

Rural Remnants of Washington County:

**An Architectural Survey of Washington's
Historic Farms and Estates**



Prepared by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office
September 2013



Rural Remnants of Washington County: An Architectural Survey of Washington's Historic Farms and Estates

Text by Kim Prothro Williams, DC Historic Preservation Office
September 2013

This project has been funded in part by U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant funds, administered by the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office. The contents and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

This program has received Federal financial assistance for the identification, protection, and/or rehabilitation of historic properties and cultural resources in the District of Columbia. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its Federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.



Project Overview

Rural Remnants of Washington County is a comprehensive survey aimed at identifying and cataloging extant buildings that are associated with the District of Columbia's former rural landscape. The survey was conducted by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office (HPO) during the spring and summers of 2012 and 2013. The survey area included the former Washington County—that is, all that area that is within the District of Columbia, but beyond the original boundaries of the city (the L'Enfant Plan) and Georgetown. Until the Organic Act of 1871 that consolidated Washington City, Georgetown, and Washington County into a single municipality, Washington County was a separate political entity. Throughout the 19th century and even well into the 20th century, Washington County was rural and semi-rural in character. Wooded and cultivated lands punctuated by working farmsteads and gentlemen estates defined the landscape.

During the early-to mid-20th century, however, this agrarian landscape was being eradicated as the city's suburbs developed out to the limits of the District of Columbia in accordance with the 1893 Permanent Highway Plan. Despite the progressive subdivision of Washington County into residential neighborhoods, and the ensuing abandonment and demolition of the farm houses and farm buildings, some of the County's pre-suburban buildings survived the cultural shift. Many of these "survivors" are already recognized, and many are designated landmarks. Others are known at a very local level by neighborhood historians, or by the occupants, but have not been widely recognized, while others may not have been known at all before this survey. Many have been severely altered, or even moved from their original locations, often making their identification challenging. Through this survey, the farms and estate buildings of the former Washington County are being re-discovered and highlighted for their associations with the city's rural past.

The goal of the *Rural Remnants of Washington County* survey was to develop an inventory of rural resources, to record basic historical information about them, to conduct more intensive-level research on a select number of properties, and to develop a list of recommendations for future preservation action. The survey methodology, which depended heavily upon maps, was designed to identify, as best as possible, all standing buildings that were built before the wide-scale subdivision and residential development of Washington County. Using methodology developed by HPO, staff collected on-site and archival information on 67 resources, photographed them and entered the historical and architectural information into the city's building survey database (DCHPS) for recordation and analysis.

This report is a record of the survey efforts and findings to-date. It describes the need for such a survey, details the methodology used, and provides an analysis of the findings. The report makes recommendations for future research and preservation efforts of the rural resources. Plus, it includes an inventory of the 67 surveyed resources, plus individual chronologies on eight of the identified properties that were more intensively researched as part of this survey. This survey effort is an on-going process. As new properties come to light through archaeological studies, or through research into the city's neighborhoods, and other research efforts, the Rural Resources database will be updated with the findings.

Statement of Need

Many of the city's earliest and most celebrated buildings are located in the former Washington County. They are well recognized by their owners, local residents, historians, and preservation groups. Yet, the method of identification for these rural resources has not been a comprehensive or city-wide one. The properties that are designated as DC Landmarks are generally large estates or "gentlemen farms" that are associated with the early history of the city. These properties were for the most part built by prominent persons who played important roles in the development of the city; or, they are notable architecturally, and have been recognized for their style or period of construction. Most of these properties have been appreciated as "historic" for many decades, having been officially recognized as Landmarks in 1964 by the Joint Committee on Landmarks.

More recently, historic farms and estates have been identified through neighborhood surveys, and have been, or are in the process of being interpreted as part of those neighborhood histories. Other buildings that are associated with the city's rural past have not been officially surveyed, yet may still be known to local historians, residents, and by the owner or occupant. Despite this body of knowledge, no formal study of the city's rural buildings has ever been undertaken at a broader, city-wide level. In recent years, some of these resources have been "discovered" through other preservation processes, including through the review of raze applications. These random "discoveries" have highlighted a need to fully document the city's rural resources, especially before they are further threatened.

The goal of this study was, thus, to identify, in a systematic and comprehensive way, all standing rural-related resources of the former Washington County that preceded the area's suburbanization. These resources included estates and farmhouses, associated agricultural or domestic buildings, and remnants of rural properties. The survey *did not* include those dwellings or associated buildings constructed as part of early residential subdivisions (early subdivision houses).

As part of this process, 67 historic farm buildings, objects (i.e. entry gate posts), and sites have been identified. Although a sizeable sounding number, this is but a small fraction of resources that existed during the 19th century. The majority of the former farmhouses and associated buildings were lost at the time of suburbanization in the early-to-mid-20th century, while others survived into more recent years before also being demolished. For the most part, these recently demolished buildings have been lost without any acknowledgement of their history, or of their rarity as historic rural resources. By developing a more complete inventory of buildings associated with the city's rural past, this survey has developed a larger contextual framework by which to more effectively understand and evaluate the surviving rural buildings.



This barn, historically part of the 24-acre Jost-Kuhn Farm, stood until 2004 before being demolished. Only two barns survive in the city: the Peirce Barn and the Barn at Saint Elizabeths.

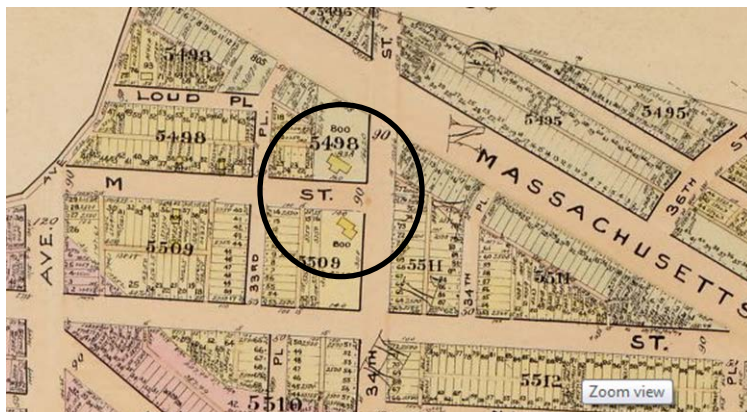
Survey Methodology

Maps

The methodology used for identifying former farm and estate buildings was multi-faceted, but relied most heavily upon a map study. The study began with a systematic comparison of historic and current-day maps in an effort to find existing buildings that were part of the rural countryside of the District. As a point of departure, the map study used the 1894 G.M. Hopkins Atlas and compared each of the atlas' plates (Plates 13-31) to current-day GIS maps and aerial photographs. A 1927 Baist Map was used as a way to help bridge the 1894 and current-day maps. This 1927 map was critical in helping to reconcile the locations of properties, since it generally shows the 19th-century landscape and its historic roads with the plan for the Permanent Highway Plan map laid over it, with or without newly divided and built-out subdivisions between the roads, depending upon their occurrence. In many cases, the street plan had changed so dramatically from 1894 to the present and from 1927 to the present that it was extremely challenging to reconcile the historic and current maps. In those cases, other more recent maps were also consulted.



1894 Hopkins map showing three farmhouses on 61-acre farm of George Barker



1927 Baist Map showing two of the three farmhouses incorporated into the newly platted residential subdivision.

The 1894 Hopkins Map was selected as the starting map for two important reasons: 1) the map is the last map to show the landscape before the street layout of the Permanent Highway Plan; and 2) the map provides a good view of the landscape, showing property lines and buildings, and labeling the properties with owner names. Although the Permanent Highway Plan Act was passed in 1893, the street layout was not completed and mapped in final form until 1897. By using the 1894 Hopkins, rather than an

older map, staff was able to identify the greatest potential number of resources up to the deliberate suburbanization of the land. In the case that property had already been subdivided and developed before the 1894 Hopkins Map was published (i.e. Mount Pleasant, Petworth, Brookland, etc.), then older maps were used in comparison with the Hopkins to see if any former farmhouses had been incorporated into these residential subdivisions that pre-dated the implementation of the Permanent Highway Plan.

This methodology proved effective, though there were challenges with it. One of these involved the phenomenon of moved buildings. Based upon research conducted for the survey, it became apparent that historic farm houses were commonly moved, or re-oriented from their original sites to better conform with the new streets or subdivision layouts.



The William Vogt Farmhouse, seen on the left at its historic site on Belt Road in Tenleytown and on the right at its present site at 4220 Jenifer Street. The farmhouse, built before 1888, was moved to Jenifer Street in 1911 as documented by building (move) permits.

Because of this trend, the map study was not as comprehensive an approach to identifying all remaining resources as had been anticipated at the outset of the project. Although other research tactics were undertaken to help identify moved farmhouses, such as permits, it is very likely that there are still some farmhouses that were not found as part of this survey. One property, the Scheele House which was moved in 1903, was identified as a farmhouse only after a raze application was submitted to our office and extensive research was conducted. A Landmark application has been prepared to prevent the demolition of this rare Civil War-era farmhouse.

