

M:23-17  
Edgehill  
Montgomery County, MD

Set upon 282 acres of land off of Griffith Road, east of Laytonsville, in Montgomery County, Maryland, Edgehill Farm is a rare surviving example of an intact and cohesive complex of domestic and agricultural buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. The property includes the Edgehill farmhouse, built in three distinct phases from the late 18th to mid-19th centuries, several historic outbuildings, including a log slave quarters, log smokehouse, and a frame chicken house, all from the 19th century; a 19th-century drive-thru corn crib, a bank barn rebuilt in 1933, and a 20th-century dairy building. In addition, there are three cemeteries on the property.

Edgehill was originally built by Henry Griffith II, one of the largest landowners in Montgomery County, on land inherited from his father, the Honorable Henry Griffith. Henry Griffith is well known as a Maryland leader in the American Revolution, having been appointed to carry the Resolves of the American Congress and of the Provincial Convention, into execution. The Edgehill property, still owned by descendants of the original Griffith family, provides an historical link to one of the founding families in the county. Edgehill meets Criteria A and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and of the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-23-17

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Edgehill

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 4920 Griffith Road Not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Gaithersburg vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Montgomery code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20882

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	_____	_____	buildings
<u>3</u>	_____	_____	sites
<u>2</u>	_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	_____	objects
<u>9</u>	_____	_____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_ No X

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6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling; Slave  
Quarters; Smokehouse  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Bank barn; corn crib;  
Chicken coop;  
FUNERARY Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
Other Storage

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular  
Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
roof Asphalt shingles  
walls Wood weatherboard  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1780-1841  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1780  
\_\_\_\_\_

1841  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and other Farm Structures*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

*Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately Printed.

Barrow, Healan. "Two centuries, and More, of Living: Edgehill to be Featured on House Tour." *Courier-Gazette*. December 7, 1988.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879. Reprint. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Comp., 1989.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis. *Montgomery County: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company. 1984.

Demma, Lola. "Sisters take Farm into Third Century." *Montgomery Journal*. June 1, 1988.

Demma, Lola. "Sisters Plow Ahead on 200-year-old Farm." *Life Journal*. June 29, 1988.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*. Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

Hopper, Dale. "Humble Homes of Slaves are Endangered." *Washington Post*. August 5, 1993.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Historical Society Newsletter, July 1988.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Sandy Spring Museum, Biography Files, Photographic Files, and House Files, Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Genealogical Abstracts, *Montgomery County Sentinel 1855-1899*.

Walston, Mark. "A Survey of Slave Housing in Montgomery County."

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*The Montgomery County Story*. Vol.27 No. 3, August 1984.

Wilcox, Vestus J. *County Courier Obituaries Section*. September 21, 1977.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879.

Simon L. Martenet, *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property 282 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)** Edgehill Farm occupies Parcel 600 on Montgomery County Tax Map HV.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

This parcel has been associated with Edgehill since the mid-18th-century.

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11. Form Prepared By  
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name/title Kim Williams & Michele Naru, Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPPC date April 28, 1999  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910  
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12. Property Owner  
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name Janet and John Becker  
street & number 4920 Griffith Road telephone (301) 253-2688  
city or town Gaithersburg state MD zip code 20833  
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-17

Edgehill

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Set upon 282 acres of land off of Griffith Road, east of Laytonsville, in Montgomery County, Maryland, Edgehill Farm is a rare surviving example of an intact and cohesive complex of domestic and agricultural buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. The property includes the Edgehill farmhouse, built in three distinct phases from the late 18th to mid-19th centuries; several domestic outbuildings, including a log slave quarters, log smokehouse, and a frame chicken house; all from the 19th century; a 19th-century corn crib, a bank barn rebuilt in 1933, and a 20th-century dairy building. In addition, there are three cemeteries on the property.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Edgehill Farmhouse is a telescope-type house that consists of three distinct parts. The oldest section of the house, built circa 1780, is the center section--a two-story, frame, room-over-room dwelling clad with weatherboard siding. It is set upon a low stone foundation, is covered with a gable roof with a brick chimney, and measures approximately 16' x 20'. A shed porch extends across the full width of the front elevation.

Abutting the south end of this original building is the kitchen, originally constructed as a one-story, detached frame structure, and sharing the chimney of the house. The kitchen appears to have been built at the same time as the original house, but was raised to two stories and attached to the house by a one-bay frame hyphen, around the mid-19th century.<sup>1</sup> The detached kitchen and hyphen were unified by a continuous gable roof and cornice and weatherboard walls.

The third section of the house is the main block of the dwelling today. Built in 1841 and abutting the north end of the original frame structure, it is a two-story, three-bay, side-passage frame dwelling designed in a Greek Revival style. It is set upon a raised stone foundation and covered with a gable roof, featuring a boxed wood cornice and pair of inside end chimneys. The walls are clad with a distinctive narrow weatherboard. The house retains a high degree of original features and provides, especially on the interior, a lesson in vernacular Greek Revival detailing.

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<sup>1</sup> Family tradition holds that the kitchen was raised to two stories in circa 1870. This is based upon the memory of the current owner's grandmother, who recalled her father doing the work. However, architectural evidence, including a common rafter roof joined with wooden pegs, beaded trim and batten doors indicates a first half-19th century date of construction.

