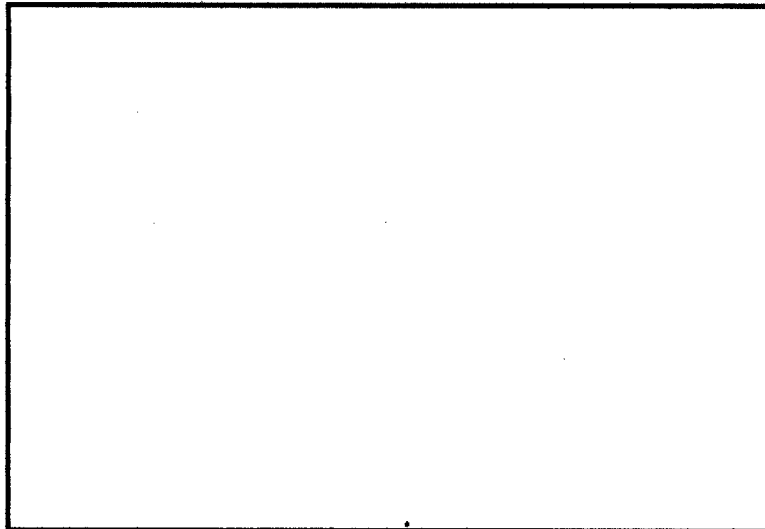


19/1 Waters House
OM 54-88



Waters House at the Turn of the Century

HISTORY OF THE WATERS HOUSE, "PLEASANT FIELDS"

The Waters House, or "Pleasant Fields," is the oldest house in Germantown. It is a 3,600-square-foot structure built in three sections. All three sections were built by members of the Waters family, the oldest dating to about 1790.

Basil Waters (1761-1844) was the son of William and Mary Waters of Brookeville. William's grandfather had emigrated from England in the mid-1600s. During his lifetime William had amassed much land in Prince Georges and present-day Montgomery Counties that he divided among his ten children. When William Waters died in 1788 he left land in what is now Germantown to his son, Basil. Basil's older brothers, Zachariah and William, Jr. had already been given land here and had adjoining farms to the west of Basil's property. The youngest son, Ignatius, inherited the Brookeville estate.

Basil resurveyed the land, named it "Pleasant Fields," and turned it into a large tobacco plantation. He shared a set of mills for grinding wheat, sawing wood and making flax seed oil--with his two brothers to the west. The ruins of these mills can still be seen in Black Hill Park. Basil built the central brick section of the house soon after he inherited the property, and later the smaller brick kitchen on the west side.

In 1797 Basil Waters married Anne Pottinger Magruder, daughter of the Revolutionary War hero Col. Zadock Magruder. Basil and Anne had five children, Zadock, Susannah, William, Zachariah and Robert. Tragedy struck the family when the black measles epidemic of 1824 took the lives of 18 year old Susannah, nine year old Robert, and their mother. When Basil died in 1844 his son, **Zachariah Waters**, inherited the farm and 22 slaves. Insurance records show that there was a brick and frame section on the east side of the house, about half the size of the present largest section, in 1858. This was probably built by Zachariah. Zachariah died in 1871, just a year after his son, Basil, had passed away. His widow, Eliza, having no heirs, sold the farm to Zachariah's cousin, Dr. William Alexander Waters (son of Ignatius Waters), who lived and practiced medicine in Clarksburg at the time.

Dr. William Waters (1825-1907) was the general practitioner for the community and was affectionately known as Dr. Bill. He had his doctor's office on the first floor of the house, but continued the farm operation which included the growing of wheat and corn, feeding pigs for market, and a large dairy herd. He married Mary Wilson Neale, granddaughter of John Clarke, founder of Clarksburg. They had one son, Charles Clarke Waters. When Mary died Dr. Bill married Maria Harris Wilson, widow of Leonidas Wilson.