The map study also revealed that in some instances sizeable parcels of land (with or without buildings on them) that were once part of larger land tracts often survived development as residential subdivisions, and/or the implementation of the Permanent Highway Plan through sale or inheritance. These smaller tracts may then have been improved with a single building or collection of buildings. In particular, schools and other institutions often purchased former farms and estates and built their own buildings adjacent to, or in place of historic farmhouses. If such a property contained a still extant farmhouse or associated building (i.e. Fenwick Farm Springhouse), then it was, of course, documented and included in the survey. If such a property is part of an institutional campus and does not retain any resources from its agrarian past, then it was not documented. However, if such a property remains a sizeable tract of land and holds an early 20th-century house that does not conform to a later subdivision, or street grid, then the information was captured, but was not counted as a resource as part of this survey. An example of this would be the house at 6115 33rd Street, NW. The house was built in 1907 on an approximately ½-acre of land that was historically part of the larger Jones farm and separated from it

through inheritance (the Jones Farmhouse still stands on Quesada Street, NW, as well). The ½-acre property was later subdivided and houses from the late 1920s and 1930s were built on surrounding lots. But the 1907 house remains, set well back from its 33rd Street address and facing south to Rittenhouse Road.

The identification of these 20th-century estates was done as the information presented itself during the survey, but was not done in an exhaustive manner.

Neighborhood Surveys and Histories

At the same time that staff conducted its map review, it also examined architectural surveys and local histories of the city's neighborhoods, reviewing the documents for mention of historic farms and estates and researching the extant status of any mentioned. In addition, staff met with and discussed the project with local historians who could help identify historic resources in their specific neighborhoods. This process revealed unidentified resources, and confirmed the existence of already identified ones. Staff is particularly grateful to the research work that has been undertaken by Jane Waldmann in Tenleytown and John Feeley in Brookland on the history of those neighborhoods' early buildings including its farmhouses.

In an effort to gain a broader understanding of the history of the County while surveying its surviving resources, staff researched and reviewed several relevant published and unpublished documents. The project is indebted to Laura Henley for her excellent dissertation, *The Past Before Us: An Examination of the pre-1880 Cultural and Natural Landscape of Washington County, D.C.*, and to Steve Dryden for his book, *Peirce Mill: Two Hundred Years in the Nation's Capital*. These narratives provided critical contextual information on the history of rural Washington County and the transformation of its agrarian landscape.

Site Visits and Data Entry

Once the existence of an extant resource was confirmed through maps and aerial photographs, it was then visited on-site and photographed. Basic additional map and archival research was then conducted on each of the buildings in order to best date them, and if possible, to attribute historic ownership to them.

The information, including photographs of the properties, was then entered into the HPO survey database (DCHPS). A spreadsheet of the surveyed properties is included in this report.

Intensive-level Survey

Upon completion of the reconnaissance-level survey, eight properties were selected for more intensive-level study. These eight properties are notable from an architectural and/or historic perspective and were deemed to be good candidates for furthering our understanding of the cultural landscape of rural Washington County. Staff conducted archival research on each of these properties, including, but not limited to the examination of maps, tax assessments, census records, city directories, newspapers, deeds, and wills. Individual research files were created and written chronologies of the properties were prepared. These chronologies are included in this report. Finally, as part of the intensive-level survey, staff sent letters to the property owners of the buildings that were surveyed at the intensive-level describing the project and encouraging and offering to meet with the owners to share research findings.

The eight properties selected for intensive-level research are as follows:

- Angerman Farmhouse, 589 Columbia Road, 1868-1874
- Deane House, 4421 Jay Street, NE, 1888
- Denman House, 3703 Bangor Street, SE, ca. 1860
- Fenwick Farm Springhouse, 1640 Kalmia Road, NW, ca. 1861
- Jost-Kuhn House, 1354 Madison Street, NW, 1859
- Scheele-Brown House, 2207 Foxhall Road, NW 1865
- Tucker-Means House, 1216 Upshur Street, NE, before 1858
- Van View, 7714 13th Street, 1868-1871

The scope of the survey limited the intensive-level survey to eight properties. However, all of the surveyed properties, not already designated, merit further investigation.

Historic Context for Washington County

This survey project did not include the development of an historic context for Washington County. Still, a certain level of knowledge of its history is critical for appreciating the city's surviving farms and estates. Below is a very brief overview of the County.

At the time of its establishment in 1790, the 10-mile-square District of Columbia included Washington City, laid out by Peter L'Enfant, the port city of Georgetown on the Maryland side of the Potomac, and Alexandria, on the Virginia side. All that area beyond the L'Enfant City and Georgetown on the Maryland side of the Potomac became Washington County.¹ Established by the Organic Act of 1801, Washington County was a municipality governed by a Levy Court. Initially, the Court consisted of seven justices of the peace appointed by the President, but in 1863 it was re-organized to provide for a court of nine members (3 from the city, 1 from Georgetown, five from County). The Levy Court carried out similar duties to those of Maryland County Commissioners, including establishing and collecting taxes, and building and repairing roads. Some of these roads had originated before the District as Indian paths, post roads, and tobacco rolling roads. The Organic Act of 1871 abolished the Washington County Levy Court and consolidated the County, Washington City and Georgetown into the District of Columbia. Despite this political consolidation, Washington County survived as geographic designation into the early 20th century.

In 1790, there was little distinction in the physical and cultural landscape between the newly established federal city proper and the County. The Washington City plan devised by Charles Peter (Pierre) L'Enfant was imposed upon an expanse of land that has generally been described in historical records as being "covered with tobacco and cornfields, orchards and woods." The eighteenth-century farms were a combination of extensive landholdings held by a limited number of proprietors and generally worked with slave labor, and small freeholds and tenant farms. According to the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, the built environment of the County included dwellings (primarily of wood), kitchens, meat houses, stables, slaves and servants quarters, and corn and tobacco "houses."² The eighteenth-century dwellings varied in grandeur depending upon the wealth and status of the owner. At one end of the spectrum were the

¹ The area on the Virginia side of the Potomac was part of Alexandria County.

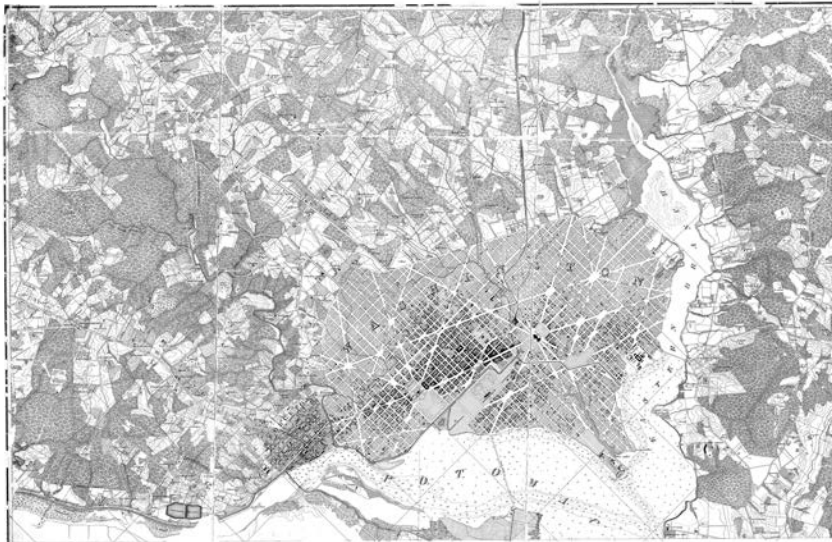
² Laura Henley, "The Past Before Us: An Examination of the pre-1880 Cultural and Natural Landscape of Washington County, District of Columbia," PhD Dissertation, Catholic University of America, 1993, p. 322.

country estates and plantation houses, such as the still-surviving Rosedale Farmhouse; at the other end were the “cabins,” rented with a “spot of land” or the “miserable hut formed by rude boards.”³

As the federal city developed, the difference between the Washington City and Washington County landscape grew profound. During the first half of the nineteenth century, while Washington City was burgeoning into its established role as the nation’s capital, Washington County saw a gradual increase in its population and little change in its rural landscape. Of the free population in the District of Columbia in 1850, only 6% inhabited the County’s rural landscape (County population in 1850 of free and enslaved was 3,320). Of the free County residents, the majority actively farmed the land either as landowners, or as tenant farmers.

With the antebellum city growing in stature, wealthy members of the fledgling city built large country estates on the outskirts, essentially forming a ring around the northern edge of the original city limits. These estates or “gentleman farms” commanded exceptional views of the city and offered cooling breezes and healthful air, providing the owners and their families a respite from city life and its “bilious fevers.” In Jeffersonian fashion, the owners of these country estates cultivated the landscape, often experimenting with new agricultural techniques and plant varieties, such as did Thomas Main at Whitehaven, and General Henry Hatch Dent at Springland.

While still exclusively agricultural, the once extensive plantations of eighteenth century Washington County had, during the first half of the nineteenth century, progressively decreased in size through both inheritance divisions and land sales. In 1850, the median acreage of cultivated land was 39 acres.⁴ An examination of the 1861 Boschke Map, below, illustrates the tapestry of fragmented landholdings in the County and its still heavily wooded nature.



³ D.B. Warden, *Chorographical and Statistical Description of the District of Columbia*, 1816, as quoted in Laura Henley, p.330.

⁴ U.S. Census, 1850. Because of the remaining large tracts of land, however, the average size was 60 acres.

Though it persisted in adjacent Maryland counties, tobacco had all but disappeared from the Washington County landscape by the mid-nineteenth century. Levi Sheriff on the eastern shore of the Anacostia is the only farmer to have reported tobacco as a crop during this period.⁵ Farmers concentrated instead on the cultivation of grains, fruits and vegetables to supply the city's markets, while also providing for their own self-sufficiency. Most farms, for instance, had a milk cow and a few hogs, principally for "home use."⁶ The small number of livestock shown on the agricultural censuses (five or fewer were typical) indicate that animals were principally used for personal and farm use.⁷

The County was also socio-economically diverse with small farms and large farms as neighbors. The County's poorest residents, including slaves, lived next to wealthy landowners. According to research on Levi Sheriff's plantation along the Anacostia, his nineteen slaves occupied "quarters" at different sites on the farm. These dwellings were described as "distant from each other as well as from the main house. They [the enslaved] maintained gardens, fruit trees, chickens and pigs."⁸ While today's northwest quadrant of the County had a greater number of large farms (over 100 acres), the largest pre-war slaveholder, George Washington Young, owned the most extensive farms in the southeast quadrant.