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Exterior Description:

The east elevation of the house includes the east elevation of all three parts. The central and oldest section of the house serves as the principal entrance of the dwelling today. Behind the shed porch, this elevation features, on the first story, a single 6-paneled wood door on center, and a flanking 6/6 window. The second story has a single, central 6/6 window. A narrow vertical wood board at the south end of the original dwelling covers the seam where the dwelling and the kitchen and its hyphen meet. A seam at this point is also visible on the boxed wood cornice at the roofline. The kitchen wing has a single 6/6 window on center of both the first and second stories.

The main block of 1841 includes, on the first story, a side-passage entry door and its porch, and two single 6/6 windows. The second story has three equally placed 6/6 windows. The side entry is clearly identified by a bold, Greek Revival porch. This porch, raised upon stone piers features paired wood posts supporting a wide entablature and flat roof. The entablature consists of a denticulated architrave and a wide frieze above. Although much of this porch has been repaired and replaced with new materials, the original dimensions and proportions appear true to the period. Behind the porch is the entry defined by a pair of two-paneled doors with a four-light transom. All of the 6/6 windows on this elevation have narrow wood trim with an interior bead, and original louvered shutters.

The north elevation of the house consists of the north end wall of the 1841 house. This wall is unfenestrated save for 6/6 windows on the inside bays of the paired chimneys. A gable-roofed frame shed on center of the elevation provides access to the bulkhead entry to the cellar. The brick chimneys, which rise above the gable roofline, have been rebuilt with new brick in a stretcher bond.

The west (rear) elevation of the house includes the west walls of all three parts. The original section and its attached kitchen both have one-story, shed-roof wings (present-day kitchen) extending across the entire wall. These sheds have banks of 6/6 windows and, at the south end, an open porch leading into the current kitchen. The only opening on the second story of these structures is a 6/6 window located on center of the original (central section) house. The west elevation of the 1841 Greek Revival house is more formal than its earlier counterparts. It is divided into three bays, with a 6-paneled door on the south end and two single 6/6 windows on the first story. The second story includes three, single 6/6 windows, with the window in the south end corresponding to the side-stair landing, set lower than the other two. All of these windows have the same narrow wood trim

with interior bead as found on the east elevation.

The south elevation of the house includes the south end wall of the original kitchen and the exposed wall of the 1841 section. The end wall of the original kitchen has a single 6/6 window on center of the first and second stories and a smaller 6/6 window in the attic level in the gable end. The south wall of the main, 1841 block of the house, like the north wall, is unfenestrated save for two 6/6 windows in the gable end. A brick chimney stack, built against the exterior wall towards the south, is a later addition.

#### Interior Description

The interior of Edgehill clearly reflects its major periods of construction, as defined on the exterior. Other than the addition of the hyphen connecting the original dwelling to the detached kitchen, the dwelling survives completely intact to its various periods of construction with little alterations to original configuration and details.

In plan, the house includes the original one-room dwelling (now the dining room); the original kitchen (now sitting room); a contemporary kitchen in the rear shed addition; and a three-room, side-passage-plan configuration of rooms in the 1841 Greek Revival house addition.

The dining room, entered directly from the exterior, measures 16' x 20'. The floors in this room are all the original, quarter-sawn, random-width oak floors. The window and door trim is typically square-edged with no backband and an interior bead. The baseboard is 5-1/2 inches tall with a square edge and no bead. A molded chair rail is found on all walls of the room. A winder stair, the ghosting of which remains, originally stood in the southeast corner of the room. This stair was removed during the 1841 period of construction, and access to the second story of the original building was reached through the new building.

A fireplace is located on center of the south end wall, while door openings are found on the remaining three walls. The Federal-era fireplace mantel is a plain wood piece with side pilasters and a plain frieze board supporting a curved mantel shelf. Based upon its curved form and clean profiles, this mantel shelf appears to be a replacement or an addition. The fireplace features a soapstone hearth and lining.

Next to the fireplace towards the front of the house is a four-paneled door opening onto a winder stair which leads to the second story above the kitchen. This stair was added when the kitchen was raised to two stories, and connected to the original structure by

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the hyphen. In addition to being four-paneled as opposed to the typical six-paneled variety found in the original rooms, the door casing is narrower than the typical casing of the original door openings in the east and west walls of the room. On the other side of the fireplace, towards the back wall is a narrow door opening which leads into the hyphen and kitchen.

The hyphen is literally a pass-through from the original building to the detached kitchen. The center of the hyphen consists of the solid masonry of the chimney, shared by the two rooms. To one side of this central mass is the stair leading to the second story above the kitchen, and to the other side is the pass-through.

The former kitchen, now sitting room, is characterized by its massive stone fireplace located on center of the north end wall of the room. The fireplace has a long wood lintel spanning the opening and a stone hearth. The floors in this room are 2"-wide floor boards, covering the original random-width floors. On the east side of the fireplace is a small closet, the interior of which reveals the original 14" random-width floorboards and the exterior weatherboard siding of the original dwelling.

The second floors and attic area of the original house and its kitchen were not accessible; however, according to the owner, the roofs over both the original structure and kitchen have a system of common rafters, pegged at the ridge.

Greek Revival House:

The 1841 Greek Revival side-passage section is entered from either the interior, via a door cut into the north end wall of the original dwelling, or from the principal exterior door on the front of the house, or from a rear door. The principal exterior entry leads directly into the side passage with a straight-flight stair located along the south wall of the passage, and the rear 6-paneled door located at the end of the hall. The open stringer stair features raised paneling, scrolled stringer ornament, and a robust turned newel post of curly maple. There are two turned balusters per tread and a 3/4-round walnut handrail.