Charles Waters, who would inherit the farm upon his father's death in 1907, brought his bride, Maud Getzendanner, to live at the house with his father and step mother in 1888. He remodeled the largest part of the house in the 1890s, doubling its size, adding a curving staircase in a large central hall, and redesigning the exterior in the Italianate style in fashion at the time. Charles made quite a reputation for himself, as well as a lot of money, raising standardbred racing horses. Kinster, one of his more famous stud horses, won numerous races and set the east coast trotting record in 1898. Pleasant Field Stock Farm was well known in regional racing circuits. The house was reputedly painted in his racing colors: gold walls with turquoise and purple trim.

Charles and Maude had three children, William, Maria, and Joseph Thomas. Charles, with his son, William, shifted from the horse to the car business in the 1920s, opening a Buick dealership in Gaithersburg. The Depression hit the Waters family hard and Pleasant Fields had to be sold out of the family in 1932. It was bought by Harry Hoskinson, a local landowner, resold in 1951 to newscaster Eric Johnston, and resold again in 1965 to the Milestone Corporation. In 1989 the house and barn were placed on the Montgomery County Historic Landmarks Master Plan. Other buildings that existed on the property but have since been destroyed included a cow barn, a 20-box-stall stable, two log slave quarters, and a two-story brick slave quarter.

Waters Coat-of-arms

A small family burial plot now on Hawk's Nest Lane is the final resting place of Basil and Anne Waters, their children Susannah, Robert, Zachariah and an infant daughter, Mary, as well as Zachariah's wife, Eliza, and son, Basil. Dr. William Waters is also buried there.

In 1991 South Charles Realty Corp, a subsidiary of Nations Bank, took over the property and in 1993 began a major renovation of the Waters House as a part of their required contribution to "community amenities" in return for the development of the farmland. The renovation took more than two years to complete at a cost of \$900,000.

In ceremonies on January 22, 1997 the Waters House, along with its outbuildings, was turned over to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS) will be using the barn, as well as the house, for educational programs on the county's history for the up-county area. This will be an adjunct to their current headquarters at the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville. The MCHS was able to get a grant this past year from the State of Maryland for enough money to stabilize the barn. Future grants will hopefully enable the MCHS to restore the barn to its previous glory. The Waters House is in the process of being converted by the County to satisfy the County Codes for community use of a building. When that is completed the house will be rented out for receptions and meetings. There has been no date set for the completion of this project.

For more information on Old Germantown, Neelsville, Clarksburg, and Boyds see:

A History of Germantown, Md. by Susan Soderberg

For a copy of the 256-page book send \$10 + \$3 shipping to:

The Germantown Historical Society

P.O. Box 475

Germantown, MD 20875



Historic Preservation Commission

100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850
279-1327

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

TAX ACCOUNT # _____

NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER (Contract/Purchaser) _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____
(Include Area Code)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CONTRACTOR _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____
CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER _____

PLANS PREPARED BY _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____
(Include Area Code)

REGISTRATION NUMBER _____

LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE

House Number _____ Street _____

Town/City _____ Election District _____

Nearest Cross Street _____

Lot _____ Block _____ Subdivision _____

Liber _____ Folio _____ Parcel _____

1A. TYPE OF PERMIT ACTION: (circle one)

| | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Construct | Extend/Add | Alter/Renovate | Repair | Circle One: A/C | Slab | Room Addition |
| Wreck/Raze | Move | Install | Revocable | Porch | Deck | Fireplace |
| | | | Revision | Fence/Wall (complete Section 4) | Shed | Solar |
| | | | | | | Woodburning Stove |
| | | | | | | Other _____ |

1B. CONSTRUCTION COSTS ESTIMATE \$ _____

1C. IF THIS IS A REVISION OF A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIVE PERMIT SEE PERMIT # _____

1D. INDICATE NAME OF ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY _____

1E. IS THIS PROPERTY A HISTORICAL SITE? YES

PART TWO: COMPLETE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXTEND/ADDITIONS

2A. TYPE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL

01 () WSSC 02 () Septic

03 () Other _____

2B. TYPE OF WATER SUPPLY

01 () WSSC 02 () Well

03 () Other _____

PART THREE: COMPLETE ONLY FOR FENCE/RETAINING WALL

4A. HEIGHT _____ feet _____ inches

4B. Indicate whether the fence or retaining wall is to be constructed on one of the following locations:

- On party line/Property line _____
- Entirely on land of owner _____
- On public right of way/easement _____ (Revocable Letter Required).