During the Civil War, the Union Army requisitioned existing farmhouses and other structures for hospitals and headquarters, and built fortifications, batteries and camps across the County landscape. The military built these structures where it needed them without regard to existing structures or land use. After the War, many of the original owners chose not to return to their County farms, many of which had been left in disarray and even ruin. Some had settled in the city and decided to remain there; others had left the region altogether. The ultimate change in land ownership, the labor shortage induced by the end of slavery, and the expanding urban center, all served as an impetus for transformation in the County. Now open to non-agricultural uses, the County was soon filled with cemeteries, institutions, and residential subdivisions.

By the 1880s, as the population continued to increase and the electric streetcar was introduced providing easier access beyond the city, Washington County began experiencing a significant real estate boom. Land speculators and real estate developers bought up County land, including its farm complexes and estates, and began subdividing it for residential development. These subdivisions were laid out according to their own established plans, without conforming to the city's street plan, or to adjacent subdivisions. This phenomenon outraged city planners and politicians who dubbed the newly platted areas as "misfit subdivisions" and sought a plan to control them. Following an 1887 moratorium on any new subdivisions that did not conform with the L'Enfant Plan, Congress passed the Permanent Highway Act of 1893. The resultant Permanent Highway Plan created a street plan outside of the original city limits in the former Washington County.

The maps for this street plan, prepared in sections and finalized in 1897, established the basis for the transformation of rural Washington County. Although the plan was progressive in its planning principles (i.e. followed natural terrain, respected landscape features, and existing residential

⁵ In 1850, Levi Sheriff reported 7,000 pounds of tobacco; in 1860, his daughter Elizabeth Lowrie produced 6,000 pounds and his daughter-in-law, Susan B. Sheriff raised 8,000 pounds on a nearby adjacent farm. (As itemized in Laura Henley, p. 392.)

⁶ Timothy Dennee, The Scheele-Brown Farmhouse, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2013.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ruth Ann Overbeck, et al, "Final Report on the History and Building of the Northeast Washington Community of Deanwood," D.C. Historic Preservation Division, Washington, D.C., 1987, p. 13.

subdivisions and institutional complexes), the Plan straightened existing roads and established new ones with little consideration for the cultural landscape and its built environment. As private real estate developers subdivided the land into residential lots, they similarly did so with little regard for the existing buildings.

Despite that general rule, certain farmhouses and associated buildings that stood at the time of development of their surrounding lands managed to survive into the present. While many of the farms and farm buildings were incorporated into large institutional complexes, namely school and religious campuses, others were simply retained as part of the residential subdivision process. These former farmhouses, albeit on much reduced lots, were fitted (sometimes moved and/or re-oriented) into the new residential street configuration with neighboring houses constructed around them. Often, developers of the new subdivisions celebrated the rural character of the new residential areas even highlighting the former farmhouses in their promotional sales brochures and touting the “bucolic” nature of the landscape. By the mid-20th century, though, the bucolic lands gave way entirely to newly cut and laid streets, new residential neighborhoods, and new single dwellings lining the suburban-sized lots leaving the city’s rural heritage behind. The former farmhouses, once common and visible elements upon the rural landscape, are now fewer and harder to detect. Still, at least 67 survive, as documented by this survey, either in full view, or nestled behind later-built houses on lots towards the interior of squares, or re-oriented, re-modeled and incorporated into the streetscape. Their full histories await discovery.



The Jost-Kuhn Farmhouse at 1354 Madison Street was once the center of a 24-acre farm. The house sits slightly askew to the street and is readily recognizable as an historic farmhouse among the mid-20th century neighboring houses.

Survey Findings

The survey resulted in the identification of 67 buildings, objects, or remnants of buildings constructed before adoption of the Permanent Highway Plan and the ensuing residential subdivision of Washington County.⁹ Of these 67 resources, 27 are D.C. Landmarks and five are located within historic districts. As such, 33 of the identified properties are already officially recognized and protected under the D.C. Historic Preservation Law. One building, the Scheele-Brown House on Foxhall Road, NW is a pending landmark and one site, the Henderson Castle Wall is located within a pending historic district. For a complete list of the 33 farms and estates that are either D.C. Landmarks, or located within historic districts, see **Appendix A**.

The survey classified the identified resources by property sub-type and date. Below is a list of these types and their frequency of occurrence:

<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
18 th Century Farm or Estate	3
19 th Century (Early-Mid) Farm	19
19 th Century (Late) Farm	27
19 th Century (Early-Mid) Estate	11
19 th Century (Late) Estate	7

This classification was based upon whether or not the land was cultivated, as gleaned from assessment records and other primary and secondary source information. If the land appears to have been cultivated, no matter at what scale, then the property was classified as a farm. If the property did not include cultivated lands, then it was classified as an estate. The three 18th century properties (two of which are remnants) were not distinguished as either farms or estates, pending further research. Buildings constructed before the end of the Civil War (1865) are classified as being Early-Mid 19th Century; those built after the end of the War are considered under the Late 19th Century category.

In terms of geographic distribution, the identified resources of historic Washington County are found in the city's northwest, northeast and southeast quadrants (southwest was entirely within the city limits). Northwest holds the greatest number of resources (48), followed by Northeast (13), and then Southeast (6). During the nineteenth century, the northwest quadrant had some of the most extensive landholdings, yet Southeast was home to the largest pre-Civil War plantations (Nonesuch and Giesboro). The Mary Denman House, still standing at 3703 Bangor Street, SE is directly associated with Nonesuch Plantation.

Of the 67 resources surveyed, 61 are "buildings," three are "objects" and three are "sites." A resource was only classified as a site if it includes remnants of a former farmhouse or estate building or structure (or, is thought to include such a remnant). The three objects include: 1) the two gates marking the

⁹ In addition to these 67 properties, eleven more were identified and surveyed, but were not included in the count. These eleven are actually 20th-century buildings that are remnants of historic 19th-century farms or estates and erected before the subdivision of the land. Although they do not technically qualify as a pre-Permanent Highway Plan farms or estates, they are of interest to us and so have been captured in the database. However, the survey did not collect information on 20th century resources having associations with former farms or estates in any systematic or exhaustive manner.

entrance to Charles Glover's Westover Estate on Massachusetts Avenue, NW ; 2) the Threlkeld Marker, a 1770 stone marker on the lands of John Threlkeld whose 18th-century estate of approximately 1,000 acres included his Georgetown Heights home, "Berlieth;" 3) the fountain at McLean Gardens that was once part of John R. McLean's "Friendship" estate. The three sites include: 1) the 1912 house at 4435 P Street that is thought to include stones from Henry Foxall's Spring Hill Farm in its foundation; 2) the 1913 Greystone House at 2325 Porter Street that was purportedly built with stones from Joshua Peirce's barn at Linnaean Hill; and 3) Henderson Castle Wall, the 1883 red Seneca sandstone wall built by John and Mary Henderson delineating the edge of their property. This list of sites is not exhaustive as there may be more buildings in which remnants of older buildings may be identified in the future.



The Henderson Castle Wall at 16th Street and Florida Avenue, classified as a "site" in the survey, survive as a remnant of the 1883 Henderson Castle, shown in the historic photo at left.

Of the 61 buildings identified, 52 are dwellings and nine are associated or secondary buildings. Of these nine, four are springhouses (Springland Springhouse, Peirce Springhouse, Fenwick Farm Springhouse, and the Greenvale Springhouses).¹⁰ There are three agricultural-related buildings including Peirce Mill Barn, Peirce Mill Stillhouse, and the Barn at Saint Elizabeths. In addition, there is the Corcoran Hunting Lodge—a red Seneca sandstone building with a mansard roof constructed ca. 1852 by W.W. Corcoran at his Harewood Estate and, according to local historian John Feeley, built as a hunting lodge. And, finally, there is Barry Tavern, a gable-roofed frame building on Rock Creek Church Road which local tradition holds was built as a roadside tavern.

Architecturally, the identified buildings range from stone, to brick to frame and log, and from the high-style (i.e. Woodley, Ingleside) to the vernacular (Wetzel/Archbold Cabin). The masonry structures are mostly the oldest examples and represent farmhouses, farm-related buildings, and country retreats of the early-mid 19th century. Several of these identified buildings were executed in fashionable styles for the period, namely the Federal (Woodley), Greek Revival (Ingleside, Holt House, Dunblane, Tucker-Means Farmhouse, Brooks Mansion), the Gothic Revival (Anderson Cottage), the Italianate (Jost-Kuhn Farmhouse, Frederick Douglass House), and Second Empire (Howard Hall, Van View). The majority of the identified resources date from the late nineteenth century and are generally vernacular frame structures, though many with folk Victorian massing and details. Of course, there are

¹⁰ Research is currently being conducted on the springhouses at Greenvale, now part of the National Arboretum. Based upon initial research, though, it appears that the two springhouses were part of an early 20th-century commercial spring water bottling operation called Red Oak Mineral Water Company.

notable exceptions, namely in the architect-designed country estates from the period that were executed with great attention to stylistic fashion (i.e. Twin Oaks; Admiral's House, United States Observatory). Other stylistic exceptions here go to the Lightfoot House and Owl's Nest, neither one a farmhouse, nor a country estate, but more of a suburban villa. Lightfoot House was designed in an unusual and eclectic high Victorian aesthetic with a Moorish dome capping its central tower, while Owl's Nest provides an unparalleled example of the Shingle Style in the city.

