one of the highest points in the Sandy Spring community stands Mt. Airy, a substantial brick house on a farm of 140 acres of productive land.

In 1793 one Bernard Gilpin married Sarah Thomas, daughter of Richard Thomas of Cherry Grove, in the Sandy Spring meetinghouse. By 1799, with four children, Bernard and Sarah may have felt the pinch of a housing shortage, for Sarah's father, after they had lived with him at Cherry Grove for six years, built Mr. Airy for his daughter and son-in-law. They chose a name appropriate to the sweeping views westward. On clear days one can glimpse part of Carroll County twenty miles away.

This homesite is on part of the original land grant of "Addition to Charley Forest" made to John Bradford on September 16, 1720. There was undoubtedly a house on the place before the present house was built, for in 1777 a road supervisor was appointed by the overseers to maintain the road, "From Snell's Bridge to the fork of the road below Samuel Richardson's late dwelling, and from there to the Hawlings

River."¹ (There is a deed on the records of Frederick County, dated August 20, 1751, by which Richard Snowden conveys to his son-in-law, James Brooke of Charley Forest, land which runs "to the line of the land formerly laid out to Samuel Richardson, now the right of the heirs of William Richardson, deceased." This identifies the Richardsons as owners of Mt. Airy.)²



NO. 60 D-10 RICHARD THOMAS 1799 BRICK
PEBBLE DASH BURNED 1845 AND REBUILT

¹ Scharf's History of Western Maryland, Vol. I.

² Liber B, Folio 432-433, Land Records Frederick County.

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Samuel Richardson's grave in the field west of the present house is marked by a large tombstone: "Here lies the body of Mr. Samuel Richardson who departed this life 18 February 1764, aged 58 years," and beside it is another stating that "Maria Richardson departed this life 24 June, 1767, aged 57 years." Just where the house stood is not known.

Bernard Gilpin was a hatmaker. His products were hard, stiff, broadbrimmed affairs with flat tops of rabbit fur and wool. Gilpin's craftsmen stood around a hot water boiler enclosed by a sloping table, and rubbed the wool and fur with their hands to cause it to "felt." Water oozing out of the fabric ran back into the tank. Riding a black pony, Gilpin peddled his wares about the community. Hats in profusion dangled from a string tied around his waist. He came to be known as Uncle Bernard, perhaps because he was so hospitable. Legend says, he sat when business was slow under a huge chestnut tree at the Ashton crossroads swapping yarns with Edward Porter, who operated a cooper's shop there, and hoping to waylay a traveler to take up to Mt. Airy for a visit. Legend, however, fails to say how welcome these travelers may have been to Sarah, his wife, for she sometimes had to churn butter as late as nine o'clock at night so that the guests might have butter for breakfast next day.

Mt. Airy burned to the ground about 1845, but was immediately rebuilt. At the time of the fire one of the residents of Sandy Spring, a mile away, came running past Bloomfield, a farm nearby to the west, and paused just long enough to rebuke Caleb Bentley, its owner: "Thee should be ashamed of thyself to sit there quietly reading while thy neighbor's house burns down!"

After Bernard Gilpin's death the place was occupied by his son, Joshua, and his wife Letitia (Canby) Gilpin, and following the death of Joshua, the farm was purchased in 1865 by Benjamin H. Miller, of Alexandria, Virginia. Three years earlier, on September 18, 1862, he had married Sarah Thomas of Clifton. Their wedding was described as a "quiet affair," but it occurred at a very anxious time. The bloody battle of Antietam was fought the day before the wedding, and the sound of cannon persisted all that day. The bride and groom lived for three years in a small house on the Clifton farm before they moved to Mt. Airy.

Benjamin Miller was a life-long Republican. In 1889 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Shortly afterward he was appointed Indian Inspector in which capacity he spent many months in the West. He was all his life an ardent worker in the cause of temperance, and believer in prohibition.

Rebecca Miller, the oldest daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Miller, remained with her parents at Mt. Airy all her life. For many years she was one of the most clever and acceptable historians of the neighborhood. Another daughter, Elizabeth Porter Miller, married William Taylor Thom of Washington. She was a brilliant student, and for a number of years a beloved principal of Sherwood School. A son of this latter couple is a distinguished geologist and member of the faculty of Princeton University.

Some of the sayings of the long-departed Negro residents have been recorded by Mt. Airy historians. One old man said, "Ah keeps ma color but ma beauty's gone." An old "Aunty" was no better off. She remarked: "I'se daid all to my eyes bein' shet." A younger woman remarked to her mistress: "Miss Sally, without bein' envious or connivin' I would like to have that dress." A cook had asked for a day off to attend a funeral. Her mistress asked, "Do you know the person?" and was silenced by the reply: "Now, Miss, wouldn't you rather go to the funeral of somebody you don't know?"