In addition to the stair, the hall retains all of its original features, including 4"-wide random-width pine floors; reeded door and window trim with bulls eye corner blocks; six-paneled (raised) wood doors; and original door hardware (lock boxes). The hall leads into both the front and rear parlors through single door openings.

The front parlor features all of the same typical features as in the hall: random-width floors, reeded door and window trim with

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bulls eye corner blocks and original hardware. A fireplace, located on center of the north end wall, is adorned with a Greek Revival-style wood mantel. This mantel has a wide, reeded frieze board with the reeds running horizontally, and a central panel with reeds running vertically. A closet next to the fireplace has reeded trim and bulls eye corner blocks providing evidence that it, too, is an original feature.

A large double-wide door provides direct access between the front and rear parlors. The rear parlor features the typical door and window casings, and similarly offers a fireplace on centered of the north end wall. The mantel is similar in treatment to the front parlor, with minor differences found in the cap of the pilasters visually supporting the mantel shelf. The cap in the front parlor is plain, while that in the rear holds a recessed panel.

The second floor of the house was not accessible. However, the cellar under the 1841 house was visited and reveals solid stone foundation walls, a dirt floor, and log joists.

**DOMESTIC AND AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS:**

There are six domestic and agricultural buildings located within proximity to the farmhouse. These include, log slave quarters, log smokehouse, chicken coop, corn crib, dairy and bank barn. In addition, there are three family cemeteries on the property.

Domestic Outbuildings:

Slave Quarters and Smokehouse:

Located immediately south of the Edgehill farmhouse are two log buildings in line: a smokehouse and slave quarters. The closest building to the farmhouse is the smokehouse. It is a log structure, rectangular in plan and measuring 11'4" x 14'. It has a single door opening on center of the east elevation, constructed of vertical boards and hung with strap hinges. The walls are v-notched at the corners. The gable end walls in the attic level are clad with weatherboard siding. The roof is clad with wood shingles.

The slave quarters building is a 1-1/2-story structure measuring 17'9" x 16'. Constructed of logs with corner v-notching, it is raised upon a rubble stone foundation and is covered with a gable roof with a large stone and brick end chimney. The end gables of the log structure are frame and clad with weatherboard siding. The roof has exposed, hewn rafters notched into the top log and is sheathed with wood shingles.

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There is a door on center of the east wall of the structure, a single 6/6 window on the west wall, and four small 4-light fixed windows in the attic level on the north and south end walls. The door and window trim is square edged with no bead or backband. The door itself is made of vertical boards. Log joists forming the loft level of the dwelling are visible in the chinking at an approximately 7'8" height.

Chicken Coop:

The chicken coop is located west of the house in the rear yard. It is a log structure, measuring 10' x 12', with corner v-notching and is covered with an overhanging gable roof, clad with wood shingles. The chinking between the logs is missing for the most part, though remnants of it do exist in the south side. There is a single vertical board door located in the east end, with a lattice vent in the gable end. The gable ends of the log structure are sheathed with weatherboard siding. The door is hung with an iron butterfly-type hinge. According to the owners, this building was historically a chicken coop; however whether it was built as a chicken coop is not known.

Agricultural buildings:

Located south of the house on the opposite side of the farm road from the domestic outbuildings, sits a row of three buildings: corn crib, dairy and bank barn.

Corn Crib:

The corn crib is a drive-thru timber frame structure, clad with vertical board siding and covered with a steep gable roof, sheathed with standing seam metal. It is set upon a stone foundation, and measures 25' x 20' with an 11'-wide door opening in the side bay. A vertical board door with strap hinges located in the north end wall next to the drive, opens onto a ladder stair leading to the loft above the entire structure. The loft reveals the timber framing of corner posts, beam plates and common rafters. The rafters sit directly on the plate, and are notched over them, to become exposed rafters on the exterior. The rafters are spaced at three-foot intervals and are pegged at the ridge.

Dairy:

The dairy is a small, 20th-century frame structure with a gable roof. It sits upon a stone foundation, has vertical board siding and six-light windows. Vertical board doors are located in the south and west walls of the dairy.

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Bank Barn:

The bank barn is a large timber frame, three-bay structure rebuilt in 1933 upon the original barn's rubble stone foundation. Although rebuilt in 1933, the barn respects traditional building methods in that it is timber framed with mortise-and-tenon joints and wooden pegs. There are milking stalls on the ground level and a large open are on the main level.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Edgehill, located at 4920 Griffith Road, in rural northeastern Montgomery County, was originally built by Henry Griffith II, one of the largest landowners in Montgomery County. The original house was built circa 1785 as a modest, 1-1/2 story frame, room-over-room house, but came to include a circa 1841 Greek Revival-style wing. The property, still owned by descendants of the original Griffith family, provides a historical link to one of the founding families in the county. Edgehill meets Criteria A and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and of the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context

This parcel of land is part of the original land tract "New Year's Gift," patented by Thomas Bordley and sold to the Honorable Henry Griffith I in 1770,<sup>2</sup> thus beginning the over 229-year association with the Griffith family. Prior to Montgomery County becoming a county, Henry Griffith, I, had served as a delegate from Anne Arundel County from 1768 to 1770 and from Frederick in 1773 and 1774. During the Revolution, Henry Griffith was one of the Committee of Observation appointed at the meeting of inhabitants of Frederick County (1775) to carry the Resolves of the American Congress and of the Provincial Convention, into execution.

