

HO-18  
WALNUT GROVE  
Clarksville  
Private

Circa 1785

Walnut Grove is a two and a half story five bay wide, two bay deep gabled roof stone structure which features exceptionally fine quoining and unusual projecting mortar work. Its central rectangular east and west entrances are surmounted by transoms and connected by a central hallway.

The building's north and south walls hold double chimneys which are partially connected, an unusual feature since they more frequently are connected in such a way as to appear as one massive chimney with separate flues indistinguishable.

The roof treatment of the three dormer windows is similar to Howard Lodge with its central dormer holding a double window surmounted by a single closed pediment and flanked by single window gabled roof dormers, whose windows hold six-over-six lites, also surmounted by single closed pediments. Dependencies lie west and north of the house with a square tent roofed stone well house connected to slave pits which lie on either side of the west porch entrance.

The land on which Walnut Grove stands was a grant of 574 acres which Thomas Browne, "the Patuxent Ranger" received because of his friendship with Captain John Dorsey. He called it "Brown's Chance and Captain Dorsey's Friendship" later selling it to him and relocating in the Woodstock area.

Walnut Grove was built circa 1785 by Coloney Gassaway Watkins who served in the Revolution from 1776-1783, acquiring the property through his marriage to Ruth Dorsey of Brown's Chance.

An unusually fine old home located on Howard County's richest farm land, Walnut Grove is exceptionally well maintained by its present owner Mrs. W. Sears Hebb.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
 for the  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Walnut Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 5192 Sheppard Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville, Maryland 21029

STATE: COUNTY: Howard

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. W. Sears Hebb (Telephone: 531-5404)

STREET AND NUMBER: 5192 Sheppard Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville STATE: Maryland 21029

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City STATE: Maryland 21043

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax map 28; Blk 14  
 326-283 Parcel 74 256 227A

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory State 1976

DATE OF SURVEY: 1976  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 21 Statehouse Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis, STATE: Maryland 21401

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From Route 29, go west 6 miles on 108 until you reach Sheppard Lane on your north side. Take your second left and go up the road which leads to a large stone house, Walnut Grove, surrounded by barns and farmhouses.

Walnut Grove is a 2½ story stone house constructed of ashlar stone with exceptionally fine quoining and projecting mortar work. It is five bays wide and two bays deep with central rectangular door and transom facing east.

Fenestration is rectangular, double hung with six-over-six lights. All the windows are decorated with flat stone lintels and projecting stone sills.

Double brick (laid in running bond brick) chimneys are located on the south and north walls. Three gabled dormer windows are inset into the gabled roof. The north and south dormers hold rectangular windows with six-over-six lights surmounted by a closed pediment while the central bay dormer holds double rectangular windows with six-over-six lites surmounted by a single closed pediment. A simple cornice runs along the gabled roof.

A flat roofed porch with first floor wooden railing and matching second floor ballustrade covers the west entrance. Four doric columns rest on stone piles which support the porch roof and ballustrade. The west elevation is similar in all respects to the east elevation with the exception of 1.) the porch and 2) only one first floor window on either side of the central rectangular doorway. A central second floor french door with 5 - 5 lites and 3-lite transom leads on to the second floor porch.

A flagstone walkway approaches from the south with a stone wall which is lined with boxwood.

A basement entrance is located on the south bay of the west elevation and under the south side of the porch. Casement windows with 4 - 4 lites lie on each side of the basement door.

Free standing wrought iron lanterns line the driveway up to the house.

A square tent-roofed stone spring house lies west of the house with two tenant frame farmhouses and several white frame outbuildings north-west of it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Walnut Grove is outstanding historically and architecturally. It is situated on prime agricultural land, Howard County's limestone valley which runs from Glenelg and stops at Walnut Grove with a PH level of 7, not too acidic nor too alkaline.

From 1929-1959 Walnut Grove was left vacant and during that time the floor sank and steel beams had to be put into the house to level them.

A kitchen has been added to the house, taking a portion of the original large dining room on its east side. (In the 1700's the basement was used for preparing food. A five foot fireplace remains). Two very deep pits are located behind the house which were connected to the spring house and were used by slaves. The walls of the house are three and a half feet thick. A central hall holds a major staircase which goes all the way up to the third floor. The interior features original crown molding throughout the house.

