

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:23-64
(date entered 5-13-80)

1. Name: Oak Grove

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 23/64

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 9
Coord. I-17

4. Address: Route 97, Brookeville

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>
Public Acquisition	<u>NA</u>		<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status	<u>occupied</u>	HABS -	<u>1968</u>
Accessible	<u>no</u>	Federal	<u>x</u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local
Present use	<u>agriculture; private</u>	residence	

6. Date: c. 1850

7. Original Owner: Ignatius Waters, Jr.

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. unaltered c. original site

9. Description: This is a well-proportioned common-bonded brick house which faces west. It is five-bays by two-bays, two-and-a-half stories in height with a steeply pitched "A" roof. Its proportions and balancing of solids and voids make it an elegant and appealing house. There is a cornice of brick dentils along the front roof line. The central doorway is set in a large frame that has transom and side-lights; it is covered by an elegant, flat-roofed portico that features a dentil cornice and chamfered square columns. Chimneys at both ends of the house are internal.

A lower two-and-a-half story, three-bay, brick wing extends from the southeast corner of the main house to complete the L-shaped form. This wing is identical in style to the main house. The house is set on a hill in a large grove of ancient trees. Nearby is an abandoned tenant house of simple Victorian design.

10. Significance: 20+ acres were willed to Ignatius Waters, Jr. by his father in 1842, and several years later Waters constructed this lovely brick dwelling. He lived there until his death in 1870, when the property was sold to James S. Hallowell.

Hallowell, from Philadelphia, became a farmer and teacher in the Sandy Spring community. After his death in 1886, his widow and daughters lived there until the death of daughter Julia Hallowell in 1947. It was sold in 1948 to the Keisters who generally restored the house. In 1955 it was purchased by the present owner, who rents the property.

11. Researcher and date researched: Roberta Hahn-7/79

Michael Dwyer
Architectural Description

12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian

13. Date Compiled: 9/79

14. Designation
Approval_____

15. Acreage: 208.054 acres

M:23-64

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 is a well-proportioned common-bonded brick house which faces west. It is five-bays by two-bays, two-and-one-half stories in height, with a steeply pitched "A" roof. Its proportions and balancing of solids and voids make it an elegant and appealing house. There is a cornice of brick dentils along the front roof line. The central doorway is set in a large frame that has transom and side-lights; it is covered by an elegant, flat-roofed portico that features a dentil cornice and chamfered square columns. Chimneys at both ends of the house are internal.

Over each of the six-over-six windows is a painted, flat-brick arch, and the windows rest on stone sills. There are two six-over-six peaked dormers on the front slate roof.

A lower two-and-one-half story, three-bay, brick wing extends from the southeast corner of the main house to complete the L-shaped form. This wing is identical in style to the main house.

The house is set on a hill in a large grove of ancient trees. Nearby is an abandoned tenant house of simple Victorian design.



CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-64

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Ignatius Waters died in 1842 his tremendous land holdings included over 1,200 acres which were divided amongst his children. A plat drawn up for that division¹ shows the 204 acre section, known as lot 2, which went to his son, Ignatius Waters, Jr., in 1847. At that time a very modest dwelling known as 'the Cottage' is shown to have existed. This situation did not last long, and by the time of the 1857 Tax Assessment,² Ignatius Waters was assessed the large amount of \$4,000 for an improvement on his property.

Upon his death in 1870, his estate was sued for debts and a sale of his property was ordered.³ The handbill for the sale describes the property as 204 acres, 45 heavily timbered, 20 miles from Washington, 1/2 mile from Brookeville, 'convenient to first-class seminaries - male and female - in a neighborhood proverbial for its healthfulness and the sociability and intelligence of its citizens... improved with a fine, large and substantial brick house with good cellar and basement rooms....'⁴ with barn and other appropriate farm buildings and an orchard. The property was sold to James S. Hallowell for \$13,500.⁵