During the year leading to the Revolution, the Honorable Henry Griffith gave his son, Henry Griffith II (or Jr.), the tract of land on which the younger Griffith built his modest 1-1/2-story house.<sup>3</sup> Henry Griffith, Jr. and his brother, Samuel Griffith owned extensive acreage in the present Montgomery and Howard counties, putting them among the largest landowners in the region.<sup>4</sup>

After constructing the modest dwelling in the late 1780s, Henry Griffith II gave the property to his son Nicholas.<sup>5</sup> Nicholas

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<sup>2</sup>Hon. Henry Griffith I was the moderator for the Historic Meeting held in Hungerford Tavern in June 1774.

<sup>3</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book C Folio 152.

<sup>4</sup> Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, the Story of Montgomery County, MD, 1776-1976 (Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society), 1976, p. 35.

<sup>5</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book WR Folio 295.

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Griffith married Ann Ridgeley in 1791.<sup>6</sup>

In 1827 Nicholas Griffith gave the property to his son Thomas Griffith.<sup>7</sup> Thomas Griffith owned the house and property for forty-two years. In 1841 Thomas Griffith built the side-passage, Greek Revival-style frame addition. Thomas Griffith died in 1869 and left his sons, Thomas and Frank the house and land.<sup>8</sup> Frank Griffith bought his brother's inheritance and lived on the property until his death in 1892.<sup>9</sup> During the Civil War, Frank Griffith served as a Lieutenant in Col. Ridgley Brown's company.

In 1921, Frank Griffith willed the property and land to his son and daughter, Artemus and Frances Irene.<sup>10</sup> Frances Irene G. Spurrier and her husband added indoor plumbing in the 1920's, electricity in the 1930's. Francis Irene Griffith Spurrier gave her portion of the estate to her daughter Catherine Spurrier Wilcox. Ms. Wilcox installed the HVAC system in the 1970's. In 1988, Ms. Wilcox gave the house and property her daughters Janet Wilcox Becker and Nancy Wilcox Linthicum.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Farquhar, p 140.

<sup>7</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book BS1 Folio 362.

<sup>8</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Will Book JWS 1 Folio 37.

<sup>9</sup>Sentinel, p 157

<sup>10</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 301 Folio 335.

<sup>11</sup>Oral History Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Becker , April 1999. Mr. and Mrs. Becker presently reside in the dwelling house.

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Rural-Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):** Architecture

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Standing Structure

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** Domestic; Agricultural/Subsistence

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

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**Chain of Title:**

1770 Henry Griffith purchased land from Thomas Bordley. This land tract is part of "New Years Gift."

C.1775 Henry Griffith I, Son of Orlando of Anne Arundel County to Henry Griffith II, son of Henry. (Liber C Folio 152)

1783 Tax Assessment of 1783 denotes that Henry Griffith I and Henry Griffith II had land in this area, but no mention of improvements.

c.1785 Henry Griffith II built the log house on the property.

December 15, 1788 Henry Griffith II, son of Henry to Nicholas Griffith, son of Henry of Henry. (Deed Book WR Folio 295)

1791 Nicholas Griffith married Ann Ridgeley. (Farquhar, p 140)

September 6, 1827 Nicholas Griffith to Thomas Griffith, son. (Deed Book BS 1 Folio 362.)

1841 Thomas Griffith built the Federal Style extensions and sheathed the log portion with clapboard.

July 21, 1870 Thomas Griffith to his sons, Thomas and Frank Griffith. (Liber EBP 7 Folio 422.) By will of his late father, Thomas Griffith. (Will Book JWS 1 Folio 37, September 13, 1869.)

August 5, 1892 Frank Griffith died

January 18, 1921 Frank Griffith to his son, Artemus R. Griffith and daughter, Frances Irene Griffith Spurrier. (Deed Book 301 Folio 335)

November 24, 1923 Frances Irene Griffith Spurrier to Catherine Spurrier Wilcox, daughter. (Deed Book 342 Folio 28)

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1988

Catherine Spurrier Wilcox to Janet Wilcox  
Becker and Nancy Wilcox Linthicum,  
daughters.

