1. Calvert County Historical Society is located in the basement of The Calvert County Library in Prince Frederick. Opened Tuesday - Thursday only 10:00 - 2:00. Contact: Mrs. Lou Rose


3. Rana Wilson, old welder from Lusby. Good oral history contact. ~ 80 years old. (blacksmith)
1921 - Potomac Landing
Paul W. lStach

Doubleday, Page & Co. NY

"From one end of the central hall rose
the stairway, sometimes by means of
a rectangular landing, either horizontal
as at Gunston Hall or ascending as
at Fort Knox Hill, and Mont Vernon."

158 When the additional building were attached
to the central building, it was usually
in balanced uniformity at each end.
On the Potomac, three, similar, except
the third was Oxon Hill, opposite
Alexandria.

Paul W. lStach

1931 Tidewater Md
Bobbs-Merrill Company
Indianapolis

"The Addisons of Oxon Hill were a family
of notable attainment in public life
and were intimately related to most
of the conspicuous families of Tidewater
Maryland and Virginia."

326
Addison House

166 at Oxon Hill also 706

* 0194-1 Ruins of steps (1908)
* 0194-2 Ruins of steps

* 0748 → Abandoned house on Barry Farm (1910)
744

168 cabin

* 0269 Rd to Fort Ferry Rd

461
70 → Barrady - Addison house

by Shannon
"Orion Hill, which is the most pleasantly situated and circumstanced, and in all respects the most desirable of any I have seen in any part of the world."
Land... p 27

Thomas Brooke and Thomas Addison were both married to sisters; i.e., were brother-in-laws.

p 40

Addison w/ Dulany; Brook is hired office of Commissary General.
1927

Best Green Rm (east chamber)
   (2 window curtains)

Red Rm
   2 window curtains

Yellow Rm
   2 window curtains

Little Green Rm

Parlor
   bright dogs

Back Rm
   iron dogs

Col. Addison's Closet
   (closet)

Little Parlor
   2 sets window curtains
   bright dogs
   closet out of little Parlor

Mad. Addison (Is Rm.)
   2 sets window curtains
   bright dogs


1945

Great Parlor
   closet yellow Rm
   Back Rm

Kitchen
   cellar

Chamber
   closet Great Parlor
   Back Rm

Passage

Red Rm

Yellow Rm

White Rm

m. 1/2 ft.

Meat 4

In the Passage

Cellar Kitchen

Garret

Kitchen Shed

Rms. over Kitchen

2 rms. off Dining in Stone
Oxon Hill History

Historical Context: Plantation Organization
Post-Bellum organization

Cartographic Research:
Map 1863
1903
1920+
Aerial Photo 1957
1963

Primary Source Documentation:
Inventories
Court settlement
Census data

Secondary Source Documentation
Sources to Check

66  →  Plantation economy → slave
skills

1952  Edmund S. Morgan
Virginia's at Home
C.W. press Williamsburg

1968  Beverly Robert
The History & Present State of Va 1763
ed. Louis D. Wright  U Va. Press

1925  Bedwell Percy Wells & John Falconer
History of Agriculture in North. US
1620 - 1860  Wash. D.C. Carnegie

1798  Burnaby Andrew
Travels through the Middle Settlement
of N. America  London T Payne

1941  William Byrd Secret Diary
Louis H. Wright  Richmond Va.

1916  "Letters of W. Byrd Ed. W.G. Stoddard
Va. Mag of History & Biog. 24
(Furne 1916) 224-37
Clements Paul and C.E.
"The Operation of an Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake Tobacco Plantation"
Journal of Agricultural History 49 (July 1975) 517-531

For correspondence of the Three William Byrds of Westover, Virginia 1684-1776 the Ed., Marion Tidings, Charlottesville, VA 1977
APPENDIX A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
OXON HILL MANOR

OWNERSHIP AND PHYSICAL HISTORY

Recorded history of what would become known as Oxon Hill Manor begins with John Addison, brother of a chaplain to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, and uncle of the noted essayist Joseph Addison. John amassed considerable wealth as a merchant adventurer, and in 1685, as payment for providing overseas passages for colonists, he began acquiring lands from Lord Baltimore near the juncture of the Potomac and Eastern Branch (Anacostia). Soon he established his plantation headquarters there. Addison's public duties included those of colonel of militia, privy councilor to the governor, and foreman of his parish.\(^1\)

Colonel John Addison's son Thomas, born in 1769 at St. Mary's City, became the first surveyor of Prince George's County at the age of 17. Like his father, he became active as a merchant and land speculator. He was appointed Lord High Sheriff of the county in 1705, acquired his father's rank of militia colonel upon the latter's death the following year, and served as a judge of the High Provincial Court of Maryland after 1712. After spending a year in London, during which time he visited his literary cousin Joseph, Thomas returned to Maryland in the summer of 1710 to build the brick mansion called "Oxon Hill." The mansion was erected on a hill overlooking the Potomac near Oxon Creek in 1711. An inventory of Addison's properties listed eight other plantations under his general supervision, a mill and a store, 76 slaves and three indentured English servants. Thomas left over 15,000 acres to his children upon his death in 1727.\(^2\)

Thomas Addison's eldest son, John, inherited his father's plantations and passed the land encompassing the mansion near Oxon Creek on to his son Thomas Addison (c. 1740-1774). A survey of this property, containing 3,663 acres, was patented August 3, 1767, as "Oxon Hill Manor"--the first official use of the name.\(^3\)

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2. Castle, "Glories of Old Prince George's."

3. Ibid.
Upon this Thomas Addison's death in 1774, Oxon Hill Manor was inherited by his five-year-old son Walter Dulany Addison. Thomas Hawkins Hanson, who served under Thomas Addison's brother John early in the Revolution, was appointed regent for the property. He married Addison's widow in 1778. Thomas Hanson was a nephew of John Hanson, first "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.4

In the fall of 1783, a year after his term in the Congress, John Hanson visited his nephew at Oxon-Hill Manor. In ill health, he died there on November 15. The possibility that he was buried on the estate, rather than near his Frederick home, has been the subject of much interest on the part of John Hanson "promoters" in recent years.

According to an Addison descendent, Nathaniel Washington, cousin of George, leased and occupied the estate from 1787 to 1792.5

The Reverend Walter Dulany Addison, rector of the Broad Creek Church near Oxon Hill, founder of St. John's Church in Georgetown, and one of the four clergymen officiating at George Washington's funeral, was the last Addison owner of Oxon Hill Manor.6 Unable to maintain it, he sold to Zachariah Berry on March 17, 1810, over 1,328 acres of the land patented by his father, including the mansion but reserving the Addison graveyard east of the house.7

Zachariah Berry died in 1845, and by the terms of his will the lands purchased from Walter Dulany Addison went to his son Thomas.8 Thomas's later life was unfortunate. He became mentally ill, and his wife, fearing his threatened violence, left him in 1874. About 1876 Berry entered a Baltimore asylum for several months, but his initial improvement proved temporary. Management of his properties suffered, and he became indebted


5. Castle, "Glories of Old Prince George's."


8. Book P.C. 1, pp. 284-89, PGCC.
for over $20,000, unable even to pay his taxes. On February 18, 1878, Berry's adult sons Thomas Owen and Norman petitioned the Prince George's circuit court for a writ of *de lunatico inquirendo*; an inquisition pursuant to the writ on March 7 found Berry mentally incompetent and placed his properties in the hands of trustees to be sold for payment of his creditors. Berry was admitted to Mount Hope Retreat, a mental institution in Baltimore County, on February 19. Sometime between August and November 1879 he died.9

A court-ordered survey made by William J. Latimer in 1879 divided Thomas Berry's Oxon Hill property into a total of 49 lots totaling approximately 1,430 acres. The first auction, held July 31, 1879, at the mansion, sold some 42 acres to Dr. John W. Bayne; insufficient or no bids were received for the remainder. By 1886 at least 200 acres had been sold, with other tracts being rented pending sale.

Copy for an auction advertisement described the unsold Oxon Hill Manor property:

**A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF TWELVE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND, NEAR WASHINGTON CITY, ADJOINING THE LINE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IN SIGHT OF THE CAPITAL**

By virtue of the power vested in [torn] trustees in an Equity cause in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in Equity known as No. 1208 Equity, we will sell at public sale at the mansion house on Oxen [sic] Hill farm on the road leading from Fort Foote to Washington on [blank] day of March 1891 at the hour of One o'clock P.M. if fair if not the next fair day all that valuable Real Estate known as Oxen Hill and Oxen Hill Manor in Prince George's County decreed to be sold and not heretofore disposed of lying between the Fort Foote road and the Potomac River where it strikes the District line together with that part of the Woodland still unsold and called Oxen Hill Manor. Oxen Hill upon which the mansion house is situated contains about 725 acres. This is one of the most fertile, eligibly located and valuable tracts of land in Prince George's County.

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9. Chancery Cause No. 1208 Equity, PGCC.

65
The improvements consist of an elegant brick mansion covered with slate and panelled with cherry, with commodious barns and stables and six tenant houses, also a wharf constructed of limestone [torn] at the public ferry landing opposite Alexandria which is a part of the property. This land is well adapted to market gardening fruit culture and stock raising.

The Woodland consists of about 500 acres divided into lots averaging from 20 to 30 acres lying on the roads to the Navy Yard bridge and to Silver Hill covered with white oak, chestnut and pine wood.\textsuperscript{10}

Samuel Taylor Suit contracted to buy the unsold remainder of Oxon Hill Manor May 23, 1888. He died soon thereafter, and after some complication the property was conveyed by the trustees to his widow, Rosa P. Suit, individually and as trustees for their children, on May 14, 1891.\textsuperscript{11} On the same date she deeded it to John C. Heald for $30,000.\textsuperscript{12} Heald in turn sold Oxon Hill on February 20, 1892, to Reuben L. Coleman and others.\textsuperscript{13}

Coleman acquired certain rights and interests held by other parties in the property during the next few years,\textsuperscript{14} and on January 21, 1905, he conveyed Oxon Hill Manor ("also known as Bean's Bargain, Pleasant Hills, Barnaba Manor, Talbot's Lot") to trustees for the Rock Creek Land Company, Inc. (one of whom was the aforementioned John C. Heald).\textsuperscript{15}

Unfortunately for the cause of historic preservation, Coleman's group conveyed Oxon Hill Manor minus the manor house, which had been destroyed by fire during their ownership February 6, 1895. The \textit{Alexandria Gazette} of the following day gave an account of the fire:

\begin{quote}
When first discovered, a small spot in the roof only was burning, but it quickly spread, and in 15 or 20 minutes the whole eastern heavens were illuminated by the conflagration—the fire raging furiously, the flames leaping high, while a
\end{quote}

\textsuperscript{10} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{11} Land Record Book J.W.B. 18, p. 359, PGCC.

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid., p. 370.

\textsuperscript{13} Land Record Book J.W.B. 20, p. 412, PGCC.

\textsuperscript{14} Land Record Books J.W.B. 25, p. 606; J.W.B. 29, p. 430, PGCC.