Some of the buildings identified had, at one time, greater stylistic presence, but have since been lost to additions and alterations. The Italianate Deane House in Deanwood for instance lost much of its character when it was converted into a church in 1981. Similarly, the Barker Farmhouse on 33rd and M Street, SE, shows vestiges of Gothic Revival-style detailing in its gable end, but has been otherwise altered by replacement materials and later additions.



The Deane House, at left and right, was built before 1878 for Dr. Julian Deane. Dr. Deane was the grandson of Levi Sheriff, one of antebellum Washington County's largest slave owners and a member of the Deane family after whom Deanwood was named. In 1921, the Deane house was re-aligned to face Jay Street, and in 1981 it was converted into a church, greatly altering its farmhouse character.

All told, the 67 surviving resources provide opportunities for understanding the full breadth of the County's history and cultural landscape. This history can be seen in the oldest remains of the extensive 18th-century plantations that preceded the establishment of the District of Columbia, to the sizeable and more modest nineteenth-century estates and farms, to the late 19th-century suburban villas that marked a transition of Washington County from agrarian landscape to residential suburb.

Recommendations

This survey has been the first step in the process of understanding and documenting the built environment of the former Washington County. The following recommendations will build upon this initial survey project:

- Continue to add properties to the database as they are identified through neighborhood surveys and historical research
- Continue intensive-level research on properties not already selected in the initial group of eight
- Pursue further research and documentation of those eight properties already surveyed at the intensive level.

- Develop a list of criteria for historic designation of County resources and prepare a list of eligible properties
- Work with property owners to pursue landmark designations
- Expand the survey effort to include early subdivision houses in Washington County
- Expand the survey effort to include early 20th century estates built in non-conformance of the Highway Plan on tracts subdivided from larger 19th century properties
- Prepare a web-based publication and interactive map on the County's historic resources and post to HPO website



This house at 1608 Upshur Street, NW was built in Blagden's Subdivision—an 1876 subdivision of "Argyle," William Blagden's early 19th-century estate. This house and one across the street at 1611 Upshur Street are the oldest houses in the neighborhood.

Bibliography

Published and Unpublished Books and Records

Dryden, Steve. *Peirce Mill: Two Hundred Years in the Nation's Capital*. Washington, D.C.: Lergamot, 2009.

Feeley, John, Jr. and Rosie Dempsey. *Images of America: Brookland*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.

Hawkins, Don. "The Landscape of the Federal City: a 1792 Walking Tour." *Magazine of the Historical Society of Washington, DC*, Vol. 3, p 10-33.

Helm, Judith Beck. *Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood*. Washington, D.C.: Tenally Press, 1981, second edition, 2000.

Henley, Laura. *The Past Before Us: An Examination of the pre-1880 Cultural and Natural Landscape of Washington County, District of Columbia*. PhD Dissertation, Catholic University of America, 1993.

Hutchinson, Louise Daniel. *The Anacostia Story: 1608-1930*. Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977.

Kelsey & Associates, "Historic Resources Survey of Tenleytown, Washington, DC," for the Tenleytown Historical Society for the D.C. Historic Preservation Division, 2003.

Lampl, Elizabeth Jo and Kimberly Prothro Williams. *Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.

McDaniel, George. *Images of Brookland: The History and Architecture of a Washington Suburb*. Historical and Cultural Studies, No. 1, Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, 1979.

National Register Nomination Forms (Various)

Pippenger, Wesley E., compiler. *Index to District of Columbia Estates, 1801-1929*, Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2008.

Records of the County of Washington, General Assessment Books, 1855-1865; 1868; 1871; 1872-1873; 1873-1874; 1875; 1876-1877; 1878-1879

Smith, Kathryn Schneider, ed. *Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital*, Second Edition. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.

Stewart, Alice Fales. *Images of America: The Palisades of Washington, D.C.* Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.

Swerdloff, David. *Crestwood: 300 Acres, 300 Years*. Washington, D.C.: 2013.

Maps

Baist, G.W., Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia, 1903, 1907, 1909-1911, 1913-1915, 1919-1921

Boschke, A. Topographic map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856, '57, '58 and '59, Printed 1861.

Carpenter, B.D., Map of the Real Estate in the County of Washington, D.C. Outside the Cities of Washington and Georgetown from actual surveys, 1881.

Hopkins, G.M. A Complete Set of Surveys and Plats of Properties in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, 1887.

Hopkins, G.M., Real Estate Plat Book of Washington, District of Columbia, Vol. 3, Comprising West Washington County, 1894.

Sanborn Map Company, Maps of Washington, District of Columbia, 1888, 1903, 1927, 1959

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Topographical Map of the District of Columbia, Made for the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1892.

Newspapers

The Evening Star

The National Intelligencer

The Washington Post

Times-Herald

Appendix A

Intensive-Level Survey Chronologies

- Angerman Farmhouse
- Deane House
- Denman Property
- Fenwick Farm Springhouse
- Jost-Kuhn Farmhouse
- Scheele-Brown Farmhouse
- Tucker-Means Farmhouse
- Van View

Angerman Farmhouse
589 Columbia Road, NW
Built 1868-1871



- 1861** Boschke Map shows land upon which house at present-day 589 Columbia Road is owned by J. "Major" or "Magor."
- 1855-1868** Tax Assessment Records list E.A. major owning house lot and furniture assessed at \$500. The same is shown for D.B. Major. This refers to David B. Major and his wife Elizabeth A. Major. As the two property owners were married, and the assessment is identical, it is likely the property was the same, not separate.
- 1868** Tax Assessment Records list D.B. Major owning 1.25 acres of land, assessed at the value of \$1000/acre, with \$350 worth of improvements built on it. The same is shown for E. A. Major. John Angerman is shown as a resident of the same district, owning 1.75 acres with \$200 of improvements.
- 1871** Tax Assessment Records list Angerman of Corcoran Road with 3 acres of land at an assessed worth of \$3600 and \$5000 of improvements. Based on the increased value of the improvements, it appears that Angerman had built the house at present-day 589 Columbia Road. The acreage and value are consistent through 1873.

- 1877** Newspaper reports a fire that burnt down the Angerman barn, causing \$7500 worth of damage. The barn contained a quantity of agricultural implements and a valuable whiskey meter, indicating the agricultural use of the property. (*The Evening Star*; 8/6/1877)
- 1881** Carpenter Map shows the 3 acres of land is shown as belonging to J. Angerman, Angerman Farmhouse is depicted on the property. Plate 15.
- 1894** Hopkins Map shows farmhouse on 3 acre Angerman lot, and one duplex on the 1.75 acre property that belonged to John Major. Other improvements are present on the Angerman property. Plate 10.
- 1903** Baist Map shows the Angerman farmhouse in original location. Some outbuildings appear on the 3-acre Angerman property as well. One the current duplexes on former John Major property is shown, though not aligned with Columbia Road. Plate 13.
- 1904** Sanborn Map shows the Angerman farmhouse as a 3-story frame building, though the third story likely counts the raised foundation. It also shows the two duplexes have been built, not quite aligned with the road. The space between them is empty. Plate 100.
- 1908-1909** John Angerman is assessed for 95/3, which is 130, 000 square feet and has \$2500 assessed for improvements. These improvements refer to the Angerman Farmhouse. Claude and Henrietta King are assessed for property adjacent to Angerman's property—the former John Major property.
- 1909** Angerman dies; his land is auctioned off by trustees. (*The Evening Star*; 10/09/1910)
- 1910** C.F. and H.E. King apply for a permit to move the buildings at addresses 591, 593, 595, and 597 Columbia Road. These move permits refer to the two duplexes on Columbia Road, shown on the 1904 Sanborn.
- 1911** Henrietta E. King applies for a permit to move a 2-story dwelling, frame and brick, on parcel 95/7, which was formerly the Angerman property. The improvement value is estimated as \$2000. The description reads, "Remove present frame dwelling from present position to a position front inside of building line, and construct brick addition as the accompanying ..." This refers to the Angerman Farmhouse, presently at 589 Columbia Road.

- 1917- 1918** Henrietta King is assessed for the parcel of land 95/7, which is 20,784 square feet and contains the house built in 1868-71. The improvements are valued at \$5000. Henrietta and Claude are also assessed for parcels 95/9 and 95/13, respectively. Each of these properties has improvements assessed at \$1600.
- 1921-1922** These tax assessment records show that the previous parcels have been further divided. Henrietta King is assessed for the parcel of land 95/15 (formerly 95/7), which is 9122 square feet and contains the Angerman Farmhouse built in 1868-71. The improvements are valued at \$5800. Henrietta and Claude are also assessed for parcels 95/12, 95/15, 95/16, 95/18, 95/19, and 95/21, the first and last being in Claude's name. 95/18 and 95/21 each have improvements assessed at \$1600.
- 1923-1924** Henrietta King is assessed for the parcel of land 95/15, which is 9122 square feet and contains the house built in 1868-71. The improvements are valued at \$8800. Henrietta and Claude are also assessed for parcels 95/12, 95/15, 95/16, 95/18, 95/19, and 95/21, the first and last being in Claude's name. 95/18 and 95/21 each have improvements assessed at \$2400.
- 1928** Sanborn Map shows three houses at addresses 587-597 Columbia Road aligned with the street. The lot that contains 587 and 589 contains a garage and two sheds. Plate 367.

