

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:23-93  
(date entered 5-12-80)

1. Name: Sharon
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 23/93      3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 9  
L-20
4. Address: 18201 Marden Lane, Olney
5. Classification Summary
- |                    |                        |                           |   |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Category           | <u>building</u>        | Previous Survey Recording | <u>M-NCPPC</u>  |
| Ownership          | <u>private</u>         | Title and Date:           | <u>1976 Inventory of</u><br><u>Historical Sites</u>       |
| Public Acquisition | <u>N/A</u>             |                           |   |
| Status             | <u>occupied</u>        |                           |   |
| Accessible         | <u>yes; restricted</u> | Federal                   | <u>State</u> <u>x</u> <u>County</u> <u>x</u> <u>Local</u> |
| Present use        | <u>nursing home</u>    |                           |   |
6. Date: c. 1794      7. Original Owner: Isaac Briggs
8. Apparent Condition
- a. good      b. altered      c. original site
9. Description: This four bay by one bay, two-and-a-half story house faces north. Built in two stages, the original two story, three bay log house faced north. A one and a half story, one bay log and frame house was added to the east. These two sections are now covered by white aluminum siding. The third addition is brick and is south of the east addition. There are six-over-six double-hung windows flanked by green aluminum louvered shutters. There is a one story bay window at the west corner, south elevation. The gable and shed roofs have green asbestos shingles.
10. Significance: In 1794, Isaac Briggs, engineer, surveyor and friend of Thomas Jefferson, married Hannah Brooke of Brooke Grove. Hannah's father, Roger Brooke, deeded her 245 acres, and here Briggs built a log house for his new family.
- Briggs had a long and varied career. He taught school in Sandy Spring, with two of his brothers-in-law founded the Triadelphia Mill, was Chief Engineer of the Erie Canal during construction of the Rome-to-Utica section, and surveyed part of the C&O Canal route as well as the mail route between New Orleans & Washington, D.C. Thomas Jefferson recommended Briggs for the post of Surveyor General of the country south of Ohio, part of the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase, citing Briggs expertise in astronomy and mathematics.
- Isaac's grandson, Arthur Farquhar, restored the old log house, and built a mansion nearby in 1911. Sharon remained in the family until 1939. The Sharon house itself has undergone many modifications. Whereas Arthur Farquhar lovingly restored the old house and tore off several later additions to bring back the original appearance, later institutional users modified the building to suit their needs. Today the estate is operated as a convalescent and retirement home for the elderly.
11. Researcher and date researched: Donald M. Leavitt-8/79      Candy Reed  
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman      13. Date Compiled: 10/79      14. Designation  
Approval
15. Acreage: 43.97 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sharon

AND/OR COMMON

Brooke Grove Nursing Home

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

18201 Marden Lane

CITY, TOWN

Olney

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: nursing

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Howe/Brooke Grove Foundation

Telephone #: 924-4475

STREET & NUMBER

Box 195

CITY, TOWN

Olney

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20832

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1852

Folio #: 420

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

This four bay by one bay, two and a half story house faces north.

Built on fieldstone foundations in two stages, the original two-story, three-bay log house faced north. A one and a half story, one bay log and frame house was added to the east sometime later. These two sections are now covered by white aluminum siding. A modern one-story brick addition was added to the north of the east addition. The north porch has a flat roof supported by two square wooden posts. There are built-in benches flanking the glass paneled door. On the south elevation a balustraded flat roof rests on a one-story bay window at the west corner and a square wooden post. At the second level a glass and wooden paneled door opens onto the roof porch. At the first level there is also a glass and wooden paneled door.

There are six-over-six double-hung windows in the two older sections of the house, these windows are flanked by green aluminum louvered shutters. There is a bay window at the west corner of the south elevation. The brick addition has a variety of modern casement and picture windows. There is a shed-roofed dormer with a six-over-six double-hung window on the north elevation, about the east section.

The older sections of the house have gable roofs covered by green asbestos shingles. The shed roof above the brick addition is covered by asbestos shingles. The cornice line of the original house is boxed and returned.

There is an exterior chimney at the east gable end of the original (west)house. There is an exterior chimney at the southwest corner of the brick addition.

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)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			<b>Local History</b>

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1795      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Isaac Briggs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sharon is associated with several of the early Quaker families in Montgomery County.