\textsuperscript{15} Land Record Book 21, p. 359, PGCC.
huge volume of smoke settled over the adjoining hills. Numbers of people in the city went to the streets facing the river to look at the fire, which continued to rage for several hours. The origin of the fire is unknown, from the fact that ice in the river rendered it impossible to communicate with the opposite shore. Nothing now remains of the former building but the walls and the four chimneys.16

The Rock Creek Land Company trustees deeded tracts totaling approximately 775 acres (including the mansion site) to Emma P. Coleman, widow of Reuben L. Coleman, for $18,000 on January 29, 1907.17 Emma was dead by 1913, and on February 10 of that year Mary V. Parran, an heir, granted a quit-claim deed to Oxon Hill to R. Lindsay Coleman, another heir.18 A deed of June 12, 1917, from John C. Parran and others to William K. Quinter and Thomas C. Coleman, trustees, recorded that R. Lindsay Coleman had died intestate and that his relatives were assigning the Oxon Hill Manor property to trustees to dispose of and settle the estate.19 Quinter and Coleman sold portions of the property to various parties, and on July 20, 1927, they deeded four parcels of Oxon Hill Manor to Sumner and Mathilde T. Welles. The Welleses bought two parts of Lot No. 1, all of Lot No. 2, and part of Lot No. 3 of Thomas Berry's subdivision (as surveyed by Latimer), totaling 245.17 acres more or less and including the mansion site, for $110 an acre.20

The house at Oxon Hill Manor today was designed for Sumner Welles in 1928 by Jules Henri de Sibour, AIA (1872-1938). Born in Rouen, France, de Sibour was brought to the United States at an early age. He graduated from Yale and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. Other local buildings


17. Land Record Book 38, p. 447, PGCC.

18. Land Record Book 84, p. 477, PGCC.


20. Land Record Book 293, p. 122. Metes and bounds are given in the deed. According to this and earlier deeds, a plat of the Latimer survey of 1879 was filed in Equity No. 1208. The writer was unable to locate it.
of his design include the Folger Building and Playhouse on 15th Street NW (1906), 1785 Massachusetts Avenue (1910), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (1931), the Chevy Chase Country Club, Science Hall at Howard University, and Keith's Theatre in the Riggs Office Building. The Welles house, located about a third-mile south-southeast of the site of the Addison mansion, is described in the architectural portion of this report.

In 1929 Welles had his property resurveyed into three tracts totaling 244.4289 acres. J. Breckinridge Bayne and others deeded to Mathilde Welles an additional 68/100-acre July 10, 1944.

On October 15 and 28, 1952, Sumner and Harriet Post Welles (Mathilde had died in 1949) deeded to Fred Nejim Maloof 55.387 acres of Oxon Hill Manor plus the former Bayne 68/100-acre, including his house but excluding the site of the Addison house and graves, for a reported $175,000. Welles sold Maloof an additional 2.78 acres June 8, 1953. The rest of his Oxon Hill real estate went to Kenneth Frank on December 13, 1952: four parcels totaling 242.6886 acres minus the 55.387-acre tract sold to Maloof. In the deed, Frank agreed "to dedicate to a responsible organization the burial ground of the Addisdon family now upon the premises wherein John Hanson, the President of the First Continental Congress [sic], is believed to be buried."

On August 28, 1967, Maloof sold his 55.387-acre tract (including the Welles house) to the Burpac Corporation of Virginia, established by Howard L. Burris and Russell B. Pace, Jr. (Burris, a Washington business consultant with ties to the Johnson administration, was married to the socially-prominent daughter of a former Texas governor.) The sale price was reported to be $1.2 million. Maloof continued to occupy the house; he still operates it, in somewhat deteriorated condition, as the "John Hanson Memorial Museum," housing a highly eclectic collection of art and other objects.

21. Land Record Book 337, pp. 49, 102, 104, 186, PGCC.
22. Land Record Book 769, p. 317; Plat 769, State Roads Commission of Maryland, PGCC.
24. Land Record Book 1848, p. 119, PGCC.
25. Land Record Book 1567, p. 329, PGCC.
26. Land Record Book 3506, p. 193, PGCC.
27. Neary, "Welles Estate Faces Auction."
Kenneth Frank sold the land he purchased from Welles to Roberto Motta in January and March 1953. Motta deeded this land (187.3036 acres) on September 13, 1954, to Oxon Hill Estates, Inc.

Howard Burris had extensive plans for Oxon Hill Manor. He envisioned a recreational-history area to be called "Heritage Park." On January 10, 1968, he announced: "Visitors will be treated to a panoramic view of America—from early colonial times, down through the gaslight era, to modern days. Buildings and exhibits will include such structures as a colonial inn, an early American church, a covered bridge, an Indian village, and a small U.S. town." Rides would be "indoors and educational," with historical themes; the Welles mansion would be used for receptions and "perhaps as a guest house for visiting dignitaries." Preliminary designs were prepared by Nat Wineoff, a former vice president of WED (Walt Disney) Enterprises, Inc., and the builders of Disneyland were to erect the buildings. Zoning applications were filed to reclassify the land for commercial use. These plans were reported current as late as April 1970, but zoning remains rural-residential.

Recent land transactions at Oxon Hill Manor include a transfer of 149.820 acres (including the Addison house site) from trustees for Oxon Hill Estates, Inc., to the Oxon Hill Estates Straw Corporation, October 6, 1969, and a sale August 3, 1970, of Burpac's 55.387 acres.

28. Land Record Books 1569, p. 293; 1586, p. 100, PGCC.

29. Land Record Book 1773, p. 578, PGCC. Motta appears as one of the principal creditors in a deed of trust dated Aug. 23, 1967, outlining the indebtedness of the P. & B. Co., Ltd., of Virginia (presumably another Pace-Burris corporation) for $850,000 to Oxon Hill Estates, Inc. (Land Record Book 3501, p. 685, PGCC). This sum is the same as that given in a deed of trust from Burpac Corp. to Naji Maloof (a relative of Fred) et al. Aug. 29, 1967 (Land Record Book 3506, p. 197). The major creditor in the first-mentioned mortgage was William H. Ferguson, Jr.


32. Land Record Book 3775, p. 289, PGCC.
in two tracts: eight acres, including the Welles house, to International Capital Corporation, and the other 47.38 acres to Financial Realty Corporation. The Addison house site, Addison graveyard, and the site thought by some to be that of John Hanson's burial are contained within a 92-acre portion of the Oxon Hill Estates Straw Corporation property north and west of the former Burpac land. This tract has been identified as belonging to the Ferguson brothers of Hampton, Virginia, prominent in shopping center development.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historical associations of Oxon Hill Manor fall primarily into three categories: (1) the Addisons and their role in colonial Maryland, (2) John Hanson's death and possible burial on the property, and (3) Sumner Welles's years at Oxon Hill, including reported Roosevelt-Churchill connections with the estate.

1. A very brief sketch has been given of the Addison association. Physical remains of the Addison presence at Oxon Hill include the cellar hole of their mansion and the Addison graveyard, containing, among others, the tombstone of Walter Dulany Addison's wife.

2. A small, partially subterranean brick, stone, and granite structure on the embankment facing the Potomac below the Addison house site (about 200 yards southwest of the Addison graveyard) has been a subject of conjecture for years. A weekly column on Washington's environs, "With the Rambler in Odd Nooks and Crannies About the City," in the Washington Evening Star August 3, 1912, referred to this as the "Berry grave vault," noting that it had been broken up for its bricks "in the last decade or so." John Clagett Proctor, in one of his similar columns between 1928 and 1949, also referred to the "Berry family vault," remains of which could be seen in the hillside overlooking the river. However, both

33. Land Record Book 3856, pp. 402, 406, PGCC. The writer was unable to fully unravel the relationships of the various parties currently involved in the Oxon Hill real estate in the limited time available for this report.


Berry owners of the property appear to have been buried elsewhere: Zachariah at Concord, another of his plantations, and Thomas—from an undertaker's receipt found in the courthouse—at Baltimore. William N. Morell, a recently deceased Bethesda attorney and former president of the John Hanson Society of Maryland, concluded in the 1930s that the structure was Hanson's tomb and made extensive notes on the subject. In September 1971 the Rev. Alan C. Freed of Dundalk, Maryland, another Hanson enthusiast who has done much research on the subject, conducted an amateur archeological investigation of the presumed grave, but found no human bones. Others have surmised that the "mausoleum"—now virtually destroyed except for some granite floor slabs—was not a burial place at all and/or that Hanson was buried in the Addison graveyard. A recent article in Maryland's Valleys of History magazine tells of correspondence between certain citizens of Frederick (where no Hanson grave has been discovered either) and Summer Welles in 1938. In answering their inquiry about Hanson's possible burial with the Addisons, Welles said, "Unless some record can be found establishing the fact that John Hanson was actually interred in the . . . family graveyard . . . there is no way I know of to find out other than a careful examination of all the remains in the graveyard." He refused to allow such an examination. We have already noted the clause in the 1952 deed from Welles to Kenneth Frank referring to the Addison burial ground "wherein John Hanson . . . is believed to be buried."

No conclusions with respect to Hanson's burial at Oxon Hill could be attempted within the scope of this report. Further investigation would require examination of all documentary evidence concerning Hanson's death, careful consideration of possible alternative burials in the "mausoleum," including other Berry family members, and professional examination of what little physical evidence remains on (or in) the ground.

3. Summer Welles (1892-1961) served as Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador to Cuba, and Under Secretary of State in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was instrumental in promulgating the "Good Neighbor" policy toward Latin America, made a significant trip to confer

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36. Effie Gwynn Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County (Richmond, 1947), p. 60.

37. No. 1208 Equity, PGCC.

on the estate: he lay unconscious overnight in a frozen field before being discovered, but suffered no lasting ill effect.\textsuperscript{42}


\textbf{A NOTE ON SOURCES}

References used in the preparation of this report were primarily courthouse records and newspaper reports and articles. They are cited in the notes and need not be repeated. Of particular assistance were Mr. Peter Dwyer, historian for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who steered the writer to the Oxon Hill Manor clipping file at the Prince George's Memorial Library; Messrs. Arnold and Benjamin Welles, who commented on the Welles years from personal experience; and the Rev. Alan C. Freed of Dundalk, who shared his interest in John Hanson, provided other newspaper clippings related especially to his own grave-seeking activities, and suggested additional sources of information. Among the suggested sources contacted were Judge Edward S. Delaplaine of Frederick, who has written on John Hanson, and Mrs. Harriet Bayne Addison Castle, who lives across the road from Oxon Hill Manor at "Salubria." Mrs. Castle has a quantity of primary materials on the Addison family (used by her son Guy in preparing the article cited in this report) and several illustrations of the Addison house. Other persons mentioned by Rev. Freed but not contacted are Mr. James C. Wifong, Jr., of the C&P Telephone Company, Washington, who has another photograph of the Addison house; Mr. Cary Carson, an archeologist with the St. Mary's City Commission, who has viewed the presumed Hanson grave; Mrs. William N. Morell of Bethesda, who has her late husband's papers on Hanson; and Miss Jeanette Markell of Senator Mathias's office, who has also been working on the Hanson case. Another Addison descendant reported to have family data, in Europe when this report was written, is Mr. Frank Addison of the Union Trust Company, Washington.

Barry Mackintosh
January 4, 1972
Vaughan's sketch of Mount Vernon ca. 1785
"House of G W" by Jackson, V. H.
1798 Direct Fed Tax for P.G. County
Pisketaway Hundred i Hyrons Hm.

General list - Dwelling House

General list

The Rev. Addison, Walter

1 dwelling 3 out houses on 1 1/2 acres valued at $2,000

Rev. Add. 20 structure on 2 5 22 acres (under $200)

14 slaves, 7 above 12 and under 50

Particular list

One dwelling house built of brick 66' x 36' 1 2 stories high, 45 windows 250 square feet, 1 kitchen 24' x 30'
and 2 stables 21' x 30' feet each

475 - 2467
Dear Silas & Lori:

Just got your package today—Thanks.
I'd still like a copy of the 1902 (1903?) U.S. Census if you are able.

I received the 1767 "Resurvey" from the N.H. the other day—the photos are large enough & clear enough to read, although with some difficulty. I've enclosed a reduced & reduced copy for your report. It's the clearest we could make—quite good, I think, but not easily readable. It's a nice plot of the original 3663 A., however.

My plans to write up the loose ends I've gathered have not been fulfilled. I found the history of the occupancy to be a big of nubba in the 19th century, so I'm waiting to get some clarification from the deeds, tax records, etc. I'm enclosing a copy of a report I sent Carol recently; it traces the history of the property as I knew it then from my own research at your request. I know more now about various matters—i.e. we know
That Walter Delany Addisn moved into O.H. in 1793 after a "blissful" year with his new wife & his brother John & his wife at Harmony Hall (Murray, p. ?)

We know that he freed his slaves sometime after 1800 & moved to Harb Park around 1802-1804 (Murray). The whole rentel thing from 1787-1789, etc., is unclear to me. I think it's safe to say that the Addisons lived at O.H. pretty much all of the time until USDA abandoned them. I'd guess that the estate was economically mismanaged from Thomas Addisn time (he who died in 1774) onward. Boucher, Zimmer, Murray (?) indicate that there was mismanagement and USDA apparently wanted the planter type. I'd guess that there were always tenants around (Kellef) with various rentel arrangements with the Addisns.