Deane House
4421 Jay Street, NE
Before 1878



1848 Julian W. Dean is born. He is the son of John T. W. Dean and Mary Cornelia Dean. Mary Cornelia is the daughter of Levi Sheriff (then deceased) and the sister of matriarch Margaret Lowrie. Levi Sheriff was one of the largest ante-bellum slaveholders and landowners in Washington County. Julian is born in the Sheriff-Lowrie House (no longer extant) that stood on the future site of Suburban Gardens. Deane is spelled variously with and without an “e” until after 1888 when it is consistently spelled with an “e.”

1870s Julian Dean marries Kate Wells Browning. Julian Dean becomes a physician

1878 The 1878 Hopkins Map shows John Dean property with Dr. J.W. Dean property adjacent to it. Dr. J.W. Dean property has 500 acres and residence. This is the house moved to 4421 Jay Street by 1921. This house may also be the same building shown on the 1861 Boschke Map.

1880 Census Records show Julian Deane and Kate B. Deane with their four children living with Julian’s parents, John T. W. and Mary Cornelia Dean.

1886 Kate Browning Dean dies.

1887 Julian Deane marries Eleanor Rehil.

- 1888** About 1888, according to local tradition, Dr. Julian Dean initiated the use of the name “Deanwood as a place name.
- 1890** In 1890, Dr. Julian Deane filed several permit applications to construct eight houses along Sheriff Road. These are all two-story frame dwellings with stone or brick foundations. The 1894 Hopkins and later maps shows a row of houses lining Sheriff Road, likely the same houses that Julian filed permits for in 1890.
- 1893** Mary Cornelia Deane dies.
- 1895** Julian and Eleanor Deane’s first surviving child is born. Julian Deane invested in an invention of Benjamin Charles Pole called an “energizer.” To generate capital, Deane mortgaged his Deanwood property, losing his entire fortune. In 1895, Deane advertised his 57 acres and 30 buildings for sale (maps show it as 54 acres). The estate sold at auction for \$18,000 to Charles Slagle of Baltimore. Julian Deane moved to Massachusetts with his family, then back to Capitol Hill.
- 1904** Julian Deane and family return to his birthplace, the Sheriff-Lowrie house, indicated on maps as the 33-acre property under the name of Margaret Lowrie and just east of Deane’s former acreage.
- 1905** Julian Deane dies, leaving his second wife and their children in poverty.
- 1914** The former Dean property south of Sheriff Road is subdivided for residential development with 25’ x 100’ lots. The 1916 Sanborn Map indicates that several of the Deane-built houses survived the subdivision.
- 1921** The 1921 Baist map shows a frame house at 4421 Jay Street (Square 5126 Lot 57). According to local tradition it is the Julian Deane residence, moved there from its location in-line with the platted Jay Street as shown on maps. O.H. Fowler is issued a permit that same year to build detached houses at address 4409-4419 and 4425 Jay Street. Although not on 1921 map, they do appear on 1927 Sanborn. The Deane house at 4421 Jay Street is the only one of the many Deane houses to survive the residential subdivision of Deanwood.
- 1921** The Sheriff-Lowrie property east of the Dean property is shown as a 65-acre tract under the name of Randolph Lowrie with the Sheriff-Lowrie house still standing. By 1927, the Lowrie property was the site of Suburban Gardens; the Sheriff-Lowrie House demolished. The Julian Deane House at 4421 Jay Street thus survives as the sole remnant of the Sheriff family estate.
- 1985** The Deane House is converted into the Bible Baptist Church.

**Mary Denman Property
3703 Bangor Street, SE
Built circa 1860**



1826 In 1826, George Washington Young inherited a 150-acre tract of land east of the Anacostia River from his father, Nicholas Young. G.W. Young's grandfather, Notley Young was, at the time of the establishment of the District of Columbia, one of the area's largest landowners. The Young property, called Nonesuch, included a two-story frame plantation house (see historic photo below). Shortly after inheriting Nonesuch, G.W. Young purchased a 650-acre plantation at Giesborough where he moved his family and operated both plantations together from 1833 to 1863.

Mary B. Young, daughter of George Washington Young and Henrietta Smith, was born on April 6, 1837 at Giesborough Manor.

1850 Before the Civil War, G.W. Young was the wealthiest man in Anacostia and one of the largest slave owners in Washington County. The 1850 U.S. Census indicates that G.W. Young owned 91 slaves; the 1860 Census shows him owning 80 slaves (*Anacostia: The Untold Story*, p. 61-62).

1855 Washington County Assessment records show G.W. Young as owner of the 150 acre Nonesuch, and the 650-acre Giesborough plantations.

1861 Oral tradition holds that about 1860, G.W. Young built a house on the Nonesuch property and gave it to his youngest daughter, Mary, upon her marriage to a Colonel Denman. Boschke Map shows G.W. Young property and house, but

does not include the Denman name on the property, or show footprint of a house.

- 1872** In the Washington County Assessment Records, Mary Denman is assessed for a 54-acre tract of Nonesuch, along with its farmhouse and stable buildings. This assessment indicates that by 1872, at least, the house had been built.
- 1878** G.M. Hopkins Map shows the Col. Denmead [sic] property just below that of G.W. Young and on-site of present-day 3703 Bangor Street, SE.
- City directories throughout the 1870s and 1880s list H. Denman and family, first at 501 I Street, NW and then at 1004 N Street, NW. It appears that the Denmans live in the city at the same time they owned the farm in the County.
- 1881** B.D. Carpenter Map shows Mary B. Denham [sic] as owner of 46.3 acre tract below today's Suitland Road, and 7.75 acres north of it. The 46.3-acre tract includes improvement on the site of present-day 3703 Bangor Street, SE.
- 1895** Colonel Hampton Denman dies on October 11, 1895. Death notice indicates he died at his home on 16th Street, NW. (1632 16th Street and extant).
- 1898** Mary Denman dies suddenly on August 26, 1898. Mary Denman's will leaves her property known as "Nonesuch" and "Reserve" in trust for the benefit of her son, Hampton Denman, "so long as he shall remain unmarried, or, if married, without having any children. But when he shall have issue of his marriage then the trustees...convey the property to him in fee simple, divested of all trusts." (*The Times*, August 30, 1898).
- An inventory of the estate of Mary Denman shows that the personal property of Mary Denman at the time of her death was \$67,605, of which \$64,796 was in stocks and bonds. She owned 156 shares of Capital Traction Company.
- 1902** Hampton Denman dies at age 30 on May 26, 1902.
- 1939** By 1939, the former Denman property was platted into a residential subdivision called Summit Park. The subdivision was laid out, leaving the Denman house intact and on a lot designated as 3703 Bangor Street. The house, owned at that time by Mr. and Mrs. George H. Marshall, is illustrated in an article on the house (*The Post*, September 21, 1939).
- 1988** Owners Herbert and Yvonne Williams renovated the house. The neighborhood is part of Hillcrest and is still owned by the Williams.



Nonesuch, ca. 1920

Fenwick Farm Springhouse
1640 Kalmia Road, NW
Circa 1855



1850

Philip Fenwick is listed as a 60-year-old farmer in the U.S. Census. His son, William A. Fenwick, age 21, is also listed as a farmer and living with him. Also living at the property with no professions listed are Mary Ann Noble (27); Elizabeth Fenwick (25) and Jane Fenwick (22). All were born in Washington County. The property was valued at \$5,000. (*1850 U.S. Census, County of Washington, West of 7th Street Turnpike, December 1850*).

Philip Fenwick was born in 1790 in what became Washington County. He was married to Mary Ann Fenwick and had ten children. His wife died in 1848 at 49 years old.

1855

Assessment Records for Washington County show Philip Fenwick as owner of 145 acres with \$500 of improvements thereon. Fenwick is also assessed for six slaves, named and valued in the assessments, 8 cows, 4 horses and carts and wagon. His total property, including land, improvements, slaves, animals, and

furniture was valued at \$9,555.00. (*County of Washington Assessment Records, 1855-1864, National Archives, RG 351, Volume 1 of 12.*) With 145 acres and seven slaves, Fenwick was in the upper socio-economic strata of Washington County. The low assessment of improvements is suspicious, though, as a large number of buildings are shown on the property on the 1861 Boschke map.

- 1861** Boschke Map identifies the property under the name P. Fenwick. The property includes a cluster of buildings, likely agricultural ones, and another one set at a distance and north from the cluster (likely the farmhouse), and two others south of the cluster. Although not clearly delineated on the map or identified in assessments, it is being conjectured that the springhouse was built ca. 1855, since the Fenwick Farm was an active farming operation.
- 1862** Philip Fenwick officially emancipated his slaves in accordance with the D.C. Emancipation Law approved April 16, 1862. Seven slaves are named in Fenwick's Slave Emancipation Records, dated May 21, 1862. Of these, five are males aged 32, 20, 19, 17 and 15. One is a 20-year-old female. And, one is a 20-month old boy.
- 1863** Philip Fenwick "being of sound mind and memory" filed his will on April 28, 1863. The will names as executor, his son-in-law, John Van Riswick (married to his daughter, Mary) and his son, William A. Fenwick. Fenwick's will specified that his property should be evenly distributed among his children, and empowered his executors to sell his land. As such, Fenwick's property, money, and investments were liquidated and divided among his children between 1866 and 1872. Much of the land that was liquidated was purchased by John and Mary Van Riswick.
- 1863** Philip Fenwick died.
- 1868** Philip Fenwick's property was subdivided into four lots having 25, 31, 31 and 123-acres each for a total of 210 acres (this is 65 acres more than the 145 acres for which he was assessed in 1855). The *Evening Star* advertised an auction for the sale of the lots, noting that the auction would take place "at the house on Lot 4." (The *Evening Star*, October 7, 1868 and October 10, 1868).
- The 1868 Assessment Records show the 145 acre tract still in Philip Fenwick's name with James S. Fenwick listed as tenant farmer. The property still shown with just \$500 of improvements, 7 horses, 6 cows, wagons, carriages and furniture. The total property was valued at \$11,325.00 (\$10,875 for the land).
- 1872** Lots 1-4 of the former Fenwick Farm are again put up for auction. The auction ad notes that Lot 4 "contains about 123 acres, well wooded and watered, and in a high state of cultivation, borders on Rock Creek, and near the termination of the 7th Street railroad, now in progress of construction..."