In the 1790s, Isaac Briggs moved from his home in Pennsylvania to Montgomery County. Isaac quickly made a name for himself as an engineer and surveyor of considerable talent, and was soon launched on a very successful career. In 1794 he married Hannah Brooke, daughter of Roger Brooke of Brooke Grove. A few months after their marriage Hannah purchased for a token sum 245 acres of her father's Brooke Grove property.<sup>1</sup> Here Briggs built a log house for his new family.

Briggs had a long and varied career. He taught school in Sandy Spring, with two of his brothers-in-law founded the Triadelphia Mill, was Chief Engineer of the Erie Canal during construction of the Rome-to-Utica section, and surveyed part of the C & O Canal route as well as the mail route between New Orleans & Washington, D.C.

He became friends with Thomas Jefferson who wrote a friend that "Isaac Briggs, in point of science, in astronomy, geometry, and mathematics, stands second to no man in the United States, and has a pure and unspoiled character. The candor, modesty, and simplicity of his manners cannot fail to gain esteem."<sup>2</sup> As a result of Jefferson's esteem Briggs was appointed Surveyor General of the country south of Ohio, part of the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase.

During the Briggs' ownership of the property the name Sharon originated. It is believed that the name was inspired by the roses grown by Isaac and Hannah's daughter Sarah. In 1837 Sarah and her husband James Stabler bought Sharon for \$1,000.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately James, who like his father-in-law was an engineer, died, leaving Sarah and several small children. Sarah handled the farm, raised her children, and wrote poetry. Her son James Jr. also become an engineer and rigged up one of the first telephone systems in the county on the estate. He took over Sharon from his mother and it remained in the Stabler family until 1911. In that year Arthur Farquhar, grandson of Isaac Briggs and a nephew of Sarah Stabler, bought Sharon<sup>4</sup> and restored the old family house. Nearby he built a mansion and a guest house, creating an elaborate estate. His descendants sold Sharon to Camille Slade in 1939.<sup>6</sup>

The large houses and spacious grounds were beautifully suited for a private school, and The Slade School for boys was opened on the site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

By the early 1950s however, the school had closed and Sharon was purchased by the Brooke Grove Foundation. Today the estate is operated as a convalescent and retirement home for the elderly.

The Sharon house itself has undergone many modifications. Whereas Arthur Farquhar lovingly restored the old house and tore off several later additions to bring back the original appearance, later institutional users modified the building to suit their needs. Currently the house is covered with aluminum siding, the porches have been filled in to create extra rooms, and a modern brick addition ungraciously protrudes from one side.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. F 6/280 (1/20/1795).
- 2 Roger Brooke Farquhar, Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Md. (Washington, D.C.: Judd and Detweiler Inc., 1962), p. 279-80.
- 3 Land Records, BS 8/538 (12/30/1837).
- 4 Ibid., 222/456 (8/14/1911).
- 5 Ibid., 763/31 (8/1/1939).

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 43.97 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at the end of Marden Lane, approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Route 108 in Sandy Spring.

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

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Candy Reed
Donald M. Leavitt	Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	August 1979
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Box 87	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Dickerson	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

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sharon

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

18201 Marden Lane

CITY, TOWN

Olney

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Howe-Brooke Grove Foundation

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

18201 Marden Lane

CITY, TOWN

Olney

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:23-93

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

This is a narrow, two-story, three-bay house that faces north. It was reportedly built, partly of logs, ca. 1794, and restored to its original appearance about 1910 by A.B. Farquhar (see form on "Marden Lane Houses".) The basic shape of the house remains intact, but the chimney on the exterior west wall has been removed, and the siding and gutters are aluminum. There are also storm windows and asphalt, shingle roofs.