I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct, and that the construction will comply with plans approved by all agencies listed and I hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.

Signature of owner or authorized agent (agent must have signature notarized on back) _____ Date _____

APPROVED X For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission

DISAPPROVED _____ Signature _____ Date 7/12/00

APPLICATION/PERMIT NO: 011-1-00 FILING FEE: \$ _____

DATE FILED: _____ PERMIT FEE: \$ _____

DATE ISSUED: _____ BALANCE \$ _____

OWNERSHIP CODE: _____ RECEIPT NO: _____ FEE WAIVED: _____

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION

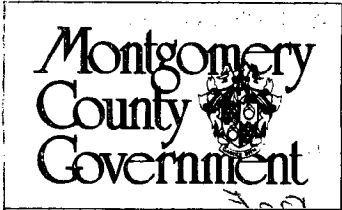
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: (including composition, color and texture of materials to be used:)

ReBuild west chimney, Repair standing seam roof on kitchen porch, Repair fascia + soffit on kitchen wing, paint exterior, Replace broken window, stabilize + repoint bay, Replace broken ^{roof} slates, Repair kitchen wing back porch, Remove rear porch, replace living room floor, upgrade electrical system

(If more space is needed, attach additional sheets on plain or lined paper to this application)

ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION (2) COPIES OF: SUCH SITE PLANS (lot dimensions, building location with dimensions, drives, walks, fences, patios, etc. proposed or existing) and/or ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS (floor plans, elevations, etc.), PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AREA AFFECTED, as are necessary to fully describe the proposed work.

MAIL OR DELIVER THE APPLICATION AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE:
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
100 MARYLAND AVENUE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850



Historic Preservation Commission

100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850
279-1327

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

TAX ACCOUNT # _____

NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER (Contract/Purchaser) _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____
(Include Area Code)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CONTRACTOR _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER _____

PLANS PREPARED BY _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____
(Include Area Code)

REGISTRATION NUMBER _____

LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE

House Number 21200 Street Frederick Rd

Town/City Carrollton Election District _____

Nearest Cross Street _____

Lot _____ Block _____ Subdivision _____

Liber _____ Folio _____ Parcel _____

1A. TYPE OF PERMIT ACTION: (circle one)

| | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Construct | Extend/Add | Alter/Renovate | <u>Repair</u> | Circle One: A/C | Slab | Room Addition |
| Wreck/Raze | Move | Install | Revision | Porch | Deck | Fireplace |
| | | | | Fence/Wall (complete Section 4) | Shed | Solar |
| | | | | | | Woodburning Stove |
| | | | | | | Other _____ |

1B. CONSTRUCTION COSTS ESTIMATE \$ _____

1C. IF THIS IS A REVISION OF A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIVE PERMIT SEE PERMIT # _____

1D. INDICATE NAME OF ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY _____

1E. IS THIS PROPERTY A HISTORICAL SITE? yes 19/1

PART TWO: COMPLETE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXTEND/ADDITIONS

2A. TYPE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 01 () WSSC | 02 () Septic |
| 03 () Other _____ | |

2B. TYPE OF WATER SUPPLY

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 01 () WSSC | 02 () Well |
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Signature of owner or authorized agent (agent must have signature notarized on back) _____ Date _____

APPROVED X For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission

DISAPPROVED _____ Signature [Signature] Date 7/12/88

APPLICATION/PERMIT NO: OM 54-88 FILING FEE: \$ _____

DATE FILED: _____ PERMIT FEE: \$ _____

DATE ISSUED: _____ BALANCE \$ _____

OWNERSHIP CODE: _____ RECEIPT NO: _____ FEE WAIVED: _____

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