The 1900 is more problematical regarding occupancy. I haven't potted out the Thomas Terry thing yet - did he occupy O.H. all the time, part of the time, etc? We have the tenants from the census data of the 1908 case, but the 1810 to 1870 (Bowie) situation remains unclear. I've been looking at the 1850-1880 census materials a lot lately, comparing with
The McCauley study on land/pep/law.
You can clearly see the expansion of market gardening, orchards, dairying, etc.
On the 1880 census "Bewie" was a small but typical market gardener. Of 106 market gardeners in the O.H. Dist.,
50 earned under $150/year and 47 of those
50 were under $100. He earned $100/year.
He was among the largest sweet potato
producers — his 18 A. of sweet potato
was much higher than the avg. 5.2 A
for all farms in the O.H. district. His
4 A. of tobacco was just under the
O.H. district avg. of 4.9 A. George
Lanham was also a large sweet potato
producer (18 A.) and had $2000 from market
gardening put him in the top 8 of
the 106 market gardeners in O.H. Dist.
Richard & George Streets (at $1000) were
also in the top 8. (Lanham was actually
tied with another farmer for #1).
The Streets were
also larger than avg. sweet potato producers,
at 15 A. x 10 A. (avg. 5.2 A).
A few more statistics:
Bewie's 35+15 = 50 A total was
about average for all O.H. Dist. farmers & tenants
combined. The avg. was 47 A. improved + 27 un-
improved, or 74 A total. The distribution
of acreage was really skewed — 76 of 138
total farmers (the 106 for market gardeners minus one, did not come from market garden) in 0.41 he. but had 30 A or less improved A and 72 of the 138 had less than 10 A unimproved. So, about half of the 138 farmers & tenants were holding around less than 40 total acres. The average is higher than this rough median because the bigger landholders held such large acreages. One farmer had 629 A improved and 100 unimproved - the biggest.

Richard Streets (160 A), Geo. Streets (160 A), Geo. Harmon (225) were all holding more than "Beaver".

I calculated avg. total farm value in 1880 - it was (in O.H. Rpt) $2294. Again, it was really skewed, since 75 of the 138 farmers and tenants held farms worth less than $2000. A rough median would be around $1500, a lot lower than the $2294 avg. Richard Streets (at $3500) and Geo. Harmon ($8000) were high, Geo. Streets ($5500) avg, x Beaver ($4000) low [34 of the 138 were under $1000]. I realize that the value of machinery, live stock, etc. has to be calculated in for a better measure, but I haven't got that far yet. I'll eventually be able to make comparisons between 1850
and 1880, but the 1850-1870 censuses don't separate O.H. district so... We also have McCaulay's stats on P.G.Co. as a whole.

There is an error (that I found) in my report to Caccavo. The 1878 map (Apk 3) shows T.O. Berry, not Thomas E. Berry, at the O.H. Manor as owner. What does that mean, he asks? That T.O. did the most falling while Dad was incapacitated? Probably meant that T.O. received Bowie's plot - that appears in the 1208 case.

Finally, you may have noticed that McCaulay's M.A. thesis was a study of P.G. Co. before the Civil War. It's listed as "The Limits of Change in the Tobacco South: An Economic and Social Analysis of P.G.'s Co., Maryland, 1840-1860." M.A. Thesis, U. of Md, 1978. I would really like to see the thesis if you have obtained it. If not, what must I do to gain entry to the library? I'll be in Annapolis from March 11 (evening) until March 15. I'll call one day to see what's up. I'll be at the MHR or the Law Library (both at once if I could). I'd expected to get up there last week
but my wife's had a terrible flu recently, along with many others. I've escaped so far (knock on wood). I'm eager to get at those tax records, etc.

Talked to Bruce today about the archeal work. They're going great guns now ready to do the I'll Well soon. Our weather's been great here for everyone (me included) has the fever. It's an avid college basketball & baseball fan - might get to see the Orioles in the Spring.

I hope your week's going well. If I can help, please let me know. I'd be happy to look over your draft & add my 2 cents worth. I learn more each day & I'll be doing more & more analysis. Take it easy & I'll see you soon.

Best regards

[Signature]

Mr. Walters

If I'd known I was going to write an essay I'd have typed this!

Also, excuse some of the errors - they are sometimes dozens of words... but you have the maps anyway.
The purpose of this report is to indicate what I have learned from recent research into maps, deeds, and court records, and to make some preliminary observations on owners and occupants of the Oxon Hill Manor site. In general, I have been able to identify more specifically a number of individuals associated with the Oxon Hill Manor estate over time. Identification of persons living on and near Oxon Hill has provided both immediate information on socio-economic arrangements at the site and potential information which can be developed through research into census data, deeds, wills, tax records, etc.

To date, two Eighteenth Century plats of Oxon Hill Manor have been uncovered. The 1767 "resurvey" (Patented Certificate #1590, Maryland Hall of Records (MHR), Annapolis) is a survey which demonstrates the manner in which Thomas Addison created "Oxon Hill Manor" from the various land grants awarded his father, John Addison, and himself. A copy of the plat is on order from the Hall of Records but will take several weeks to be processed. The resurvey indicates that Addison used all or parts of seven separate land grants (parts of St. Elizabeth, Discontent, Hart Park, Bew Plains, Locust Thicket, and Admiriothria, and all of Canton) and an additional 130 1/2 acres of "vacant" land to construct Oxon Hill Manor. Appendices 1-A and 1-B are maps prepared by Louise Henton which show the original land grants in the Oxon Hill area. The total acreage of Oxon Hill Manor was 3,663 at the time of the 1767 resurvey. The manor itself had been built in the St. Elizabeth grant area, and 1445 acres of the estate were taken from the St. Elizabeth grant.

In 1785 a second plat of the property was made because of a legal dispute within the Addison family (Chancery Papers 128, MHR). A copy of this plat must also await the six-week processing period of the Maryland Hall of Records. In 1785 Overton Carr, as guardian of the still minor heir to Oxon Hill, Walter Delany Addison (son of Thomas), sued the estate for mismanagement of timber on that part
of the estate in the possession of Walter Dulany Addison's mother. His mother, Rebecca Addison, had received 828 acres of the estate as a dower, to control until Walter came of age. She had received the 828 acres, which included an 89-acre section with the "house, gardens, orchard and land not arable," in 1775, following the death of her husband Thomas Addison in 1774 (Effie Gwynn Bowie, *Across the Years in Prince George's County*, p. 37). In 1778 she had remarried, making an individual named Thomas Hanson her new spouse. The case prosecuted in 1785 accused Hanson and two associates, Leonard Marbury and Nicholas Lowe, of "waste and destruction" of the timberland of Oxon Hill Manor. Unfortunately, the plat does not indicate the location of any structures.

The case does include, however, the fact that the manor house was leased to a tenant during a part of Walter Dulany Addison's years as a minor. Beginning on January 1, 1785, Thomas Hanson rented "the Oxon Hill house, garden, orchard, and all the improvements which are to the left of the road as it now runs by Cooper Jack's to the ferry commonly called Clifford's Ferry that lies within the bounds of his wife's dower," to Leonard Marbury for five years. If this lease ran its course, ending in 1790, the statement by Guy Castle, an Addison descendent, in the *Washington Evening Star* (August 3, 1912) that the property was leased to Nathaniel Washington, cousin of George Washington, from 1787 to 1792 is incorrect.

It is unclear at what date Walter Dulany Addison occupied the Oxon Hill Manor house after reaching the age of majority (he was born in 1769–Bowie, p. 40). His father's will (James Magruder, *Magruder's Maryland Colonial Abstracts: Wills, Accounts and Inventories, 1772–1777*, p. 12) called for him to build for his mother "a suitable house on any of his lands that she chooses" should he decide to live at the manor house. He probably brought his new wife, Elizabeth Dulany Hesselius, to the manor when they were married in 1892. They were living at the manor house at the time of the 1798 Federal Assessment (MHR) of the property. Elizabeth
was buried in the Oxon Hill Manor cemetery upon her death in 1808 (Bowie, p.40).

In 1810 Walter Dulany Addison sold part of the Oxon Hill Manor lands, including the manor house, to Zachariah Berry, Sr. The disposition of the remaining part of the estate, i.e. of the 3,663 acres, becomes somewhat unclear at this point. In 1798, for example, Walter Dulany Addison's property at Oxon Hill is listed as 2,522 acres, not 3,663 (1798 Federal Assessment, MHR). In 1810, when he sold the manor house to Zachariah Berry, he gave up only 1,328 acres (J.R.M. 13: 623, 627, 654, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland (PGCC)). Effie Gwynn Bowie, however, states that Berry purchased 449 acres from the Oxon Hill estate in 1810. Additional deed research will clarify the disposition of the original 3,663 acres.

Zachariah Berry did not occupy Oxon Hill Manor, choosing instead to remain at his hometown in "Concord," Prince George's County. When he died in 1845, at age 96, he granted Oxon Hill to his son, Thomas. An older son, Zachariah Berry, Jr., received "Concord" and he resided at that location after 1855. Thomas Berry probably resided at Oxon Hill Manor. He is listed on an 1861 map (Appendix 2) as the owner of Oxon Hill. By the 1870s, however, Berry had become mentally unstable. In 1874 he made an agreement to separate from his wife, Elizabeth Berry, and four years later was declared legally insane in a legal case brought forth by his two sons, T. Owen Berry and Norman Berry. He was institutionalized in 1878 and died in 1879.

The legal procedures surrounding the declaration of insanity generated an extremely useful court case covering the affairs of Berry and his sons between 1878 and 1891 (Chancery Court Records, Court Cause No. 1208 Equity, PGCC). It provides a good deal of information on the uses of the property and some indication as to Thomas Berry's social and economic status. By the 1870s, Berry's economic situation at Oxon Hill and his other properties had become precarious. Although he owned 1,200 to 1,300 acres at Oxon Hill, 426 1/4 acres in Spaldings electoral district ("Hanson's Quarter"), over 400 acres in Queen Anne's electoral district ("Ellersbie"—"the home place"), and properties in Vansville electoral
district, Berry was deeply indebted and earned "little or nothing" on his properties. When he was declared insane and sent to a Baltimore asylum called Mt. Hope Retreat, his personal property was sold for only $678. At the time he was living, apparently, at "the home place," or "Ellersbie." He was definitely not at the Oxon Hill Manor house. The trustee for the estate described the $678 sum as reflecting "little or no personal estate," noting that it would do very little toward covering Berry's outstanding debts.

Berry leased part of the Oxon Hill Manor properties to a variety of tenants, many of whom are named in the legal proceedings. He earned from $300 to $580 from Oxon Hill annually between 1882 and 1888, but had earnings from other properties as well. The trustee indicated that Berry's estate expected $1000 to $1500 in rents after they came due on January 1, 1780. The records do not reveal the tenant arrangements in a systematic manner, nor do they deal specifically with rents before 1882. The documentation is very disorganized and severely deteriorated at times.

James E. Bowie, listed as the "occupant" at Oxon Hill on an 1878 map (Appendix 3), was definitely a "tenant" of Thomas Berry. He was also listed as a "farmer" in the 1878 Hopkins Atlas, and as the individual who provided livery for the horses of William J. Latimer, an individual who conducted a survey of Oxon Hill in 1879. Other tenants listed in the court proceedings included Richard W. Streeks, David Streeks, John Lanham, George W. Lanham, Mrs. Amelia Lanham (widow of John), Henry Butler, and James A. Gregory. Possible tenants were Eliza Streeks, Benjamin E. Mosher, and an individual named Hungerford.