- 1872-1874** Tax books show James Fenwick with two lots on 7th Street Rd, near MD line of 20 and 28 acres. No improvements listed. Records also show Philip Fenwick heirs with 126-acre tract with \$500 in improvements for \$10,157 total assessment.
- 1878** The 1878 Hopkins Map identifies the property as P. Fenwick. The map does not show the subdivision of land into four lots. It does show the same collections of buildings as on the Boschke Map.
- 1881** The B.D. Carpenter Map shows the former Fenwick property divided into large lots, though they are not identified as Lots 1-4. The largest parcels include a 126-acre lot under the name of John Van Riswick; another 12-acre parcel also under the name of John Van Riswick; a 20-acre parcel under the name of Jams Fenwick; and another 36-acre parcel also under the name of James Fenwick. This represents 194 of the 210 acres noted above.
- In addition, Mary Van Riswick is shown as owning a narrow 18-acre parcel of land that extends as a finger from the former Fenwick farm to the 7th Street Turnpike. Just east of the Turnpike, as shown on the 1881 Carpenter Map, is a building. This building is the still extant house known historically as “Van View,” built by the Van Riswicks, and located at 7714 13th Street, NW.
- 1894** The springhouse is clearly shown on the 1894 Hopkins Map. It is one of only two buildings left from the Fenwick Farmstead shown on earlier maps. The 125-acre tract is still shown under the name of John Van Riswick.
- 1903** The 1903 Baist Map shows the Permanent Highway Plan platted over the former Fenwick Farm. The 125-acre tract is still shown under the name of John Van Riswick.
- 1926** A portion of the 125-acre tract of the former Fenwick Farm is subdivided by developer Edson W. Briggs into the residential subdivision called Rock Creek Estates. The *Washington Post* touted the subdivision where the developer was “resolved to preserve...not only the trees, but the brooks, hills, and dales throughout the property,” and had worked out “a plan of curving driveways along the streams and following the natural contours” in consultation with District engineers and the Commission of Fine Arts. (“E.W. Briggs, Real Estate Developer,” *The Washington Post*, February 2, 1962. P.B4.)
- 1928** Marjorie Webster purchased a six-acre tract of the Rock Creek Estates with the intention of moving her school, the Marjorie Webster School of Expression and Physical Education (later Junior College), from downtown to the property. At the time of her purchase, the six-acre tract included the Fenwick Farm Springhouse and a Briggs-built house at 7760 Kalmia Road.
- Upon the six-acre site and atop a hill, Marjorie Webster built a Mediterranean Villa-style combination school building and dormitory for the students, along with a residence for herself. The springhouse was retained and incorporated

into the school grounds. The landscape plan for the six acre plot suggested the grounds of a great country estate, with “rolling terraces, shrubbery, and flowers...and an artificial lake for swimming...about one-half acre in size.”

1995

Lowell School, present owners and occupants of the property, purchased the former Junior College, including the springhouse, which survived from the Fenwick Farm. The springhouse remains an integral part of the campus and is considered a contributing building in the Marjorie Webster Junior College Historic District.

Jost-Kuhn Farmhouse
1354 Madison Street, NW
Built 1859



1858

Benedict Jost is assessed \$3,675 for property in Washington County (\$2,400 for 24 acres; \$275 for four horses and a cow; and \$1,000 for improvements). The \$1,000 value for improvements is low, so the present brick house not likely yet built.

1859

The *Daily National Intelligencer* posted the following advertisement indicating construction of the house: *“For Rent—A new first-class Brick House, built in the best and most convenient manner, containing a large parlor, nine rooms, one bath-room, and two capacious dry cellars. There is a back building attached, containing a kitchen and two bed-rooms for servants; also a pump of pure water and a carriage house and stable. The house is well adapted as a residence for a fashionable family. It is situated in the most healthful part of the District of Columbia, a short distance from the residence of Mr. Blagden on the Piney Branch road, and within half a hour’s drive from the President’s Mansion. Possession can be given in the early part of July next. For terms apply to B. Jost, Wine and Liquor merchant, no. 131 Pennsylvania Avenue, near Seventeenth Street” (DNI, 6/28/1859).*

The property appears on the Boschke Map (surveyed 1856-1859) with the name B. Jost as property owner. House lot shown on map, but no improvement indicated.

Benedict Jost, Swiss-born, naturalized citizen lived in D.C. at PA Ave and 17th Street since at least 1847. In that year, he took out a license for a shop (*NI*, December 24, 1847), and lost his 8 month-old daughter whose death was noted in the *Daily National Intelligencer* (*DNI*, September 3, 1847). Later advertisements note that Jost operated a restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue near 17th Street and imported wine and champagne from France (*DNI*, January 4, 1850).

1860 The *Daily National Intelligencer* posted the following advertisement: “Country residence for rent: the new Berne Brick cottage, now elegantly furnished, containing large airy parlors and rooms, on Piney Branch road, within half an hour’s drive from the President’s Manison. Apply to B. Jost 181 Pennsylvania Avenue, near 17th Street” (*DNI*, 5/15/1860)

1868 Benedict Jost is assessed \$15,762 for 25 ¼ acres in Washington County, including \$8,000 in improvements.

1869 Death of Benedict Jost at his residence on Piney Branch road. Obituary for Jost notes that his funeral took place at the German Lutheran Church at 20th and G Streets and that he was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

“Deceased—Mr. Benedict Jost...aged 62 years...a native of Switzerland, but emigrated to this country, and settled in the District, when quite a young man, and for a long series of years carried on the saddle and harness business on the south side of PA Ave., near 10th St., but subsequently for a long time carried on a restaurant in the first Ward, and a Wholesale liquor establishment...” (*Evening Star*, September 11, 1869) By will, Jost left his property to his widow.

1875 Benedict Jost assessed for 24 acres on Piney Branch road, including \$6,000 for brick house. (Although he’s deceased, assessment is still under B. Jost’s name.)

1878 Hopkins identifies property under “Mrs. Jost.”

1879-1882 Jost’s widow remarried in 1879; Jost’s brothers and sister contest Jost’s will. (*Post*, May 9, 1882)

1881 Carpenter map identifies property under “Benedict Jost’s heirs.”

1882 Chancery sale advertised: On Thursday, the fifteenth of June, he will sell that tract of land known as the farm of the late Benedict Jost, situated on the Piney Branch road, near Brightwood, containing 24 acres, more or less. The tract of land is improved by a very comfortable dwelling house and is in good order. Possession given to the purchaser by the 1st of November 1882. (*Evening Star*, May 23, 1882)

- 1888** Property sold by E.A. Ballach to Louise (Louisa) Kuhn.
- Louisa Kuhn is married to Gustave Kuhn who appears in 1880 census as a piano dealer, born in Hesse, Germany in 1837. He immigrated to U.S. in 1857. He lives with his wife and 7 children at 67 9th Street. In 1888, the Kuhn's moved to their newly purchased property. The Kuhns were issued a building permit to erect a frame dwelling at the corner of 14th Street and Brightwood Road to cost \$1,200. (*Critic-Record*, December 14, 1888). This frame structure has not been identified on maps.
- 1890** The Washington Post notes under Items of City News: "Gustave Kuhn's barn, carriage house, grain-house, grain, carriage, dog-cart, horse, and a cow, on his farm out near Brightwood, were burned. The origin of the fire is unknown and the loss \$1,500." (*Post*, Jan. 10, 1890)
- 1894** Hopkins Map shows the 24-acre property under name of Louisa Kuhn
- 1901** Gustav H. Kuhn awarded \$2,775.00 by the City as part of the Proposed Extension of Sixteenth Street. \$1,775.00 awarded for assessed damages and \$1,000 made in compensation. (*The Washington Times*, May 30, 1901)
- 1903** Baist Map shows property under "Gustav Kuhn" with Permanent Highway Plan superimposed over the 24-acre property.
- 1910** By 1910, according to U.S. Census, the Kuhns had moved out to Pasadena, CA.
- 1916** Sanborn Map shows the property subdivided as part of the 16th Street Highlands subdivision. House survives on an irregular lot at the corner of 14th Street and Madison (askew to street) in Square 2799. Lot further subdivided at later date, with two houses built between it and 14th Street.
- A barn associated with the property still stood north of the newly subdivided property at 1342 Montague Street until recent years.
- Present** House sits on 8,379-foot Lot 809 on Square 2799. It is listed as a single-family dwelling in Real Property Assessments, but appears to have two dwelling units based upon two front doors. House is intact and in good condition on the exterior.