James Hallowell, of Philadelphia, was a teacher and farmer for many years in the Sandy Spring community. Upon his death in 1886 his widow, Margaret Stabler Hallowell, was forced to put the land up for sale⁶ to satisfy the other heirs, but she managed to retain all of the property. At the time the land and house were described as in 1870, with the additional information that the house contained eleven rooms. Two daughters of James and Margaret Hallowell, Julia, born in 1863, and Florence, born in 1862, shared Oak Grove until Florence's death, after which Julia remained there alone until her death in 1947. It was sold by her heirs in 1948 to Richard and Pearle Keisters⁷ who generally restored the house. In 1955 it was purchased by its present owner, Helen Zinder, who rents the property.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Montgomery County Equity Records, Case STS 3/299 #117, (1851).
2. Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records, (1857).
3. Equity Records, Op. Cit., Equity Case EBP 82, #235, (1870).
4. Ibid., copy from Montgomery County Sentinel, June 1871.
5. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. EBP 10/175 (July 1872).
6. Equity Records, Op. Cit., Equity Case 651.
7. Land Records, Op. Cit., 1300/58 (August 1949).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-64

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 well-proportioned, brick house of five bays on its main (west) facade. The central doorway is covered by an elegant, flat-roofed portico that features a dentil cornice and chamfered square columns. The door itself is set in a large frame that has transom and side-lights. Over each of the 6/6 windows is a painted, flat-brick arch and the windows rest on stone sills. Chimneys are internal at both ends of the house. There are two dormers on the slate roof. A lower brick wing extends from the SE corner of the main house to complete the L-shaped form. This wing is identical in style to the main house. Nearby is an abandoned tenant house of simple Victorian design.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Moore. Milton Bancroft, her husband, died in 1947, in his eighty-second year. He had been a member of the faculty of Swarthmore College when Margaret was a student there.

Milton Bancroft was one of the more talented artists of his time. A student of the Beaux Arts, he maintained a studio in Paris for two years. He then had a studio in New York for several years, and retired in 1919 to Norwood, where he maintained a roomy studio over a garage. He painted portraits of many prominent personages, and was commissioned to paint several large murals in some of the monumental buildings at both the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco in 1915.

Mrs. Bancroft died in June 1956 and her bachelor son John continues to live in the handsome old brick manor house with its wealth of memories of happier and more prosperous days.

Other children of Joseph and Anna Moore were Joseph, Jr., who married Estelle Tyson of Baltimore and remained on Pen-y Bryn, an ad-

joining farm; Mary L. who became the wife of Joseph Tilton, a New York business man, and lived there; Thomas L., who went to Richmond, Virginia, was twice married and was very successful in the milling business; and George H. and Frederick P. Moore, who were associated for years in the brokerage business in New York.

Walls of the house are of large irregular brick, no doubt made nearby, and are laid in Flemish bond with wide joints. Viewed from the front, the house has a center hall through it to the driveway in the rear; there is a double parlor on the left with two fireplaces. To the right are a dining room, pantry, and kitchen. On the main part of the second floor, are four bedrooms and a bath. Just to the right of the house, on the east end, there is one of the finest mazes of dwarf English box to be seen anywhere in this part of the country. It was there when the Moores came in 1867, and its height today is about ten feet.

Oak Grove

A HALF-MILE east of the highway from Olney to Brookeville, approached by a winding driveway through a dense forest of hardwood trees, stands the massive brick house shown on page 234.

The land of the Oak Grove farm was owned by the Waters family for over a century. In May, 1763, according to an old deed still in possession of a descendant, William Waters was granted by Edward Lloyd, Receiver General, and Charles Carroll some lots of land between the older grants of "Brothers Content" and "Charles and Benjamin." The great seal of the State of Maryland was affixed to the instrument which was signed by Horatio Sharpe, Lieutenant Governor and Chief of the Land Office. With these lots (a direct grant) and others he had previously bought, William Waters acquired one thousand acres, including Oak Grove.

William Waters married Mary Harris of Prince George's in 1747, and their son, Ignatius Waters, was born in 1773. When he died and

his estate was settled in 1842, the Oak Grove farm was bequeathed to his son, Ignatius, Jr.