# EDGEHILL (M: 23-17)



M: 23-17  
P 600  
282.00 Ac

Casual User Application



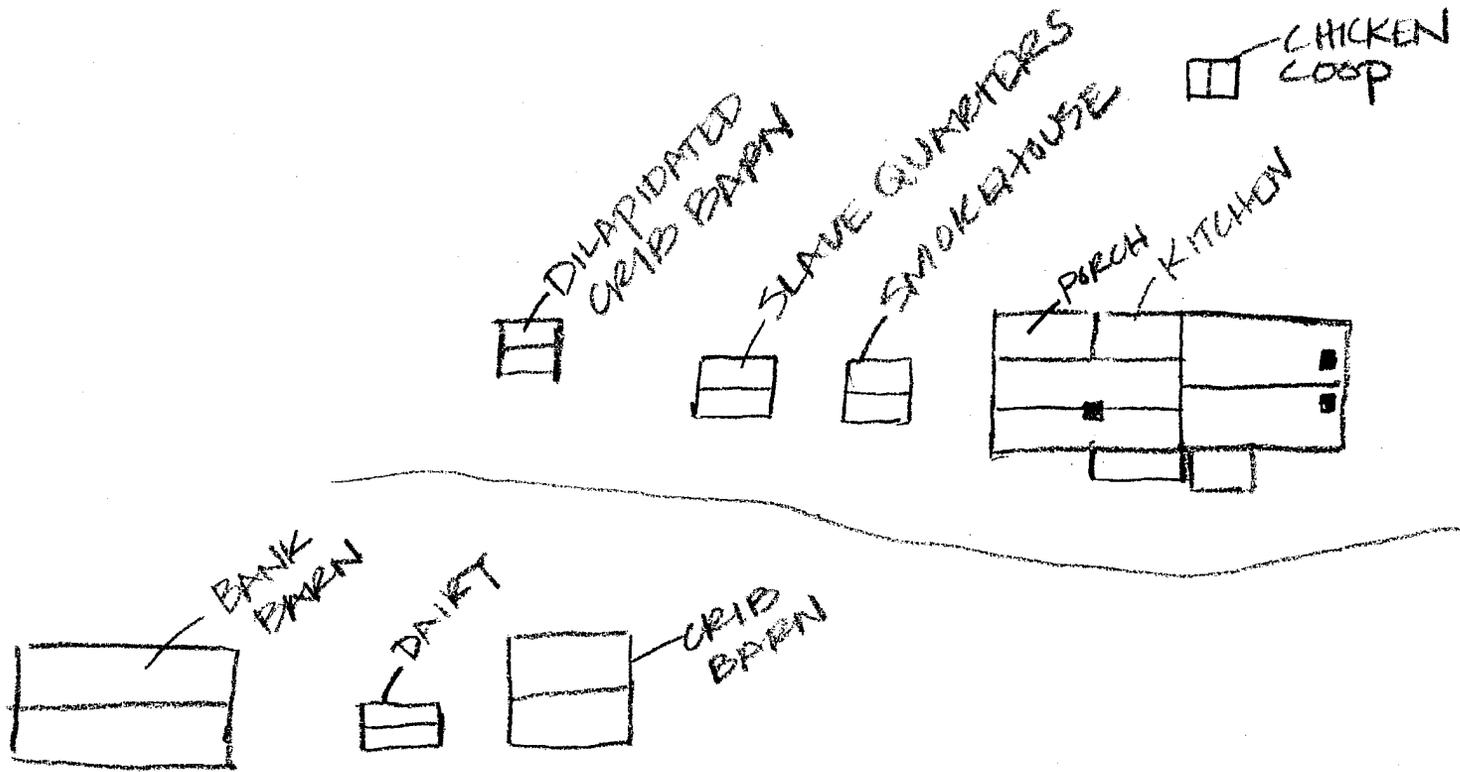
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



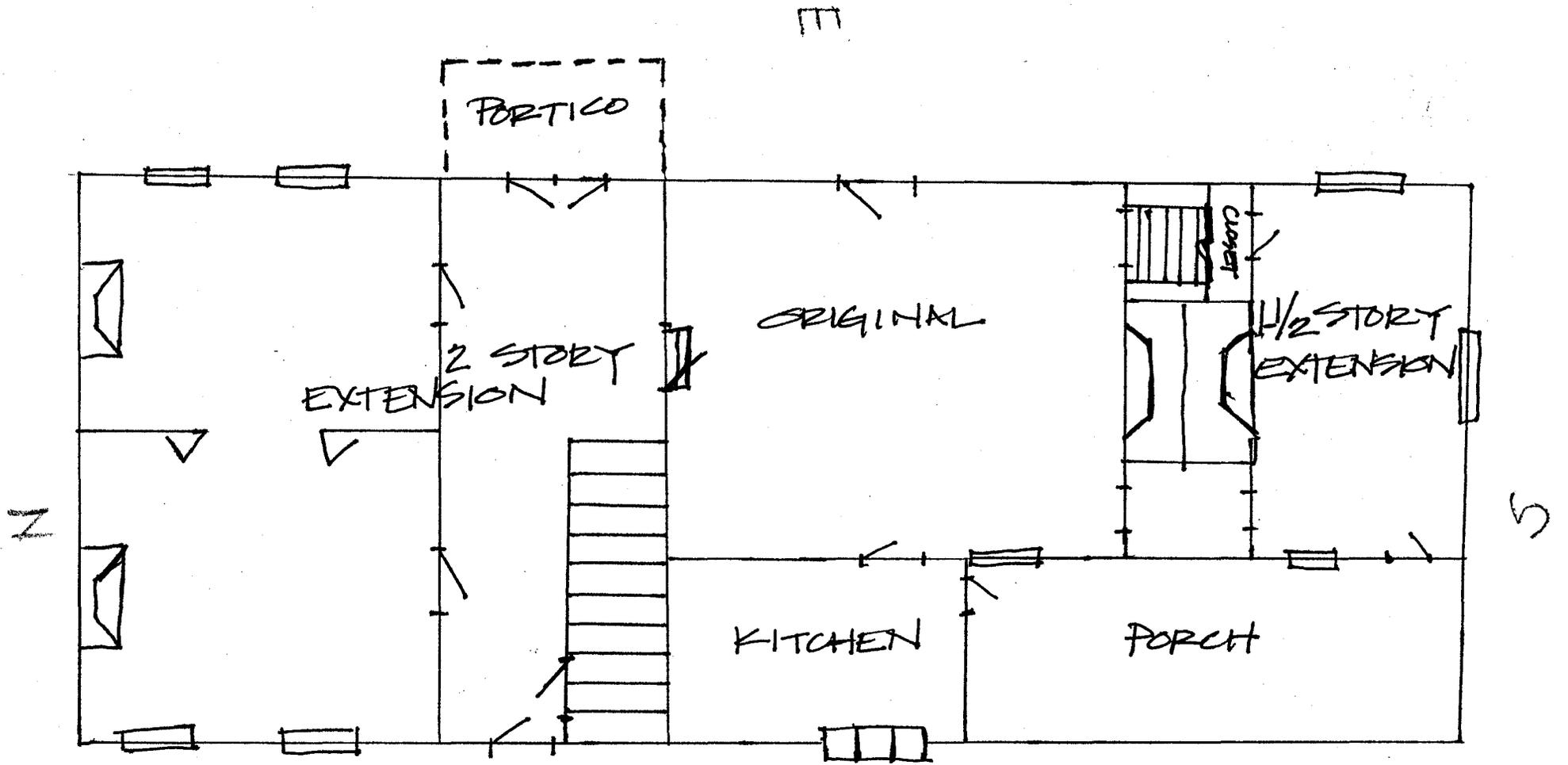
Scale 1" = 1000'