The main block of the house has a steeply-pitched "A" roof, and a central door, which is entered via a small, flat-roofed portico with square posts. The windows are 6/6, and the cornice is returned at the gable ends. A large brick chimney sits against the outside east wall. The base of the chimney is enclosed by a small kitchen wing of one-story-with-loft.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-93

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Farquhar, OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1961)  
pp. 279-281.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1961)  
pp. 279-281.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE		DATE
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian		8/14/75
ORGANIZATION		TELEPHONE
M-NCPPC		589-1480
STREET & NUMBER		STATE
8787 Georgia Ave.		Maryland
CITY OR TOWN		
Silver Spring		

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Sandy Spring community has frequently been commented upon. Once the author was driving a city dweller, who had the strong urge to possess a farm, around that neighborhood. Nearly every place we passed seemed to be the home of a nonagenarian. Among the aged citizenry there was Mr. Asa Stabler (aged 91), still driving himself around in his car, Mr. Roger B. Farquhar and Mr. Thomas J. Lea, both celebrating their ninetieth birthdays, and there lived Messrs. Joseph T. Moore and Alban G. Thomas, both over eighty-five years "young." The visitor from Washington was deeply impressed. That evening at his own dinner table he told his wife with real enthusiasm about the old gentlemen approaching the century mark in their lovely old country homes. Finally, when he ran out of adjectives to picture life on a farm, his good wife gave him a stony stare and asked, "Where are their wives?" While this lady temporarily silenced her spouse the records show that centenarians have usually been women more often than men.

Henry Stabler died in June, 1890, two years after the death of his wife in July, 1888. That summer their son, Dr. Augustus Stabler, who had moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts, returned to Sandy Spring to practice medicine. Ownership of Roslyn passed to him from his parents. He too was known as a skilled horticulturist and nurseryman and spoke convincingly on farm topics at farmers' meetings and at the County Farmers' Convention.

Augustus Stabler married Helen Snowden, a daughter of Nicholas and Henrietta Stabler

Snowden of Avondale, Prince George's County. Shortly after the Civil War in which her father was killed, Helen Snowden moved to Ingleside. Her death occurred in Fairfax, Virginia, in September, 1927, where she and Dr. Stabler had lived for a number of years and where he conducted a nursery business.

Roslyn remained in possession of the doctor and his wife for a number of years after their removal to Virginia, when it was rented to a local farmer, Oscar Nichols, and supervised by one of the doctor's sons, Sidney Stabler. After Augustus Stabler's death in March, 1942, and sale of a part of the land in the rear to the Sanitary Commission for inclusion in Brighton Reservoir, the remainder of the farm with the homestead was sold by the heirs to W. Arthur Carr in 1945.

Carr was a Washington builder. His wife was Katherine Eckloff. The Carrs made extensive alterations in the house, improving it throughout with modern plumbing, heating and decorations. Mr. Carr lived only two years after the family had moved into the remodelled home. In 1952 Roslyn was sold by Mrs. Carr to Colonel and Mrs. William Krieker, owners in 1962.

On entering the front hall, the dining room with fireplace is immediately to the right. Right of the dining room in the one-and-a-half-story addition, Henry Stabler's workroom or laboratory was located. There is a quaint small stair to the loft above. On the left of the hall which goes through to a back door was the room used by the Stablers as a parlor.

## Sharon

*"I think God loves the tiny homes  
By country roadsides gay;  
His sunlight seems to shine on them  
In such a magic way.*

*His winds blow sweetly over them;  
He bathes them fresh in showers,  
And hides their kind humility  
In miracles of flowers.*

*I think God loves the tiny homes—,  
How graciously they hold  
Within their window-panes, at dusk,  
His gift of sunset gold."<sup>1</sup>*

"**B**E it ever so humble"—this plain little house was home to four generations of a family with admirable qualities exemplifying to a high degree the maxim: "Plain living and high thinking." Those nurtured here developed unusual intellectual force, marked

mechanical ability, and spiritual and moral integrity.

Isaac Briggs, who built this house of logs with the aid of his father, Samuel Briggs, in 1794 or 1795, was a man of genius. Born at Haverford, Pennsylvania, in 1763 of a Quaker family, he came to Montgomery County in 1794, and mar-

<sup>1</sup> By Dorothy W. Boice.

ried Hannah Brooke. She was a daughter of the venerable Roger Brooke IV, of Brooke Grove, which adjoins Sharon, is near Sandy Spring, and is twenty miles from Zero. A deed is on record in Rockville showing that in June, 1795, the year after her marriage, Hannah Briggs bought from Roger Brooke IV two hundred and forty-five acres, including building and improvements, for five shillings, "good and lawful money." With this auspicious beginning their home was established, and Isaac was free to pursue his active public career as one of the very able engineers of the day.