Scheele-Brown Farmhouse
2207 Foxhall Road NW
Built 1865

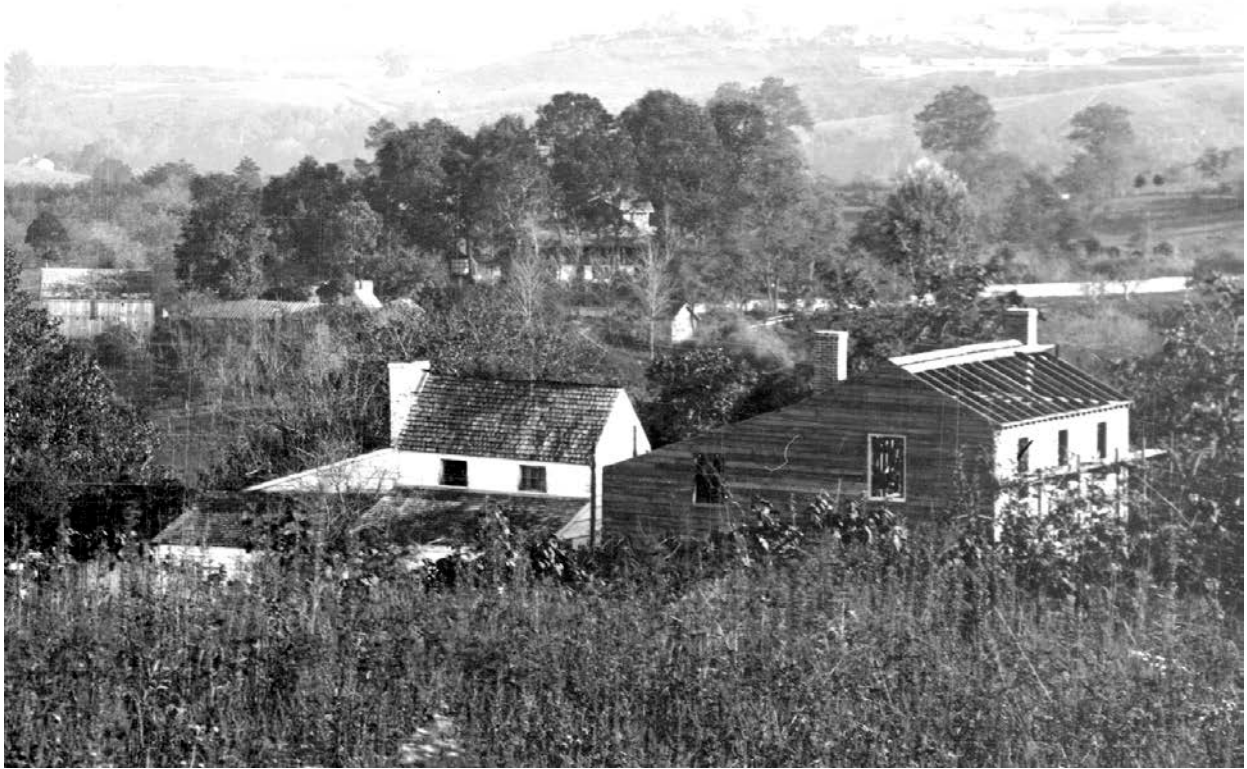


- 1838** Clement Smith sells an 11.88-acre portion of the former Whitehaven estate, previously owned by John A. Murdock, to Irish immigrant farmer Patrick Garrity. The purchase price was \$300. The Garritys build a frame house soon after. (District of Columbia Deed Book W.B. 67, Folio 306 (original folio 434))
- 1865** The Garrity farm is sold to Augustus Daniel Scheele, a Georgetown-born butcher and son of a German immigrant blacksmith. The property was sold September 11 by a trustee as the consequence of an equity suit to divide the estate of Patrick Garrity (who died intestate) among his heirs. The purchase price was \$3,425. A purportedly 1865 photo by Civil War photographer William Morris Smith (see below) shows the two-story, frame Scheele house under construction, and the former Garrity house behind it. (District of Columbia Deed Book R.M.H. 1, Folio 55)

- 1866** The Scheeles sell off the southwest corner of the farm, a 55-by-155-foot lot on Ridge (Foxall) Road to butcher William Donaldson. Donaldson builds a house there by 1872. (District of Columbia Deed Book R.M.H. 27, Folio 290; Washington County General Assessment Books)
- 1868** The county tax assessments value the Scheele farm at \$2,300 for the land and \$1,200 for the improvements. (Washington County General Assessment Books)
- 1870** An entry in the agricultural census describes the Scheele farm and its products. United States Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedules for the District of Columbia)
- 1874-1875** Augustus and Mary Scheele take a mortgage on the property and almost immediately default. The property is nearly sold by the trustee, but is instead leased to farmer-butcher Walter Brown. It was described as a “very valuable improved country residence of A. Scheele near Georgetown... [containing] about 11½ acres of fine land, improved by a comfortable and nearly new Dwelling-House, Barn, Corn-house, Slaughter-house, a fine well of water at the door, and all necessary out-buildings.... Also, the small House and grounds [i.e., the old Garrity house] adjoining the above on the south.” (*Evening Star*, June 1, 1875; United States Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedules for the District of Columbia)
- 1878** The house appears in the 1878 Hopkins atlas identified as belonging to “A. Shela”.
- 1880** An entry in the agricultural census describes the Brown farm and its products in 1879-1880. United States Census, 1880, Agricultural Schedules for the District of Columbia)
- 1881** Joshua D. Brown, a Laurel, Maryland farmer and butcher, purchases the Scheele farm and sells it to Mary Ellen Ford Brown, the wife of his son, Walter. (District of Columbia Deed Book 970, Folio 77)
- 1886** Walter Brown purchases an adjoining 22.3-acre farm, formerly owned by Captain R. Clarendon Jones. (District of Columbia Deed Book 1188, Folio 214)
- 1888** Walter and Mary Ellen Brown obtain a building permit for a new residence, at the northern edge of their farm, the site of the present Cafritz mansion/Field School. Although an 1887 mortgage suggests that they might have begun construction right away, no definitive map, directory or newspaper evidence has been found of the house being completed before 1892-1893. The Browns name their farm “Lovell Crest”. Once they moved out of the former Scheele house, that house was likely rented out to tenants, and possibly household, farm or slaughterhouse employees. (District of Columbia Building Permit #1984, May 11, 1888; District of Columbia Equity Case Files, 1863-1938; *Washington Post* November 30, 1893)

- 1902** Walter and Mary Ellen Brown sell a four-acre parcel, Parcel 19/6 along Ridge (Foxhall) Road, including the former Scheele house, to their daughter-in-law, Edith Louise Kengla Brown.
- 1903** Edith Brown and her husband, Walter Milton Brown, move the old Scheele house from its original site to its present one (and probably reconstruct the front porch and add a small shed addition), and construct a new house on the old site. They also build a stable and carriage house. (District of Columbia Equity Case Files, 1863-1938; District of Columbia Building Permit #0365, August 27, 1903 and #900, November 10, 1902)
- 1906** Walter Milton Brown joins his father and brother business at Center Market as Walter Brown and Sons, butchers.
- 1908** Walter Brown modernizes his slaughterhouse by raising the roof and pouring a concrete floor. Although Baist maps show a large outbuilding not far from the Brown residences, the parcel number and a reference to "New Cut" (Reservoir) Road indicate that Brown's slaughterhouse was near the south end of the farm, on the portion acquired in 1886. (District of Columbia Building Permit #3245, April 21, 1908).
- 1915** Walter Milton Brown and Edith Brown informally separate, and the entire family moves out of their new house, Walter to Maryland, and the rest of the family to 1473 Monroe Street NW. (District of Columbia Equity Case Files, 1863-1938; city directories)
- 1918** Walter Milton Brown and Edith Brown divorce, and Edith sells the four-acre Foxhall Road property, including the two houses, to Jessie Fremont Greer Magee. Magee lived in Edith Brown's former residence. Her daughter, Avice Magee Greene, lived with her husband in the Scheele-Brown house from at least 1921 to 1933, as did Jessie Magee's sister, Ella B. Greer Scheele, from at least 1934. Both Magee and Scheele remained in their respective homes until their deaths in the late 1950s. (District of Columbia Equity Case Files, 1863-1938; District of Columbia Deed Book 4059, Folio 500; city directories)
- 1925** W Street, from Ridge Road east to a new 44th Street right-of-way, is dedicated with the consent of the surrounding property owners. Both streets went through the Brown farm, and the creation of W Street ate into both the Magee property and the old Donaldson house lot. (District of Columbia Subdivision Book 78, Folio 21)
- 1932** Ridge Road is renamed as a continuation of Foxhall Road.
- 1938** The first known aerial photographs of the Scheele-Brown house (and its neighbors) show that the rear kitchen porch had already been enclosed by that time, and that the stuccoed shed addition at the rear of the kitchen ell already stood. (Aero Service Photograph Collection, Historical Society of Washington D.C.)

- 1942** A plumbing permit at this date suggests that the second-story, rear, bathroom addition might have been built during World War II. (District of Columbia Plumbing Permit #255470, September 2, 1942)
- 1961** Lottie Pearl Magee, one of Jessie Magee's daughters and sole surviving tenant in common, sold the Scheele-Brown house to James M. and Sylvia K. Shugrue. The rear sunroom addition appears to have been erected at 2207 Foxhall during the Shugrue tenure. Magee also sold the rear of Parcel 19/6 to real estate speculator John W. Truver who, in turn, immediately sold it to an investment corporation that subdivided the parcel to create twelve house lots along W Street and around a new cul-de-sac. They began selling lots at the end of 1962. (District of Columbia Deed Book 11725, Folio 23; District of Columbia Deed Book 11725, Folio 43, etc.; District of Columbia Deed Book 11858, Folio 582; District of Columbia Survey Book 181, Folio 138)
- 1964** The Shugrues had sewer work done, to repair or supplement the sewer replacement done by Lottie Magee in 1958. (District of Columbia Public Space Permit #B24342, September 11, 1958 and District of Columbia Public Space Permit #BB111143, May 20, 1964)
- 1983** The house's electrical service was heaved up in 1983. (District of Columbia Building Permit #B3898715, October 27, 1983)
- 2013** The Scheele-Brown house is vacant. It was purchased from Mrs. Shugrue's estate (Sylvia K. Shugrue Revocable Trust) by Atties O Street LLC. From a sign posted at the site, the purchaser proposes to raze the house and build a larger one for sale, but no permit application has been submitted except for a second curb cut (not issued; Accela permit database).