23-11)  
EDGEHILL



M:23-17



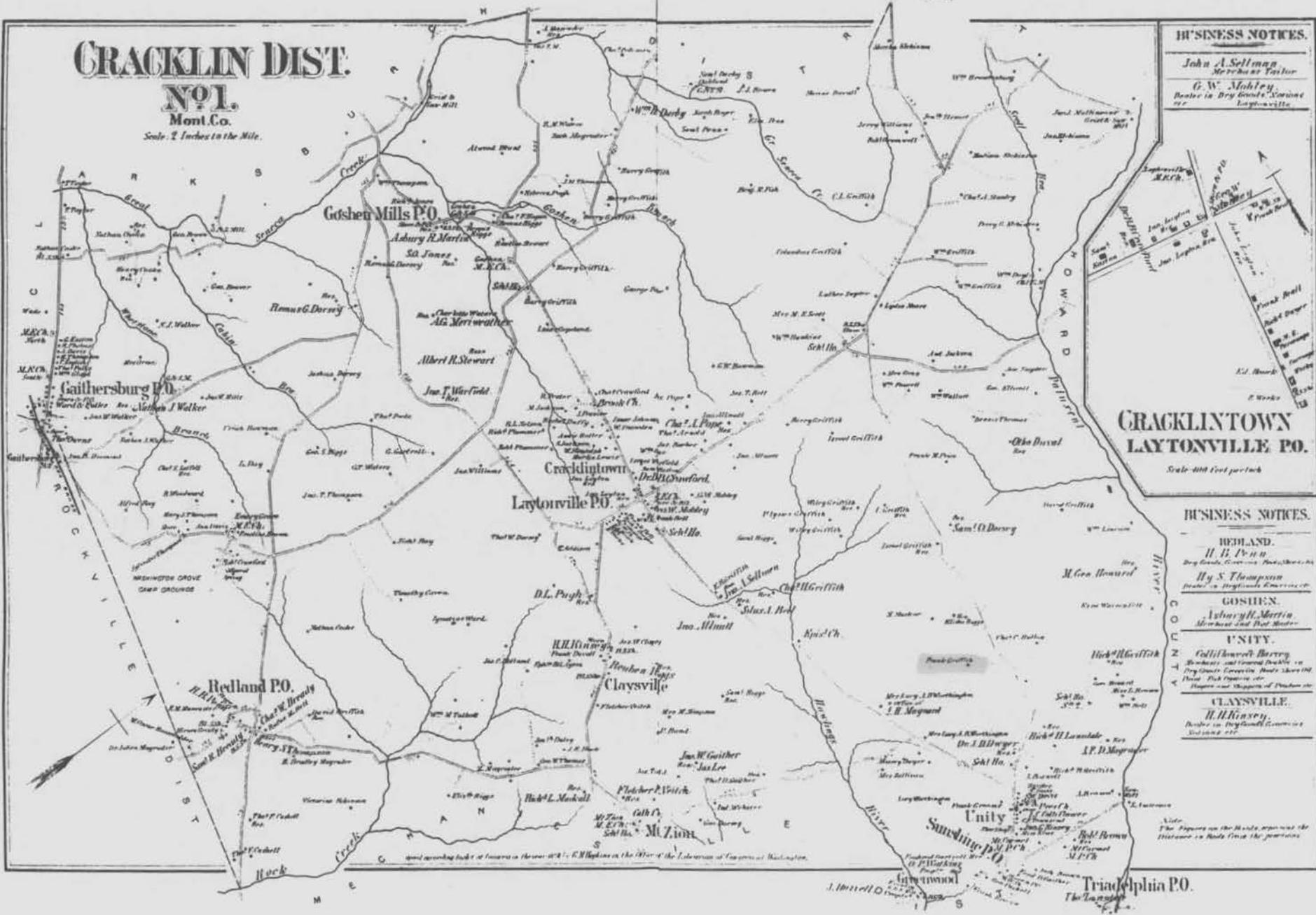
FIRST FLOOR  
 EDGEHILL (23-17)

M: 23-17

# CRACKLIN DIST.

**No. 1.**  
Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.



### BUSINESS NOTICES.

**John A. Sellman**  
Merchant Tailor  
**G. W. Mobley**  
Dealer in Dry Goods, Stationer  
Laytonville

### CRACKLINTOWN LAYTONVILLE P.O.

Scale 400 Feet per inch

### BUSINESS NOTICES.

**REDLAND.**  
**H. E. Penn**  
Dry Goods, Groceries, Stationer, etc.  
**H. S. Thompson**  
Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, etc.