A grave yard with 100-125 pound stones lies on the property.

In 1785 Colonel Gassaway Watkins of the Clarksville area a revolutionary war hero, built Walnut Grove for his wife, Ruth Dorsey, daughter of Captain John Dorsey of Brown's Chance.

Celia Holland relates the following brief history of the land which is noteworthy: The land itself, which then totalled some 600 acres, is of interest. On July 3, 1702, Thomas Browne, with Captain John, he called Brown's Chance and Captain Dorsey's Friendship, on which he built a "habitation." Nineteen days later, on July 22, 1702 Charles Carroll the Settler patented the original 7,000 acres of Dohoregan, later spelled Doughoregan.

"the Patuxent Ranger", received a grant of 574 acres which, because of his friendship

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holland, Celia. Landmarks of Howard County, Maryland. University Park 1975.  
 Interview with Mr. W. Sears Hebb, Jr., son of the owner of Walnut Grove at Walnut Grove, November - 1976.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:  
 Tax Map 28, Blk 14 p. 74  
 326-283  
 256.227 Acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Howard County Office of Planning and Zoning	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

HC-18  
Walnut Grove  
Clarksville, Maryland

(Field Report for Site Visit, June 30, 1984 - Orlando Ridout V,  
William J. Pencek, Jr., J. Rodney Little)

### Description

Walnut Grove Farm is located on the west side of Shepherd's Lane approximately 1½ miles due north of Clarksville in Howard County, Maryland. The early house and associated buildings are located on high ground with the house oriented on a north-south axis and the principal facade facing east to the road.

The early dwelling house known as Walnut Grove is a large 2½ story stone house measuring five bays wide and two rooms deep. A single flush brick chimney is centered on the north gable and paired flush brick chimneys joined by a brick parapet wall are centered on the south end of the pitched gable roof.

The front facade faces east to Shepherd's Lane. It is a symmetrical five-bay facade with central entrance flanked by two 6/6 windows on each side; five 6/6 windows are ranged across the second story. The entrance consists of double paneled doors below a four-light transom and is framed with paneled soffit and jambs. The three-panel doors and jamb panels have square-section panel profiles typical of the early 19th century. A modern reproduction pilastered door surround has been added in recent years. Small three-light cellar windows are located below each of the four first story windows, flanking the stone steps to the entrance. Two 6/6 pitched roof dormer windows flank a larger central dormer with paired 6/6 sash. These dormers are modern with Federal period detail but may replace early or original dormers.

The stonework on the front facade is laid in relatively random fashion using roughly worked limestone. The corners are accented with larger, more carefully worked rectangular stones creating a quoining effect, and large dressed stones serve as lintels and sills. The sills are particularly refined, with carefully dressed and beveled surfaces to improve the run-off water. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; the eave is boxed and trimmed with a beaded frieze board below the soffit.

The south gable wall is pierced only by three openings: one 6/6 window in the west bay of the first story, one 6/6 window in the center of the third story, and a single three-light cellar window in the center of the foundation. The stonework on this gable facade is comparable in detail and quality to the front facade. Remnants of early white-wash are visible on the lower portion of the wall, suggesting the foundation may once have been whitewashed.

On the north gable wall, there is a single, narrow 4/4 window offset to right of center on the first story, a pair of 4/4 windows to the east and west on the second story, and a single four-light window in the center of the third story. The stonework matches the front facade; the flush brick chimney is laid in common bond.

On the rear facade, a single door is located in the center bay of the first story, flanked by single 6/6 windows; the north window shows evidence of being converted from a door. On the second, a single door is flanked by one 6/6 window to the north and two 6/6 windows to the south. A two story twentieth century porch is centered on this facade, presumably replacing an earlier, larger porch. The cellar wall is fully exposed on this facade, with doors and windows opening into a pair of small courtyards flanking the rear porch. These walled yards are traditionally referred to as "slave pits", but the source of this term is not known.