Preliminary research on the tenants reveals some information about their social and economic status. James A. Gregory was apparently fairly diversified in his activities. In both 1878 and 1882 he was listed in the Maryland Directory as a merchant of "general merchandise;" in the 1878 directory he was also listed as a "blacksmith" (1878, p.408; 1882, p.425). Gregory became a landowner at Oxon Hill in 1888 when he purchased a 15-acre tract, called lot 22, from the Oxon Hill estate.
Richard Streeks, another tenant, paid from $60 to $400 annually between 1882 and 1887 to rent Oxon Hill lands. By the latter year he had fallen on financially hard times. Having defaulted on the payment of $965.00 in back-rent, Streeks found himself facing foreclosure by the trustee of the estate. He was forced to sell his personal property in 1887 for a total of $510.50. Appendix 4 is a listing of his property. Streeks rented about 400 acres at Oxon Hill in 1884 and apparently specialized in the production of sweet potatoes. The documentation reveals that his old potato house had "fallen down" in that year, at which time T. Owen Berry and Norman Berry petitioned the Prince George's County Circuit Court for authorization to build a new one. Fearing the complete loss of Streeks' crop, they requested permission to spend $200 from the rents of the estate. The petition was granted by the court. Unfortunately, the documentation gives no indication as to the location of either the old or new potato house.

While additional information on the tenants at Oxon Hill must await further research, other useful data on the estate is revealed in the legal proceedings. In 1885 the court granted the estate permission to dig a new well closer to the house than the old one. The "old pump" was described as being "some distance from the house and very much out of repair." Water was apparently collected near the house in a cistern which had also decayed. It was described as "the cistern at the house and heretofore used," but "out of repair and now useless." The court also authorized a number of repairs on the house to correct leaking problems. The existence of some kind of a barn is also indicated by the records. In 1884 T. Owen Berry paid $22.84 "for raising and repairing (a) barn on Oxon Hill farm."

The court case does not indicate who was occupying Oxon Hill Manor during these years. Thomas Berry died at Mount Hope Retreat in 1879, the year after James E. Bowie was listed on the Hopkins map (Appendix 3) as the "occupant" of the manor house. Berry's son, Thomas O. Berry (T. Owen), appears on the same 1878 map as living south of the Oxon Hill site and fairly close to the Alexandria
Ferry landing. His other son, Norman Berry, may have lived at "Ellersbie," or "the home place," in Queen Anne's district, but the documentation is not clear. Neither son could have lived at Berry's 426 1/4-acre tract in Spaldings district ("Hanson's Quarter") since that property was sold in 1884.

Occupancy of the Oxon Hill Manor house site from 1878, the last certain date of tenant presence, until the fire of 1895 which burned the house, remains unclear. In 1888 the manor site was sold to Samuel Taylor Suit (JWB 18: 359, PGCC), but by that date the entire property had been surveyed, divided into lots, and partially sold. The survey had occurred in 1879, as part of the legal proceedings against Thomas Berry. Unfortunately, the resulting map of the estate has not been uncovered. Several deeds refer to its being placed with the legal case, but it is no longer with these records.

In 1880 the estate was put up for sale as a 1422-acre property, made up of 820 acres ("Oxon Hill") divided into 8 lots, and 600 acres ("Woodland") divided into 41 lots. By this time, however, the estate had already sold 42 acres, called lot 5, to Dr. John W. Bayne. Parts of the remaining 1422 acres advertised in 1880 were sold in the 1880s. In 1886 William P. Jackson purchased 97 1/2 acres (lot number not indicated); in 1887 John Warren Cox purchased 11 16/100 acres (lot 17) and 15 acres (lot 10), and Charles W. Cox purchased 9 55/100 acres (lot 16) and 17 1/10 acres (lot 38); in 1788 William S. Talbert bought 19 acres (lot 19) and 15 acres (lot 20), and James A. Gregory purchased 15 acres (lot 22). These purchases totaled 199 31/100 acres, or approximately 200 acres. Subtracted from the 1422 acres of the 1880 sale advertisement, this leaves approximately 1222 acres. The 1222-acre estate was almost certainly the property advertised for sale in 1891, since it contained 1225 acres. The 1891 ad read:

By virtue of the power vested in (torn) trustees in an Equity cause in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in Equity known as No. 1208 Equity, we will sell at public sale at the mansion house on Oxen Hill farm on the road leading from Fort Foote to Washington on (blank) day of March 1891 at the hour of One o'clock P.M. if fair if not the next fair day all that valuable Real Estate known as Oxen Hill and Oxen Hill Manor in Prince George's County decreed to be sold and not heretofore disposed of
lying between the Fort Foote road and the Potomac River where it strikes the District line together with that part of the Woodland still unsold and called Oxen Hill Manor. Oxen Hill upon which the mansion house is situated contains about 725 acres. This is one of the most fertile, eligibly located and valuable tracts of land in Prince George's County.

The improvements consist of an elegant brick mansion covered with slate and panelled with cherry, with commodious barns and stables and six tenant houses, also a wharf constructed of limestone (torn) at the public ferry landing opposite Alexandria which is part of the property. This land is well adapted to market gardening fruit culture and stock raising.

The Woodland consists of about 500 acres divided into lots averaging from 20 to 30 acres lying on the roads to the Navy Yard bridge and to Silver Hill covered with white oak chestnut and pine wood.

The 1891 sale was actually a re-sale of the property, since it had already been purchased in 1888 by Samuel P. Suit. Suit died shortly thereafter, leaving the estate and the unpaid balance to his wife, Rosa P. Suit. Unable to comply with the purchase agreement, Suit had to yield the property for resale on February 3, 1891.

A very useful map for the year 1894 (Hopkins—Appendix 5) indicates that Charles Havener and L. Coleman owned "Oxon Hill Manor" in that year. The estate contained 1548 acres according to the map. Deed records show that Reuben L. Coleman and others had purchased the estate from John C. Heald in 1892 (JWB 20: 412, PGCC), and that Heald had himself received the land from Rosa P. Suit in 1891 (JWB 18: 370, PGCC). The 1894 map also indicates that four structures were present in that year. Referring to the map (Appendix 5), the manor house appears to be the structure located at the end of a driveway which led east from Oxon Hill Road, jogging south then east before reaching the manor. The structure to the southeast appears to be close to the cemetery. Dr. John H. Bayne (perhaps the same person as Dr. John W. Bayne, the buyer of 42 acres, lot 5, in 1879) lived nearby, to the southeast and across Oxon Hill Road. Dr. Bayne may have been a relative of
the Addison family through marriage to a Harriet Addison in 1841 (Bowie, p.42; I have been unable to identify Harriet Addison's kin. A cursory examination of genealogical records strongly suggests that the Addison, Berry, and Bowie families were interrelated). Two of Dr. Bayne's ancestors, John Bayne and Elsworth Bayne, leased part of Oxon Hill Manor in 1798 from Walter Dulaney Addison and his wife, Elizabeth (Bowie, p.42).

The cartographic data and the court cases from the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries have proven helpful in outlining some of the history of the Oxon Hill property. The 1861, 1878, and 1894 maps (Appendices 2, 3, 5) reveal the names of many landowners in the Oxon Hill Manor area, and the insanity case against Thomas Berry offers additional information on the Berrys, their tenants, and some landowners. Information on the manor house site itself is revealed in several plats and maps, although the absence of the 1879 Latimer survey is unfortunate. Some sense of the division of lots and information about their purchasers may appear from future deed research. For the moment the plats and maps from 1767, 1785, 1763 (Appendix 6), 1861, 1878, and 1894 must serve for the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

For the Twentieth Century, several maps included in Appendices 7 through 14 can be consulted. (A 1902 U.S.C.&G.S. map will be obtained shortly from the Maryland Geological Survey). A 1933 U.S.C.&G.S. map (Appendix 7) shows three structures and the road system in the manor area; another 1933 map, by the Maryland State Roads Commission (Appendix 8) shows a slightly different configuration of structures and roads. Maryland State Roads Commission maps from 1937 (Appendices 9, 10) both show two "farm units" near the site. A 1947 U.S.G.S. topographic map (Appendix 11) shows a single structure to the north of the original manor house site. A 1956 U.S.G.S. map (Appendix 12) shows the same configuration. The 1958 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission map (Appendix 13) and the 1971 U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration map (Appendix 14)
show no structures in the area. They have been included to assist with geographical orientation to the I-95 Beltway.

Although it is not yet possible to make definitive statements about land-use patterns and the socio-economic status of Oxon Hill Manor occupants, some preliminary observations regarding tenancy might be made. In the Eighteenth Century, Oxon Hill Manor appears to have been occupied by its owners until Rebecca Addison, wife of Thomas Addison, remarried in 1778. Thomas had died in 1774 and his widow married Thomas Hanson in 1778. Hanson leased the manor house and immediate area in 1785, to Leonard Marbury, although the property may have been leased in 1778 when Rebecca Addison married Hanson. Walter Dulany Addison, the heir to the Oxon Hill Manor estate, turned 21 in 1790 and married in 1792. He and his new wife probably resided at the manor house after 1792, since the 1798 Federal Assessment indicates their presence at the house in that year.

Research indicates that the Addisons leased some parts of the estate in the Eighteenth Century, apart from the manor house itself. In 1798, for example, John Bayne and Elsworth Bayne leased "a part of Oxon Hill Manor," being the part "on which said Bayne now lives," for 500 pounds currency. The term of the lease was the natural life of the leasee who lived longest. The Baynes were "to keep the houses, buildings, fences and improvements in good order and leave them at termination of the lease in order and repair." The lease also stated that Walter Dulany Addison's wife, Elizabeth, "gave up her dower right to (reside) within premises for the term mentioned." This latter statement may indicate some relationship between the 828-acre dower (surveyed in 1785) of Walter Dulany Addison's mother, Rebecca, and that of his wife. Additional research may clarify this information.

Alan Kulikoff, in a detailed demographic study of Eighteenth Century Prince George's County (Tobacco and Slaves: Population, Economics and Society in Eighteenth Century Prince George's County, Maryland, Ph.D. Dissertation, Brandeis U., 1976), notes that the Addisons, Rozers, and other large landowners and merchants acquired
thousands of acres of land in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries and rented it to tenants (p. 122). Tenancy, he indicates, was extremely common in Eighteenth Century Prince Georges County, and as landownership became increasingly concentrated as the century progressed, tenancy became even more prevalent. The creation of "Oxon Hill Manor" in 1767 may reflect this trend. By 1776, Kulikoff points out, 60 percent of all householders in Prince George's County were tenants. Tenancy, however, did not necessarily imply poverty, even if most tenants were poor. Certainly individuals renting the Oxon Hill manor house would not have been poor. Many tenants held significant numbers of slaves, more important to the acquisition of wealth in Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century Maryland than ownership of land per se. Kulikoff indicates that in 1776 about 17 percent of all householders in Prince George's County were tenants who owned slaves (p. 125-127).

Kulikoff also points out that 43 percent of all householders were tenants without slaves. Comparative data from late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century St. Marys County, south of Prince George's County, indicates that some tenants may have been able to rent slaves—an absolutely essential ability for any tenant expecting to increase his wealth. In St. Mary's County, however, tenants who grew tobacco, as opposed to wheat, were almost never able to afford the cost of either renting or buying slaves (Bayly Marks, Economics and Society in a Staple Plantation System: St. Mary's County Maryland, 1790-1840, Ph.D. Dissertation, U. of Maryland, 1979, pp. 259, 359-444). Comparisons with St. Mary's County may be very accurate, since tobacco was the case crop of large areas of both St. Mary's and Prince George's County. Marks notes that in 1790 about 57 percent of all householders in St. Mary's were tenants, a figure similar to the 60 percent for 1776 in Prince George's. By 1840 the proportion of tenants among all householders in St. Mary's had increased to 66 percent. As in Eighteenth Century Prince George's County, most of the tenants were poor. Marks points out that, generally, only those tenants in wheat-growing areas were able to become well-off owners of land or renters of slaves (pp. 257, 359-444). Whether or not a similar pattern developed in early Nineteenth Century Prince George's County is not yet known.
Some kind of tenant arrangement appears to have been quite common at Oxon Hill in the Nineteenth Century, both for the manor house itself and for the lands of the estate. Clearly, Oxon Hill Manor's great house was leased by Zachariah Berry from 1810 to 1845 and by his son, Thomas, after 1878. It is possible that Thomas did not live at Oxon Hill, but unlikely. Thomas' brother, Zachariah Berry Jr., resided at his father's residence at "Concord," and his nephew, Zachariah Berry Jr.'s son, Thomas, lived at Concord as well (Bowie, pp.60-61). The fact that "Ellersbie," in Spaldings District, is referred to as "the home place" in the legal proceedings of 1878-1891, and the fact that Thomas Berry was living somewhere other than Oxon Hill when his personal property was inventoried in 1878 serve to confuse matters.