**GOSHEN.**  
**Ashbury H. Martin**  
Merchant and Post Master

**UNITY.**  
**Gallagher's Brewery**  
Breweries and General Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, etc. Dealers in Fish, Poultry, etc. Dealers and Wholesalers of Produce, etc.

**CLAYSVILLE.**  
**H. H. Kinsey**  
Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, etc.

M. 23-17

Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.



Name: SANDY SPRING  
Date: 7/13/99  
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 13' 17.7" N 077° 05' 48.1" W  
Caption: EDGEHILL (M: 23-17)  
4920 Griffith Rd.



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO, MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

1 of 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

4-8-09

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

2 OF 20



(A)

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO, MD

MICHELE NARU

48-099

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

3 OF 20



66.03.2

M.

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

4 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF NEWEL; MAIN STAIR

5 OF 20



11 8 39

M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

PERIOD 1 DOOR, (1780)

6 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

FIREPLACE IN ORIGINAL KITCHEN (1780)

7 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

4-8-09

MARYLAND SHPO

PERIOD I MANTEL

8 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-09

MARYLAND SHPO

FRONT PARLOR OF GREEK REVIVAL EXTENSION

9 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS, SOUTH OF  
MAIN HOUSE

10 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4800

MARYLAND SHPO

SMOKEHOUSE, EAST ELEVATION

11 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

SLAVE QUARTERS, EAST ELEVATION

12 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

SLAVE QUARTERS, WEST ELEVATION

13 OF 20



M.

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

48-000

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF OPEN EAVES OF SLAVE QUARTERS

14 OF 20



66.8.1

M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

CHICKEN COOP; EAST ELEVATION, LOCATED  
WEST OF MAIN HOUSE

15 OF 20



4 8 '99

M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

16 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

NW OBLIQUE; LOOKING SOUTHEAST

17 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR OF CRIB BARN, NW CORNER

18 of 20



M.

23-17

EDGEHILL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION OF DAIRY

19 OF 20



M:

23-17

EDGEHILL, BANK BARN

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION OF BANK BARN

20 OF 20

1615235304

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

## NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Edgehill				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Griffith Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Laytonsville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		Public Acquisition:		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<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) _____ _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Catherine Spurrier				
STREET AND NUMBER: Griffith Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Laytonsville			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 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				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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.	
<p>The house was built in three sections, the center being the oldest. It is two bays with the entrance in the south bay. On the south gable end, the chimney rises externally to that end. It is now covered by the second section, a one bay, frame wing which shares the chimney of the earlier wing. It has 6/6 double hung sash windows. Both of these sections now have a continuous boxed cornice. The north end is Federal, with a three bay facade. The south doorway has a transom light above double doors. The windows are large 6/6 double hung sash. A pedimented porch covered the entrance bay. The cornice is boxed but not returned in the gable. On the north end are two tall, internal brick chimneys.</p> <p>In plan, the center section is one room on each floor. The south end is also one room. These rooms share one chimney, the south room having a large stone fireplace with a wooden lintel and the center room having a wooden surround and mantle of simple design. The staircase now rises east of the fireplace; originally it rose in the northeast corner of the center room. The north section has an end hall and double parlors. The door frames are heavy and fluted, with square corner blocks. There are double doors, each of two folding leaves, between the parlors. The mantles are heavy with pilasters flanking the fireplace opening and friezes with heavily fluted end sections and reeded center panels.</p> <p>South of the house is a log smoke house. South of that is a log slave quarters. West of the house is a log chicken coop. All of the buildings have inverted V-notching, stone chinking, and horizontal board gable ends. Farther from the house, a one crib corn crib and frame bankbarn stand.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <b>1780's (Center Section); 1840</b>			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The house was begun in the 1780's when the center room and chimney were erected. Later the center room as raised to two stories and the south end was added. The north end was built in the 1840's, at which time the staircase in the older part of the house was moved to its present location.</p> <p>There is a Griffith-Riggs cemetery north of the house.</p>			

SEE INST. 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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Edgehill

**T**HE land on which Edgehill stands has been owned by the Griffith family without interruption since 1741, when Hon. Henry Griffith I married Elizabeth Dorsey. Later he came to live in this area of Montgomery County, which then was called Prince George's County, and from 1748 to 1776 Frederick County.

Edgehill is located just off the road from Unity to Etchison, fifteen miles northwest of Olney and thirty miles from Washington. Originally in a veritable forest primeval, today it is still a secluded spot. The house faces east upon a high ledge with nothing in view to mar the rural picture over hills and woodland. At



NO. 25 C-8 COL. HENRY GRIFFITH II 1765-'66  
LOGS, BRICK NOGGED

the foot of the hill is a strong, freely-flowing spring where once the dairy stood.

The original house, built of logs and "nogged" with brick, is well dated as having been built about 1765 or 1766 by Henry Griffith II, son of Hon. Henry I. On November 13, 1766, Henry II married Sarah Warfield of Anne Arundel County, when the groom was twenty-one. As his father was a man of prominence, it is natural to suppose that his son would set up housekeeping in a separate house on the large Griffith plantation.

As the family archives revealed no record of the date when the house was built, a careful examination of the house itself was necessary to discover the probable date. Most of the old door locks have the brass stamp of the Crown of England upon them—the Great Seal, repro-

duced. The period when the Stamp Act was technically in effect was between November 1, 1765, and March 19, 1766, when the King approved the repeal of the Act. But Parliament added a "joker": "The Legislature of Great Britain has authority to make laws and statutes, to bind the Colonies in all cases whether they paid taxes or not."