The interior of the house is laid out in a full Georgian plan with an unusually wide center stair passage. The stair rises against the north wall of the passage to an intermediate landing against the west wall, then turns 180 degrees and continues to the second story. It is an open-string stair with handsome slender turned newel posts, square balusters, and a simple rounded rail. The carriage piece is rabbeted but otherwise plain. An identical balustrade below the first floor stair serves an open, straight-run stair to the cellar.

There are two large rectangular rooms to the south of the passage, each heated by a fireplace centered on the south gable wall. These two fireplaces are fitted with large, handsome mantel pieces typical of the Greek Revival period (circa 1830-50s). Half-columns flank the fireplace opening and support plain sideblocks, a paneled frieze and a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. Greek ogee moldings are predominant in combination with series of fillets. Beaded architrave trim with ogee/astagal backband is used throughout the first story, including a large door opening joining the two south parlors. A bolection mold chair rail appears to be a recent feature; the molded baseboard appears to be recent but is typical of the latter half of the nineteenth century. Six-panel doors with mid-nineteenth century panel molds have been refitted with reproduction eighteenth century brass hardware.

To the north of the passage there is one large formal room with fireplace to the northeast, with a smaller kitchen and bath to the northwest. The larger room is heated by a fireplace centered on the north gable wall. This fireplace is fitted with a pilastered Greek Revival mantel and is flanked by built-in cupboards fitted with handsome glass doors. The same Greek Revival architrave trim survives in this room; the chair rail and cornice appear to be modern. The flooring in this room is also narrow replacement flooring, in contrast to the early, wide flooring found in the passage and south parlors.

The northwest room has been renovated on several occasions. The chimney stack survives, but the fireplace has been blocked.

The second floor plan has been modified to a limited extent, but presumably consisted originally of a standard Georgian plan with an unheated chamber at the front or east end of the stair passage. The two rooms to the north of the passage have been altered to form a large master bedroom and closets. Early details on this floor include the paneled soffit and jambs of the openings in the north wall of the passage, three pilastered Greek Revival mantels and all of the original flooring.

The open-string stair continues up to the third story with no change in detail other than the use of two handsomely chamfered newel posts.

The third story has been finished off to form a single large room on either side of the stair passage, which is also partitioned at the east end to form a bath.

The cellar is divided into three rooms at the present: one large room below the first floor passage and south parlors, and two smaller rooms to the north. A large cooking fireplace is located in the west chimney on the south wall; the other chimney bases do not include fireplaces. Hewn ceiling joists remain visible in the north rooms.

Other Structures: At least four other buildings associated with the main house survive on the immediate grounds. These include a gambrel roof tenant house that is said to be of log construction, a small frame house at the edge of the lawn, a meat house and a stone ice house/dairy.

A small family cemetery located to the north of the house is carefully maintained. The tombstones include Colonel Gassaway Watkins (died 1840), Eleanora B. Watkins (third wife of Colonel Watkins; died 1871), John S. Watkins (died 1893), Eliza Linthicum (died 1899), and Harriet Crapster (died 1830).