Ignatius Waters, Jr., was born in 1813 at Belmont. In 1836 he married Mary Dorsey Sollers. Beginning housekeeping in a modest way, the couple lived in a log cabin that had a huge fireplace and was located on his parental estate near the present site of the brick manor house at Oak Grove. After Ignatius, Jr., inherited the two hundred and four acre farm in the settlement of his father's estate, he built the brick house in 1848. His wife also received a large inheritance from property in Frederick County which went into the cost of the mansion.

The children of Ignatius, Jr., and Mary D. Waters were F. Dorsey Waters, who died while young; Ida, who never married; Fannie, who married Mr. Larned of New York; and a son, T. Sollers Waters, who became a prominent dentist in Baltimore, and who is credited with some important improvement in dentures.

Ignatius Waters, Jr., seems to have been a rather quiet, home-loving farmer. After his



NO. 83 D-9 IGNATIUS WALTERS, JR. 1848
BRICK

death in 1872, the old home was purchased by James Shoemaker Hallowell, a member of the well-known Philadelphia family. He was a nephew of the eminent teacher-scientist, Benjamin Hallowell of Alexandria. James and his brother Caleb taught in the Alexandria school of their Uncles for a few years until 1846, when they left rather suddenly. James taught in the public schools in Montgomery County until the Civil War, when he and Caleb operated a school at Fulford near Sandy Spring. He married Margaret Stabler of Harewood, the oldest daughter of Edward Stabler, the noted engraver.

James Hallowell's residence of more than twenty-five years in the community endeared him to his neighbors and friends. He died at Clifton Springs, New York, in July, 1886, where he had gone to regain his health.

The children of James S. and Margaret S. Hallowell numbered six, James S., Jr., stayed on the farm which he operated after the death of his father. He never married. There were four daughters. Annie Stabler Hallowell, born in 1849, was married in October, 1882, at Oak Grove to William Riggs of Pleasant Hill, and lived at the latter place during her life. Florence Hallowell, another daughter born near Ashton in 1861, spent her entire life in the Sandy Spring neighborhood, and died in April, 1927. The fourth daughter of James was Miss Julia Hallowell, who lived alone in the big brick house at Oak Grove for many years after the death of her sister, Florence, who had shared

the place so long. She was a collector of antique furniture and a shrewd judge of such pieces which filled the house at the time of settlement of her estate. At an advanced age she drove herself around the neighborhood in an automobile, her horse-and-buggy conveyance having been discarded.

William Clarence Riggs, a son of Remus and Catharine Adams Riggs, spent his life as farmer on the large Pleasant Hill farm (ancestral home of the Riggs family), that he inherited from his father who died in 1867. He had attended the Benjamin Hallowell School in Alexandria. He and Annie H. Riggs had two children to grow to maturity. Florence Macgill Riggs, born at Pleasant Hill, July, 1883, married Charles E. Carpenter of Philadelphia in November, 1909. When Julia Hallowell died in 1947, Florence R. Carpenter inherited Oak Grove from her aunt. William C. Riggs died suddenly in an accident near Rockville in September, 1906. His widow died in January, 1930, and lies buried in the Friends Cemetery in Sandy Spring. William C. Riggs was the last member of that prominent Montgomery County family to own Pleasant Hill and to be buried there in the family lot where so many of the family were interred.

After Mrs. Carpenter inherited the Oak Grove farm, she made occasional visits to the big brick house to administer the estate of Julia Hallowell, on which place she kept a farmer. In 1949, Mrs. Carpenter sold the homestead to Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Keister of Washington. During their ownership, they cut away many of the trees which obscured the house, planted shrubbery, and surfaced the half-mile long driveway. They also beautified the old house.

In 1958, the Keisters sold the old Hallowell home, to the Hanina Zinders, of Bethesda. They are not occupying the house, which is rented to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Fessenden, and family.

There are two entrances to the house. To the left is the parlor which with the living room has a fireplace. The second entrance opens into the rear hall which is an extension of the front hall.

On the second floor, the large bedrooms on each side of the hall have fireplaces, and in the rear wing there are two bedrooms and a bath.