Berry did rent parts of the Oxon Hill estate to tenants. Richard Streeks, specializing in sweet potato production, rented approximately 400 acres in 1884. Additional research will clarify tenant practices, perhaps pointing toward market-gardening to take advantage of nearby large urban markets in Alexandria, Washington, and Baltimore. Advertisements for the sale of the property in 1880 and 1891 referred to the proximity of these markets, as did the Maryland Directory of 1882 (p.414). Although both the 1878 and 1882 directories indicated that "tobacco, corn and wheat" were the principal products of Prince George's County, the 1882 issues also noted that the soil was "peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of all kinds of marketing, fruits, grapes, and dairy purposes." The 1878 directory indicated a decline in land values "owing to the abolition of slavery," but noted that the land could be purchased "at from $15 to $50 per acre, from half an hour to two hours" from Alexandria, Washington, and Baltimore (p.400).

In-depth commentary on the socio-economic characteristics of Oxon Hill and its surrounding territory must await additional research. A brief summary, however, may be useful. It appears that for most of the Eighteenth Century the manor house was occupied by its owners. In 1785, or perhaps as early as 1778, the manor site was leased. It was probably reoccupied in 1792 when its owner, Walter Dulany Addison, married. In 1810 the Addison family sold
the core of the estate, the Oxon Hill Manor house, to Zachariah Berry, who then rented both the manor site and, probably, many of the other lands. The manor house site may have been occupied from 1845 to 1878 by his son, Thomas, but it was not managed in a profitable manner. When Thomas' personal property was inventoried in 1878 he was living modestly, deeply in debt—and not at Oxon Hill.

Berry's insanity and economic difficulties appear to have been the reason for the subdivision of the estate by his heirs, since money was needed to pay debts. Parts of the estate, in the form of numbered lots, were sold between 1879 and 1887, and the remainder of the estate, including the manor house, was sold in 1888. During the 1880s, and perhaps earlier, a variety of tenants rented parts of the estate. Although some deed research has been done on the sales of the property after 1888, we know little about the owners, their reasons for purchasing the estate, or their use of the property. Having burned in 1895, the manor house itself no longer provided any attraction to potential buyers. Maps from 1894 to 1937 show structures, roads, or "farm units" in the area, but only additional research will clarify the history of the property during these years.
Site and Environs from Hopkins' 1875 Atlas of Prince George's County
APPENDIX 4

Feb. 4, 1887 — Articles sold at sale of Richard Streaks, by Joseph K. Roberts, mortgagee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Purchaser</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 wheel cultivator</td>
<td>H.A. Hungerford</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2-horse red wagon</td>
<td>Dennis F. Brown</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2-horse spring wagon</td>
<td>J. McConkey</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 horse cart</td>
<td>C.W. Cox</td>
<td>19.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 6/10 bus. corn @3.50</td>
<td>F.X. Martin</td>
<td>33.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 corn sheller</td>
<td>S.B. Cox</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cutting box</td>
<td>James Lavigne</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2-horse plow</td>
<td>J.W. Green</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2-horse plow</td>
<td>E.A. Brooke</td>
<td>.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 harrow</td>
<td>A.D. Brooke</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 cultivators</td>
<td>H.A. Hungerford</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3-horse plow</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1-horse plow</td>
<td>F.S. Martin</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>J.A. McConkey</td>
<td>.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>F.S. Martin</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 double shovel</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cultivator and Hill Side Plow</td>
<td>Silas Talbott</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Hames</td>
<td>Mr. Kerby</td>
<td>.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair Lead trees</td>
<td>G.A. Brooke</td>
<td>.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 stay carriage</td>
<td>D.F. Brown</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sorrel horse</td>
<td>E.F. Dyer</td>
<td>44.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gray horse</td>
<td>Mr. McCathran</td>
<td>78.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 brown horse</td>
<td>W.F. Kerby</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sorrel mare</td>
<td>William Spenceer</td>
<td>52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>370.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount paid by Mrs. Streaks April 28 for articles taken by her on day of sale 140.00

510.50
1727 Great house

1765 (232:16:2) Great house  kitchen  Milk house  Smokehouse

1775 Great house  kitchen  Overseas house

1798 brick house  kitchen  stable  stable

John A. inherits 1727, comes to age 1734

T. Addison inherits 1765

1767
17 27

The best Green Room (sleeping + living)
in the Red Room (sleeping + living)
in the Yellow Room (sleeping & living) [heated]
in the Little Green Room (sleeping & living) [heated]
in the Parlour (tea, living, playing) [heated]
in the Back Room (dining + living) + punch bowl

in Col. Addison's Closet (storage, surveying instruments, books)
in the Little Parlour (living) [heated]
in the Closet out of the little Parlour (dining equipment + cooking equipment)
In Mad m Addison Room (sleeping, tea → tea & sugar box listed, coffee listed, tea pot plate, knives money scales heated)

In the Passage (living)

In the Cellar Kitchen (cooking, stileards heated)

In the Gar rat (storage, fabrics "a parcel of lumber in the little shed room off the kitchen")

A parcel of lumber in a room over the kitchen in the other room room over the kitchen
Two the furniture of a Negroes Room in the shade

the other little room in the shade

A list of goods implying a kitchen forge dogs [heated]

In Madam Addison's stone material (fabric), 5 pieces

In the other stone fabric, clothing, griddle stone, hand mill

cattle at the Great house

At carry's quarter (chariot & border tools)
At sam's quarter
At the Mill
At Berkeley's Quarter
At Lawrence's Quarter
At Swens Creek Quarter
At Batchelor's Quarter
Great Parlour (Tea table - portel of china ware, [heated] fire stoned in living dining

Closet of yellow Room fabric - sugar, icicle sticks

Closet of Back Room storage

Kitchen (cooking)

Cellar (storage) food & tools

Chamber (sleeping, linen storage) [heated]

Closet in the Great Parlour storage
Back Room: books, globes, desk, living

heated

Passage: living

Gr. Room: dinnerware, bed, sleeping, dining, living

heated

Art. Room: back game tables, chairs, playing

Red Room: sleeping, living

Yellow Room: sleeping, living

White Room: storage of fabric
Milk house

Meat house

Zach's Quarter

Listing of kitchen goods, food & cookware in the spinning room


Inventory March 14, 1775

\[ 1. \text{ In the Great Parlour} \quad \text{Quarters - slaves' animals} \]
living
pancel of physics in closet
tea table
\[ 2. \text{ In the Passage} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
\[ 3. \text{ In the Back Room} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
books / desk / globes / tables
bed
\[ 4. \text{ In the Back Room Closet} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
surveying equip.
books / guns / swords
\[ 5. \text{ In the little Parlour} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
living
\[ 6. \text{ In the little Parlour Closet} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
wine glasses / chine / plate \(£11\)
tea board
\[ 7. \text{ In the Chamber below stairs} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
desk / bookcase / a cold still
bed + cradle
* auditors equip.
\[ 8. \text{ In the Porch Closet} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
linen closet / storage / dining equip
tea / kitchen
\[ 9. \text{ In the Green Room} \quad \text{Mr. Hoo} \]
bed / couch / easy chair / dressing table
Inventory March 14 1775

√ 10. In the Passage, upstairs
   table | couch | trunks
   quilting table | backgammon table

√ 11. In the Red Room
   2 beds | cradle

√ 12. In the White Room
   bed | old desk
   old tea-table

√ 13. In the Yellow Room
   5 beds | 1 small

14. √ In the Yellow Room Closet
   quills | ink
   food | wine

1. In the Overseer's House
   living | Milk pans etc.

√ 15. In the Kitchen
   cooking
   utensils | plates | dishes

√ 16. In the Cellar
   storage
   earthenware | pewter | plates | dishes

√ 17. In the Back Porch
   storage
   fireplace | equip | curtain rods | scales | weights
Probate Inventory Notes

1727, 1728

Green Room
Red

297 Little Green Room
Barlow

298 Little Barlow

299 In the Passage

300 " Castle

301 " " other Story

302 Cattle at the Great House

303 " Carry Quarter (11 people?)

304 " " Store (1 person)

305 " Barnsale Quarter (7 people)

306 At the store of the landing

307 At Lawrence's Quarter (5 people)

308 " Swan Creek Quarter (8 people)

309 " Bassetlow's Quarter (5 people)

310 " " the Great House (26 people)

311 - END

1727, 1728 at the Neck

7 Quarter
1 Mill
1 Stone
1/1765
Additions

44 Servants

12. lower quarter

7. middle

2 quarter

John Addisons

State

Green Parlour

Closet, Yellow Room

Closet Back Room

Kilting

Cellar

Chamber

Closet in Great Parlour

Back Room

Passage

Green Room

White Room

Yellow Room

Red Room

Milk House

Meat House

Jacks Quarter

Spinning Room

Value 2362:18:0
1775 Slaves at Open Hill - 60 slaves
188-193 at Mr. Lewis - 21 slaves
Ex Clarkenson's Quarter - 31
Backroom Closet
Little Parlour closet
Chamber below stairs
Porch closets
Green Room
Passage upstairs
Red Room
White Room
Yellow Room
Overseers House - 1
In the Kitchen
Back Porch
In the Cellar
Planthion Hensils
Additional Articles
200 18 Slaves for Thomas Addison, a minor
Value 52 75: 8: 10

1765 Tobacco belonging to the estate of John Addison
Tobacco made at the Quarters 11118
" by the Tenants 59.85
" at Open Hill 8.55
Total 25660 Tons
Addison's

64 Vol. LVIII 388, 390, 380
65 Vol. LX 370 X
66 Vol. LXI 306, 344 X
67 Vol. LXII X 154, 154, 156, 157
68 Vol. LXIII 34, 404, 406
69 Vol. LXIV 359
73 Vol. LXVIII 268, 196, 196
76 Vol. LXV 25, 229, 26
74 Vol. LXIX 305, 63, 64
76 Vol. LXXI 131

160 days
48
112
PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following is a chain of title to the land at Oxon Hill owned by Sumner Welles and since divided among several parties.

1685 Lands in vicinity of Oxon Creek granted by Lord Baltimore to John Addison, merchant adventurer and uncle of essayist Joseph Addison.


1727 Land inherited by Thomas's son John Addison (1713-1764).

1764 Land inherited by John's son Thomas Addison (c. 1740-1774); survey containing 3,663 acres patented in 1767 as "Oxon Hill Manor."

1774 Oxon Hill Manor inherited by Thomas's son Walter Dulany Addison (1769-1848). Thomas Hawkins Hanson, who married Thomas Addison's widow, served as regent during the boy's minority. (This and above from Guy Castle, "New School at Oxon Hill Recalls Glories of Old Prince George's," The Enquirer-Gazette, Upper Marlboro, Md., Oct. 18, 1957.)
1810 Walter D. Addison sold over 1,328 acres (including house) to Zachariah Berry [Land Record Books J.R.M. 13, pp. 623, 627, 654; J.R.M. 16, p. 435, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Md. (hereinafter cited as PGCC)].

1845 Zachariah Berry died; Oxon Hill Manor inherited by son Thomas (Book P.C. 1, pp. 284-89, PGCC).

1878 Thomas Berry found mentally incompetent by court; property placed in hands of trustees to be sold for payment of debts (Chancery Cause No. 1208 Equity, PGCC).

1891 Unsold remainder of Oxon Hill Manor (including house) conveyed to Rosa P. Suit, who sold it to John C. Heald (Land Record Book J.W. B. 18, pp. 359, 370, PGCC).


1905 Coleman sold Oxon Hill Manor to trustees for Rock Creek Land Company, Inc. (Land Record Book 21, p. 359, PGCC).

1907 Rock Creek Land Company trustees sold 775 acres of Oxon Hill Manor (including house site) to Emma P. Coleman (widow of Reuben L. Coleman) (Land Record Book 38, p. 447, PGCC).
1913 Mary V. Parran, heir of the late Emma P. Coleman, granted quit-claim deed to Oxon Hill to R. Lindsay Coleman, another heir (Land Record Book 84, p. 477, PGCC).