A valued friend of Thomas Jefferson, Briggs was highly esteemed by the President. A letter which Jefferson wrote, stated: "Isaac Briggs, in point of science, in astronomy, geometry, and mathematics, stands second to no man in the United States, and has a pure and unspotted character. The candor, modesty, and simplicity of his manners cannot fail to gain esteem."

Jefferson appointed Briggs Surveyor-General South of Ohio, and he was authorized to survey for the Louisiana Purchase then being made from France. He was selected to trace a new mail route from Washington to New Orleans. He was Chief Engineer of the Rome-to-Utica section of the Erie Canal, and, for a time was chief engineer of the James River and Kanawha Canal. He also worked on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal a short time before his death. From 1803 until two years before his death at Sharon in 1825 he was engaged in most important projects at the instigation and with the endorsement of Thomas Jefferson.

Soon after his marriage, Isaac Briggs taught in the log school house in Sandy Spring. He made calculations for numerous almanacs. Having received degrees of A.B. and A.M. from the University of Pennsylvania, he later was made a Fellow of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, and was selected as an honorary member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New York.

Sarah, the fourth child of Isaac and Hannah Briggs, married James P. Stabler, Sr., in 1830. Being mechanically inclined, James decided to become a construction engineer, at the beginning of the industrial revolution and railroad expansion. His premature death in 1840 left his widow alone at Sharon for forty-six more years. A poet of ability, she died at the age of eighty-five. It is believed that the roses she



NO. 104 D-9 ISAAC BRIGGS 1794  
LOGS AND FRAME

grew, known and admired far and wide, inspired the name of "Sharon" for the farm.

James P. Stabler, Jr., who married Alice Brooke of Brooke Grove, inherited the mechanical abilities of his father and grandfather. He built a greatly improved shop in which he could make almost anything mechanical or electrical. He was, also, a pioneer in the telephone business. Within a few years after Bell invented the telephone, Stabler had one connecting Sharon, Brooke Grove, and Riverside. He was a promoter of the local telephone company in which his son, Harold, was the first lineman. Harold B. Stabler grew up at Sharon, and was an employee of the Chesapeake & Potomac Company for 40 years before retiring in 1937, with the plaudits of his associates in the company.

James P., Jr. and Alice B. Stabler had two daughters,—Jessie, who became the wife of Frederick McReynolds, a prominent attorney at law in Washington for many years. He died recently and his widow today at the age of 89 lives in a cottage on the edge of the grounds of the Sandy Spring Meeting house.

Nora, the other daughter, was a student at Swarthmore College and married George S. Worth, a fellow student, and they have lived for many years at Wayne, Pa. on the Pennsylvania Railroad, north of Philadelphia. Worth was a son of the steel magnate, William P. Worth, of Coatesville. In 1961 there are nine grandchildren of this Sharon family.

An eminent grandson of Isaac Briggs was Arthur B. Farquhar, born at The Cedars in 1838, a son of Margaret Briggs and William Henry Farquhar. He, too, inherited the type of intellect, mechanical ability, and magnetism of

his illustrious ancestor. (See The Cedars.) When A. B. Farquhar passed three-score-and-ten in 1911, he turned his business over to his son, Francis, and devoted his time to writing his reminiscences, and to the restoration of Sharon, as a monument to his mother's memory.

To show the streak of sentimentality so often unsuspected in powerful business men, Arthur B. Farquhar bought Sharon and 103 acres adding 121 more from Brooke Grove, and set about restoring the old house exactly as he remembered it in his youth. He had to remove several additions made during the intervening years, and the above photo shows the house exactly as it was over a century ago. It can be truly said, "His strength . . . arose from a preservation throughout his life of a fondness for his early home . . . which kept his sympathies always warm and young. He was never so great, but the ties of youth still bound him. He was never so far away, but that he could still hear the note of the evening bird in the groves of his nativity!"<sup>2</sup>

In addition, he built a twenty-room mansion, a six-room cottage, a modern barn, and landscaped the Sharon grounds beautifully, making it one of the handsomest estates in Montgomery County. There he liberally bestowed his hospitality. However, his enjoyment was not for long, for he died March 3, 1925, in his eighty-sixth year.

Even more sensational than the career of Arthur Farquhar, is that of his son, Percival, referred to as the "Master Builder Of South America."<sup>3</sup> He was a builder and promoter over much of the Western Hemisphere, and in his eighty-seventh year, when someone men-

<sup>2</sup> Oration on Abraham Lincoln, by Governor Frank S. Black.