It is a matter of record in the Griffith archives, however, that Nicholas Griffith, son of Henry II, married Ann Ridgeley in a church in Anne Arundel County in 1791, and came on horseback to Edgehill after the wedding, the bride riding on a side saddle carrying her precious "dispatch box," and also a mulberry switch. The little box is still treasured in the old home by Ann's great-great-great-granddaughter, Catherine (Spurrier) Wilcox, the present owner of the old plantation of 300 acres. The mulberry switch was stuck into the ground near the house, and the huge tree which grew from it was a familiar landmark for more than a century.

Important services to the cause of liberty rendered by both Henry I and Henry II in the exciting days of the Revolution give their descendants just pride, and should be remembered with gratitude and respect by citizens of Maryland. Henry I had four sons, including Henry II, Samuel, Charles, and Philemon, who served with distinction in the Revolutionary War.

On the rear of the farm fronting on another road was a church, or "chapel of ease," where the people of the vicinity worshipped for well over a century. Built of logs at first and then improved with a stone building covered with cement, it was established sometime between 1727 and 1775 and was known as "The Haulings River Church." According to an official booklet of old Prince George's Parish, now St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of Rock Creek Parish, near Soldiers' Home, the ministers Murdoch and Alexander Williamson established a "chapel of ease" at Laytonsville, which was the forerunner of St. Bartholemew's Parish in that village. In 1819 a new building was dedicated on the site of the original log church, constructed of stone and covered with mortar, then in 1910 a new church building was constructed, and the old building was torn down.

There were three cemeteries on Edgehill, one near the church referred to above, a family cemetery, near the house, and a burying ground for slaves. These resting places of the departed call to mind a story of how a faithful-old colored woman servant helped the Griffith family rid itself of chicken thieves. She dressed up in a white sheet and for several nights walked slowly back and forth between two of the graveyards in a line where she could be seen dimly from the "Quarters." After that no more chicken thieves plagued the family.

Thomas Griffith I, a grandson of Colonel Henry II, occupied Edgehill at the time of the Civil War. All four of his sons immediately enlisted in the Army of the Confederate States. They were Thomas II, captain of the First Maryland Cavalry; David, an officer who later became judge of the Orphans Court of the county; Festus and Frank Griffith, both captains in the Southern Army. All survived the conflict and returned to the county of their birth.

The original part of the brick-nogged log house facing east, later weather-boarded, includes the two lower sections to the south. The extreme left section contains the old Colonial kitchen—typical of these old plantation houses—with a fireplace that can burn full-length cord wood, arched with a log-a-foot square. In the intermediate section is the dining room, also with a large fireplace; and rooms on the second floor are above each of these.

The north end of the larger portion of the house built by Thomas Griffith in 1841, has the front door leading to the main hall with an

exit to the garden. On the right of the hall is a large double parlor with two fireplaces; and on the second floor over this section are two bedrooms, each with fireplaces, and a bath. There are six fireplaces in all.

The owners of Edgehill through the past two centuries have been Hon. Henry I, and his son Col. Henry II, followed by Nicholas, Thomas, and his son, Frank Griffith, in that order. On the death of Captain Frank Griffith in 1892, the place was inherited by his daughter, Frances (Griffith) Spurrier, wife of Dr. H. G. Spurrier. Upon the death of Mrs. Spurrier, the cherished home passed to her daughter Mrs. Willcox, present owner.

Mrs. Willcox's husband, Vestus J. Willcox, now retired, was a Lieutenant Commander (SC) USN, and served in both World Wars I and II. Two daughters, Janet and Nancy Willcox, comprise the eighth generation in the line of the Griffiths of Edgehill. Nancy Willcox, is now Mrs. Barry Linthicum, and they have two children, a son James Gassaway Linthicum, and an infant daughter, named Janet Willcox Linthicum. They live in Bethesda. Janet Willcox is a Latin teacher in Maitland, Florida.

When the Historical Society of Montgomery County placed a bronze marker on the site of Historic Hungerford Tavern in Rockville on September 6, 1951, Miss Janet Willcox had the honor of unveiling the plaque upon which the name of her revered ancestor, Honorable Henry Griffith, appears, as Moderator of the historic meeting held in the Tavern in June, 1774.

## Edgewood I

THE attractive house shown on page 142 is in the south edge of County near Silver Spring, 200 yards west of the B & O Railroad at Linden Station. The high knoll on which the house is situated is covered with large oak trees and overlooks Rock Creek Valley on the west of the farm, giving a striking view of the house from the lower surrounding land.

The land on which the house stands was part of Joseph's Park, a tract of 4,220 acres granted

to William Joseph in 1689. This is one of the earliest grants in what later became Montgomery County and lies along the east banks of Rock Creek. The plantation of several hundred acres belonged to the Brent family, an old name in Maryland history. In October, 1853, Theodore Mosher sold 185 acres with its fine house to John M. Johnson. For more than sixty years it was owned by the Keys family, identified with many activities in Montgomery



#23-17

NAME *EDGEHILL*

LOCATION *GRIFFITH Rd UNITY, Md*

FACADE *NW*

PHOTO TAKEN *11/8/74 MDWYER*



#23-17

NAME *EDGEHILL*

LOCATION *GRIFFITH Rd UNITY, Md*

FACADE *NE*

PHOTO TAKEN *11/8/74 MDWYER*



#23-17

NAME EDGEHILL - LOG SLAVE 1/4'S

LOCATION GRIFFITH Rd UNITY, Md

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74 MDWYER