1917 John C. Parran et al., relatives of R. Lindsay Coleman (who had died intestate) assigned Oxon Hill Manor to trustees William K. Quinter and Thomas C. Coleman to dispose of and settle estate (Land Record Book 128, p. 1, PGCC).

1927 Quinter and Coleman sold four parcels of Oxon Hill Manor totaling approximately 245.17 acres to Sumner and Mathilde T. Welles (Land Record Book 293, p. 122, PGCC). Property resurveyed with total of 244.4289 acres in 1929.

1952 Welles sold 55.387 acres (including his house but excluding site of Addison house) to Fred N. Maloof; another 2.78-acre tract was sold to Maloof the following year. Welles sold rest of Oxon Hill Manor (approximately 187.3 acres, including Addison house site) to Kenneth (sic) Frank. (Land Record Books 1554, pp. 360, 365; 1848, p. 119; 1567, p. 329 PGCC.)


1967 Fred Maloof sold his portion of Oxon Hill Manor (including Welles house) to the Burpac Corporation (Land Record Book 3506, p. 193, PGCC).
Only two of the three 3 1/2' x 5' granite slabs that formed the floor of the "John Hanson Mausoleum" remain in situ. Weather and recent vandalizing have destroyed evidence of the building's original design and use.

NPS-HABS Photo by Jack E. Boucher
Zachariah 5-3 5-6 6-0 7-5 6
Jr. 6-1 6-1 6-2
Jr. 6-1 6-6

Thomas E. 1-6 6-2 4-5 5-9 5

Thomas 5-7 5-8 6-0 6-1 6-5 5-9 5

Thomas (2) 6-1

Thomas (of OH) 6-0 6-1

Thomas (of Z, Jr.) 6-2

p. 16 at Concord lived Thomas E. Berry and his lovely wife Ella Beil

5-6 Elizabeth C. Addison to Zachariah Berry Jan 16 1854
88 6.18 45
43

James Brown 4/28
627 635 638 640 668 669
671 693 694 701 713 719 721 727
740 743 757 797

133
The Mon Hill Manor site represents a very complex historical site. Cartographic Research

Hopkins 1894: 2 structures
Charles Havender L. Coleman 1808 a.

Morten's 1861: indicates 16th Cem
Thomas E Berry listed

1737

1748

1798: Plat of lower division

1861

1863 Topo survey
1878/9 Sarpy map
1894

1903 Topo survey
Prince George's Enquirer - 2/8/1895

Oxon Hill Fire

Another one of Maryland's historic mansions has been destroyed. The
spacious dwelling house on Oxon Hill, overlooking the Potomac River, in Prince
George's County, opposite Alexandria, caught fire Tuesday night and was left
a wreck by the flames by daybreak Wednesday morning.

The mansion has long been the landmark of the neighborhood of Wash-
ington. It was built about 1750 by Rev. Dr. Addison, an Oxford man, and
with the mansions at Mt. Vernon, Belvoir and the Carlyle House, on the Vir-
ginia side of the Potomac River, made up the noted mansions of the neighbor-
hood in colonial days. The Oxon Hill estate gave its name to Oxon River,
one of the streams of Prince George's County. The mansion passed from the
Addison family into the hands of the late Thomas Berry, and had lately been
sold.
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Hall of Records Commission  
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Annapolis, MD 21404  

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Initials  

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Date  

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HR INVOICE #:  

DATE MAILED OR DELIVERED:  

Order placed by: A. D. Hurry  

NAME:  
Div. of Archaeology, Md. Geo.  
(please print)  

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The Rotunda Suite 440, 711 W. 40th  
Baltimore, Md. 21211  

City  
State  
Zip Code  

CUSTOMER'S  
SIGNATURE:  

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City  
State  
Zip Code  

Title of Record  

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RUSH

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SUBTOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD (from other pages)  

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600  

SERVICE CHARGE(S)  

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Library of Congress

Photo collection

Mrs. Brook-Kirby

close to 80

lives on Indian Head highway

son

Henry Brook-Kirby
Margaret Cook
P.G. County
1895
years w/ assessment

\[
\begin{align*}
1840 & \quad 1850 & \quad 1861 \\
41 & \quad 62 & \\
44 & \quad 64 & \\
45 & \quad 65 & \\
47 & \quad 66 & \\
1871 & \quad 1876 & \\
1897 & \quad Hyattsville & \\
\end{align*}
\]

Miscellaneous Orphans Court Records

History

Unmarked
1835 reappraisal 6th election district

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<th>Proprietors</th>
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<th>Owner Value</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>30 90</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>2504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berry Thomas</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4250</td>
<td>53 53</td>
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<td>Bayne Johnell</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1100</td>
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1836 Real property in the Sixth Election District, Prince George's County

Bayne Elsworth, Pawt Oxen Hill Manor 8 acres, 200 feet, 2144
Bayne Johnell, Mount Salubria, 65 acres, 280 feet, 1450
Berry Thomas, Part of Oxen Hill Manor, 784 parts, 43 acres, 413 parts, Spring Valley, 91

Total balance: 1318 acres, 784 parts, 443 acres, 66 parts, 26,815

1837 - same as 1836

1838 "
1839 "
1840 "
1841 "

1842
Berry, Thomas, Spring Valley, 90 acres, 441 feet, 74
P. Salvin Hill, 41 acres, 54 feet
Oxen Hill, 860 acres, 404 feet
Additions to Oxen Hill, 41 acres, 12 feet

Bayne Elsworth, Pawt Oxen Hill Manor, 22 acres, 10 feet
Bayne Johnell, Part Head Parker's Oxen Hill Manor, 250 acres, 154 feet

K. J. James, Pawt Oxen Hill Manor, 23 acres, 10 feet
Zachariah Berry or Thomas Berry

1850  County Assessment  6th election district
   Berry, Thomas  Spring Valley 90 1/2 a @ 7¢
   Part Silver Hills 41 a @ 5¢
   Part Oxen Hill 265 a @ 40¢
   Part de 443 a @ 12¢

Bayne, Elsworth heirs of  1st Oxen Hill Manor 220 a @ 10¢
   Bayne, William B.
   Bayne John  1st harotagy e pt Oxen Hill 250 a @ 15¢
   Edelman, Christiana 1st Oxen Hill Manor 30 a @ 10¢
   Kirby Bernard 1st Oxen Hill Manor 200 a @ 10¢
   Smart John  Part Oxen Hill 45 a @ 6¢
   Vestry St. Johnsville Broadcast pt Oxen Hill 20 a @ 7¢

1861  6th District
   Berry, Thomas E.  Thomas May 600 e @ 10¢
   Oxen Hill 865 a @ 40¢
   Name unknown 443 a @ 12¢
   W. Pleasant Hill 211 a @ 10¢
   Bayne John 1st Oxen Hill Manor 570 e @ 20¢

1862  6th District
   Berry, Thomas E.  Same as 1861
   Bayne John  Same as 1861

1864  6th District
   Berry, Thomas E.  Same as 1861
   Bayne John  Same as 1861

1865  Same as 1861
1866  Same as 1861  1867 Same as 1861

Owned railroad stock also
This was Patuxent River

West Ferry (aka Frazier's Ferry, Thomas Ferry, Addison's Ferry, Boring Ferry, Fox Ferry, Lower Ferry) King Street. A tax to Frazier's Put (south side of Oxon Creek, Md) est 1740 Tilp P.193 - 1978

The Strange Story of John Hanson, First Pres. of the U.S.
Herbert J. Stockel

Rev. Jonathan Boucher
Reminiscences
Abandoned House on Berry Farm
1910
Fox Ferry Md
Rear Lr 0748
Log Cabin
Ox Hill
1912
Rambler 0168
Rd. to Fox Ferry
Routeler 02 09 - 1
undated
Records have now (Copied)

Agricultural Census
1850 partial of 2 districts - borrowed complete set from L. McWaters
1860 partial
1870 illegible
1880 - complete set

Slave Schedule
1850 borrowed complete set from L. McWaters
1860 partial

Census
1870 partial
1880 partial

Manufacture Schedule
1880 borrowed partial set from L. McWaters

Chancery Cause 1208 - some info

Records have notes on
State Chancery Court Record Oxon Hill Manor 128
W.D.A. vs. Hanson et. al 1785

Will of J. Berry 1836
" 1858

Tax Assessments P.G. Co. 1808
1828

Chancery Cause 1208 (County Chancery Record)

Will Thomas Berry deceased 2-13-1853 with Thomas C. Berry executors
AJ1/189 - did not look up this reference
Records with notes on (cont.)

Census Index 1850

1840

1830 (does not include P.G. Co.)

Books: The Berrys of Md

Plat of Open Hill dated 1910 (is about 120 acres)

" " " " found location but is in Upper Marlbor

Records Ordered from Hall of Records

1785 plat of Open Hill

Deed JW B 18/359-370 Berry to Suit with lot boundaries

Maps

1894 Hopkins - showing structure lot type

1903 NGS - " " " " " "

1878 Hopkins - advertisements

1933 U.S. Geol. Surv. - showing structures, farm lines and fields(?)

1861 Martinet - showing structure loci

1856 U.S.G.S. - " " " " top, and roads

1861 Martinet - showing structure loci + (1860 " " " " " " but not Open

Hill - we don't have but J. McWatters does.)
June 13, 1780

We the grand jury for the Orphans Court do present Thomas Hanson for cutting and selling the staves, the leading and barrel staves on the land belonging to the orphans of the late Thomas Addison, deceased, on the information of John Lowe Jr.

George Fr. Hawkyn

Same charge against Col. John Addison

Smith Moodeleton, cutting and selling of rail timber

Folio 57

Damages due to estate by T H Hanson 52 5 10 5
Folio 41
Subpnea to Hanson, Addisun
Middleton to appear
w/ G. F. Hawks to John Lowe
to prove the fact

Folio 49 1780
TH Hanson presented for cutting
selling timber from Addison
land.

Folio 53 1780
Smith Middleton presented for
selling, wasting and destroying
or plea property of T Addison

Folio 53 1780
Warrant to Jury of Essex to determine damages.

56 - Valuations of other properties

57 - Fine T Hawlins Hanson 105 f
59 - Smith Middleton bond 50 f

59 61 Trial of Smith Middleton
C1 fined 75 f
61. Middleton et al. 150£ for timber theft.

1783. Over ten Carr apprenticed Guardian for W D Addison (age 14)
1 posts 5,000£ bond.

Over 10 Carr, T, H, Hanson, and William Good bound to W D Addison (fernald oak)

86. John Addison relinquishes claim the trust deposited to him by T Addison

91. July 2, 1784.

Being as there is no person willing to accept the guardianship of John Addison, Thomas Graffton Addison, Mary Graffton Addison, and Henry Addison, children of Thomas Addison deceased,

ordered that Henry Roslee, Thomas Glagetle, and Thomas Macquodon to reappraise and proved.
the said personal estate, so that T. H. Nason who intrmarred wi the relict and executrix of the late T. Addison deceased.

Stop at 9 1/2

may, hold in seculcity what he is entitled to thereof and the residue delivered to the persons who may have management of the said Orphans Estate, respectively according to their several dividends or rights to said Estate under the will of the said Addison and to make return to the next Orphans Court dated Fri. July 2 1784.

next
10 August 1784
21 Aug 1784
Margaret Cook

Lusby, Md.
301-326
4544

D and W Art

224-
1270

PG County Survey

Susan Pearl

262

home 3367
Chancery Records (Index to Manor Houses)
(60 or 61)1) Dyne Hill - 128
Oxon Hill Manor Plat

--- Dowcery

Dotted line shows what is rented

Whole dower 328 acres
Arable land 353 3/4 "
Woodland exclusive of swamp 20 5 3/4 "
Swamp 17 1/4 "
Cleared hill, including house, garden, orchard and land not taxable 89 acres

Total 638 acres

Oxon Hill Manor 3643
Dower
In possession of the He (or?) 2835
The status of the Addisons within this context should be viewed as members of the slave-holding oligarchy described above. In 1727, Thomas Addison owned 79 slaves while population statistics for Prince Georges County suggest 1,202 slaves in the county in 1712 (total population of Prince Georges County in 1712 was 4,580). In 1775 Thomas Addison (above Addison's grandson) owned 109 slaves while the total population of the county was 17,550 (figures on slave population in 1775 are not available). (Preceding extracted from Wesler et al. 1981 and Kulikoff 1976.)