<sup>3</sup> Reader's Digest, July 1951.

tioned retirement to him, his reply was, "nature will take care of that." Nature took care of the retirement of Percival Farquhar "Master Builder of South America," as he predicted. He was retired from many earthly pursuits at the age of 90 years, in 1955.

Many Sharon anecdotes have survived, but cannot be repeated for lack of space. One must be sufficient: Levi, the teamster on the 500-acre Brooke Grove estate with a handsome six-horse team, was envied by Charity on the small Sharon place with just two horses. One day Levi came to Sharon driving a yoke of oxen with a mule hitched in front. This looked like a rare chance to Charity. He made an insinuating remark about Levi's comedown designed to crush the latter. However, Levi, who stuttered, was equal to the occasion. He shifted his "chaw" and said: "When I c-c-c-c-omes t-t-to a s-s-s-small pl-place I c-c-c-c-comes in a s-s-s-small way."

Frank Farquhar inherited the Sharon estate from his father, and after his wife died he sold the elaborate and beautiful property to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Slade. The buildings were well adopted for a boys' boarding school. Mr. and Mrs. Slade did operate their school for a few years, then the place was turned over to the operator of a rest home for elderly patients. Now in 1961 it is owned by the Brooke Grove Foundation and operated as a convalescent home.

Little description of the six-room house with basement is needed. The mantel in the living room, however, was made by Samuel Briggs, the father of Isaac, probably before 1794. There are a large living room and library adjoining on the first floor, and a dining room and kitchen on the left. On the second floor are four rooms and a bath, added later.

## Silver Spring

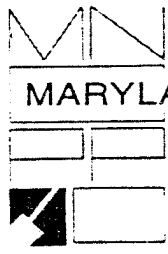
**T**HE Silver Spring community is attracting national attention because of its phenomenal growth in recent years. At the "Gateway to The National Capital" in what is conceded to be one of the finest counties in the United States, Silver Spring is second only to Baltimore in population in Maryland.

Francis Preston Blair, of Kentucky, was in-

vited by President Jackson in 1830 to come to Washington to publish a newspaper, the *Globe*, to further the policies of "Old Hickory."

The Blair home was located in the edge of Montgomery County on Eastern Avenue, touching the District of Columbia Line, which follows the Avenue. This old house is associated with many of the most historic and significant events

M 23/93



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

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.

- 23/84 Brooke Meadow 1711 Gold Mine Road
- Federal style farmhouse begun circa 1823 with two later 19th century additions, noteworthy for its simplicity and complimentary tripartite construction.
  - Associated with Samuel Ellicott, successful farmer and director/incorporator of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County.
  - The bank barn is excluded from preservation as part of the recommended setting.

- 23/89 Walnut Hill 19515 New Hampshire Avenue
- Begun circa 1820, this brick farmhouse is noteworthy as the home of Elizabeth Ellicott Lea, one of the most prominent women in the County during the 19th century primarily due to her enormously popular cookbook, Domestic Cookery.
  - The recommended environmental setting of approximately 4.5 acres includes the brick smokehouse and is bounded by New Hampshire Avenue, the north property line, the driveway, and the row of trees continuing from the driveway to the north property line.

- 23/93 Sharon 18430 Brooke Grove Road
- The original section of the house is a log dwelling built circa 1794 by Isaac Briggs. The house has since been enlarged and greatly altered.
  - Isaac Briggs, the original owner, was a manufacturer, publisher, engineer, and noted agriculturalist; a man of national stature whose contributions to society can still be seen. The historical significance of Sharon is the building's association with a man of such prominence.

- 23/98-3 Former St. John's Rectory 3423 Olney-Laytonsville Rd.
- Built in 1913, this two and one-half story frame house features a wrap-around front porch supported by classical columns, a front entrance set into a projecting bay, a two-story bay window on the west elevation and a two-story projecting pavilion at the second and third levels on the east elevation.
  - The former rectory is significant because of its association with St. John's Episcopal Church and because its vernacular Queen Anne styling is reflective of the historic Olney Community which for the most part no longer exists.





NAME MARDEN LANE HOUSES - SHARON # 23-93  
LOCATION END OF MARDEN LA SANDY SPRING, Md  
FACADE N  
PHOTO TAKEN 8/14/75 MOWYER