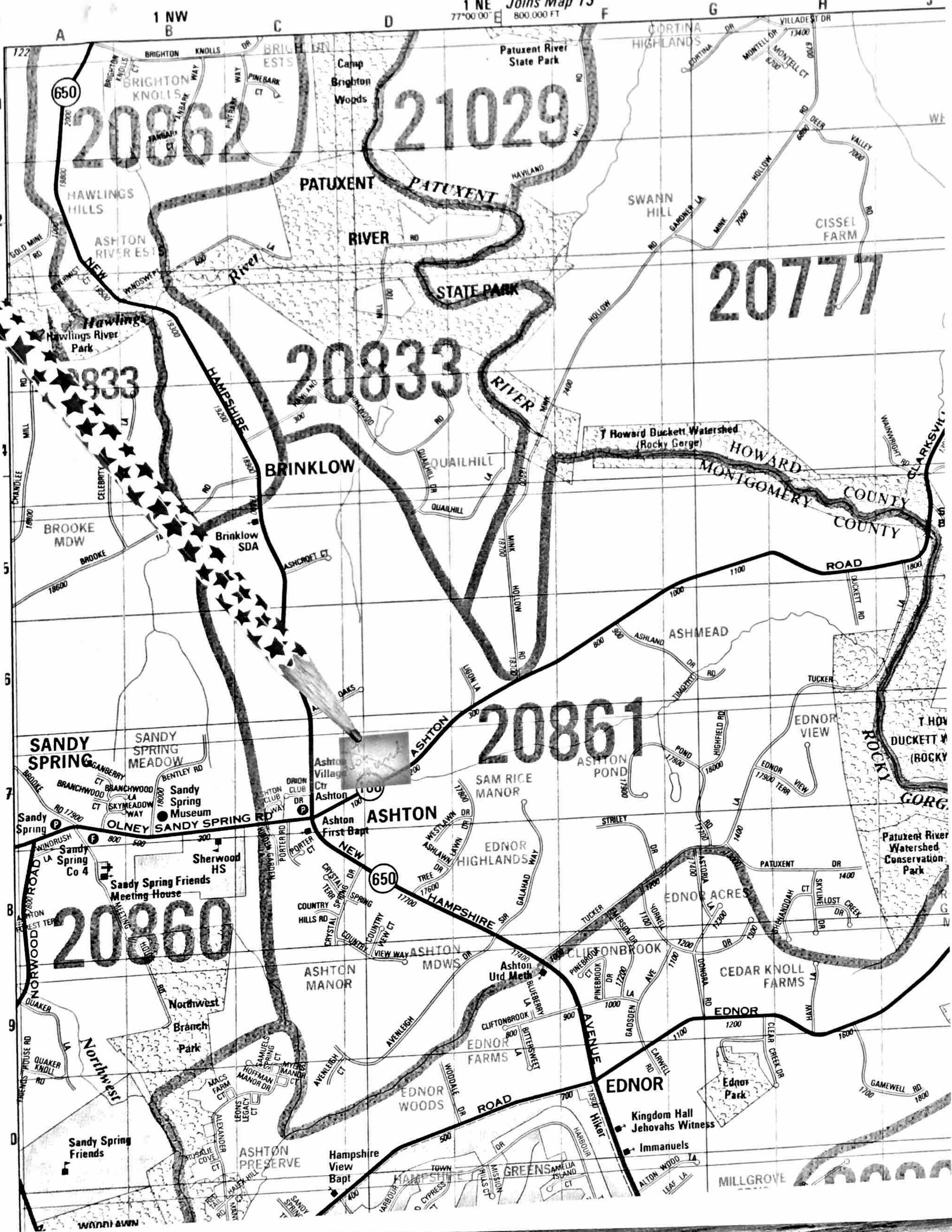
The house was rebuilt of brick after the fire, and covered with pebble dash. To the right of the entrance hall is a large parlor with a fireplace, from which the northwest views are a delight. To the left of the hall are a sitting room, dining room and kitchen, with a glass-enclosed conservatory exposed to the east and south. On the second floor are five bedrooms and a bath, and three bedrooms on the third floor.

Sarah T. Miller died in April, 1924, and Benjamin in 1928. In 1934 the heirs of Benjamin Miller sold the house with twenty acres of land to F. W. McReynolds, prominent Washington attorney, who a few years later resold to Floyd E. Huntley, a business man from the west. Mr. Floyd Huntley passed away in February 1960, and his widow in 1961 sold the home, with a small acreage to Mr. Robert Christie, an attorney at law, of Silver Spring.

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1 NE Joins Map 13
77°00'00" E 800,000 FT

2 NE



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