From these figures it is obvious that the Addisons were quite prominent within the Prince Georges County slave-holding oligarchy. Additional insights into their social rank and position can be implied from the various political offices the Addisons occupied. Thomas Addison (1679-1727) was a Colonel of the militia and a member of the Privy Council (the upper house of the colonial Maryland assembly). His son, John Addison (1713-1764), also served as a Colonel of the militia and a Burgess representing Prince Georges County in the Maryland Assembly. Later Addisons do not appear to be as politically active as the earlier generations, focusing instead on economic or social pursuits.

The Addison family was not only politically influential, their social status was well established. Thomas Addison, son of John Addison, was married to the daughter of Walter Dulany, son of Daniel Dulany the Elder, one-time Attorney General of Maryland and Lord Baltimore's chief colonial agent. The previous Addisons had also married daughters of the colonial elite. The general practice was to marry within one's social class, thereby consolidating wealth and land.

The Addisons, as members of the highest stratum of the Prince Georges County slave-holding elite, were conspicuous consumers. Thomas Addison's "style on the road was a coach with four handsome English coach horses and liveried outriders" (McGrath 1950:338). The Addison home, Oxon Hill Manor, was described in the 18th century as "the most pleasantly situated and circumstanced, and in all respects the most desirable of any I have ever seen in any part of the world" (Bouchier 1925:51). The probate inventories of the various Addisons also point to a very opulent life at Oxon Hill. Backgammon tables, silver-handled swords, special tea furniture and tea china, numerous paintings and books, and a "chariot and harness for 6 horses" all appear in the record. These were all status, consumption items rarely found in 18th-century inventories. In a very real way, they illustrate the wealth and status of the Addison family.

In sum, the Addisons of Oxon Hill represent the highest stratum of the colonial elite in Prince Georges County, Maryland. From political offices held, to social connections with other elite families, to conspicuous consumption of wealth, the Addisons are, if not unique, then, extremely rare in the status represented.
18th-century history of Oxon Hill Manor is inextricably tied to that of the Addison family. A brief biographical sketch of each of the Addisons who owned Oxon Hill Manor is provided in Appendix I.

Cartographic Research

The manor house first appears in the cartographic record on the 1737 map of the Potomac River by Robert Brooke (Foster 1938) (Figure 5). Whereas most of the houses are indicated by a small dot, the Addison house is marked with a relatively large triangle, perhaps suggesting a grander structure than its neighbors. In 1748 George Washington's plat of subdivision for Alexandria (which he renamed Bellhaven) includes a small sketch of "Mrs. Addison's" house on the opposite shore (Figure 6). Martenet's 1861 map of Maryland indicates the location of the structure and lists "T. Berry" as the owner. Hopkins' 1878 atlas shows the house as owned by "T. Berry" and occupied by "Jas. Bowie" (Figure 7). None of these maps indicate outbuildings, but this is probably a function of their very small scale.

Following completion of the fieldwork on this project, a map showing some detail of the site in 1863 was obtained (Figure 8). In addition to the main house, two outbuildings are indicated within the current study area. Three additional structures are shown east of the current project area but within the proposed highway alignment. The structural locations were not field checked as the map was not obtained until after this report was in draft and there was a commitment for early completion.

Pictorial Research

Current research has discovered two exterior sketches and one interior photograph of Oxon Hill Manor. Both sketches are reproduced in Figure 9. Analysis of the fenestration suggests these views are of two different facades. As the sketch from Murray (1895) includes boats on the Potomac in the background, this view must be of the eastern facade. The illustration from Murray (1895) shows six windows on the second story while that from dePach, Hopper, and Price (1979) has seven windows, including a small, central light. Therefore, the view in dePach, Hopper, and Price (1979) must be of the western facade. A photograph of the central hall (Murray 1895) indicates a small window centered over the stairway, evidently the same window as shown on the view of the western facade (Figure 10). If this interpretation is correct, the stairway, and therefore the principal entrance, faced east, away from the river.

The eastern facade (Murray 1895) shows wings attached on both the north and south sides of the structure. However, within the text it is stated that the wings were not extant at the time of publication (1895). The western view (dePach, Hopper, and Price 1979) does not show any wings, but does indicate a small shed on the northern gable end of the house. Both views show Oxon Hill Manor as an example of fully developed Georgian architecture. Complete bilateral symmetry is maintained in both the eastern and western facades. It is somewhat unusual for such an early structure to have two formal facades. Ocean Hall (built 1703) in St. Mary's County, Maryland had only one Georgian facade with a symmetrical arrangement of windows, while the rear of the house was asymmetrical to the point of having a non-centered door (Hurry 1982:10).
Prince George's Enquirer - 2/8/1895

Oxon Hill Fire

Another one of Maryland's historic mansions has been destroyed. The spacious dwelling house on Oxon Hill, overlooking the Potomac River, in Prince George's County, opposite Alexandria, caught fire Tuesday night and was left a wreck by the flames by daybreak Wednesday morning.

The mansion has long been the landmark of the neighborhood of Washington. It was built about 1750 by Rev. Dr. Addison, an Oxford man, and with the mansions at Mt. Vernon, Belvoir and the Carlyle House, on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, made up the noted mansions of the neighborhood in colonial days. The Oxon Hill estate gave its name to Oxon River, one of the streams of Prince George's County. The mansion passed from the Addison family into the hands of the late Thomas Berry, and had lately been sold.
Inventory

L AF 1859 Thomas Berry Deceased 2-13-1855

Thomas C Berry Executor

TH 1/26 Zachariah Berry Sr. 1- 8, 1845
Olive Berry

Census Index

1850 Census made
Berry, Thomas PRI 088

1840 Census Index
Berry, Thomas PRI 015 1st & 2nd
" " PRI 065 6th election
" " PRI 010 1st & 2nd
004 " " "

1830 Census Index
Does not seem to include P.G. County
1850 Agricultural Census for P. G. County

Thomas Addison
James Bowie 1878 at Open Hill

Page 4 of newspaper article

Addison Probates

Berry being declared crazy - all documents 1878-1891

We need Probates of Thomas Berry and
Zachariah Berry

#7
#8
#9
#11
#13
#14
#15
#17

Equity no 1208
Lib. J. R. M. folio 3 51 3 AM

13-130 also 106
41 29
13-109
1880 Census
134 James Bowie
Oxon Hill Manor 128

Walter Dulaney Addison by Overton Carr, Guardian
vs. James Fields, Leonard Waring & Nicholas Love
In Suit, Succease and forbear the commission of any kind
of waste or destruction in or upon all that tract of land
called Oxon hill manor... until further order of the
High Court of Chancery
11 Feb 1785

Yoked at 1860, 70 & 80 Agricultural Census

They also have 1850 Agricultural Census

Also have 1850-1860 Slave Schedule

1800 Manuf. Census

No Date

Census of Mines, Agriculture, Commerce & Mfg in Maryland

Property Maps for all Counties (Current)

Some Newspapers

Maryland Hist, A Selective Bibliography

Md
975.2

File 18-132

1880 Census
Oxon Hill 12th precinct

Enumerat 132

Richard Sambur 131, 34, 18, 13, 7, 5, 3, 1

James 133

James 134

James 135

James Bowie

Judy Bowie
I give devise unto my son Thomas Berry, his heirs and assigns forever, all the land I purchased from the Rev. Walter D. Addison called Stonewall, or by whatever their name or names the said tract or tracts may be described or distinguished so as to include every part and parcel of land which I purchased from the said Addison...

23 March 1836

... and lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Thomas Berry and my son in law Thomas C. Berry to be the executors of this my last will and testament revoking and disavowing all former wills by the heretofore made; ratifying and confirming this...

29 March 1858

Cardinal

Item I give devise unto my daughter Elizabeth Berry all the rest and residue of the real estate which I now own or may own at the time of my death unto her the said Elly Berry her heirs and assigns forever...

11 Dec 1858  (Oxon Hill)

(He is dead by 3-18-1859)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Improvements</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2802 4/8</td>
<td>461.25</td>
<td></td>
<td>833.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>461</td>
<td></td>
<td>316.25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Piscataway &amp; Hynson Hundred</th>
<th>Proprietors Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Part of Cornhill Manor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td></td>
<td>Talbert, Arm</td>
<td>part of Cornhill Manor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rideout, Samuel</td>
<td>part of the Lodge 32 3 1/2  ft. of Cornhill Manor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Talbert, having</td>
<td>part of Cornhill Manor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kirby, John</td>
<td>part of Cornhill Manor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Radberry, Wm.</td>
<td>part of Cornhill Manor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Improvements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeBatta, Mary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry, Thomas</td>
<td>1315</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read, Charles (CA)</td>
<td>118.5</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boyne, Edwinton</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyne, John H</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Price</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>34,650</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

K.J. Wilson, Theophilus, pt. of Holly Spring, 126 part of enclosure West enclosure, Holly Spring, + Open Hill 134.
13 Chive

Advertisement: J.W. Berry sells suit of interest in Upper Mallow - Prince George - once a week for more than 3 successive weeks.

(Washington, D.C. - Opening Star, twice a week, for more than 3 years.)

Montgomery Public Lib. U of Md. at College Park.

Auction Date: Thursday, July 31, 1879

Trustees -
- George Lanham, 82-4
- Mrs. Amelia Lanham, 82-8
- Richard W. Streets
- James C. Bowes
- John Lanham
- George W. Lanham
- David Streets
- Henry Butler
- James A. Gregory

Petition to build potato house.

1880 Schedule 2

Richard Street rents 160 acres valued at $3,500
13 horses, 100 acres of corn, 10 acres of potatoes
15 acres of sweet potatoes, $1,000 value of market gardens

George Street rents 50 acres improved 10 meadows
valued at $1,660, 3 horses, 15 acres of corn, 6 acres of
oats, 3 acres of potatoes, 10 acres of sweet potatoes
$1,000 value of market gardens

George Tanham rents 130 acres improved, 15 unimproved
farm valued $8,000, 8 horses, 40 acres of corn, 40 acres
of oats, 18 acres of sweet potatoes, $2,000 value of
market gardens
Zach Berry b. 1749 d. 1845

Zach Berry Jr. b. 1785 d. 1859 Thomas (of OH)

Elizabeth Berry + Thomas E Berry d. 1879

Owen I. Berry b. 1814, Nancy Berry, Fanny Berry

1880 Thomas Berry Forestville

55 $^2$ TE Berry Oak Grove

47.1

15 cm
1860 Schedule 4
6th district Longo Old field PO

Thomas E Berry
700 acres improved, 900 acres unimproved
8 horses, 7 mules, 7 m. cows, 8 oxen, 14 other cattle
100 swine, 1400 bu wheat, 2500 bu corn
300 bu oats, 4,000 lbs tobacco, 10 bu peas
100 bu Irish potatoes, $360 market value of garden crops
30 tons of hay.

1870 Schedule 1
Spalding district Anacostia P.O.

T. O. Berry 26 years of age, Farmer
$100,000 value of real estate
$5,000 value of personal estate
1/2 children
wife is listed as "Keeping house."

1880 Schedule 1 population Ox Hill

James Bowie aged 43 farmer
7 children, wife is listed as "Keeping house."