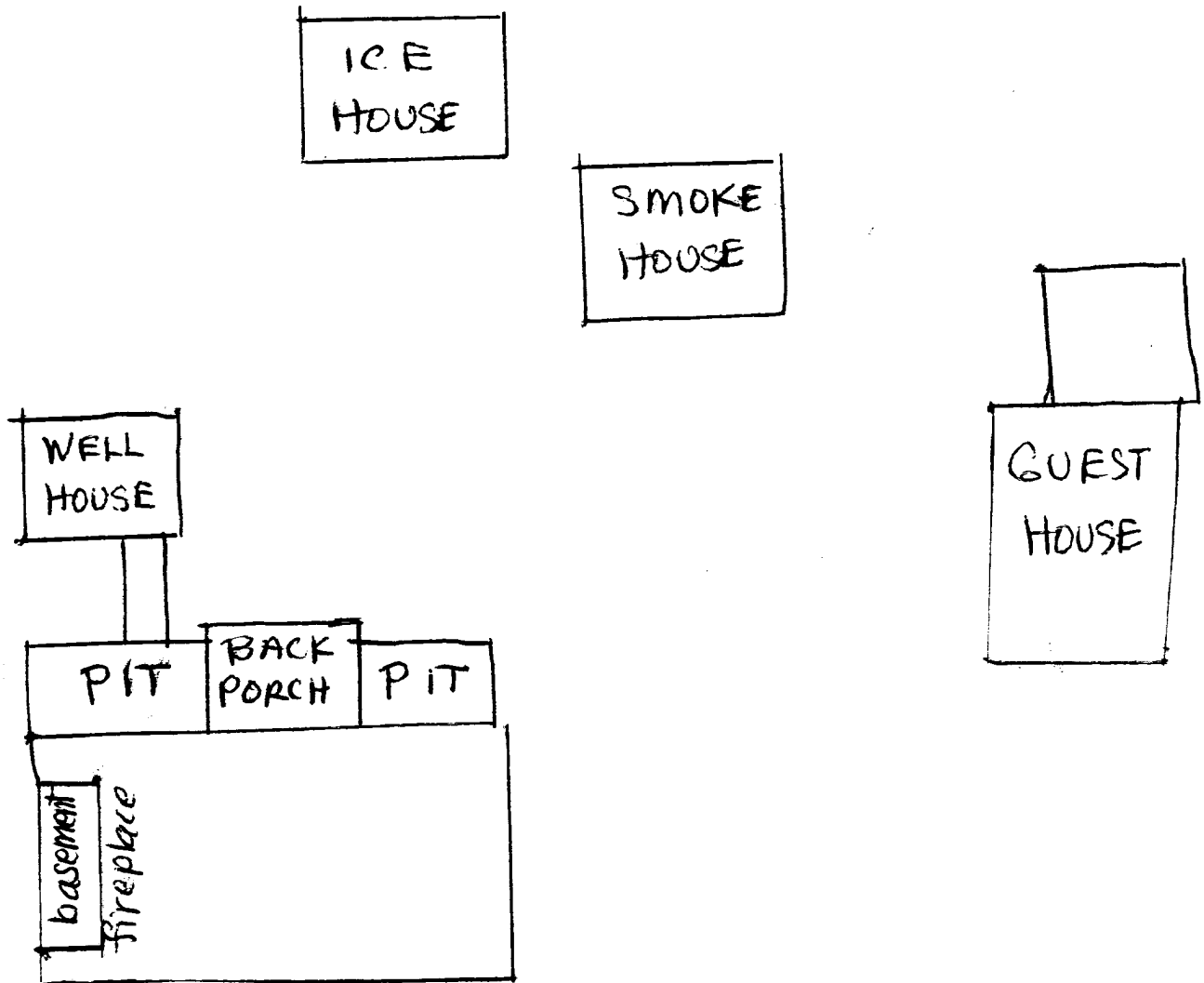
Walnut Grove  
continued

When surveyed, Doughoregan extended "from the Patuxent by a blind path to Thomas Browne's plantation and to four Indian cabins and thence to some oaks." Despite his fame as the original "ranger" in this area, Thomas Browne did not remain on this early grant but sold the land to Captain Dorsey before relocating at Woodstock where he settled. His "habitation" is thought to have been the small two room structure which still stands on the edge of the lawn at Walnut Grove.

For these reasons Walnut Grove should be considered for inclusion into The National Register of Landmarks and any future local landmark legislation.

# WALNUT GROVE - PLAN

NO-18



HOPE  
15 E

HOPE  
2 W O K E

HOPE  
T R E S T

HOPE  
M E T T

BIT	BOOTH	BACK
H A M M E R S I D S I D E P A T T ?		

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SUGARBROOK (SHILE) PROJECTOR #500

DBT.  
ITE JR.  
87/111  
14.76A.  
P. 67

⑥  
P. 134

F. E.  
PHILLIPS  
479/118  
5.00A.  
P. 138

P. 71

SPARD

BALTO GAS & ELECT CO 296/1

LANE

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WM. S. HEBB  
326/283  
256.23A.  
P. 74

P. 14

P. 29-40

P. 29-35

# WALNUT GROVE TAX MAP 28

R. FRANK  
WARFIELD  
114/381

NO-18



DIST. 5 HO-18  
WALNUT GROVE  
CB THOMPSON