1880 Schedule 2

James Bowie, Rent land, 35 acres till'd, 15 acres acres valued at $1,000, 2 horses, 2 milk cows
6 acres of corn, 3 acres Irish potatoes, 18 acres sweet potatoes, 4 acres tobacco, $100 value of market gardens
Slave Schedules (2)

1850 6th district Thos. Berry 10 slave houses
55 slaves

1850 Spalding District Thos. Berry
54 slaves

Schedule 4

1850 Queen Anne district Thos. Berry
200 acres cleared, 90 unowned

Queen Anne district

1850 Thos. Berry 350 a/owned 82 a/unowned
8 horses 9 mules 8 milk cows 12 oxen 2 other cattle
60 sheep 60 swine 1000 bu of wheat 50 bu of rye
3650 bu of corn 10 bu of oats 50,000 lbs. tob.
100 lbs. wool 50 bu. irish potatoes 10 bu. sweet pot.
400 lbs. butter 5 tons of hay $416 value animals slaughtered

Spalding district

1850 Thos. Berry 380 a/owned 300 unowned
8 horses 8 mules 10 milk cows 8 oxen 100 swine
60 bu. of wheat 250 bu. of corn 30 bu. of oats 150 lbs. of wool
30 bu. Irish potatoes 250 lbs. of butter 15 tons of hay
$300 value of animals slaughtered
Chemistry Records BDS 9
Plate on microfilm
P.G. County
1918 folio 258
A part of Oxen Hill Manor

Page 258
Dec 1910
Scale 1-in. = 200 ft.

574° 42' W 22' 11.6

126'41

9 21'64

10 18.5

2

Exhibit F

224

1/3

A part of Oxen Hill Manor

Prince George's County, Maryland

Francis T. Salton

Surveyor for P.G. Co., Md.

Dec 1910

Scale 1-in. = 200 ft.
P. L. C.

Ch. Rolls B.D.S. 9 - folio 258

a part of Open Hill Manor

Filed Sept 29, 1911
The Berrys of Maryland compiled by George R. Grifftits 1876

X65 74
B62

917-918  The Children of Benjamin 14
Mary (Hilliary) Berry were:

i Benjamin

ii Mary

iii Verinda 1708

iv Jeremiah 1712-1769 married Mary

(Dorsey Clagett. Their children were:

1. Jeremiah 1730-1780
2. Richard 1734-1819
3. Benjamin 1736-1827
4. William 1742-1784
5. Mary 1746-
6. Zachariah 11 July 1749 married
Mary Williams, died 25 March 1815
7. Amelia 1752-
8. Eliza 1755-

See PG Co Md Wills 1-317 under
Mary (Clagett) Berry dated 12 July 1787 & proved 27 Nov 1793

Out of the Past: Prince Georges & Their Land
by R. Lee Van Horn 1976

md
XF
180,7
V 36
OWNERSHIP AND PHYSICAL HISTORY

Recorded history of what would become known as Oxon Hill Manor begins with John Addison, brother of a chaplain to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, and uncle of the noted essayist Joseph Addison. John amassed considerable wealth as a merchant adventurer, and in 1685, as payment for providing overseas passages for colonists, he began acquiring lands from Lord Baltimore near the juncture of the Potomac and Eastern Branch (Anacostia). Soon he established his plantation headquarters there. Addison's public duties included those of colonel of militia, privy councilor to the governor, and foreman of his parish.1

Colonel John Addison's son Thomas, born in 1769 at St. Mary's City, became the first surveyor of Prince George's County at the age of 17. Like his father, he became active as a merchant and land speculator. He was appointed Lord High Sheriff of the county in 1705, acquired his father's rank of militia colonel upon the latter's death the following year, and served as a judge of the High Provincial Court of Maryland after 1712. After spending a year in London, during which time he visited his literary cousin Joseph, Thomas returned to Maryland in the summer of 1710 to build the brick mansion called "Oxon Hill." The mansion was erected on a hill overlooking the Potomac near Oxon Creek in 1711. An inventory of Addison's properties listed eight other plantations under his general supervision, a mill and a store, 76 slaves and three indentured English servants. Thomas left over 15,000 acres to his children upon his death in 1727.2

Thomas Addison's eldest son, John, inherited his father's plantations and passed the land encompassing the mansion near Oxon Creek on to his son Thomas Addison (c. 1740-1774). A survey of this property, containing 3,663 acres, was patented August 3, 1767, as "Oxon Hill Manor"—the first official use of the name.3


2. Castle, "Glories of Old Prince George's."

3. Ibid.

63
Upon this Thomas Addison's death in 1774, Oxon Hill Manor was inherited by his five-year-old son Walter Dulany Addison. Thomas Hawkins Hanson, who served under Thomas Addison's brother John early in the Revolution, was appointed regent for the property. He married Addison's widow in 1778. Thomas Hanson was a nephew of John Hanson, first "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.4

In the fall of 1783, a year after his term in the Congress, John Hanson visited his nephew at Oxon Hill Manor. In ill health, he died there on November 15. The possibility that he was buried on the estate, rather than near his Frederick home, has been the subject of much interest on the part of John Hanson "promoters" in recent years.

According to an Addison descendant, Nathaniel Washington, cousin of George, leased and occupied the estate from 1787 to 1792.5

The Reverend Walter Dulany Addison, rector of the Broad Creek Church near Oxon Hill, founder of St. John's Church in Georgetown, and one of the four clergymen officiating at George Washington's funeral, was the last Addison owner of Oxon Hill Manor.6 Unable to maintain it, he sold to Zachariah Berry on March 17, 1810, over 1,328 acres of the land patented by his father, including the mansion but reserving the Addison graveyard east of the house.7

Zachariah Berry died in 1845, and by the terms of his will the lands purchased from Walter Dulany Addison went to his son Thomas.8 Thomas's later life was unfortunate. He became mentally ill, and his wife, fearing his threatened violence, left him in 1874. About 1876 Berry entered a Baltimore asylum for several months, but his initial improvement proved temporary. Management of his properties suffered, and he became indebted


5. Castle, "Glories of Old Prince George's."


8. Book P.C. 1, pp. 284-89, PGCC.
for over $20,000, unable even to pay his taxes. On February 18, 1878, Berry's adult sons Thomas Owen and Norman petitioned the Prince George's circuit court for a writ of de lunatico inquirendo; an inquisition pursuant to the writ on March 7 found Berry mentally incompetent and placed his properties in the hands of trustees to be sold for payment of his creditors. Berry was admitted to Mount Hope Retreat, a mental institution in Baltimore County, on February 19. Sometime between August and November 1879 he died.\(^9\)

A court-ordered survey made by William J. Latimer in 1879 divided Thomas Berry's Oxon Hill property into a total of 49 lots totaling approximately 1,430 acres. The first auction, held July 31, 1879, at the mansion, sold some 42 acres to Dr. John W. Bayne; insufficient or no bids were received for the remainder. By 1886 at least 200 acres had been sold, with other tracts being rented pending sale.

Copy for an auction advertisement described the unsold Oxon Hill Manor property:

A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF TWELVE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND, NEAR WASHINGTON CITY, ADJOINING THE LINE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, IN SIGHT OF THE CAPITAL

By virtue of the power vested in [torn] trustees in an Equity cause in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in Equity known as No. 1208 Equity, we will sell at public sale at the mansion house on Oxen [sic] Hill farm on the road leading from Fort Foote to Washington on [blank] day of March 1891 at the hour of One o'clock P.M. if fair if not the next fair day all that valuable Real Estate known as Oxen Hill and Oxen Hill Manor in Prince George's County decreed to be sold and not heretofore disposed of lying between the Fort Foote road and the Potomac River where it strikes the District line together with that part of the Woodland still unsold and called Oxen Hill Manor. Oxen Hill upon which the mansion house is situated contains about 725 acres. This is one of the most fertile, eligibly located and valuable tracts of land in Prince George's County.
The improvements consist of an elegant brick mansion covered with slate and panelled with cherry, with commodious barns and stables and six tenant houses, also a wharf constructed of limestone [torn] at the public ferry landing opposite Alexandria which is a part of the property. This land is well adapted to market gardening fruit culture and stock raising.

The Woodland consists of about 500 acres divided into lots averaging from 20 to 30 acres lying on the roads to the Navy Yard bridge and to Silver Hill covered with white oak, chestnut and pine wood.\(^{10}\)

Samuel Taylor Suit contracted to buy the unsold remainder of Oxon Hill Manor May 23, 1888. He died soon thereafter, and after some complication the property was conveyed by the trustees to his widow, Rosa P. Suit, individually and as trustees for their children, on May 14, 1891.\(^ {11}\) On the same date she deeded it to John C. Heald for $50,000.\(^ {12}\) Heald in turn sold Oxon Hill on February 20, 1892, to Reuben L. Coleman and others.\(^ {13}\)

Coleman acquired certain rights and interests held by other parties in the property during the next few years,\(^ {14}\) and on January 21, 1905, he conveyed Oxon Hill Manor ("also known as Bean's Bargain, Pleasant Hills, Barnaba Manor, Talbot's Lot") to trustees for the Rock Creek Land Company, Inc. (one of whom was the aforementioned John C. Heald).\(^ {15}\)

Unfortunately for the cause of historic preservation, Coleman's group conveyed Oxon Hill Manor minus the manor house, which had been destroyed by fire during their ownership February 6, 1895. The Alexandria Gazette of the following day gave an account of the fire:

> When first discovered, a small spot in the roof only was burning, but it quickly spread, and in 15 or 20 minutes the whole eastern heavens were illuminated by the conflagration—the fire raging furiously, the flames leaping high, while a

\(^{10}\) Ibid.

\(^{11}\) Land Record Book J.W.B. 18, p. 359, PGCC.

\(^{12}\) Ibid., p. 370.

\(^{13}\) Land Record Book J.W.B. 20, p. 412, PGCC.

\(^{14}\) Land Record Books J.W.B. 25, p. 606; J.W.B. 29, p. 430, PGCC.

\(^{15}\) Land Record Book 21, p. 359, PGCC.
huge volume of smoke settled over the adjoining hills. Numbers of people in the city went to the streets facing the river to look at the fire, which continued to rage for several hours. The origin of the fire is unknown, from the fact that ice in the river rendered it impossible to communicate with the opposite shore. Nothing now remains of the former building but the walls and the four chimneys. 16

The Rock Creek Land Company trustees deeded tracts totaling approximately 775 acres (including the mansion site) to Emma P. Coleman, widow of Reuben L. Coleman, for $18,000 on January 29, 1907. 17 Emma was dead by 1913, and on February 10 of that year Mary V. Parran, an heir, granted a quit-claim deed to Oxon Hill to R. Lindsay Coleman, another heir. 18 A deed of June 12, 1917, from John C. Parran and others to William K. Quinter and Thomas C. Coleman, trustees, recorded that R. Lindsay Coleman had died intestate and that his relatives were assigning the Oxon Hill Manor property to trustees to dispose of and settle the estate. 19 Quinter and Coleman sold portions of the property to various parties, and on July 20, 1927, they deeded four parcels of Oxon Hill Manor to Sumner and Mathilde T. Welles. The Welleses bought two parts of Lot No. 1, all of Lot No. 2, and part of Lot No. 3 of Thomas Berry's subdivision (as surveyed by Latimer), totaling 245.17 acres more or less and including the mansion site, for $110 an acre. 20

The house at Oxon Hill Manor today was designed for Sumner Welles in 1928 by Jules Henri de Sibour, AIA (1872-1938). Born in Rouen, France, de Sibour was brought to the United States at an early age. He graduated from Yale and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. Other local buildings


17. Land Record Book 38, p. 447, PGCC.

18. Land Record Book 84, p. 477, PGCC.


20. Land Record Book 293, p. 122. Metes and bounds are given in the deed. According to this and earlier deeds, a plat of the Latimer survey of 1879 was filed in Equity No. 1208. The writer was unable to locate it.
"Family life was the basis of natural increase and the sustaining social unit. Some slaves lived alone or in small groups, but the majority lived in larger families. In some cases, slaves lived in households of 10 or more. Approximately half the slaves in Maryland lived in such plantations, while the rest were dispersed in 'quarters' around the odd acreage. Not only could men and women find marriages more readily among the young women on the great plantation, but the choice of maintaining a household with husband, wife, and children living under the same roof improved considerably. On the lands of James Worsnop (32 slaves), Thomas Addison (3 plantations, 109 slaves), and Charles Carroll (13 quarters, 385 slaves), almost half the slaves lived in husband-wife-child families."

Quote From Colonial Maryland: A History
By Aubrey C. Land
KTO Press 1981 p. 287