*Above: The Scheele-Brown house under construction in 1865. The Garity house stands to the south.
Below: A 1938 aerial view of the former William Donaldson house and the Scheele-Brown house.*



Tucker-Means Farmhouse
1216 Upshur Street, NE
Built 1854-1858



- 1854** Enoch Tucker sold a 100-acre truck farm in southeast for \$19,000 to the Union Land Association for its subdivision of the land into Uniontown (Anacostia). (*The Anacostia Story*, p. 53; and "It's A Growing Suburb: Anacostia is at Present Making Rapid Strides for Itself," *The Post*, August 27, 1889; Deed conveying Tucker's land to John Fox, et al in Liber JAS No 78 Folio 114, 1854).
- 1859** An ad in *The Daily National Intelligencer* for a public sale of land "adjoining the property of...Enoch Tucker...This land is about the most desirable in Washington County, it being near Rock Creek Church, and in a most desirable neighborhood, always accessible to the city, there being no river to cross" (*DNI*, 4/12/1859).
- 1861** A sizable parcel of land near Bladensburg Road in northeast, is identified on the Boschke Map (surveyed 1856-1859) under the ownership of Enoch Tucker. The map indicates a cluster of buildings on the property and indicates that Enoch Tucker likely purchased the property after selling his land east of the River in 1854 and by 1859 as per the *DNI* mention of Tucker's land near Rock Creek Church Road.

According to newspaper articles and ads, in 1824, Enoch Tucker entered into partnership with Richard Thompson, and operated a business in Georgetown called Tucker & Thompson until 1834. Tucker later had a business, E. Tucker & Co. at 7th and E Streets, downtown, with a “full stock of Housekeeping and Builders’ Hardware, Mechanics Tools, Guns, Pistols, Fishing Tackle, etc.”

Advertisements throughout 1851 in the *Daily National Intelligencer* for the sale of fruit trees, note: “The fruit trees are of the first quality, mostly worked from standard trees. Prompt attention will be paid to orders sent directly to the nursery or left with the following gentleman: William Cammack, Enoch Tucker, Fizhugh Coyle.” It appears that Enoch Tucker was both a city merchant and a farmer (in 1851, anyway), raising fruit trees on his property.

- 1858-64** Enoch Tucker is assessed \$12,835 for property in Washington County (50 acres at \$6,250; 96 acres at \$3,840; 9 acres at \$405; Improvements at \$2,000; 3 horses at \$150; 4 cows at \$40, and a corral cart and carriage at \$150.)
- 1868** Enoch Tucker is assessed \$10,000 for 50 acres in Washington County with \$3,000 in improvements on it.
- 1869** Enoch Tucker dies at the age of 79. Death notice in *Daily National Intelligencer* notes that he died at his home on C Street, NW. (*DNI*, March 16, 1869)
- 1869** Enoch Tucker’s will advises his executor “to sell and convey my farm on the old Bladensburg Road...and devise the proceeds of sale as above [to be divided equally among his children]. (Will Book docket OS 5926, 3/12/1869)
- 1871** Enoch Tucker (although deceased) is assessed for 50 acres on Bunker Hill Road, \$7,500 for land and \$3,500 for improvements
- 1873-1874** Enoch Tucker is assessed for 48 acres on Bunker Hill Road, \$7,200 for land \$1,000 for improvements. It is not clear why the assessed value of the house would have fallen so dramatically.
- 1878** 1878 Hopkins Map shows property under ownership of General Babcock.
- 1881** Carpenter Map shows Orville E. Babcock as owner of property.
- 1885** In 1885, a *Washington Post* article notes that a farm near Tenleytown was “recently purchased by Secretary [Whitney of the Navy Department] from Mr. Lewis D. Means.” (“Secretary Whitney’s Home,” *The Washington Post*, October 4, 1885). This notice indicates that Means had likely moved from his Tenleytown property to this house by 1885.

As gleaned from newspaper ads, census records, etc., it appears that Lewis D. Means was a tavern keeper, farmer and cattle dealer in Tenleytown from 1850 through the early 1880s. In the 1850 census, Means is listed as a 30 year-old having a tavern and droveyard west of the 7th Street turnpike. In 1870, he is

listed as a 49-year-old farmer and cattle dealer in Tenleytown. Between 1881-1885, Lewis Means, proprietor of the Washington Cattle Market at Queenstown regularly advertised his auction in the local *Evening Star* newspaper. The market was held every Monday at Queenstown, located 3 miles north of the city on the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O. A droveyard is clearly identified on the 1878 Hopkins, just north of Brooks Station on the property (then owned by Babcock, though).

- 1891** Reward advertisement in the *Evening Star* provides first clue of Lewis D. Means becoming owner of the property: "\$10 Reward—Strayed or Stolen from my premises near Brookland, D.C., December 11, 1890, two horses, one a very dark bay or brown, lame in the right foreleg and one a light bay with white in the forehead—Lewis D. Means. (*Evening Star*, December 14, 1891)
- 1894** Hopkins Map shows property under the name of Lewis D. Means.
- 1900** Lewis D. Means, 80, listed as a farmer on Bunker Hill Road, and owner of his farmhouse, is widowed. He lives with his daughter-in-law and his daughter and her family live nearby.
- 1907** Baist Map shows property with Permanent Highway Plan superimposed over it. The name W.A. Rector and Chas. M. Woolf, Tr. listed as owners of large section of property on which the house and outbuilding still stand. House sits in the center of Upshur Street at south side of Square 3919. Later Baist maps(1913, 1919) show Square 3919 with house lots subdivided and no extant resources. (This was clearly as platted and did not reflect real situation).
- 1927** 1927 Sanborn Map shows the house moved, slightly, to the corner of Upshur Street and 12th Place, NE, facing south to Upshur Street.

**“Van View”
7714 13th Street, NW
Built 1868-1871**



1861

The tract of land upon which Van View at 7714 13th Street was constructed (1868-1871) is shown on the 1861 Boschke Map. The tract is a long and narrow 18 ¼-acre parcel extending from the large farm of Philip Fenwick, east to the 7th Street Turnpike. Two buildings are shown facing the 7th Street Turnpike; no building is shown at site of present house at 13th and Kalmia. The property appears to have been part of the Fenwick Farm of which the springhouse at 1640 Kalmia Road survives. (See chronology for the Fenwick Farm Springhouse).

1863

Philip Fenwick, a prosperous Washington County farmer with more than 145-acres in the area under cultivation, died in 1863. His will named his son-in-law John Van Riswick and his son, William A. Fenwick as executors and empowered them to sell his land and divide the proceeds equally among his children. As such, Fenwick's property, money, and investments were liquidated and divided among his children.

- 1868** Much of the Fenwick land that was liquidated was purchased by John and Mary Van Riswick, including the 18-acre parcel of land upon which they built Van View. The probate records for Philip Fenwick indicate that the Van Riswicks bought a lot "on Pike" for \$3,812.00; this was most likely the 18-acre tract shown on maps. However, the 1868 County Assessment records did not, as yet, list the Van Riswicks as property owners.
- John and Mary Van Riswick were married in 1841 in Baltimore County. They had six daughters; of these six, only two, Avarilla (b. 1846) and Martina (b. 1862) outlived their parents. John Van Riswick was a prominent figure in the city. He represented the 7th Ward in the Common Council from 1848 to 1856; was president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company and Vice President of the Citizens' National Bank. ("Death of Mr. John Van Riswick," *The Washington Post*, April 28, 1886.)
- 1871** John Van Riswick was assessed \$6,000 for improvements on a 16 ¼-acre tract of land near the 7th Street Turnpike in Washington County. Although the 16 ¼ acres differs from the 18-acre tract identified on later maps and assessment records, it is most probably the same property. The high assessment on the improvements indicates that Van View at 7714 13th Street was built by 1871. The date of construction for the house thus dates between the 1868 Van Riswick's purchase of the land and the 1871 assessment. For the duration of the 1870s, Mary Van Riswick is listed as the owner of the property and is consistently assessed for the 18-acre property and \$6000 in improvements.
- 1878** The 1878 Hopkins Map identifies the property under the name John Van Riswick. The map, however, does not show the farmhouse at its present site. This is likely an error on the map.
- 1881** The B.D. Carpenter Map shows the 18-acre tract under the name of Mary Van Riswick along with a building at its present site. The 1880 U.S. Census Records list property for John Van Riswick in Washington County and on K Street downtown. The Van Riswicks likely split their time between the city and their working farm and country house, Van View.
- 1886** John Van Riswick died. Following John Van Riswick's death, Mary lived primarily at the Van View estate until the mid-1890s when she moved into town to live with her daughter, Martina Van Riswick Carr. From then on, and through the 1890s, Van View was rented out and continued to be a working farm until the early 20th century.
- 1894** The property appears on the 1894 Hopkins Map, showing 18 ¼-acre tract with main house and several outbuildings. A road extends along the length of the property connecting it to the larger 125-acre tract of the former Fenwick farm, also owned by the Van Riswicks.
- 1897** Mary Van Riswick died and her estate was divided up among her two children and three grandchildren. She left Van View to her grandson, Wilton Lambert, a

prominent Washington, D.C. lawyer. The will was contested by Martina Van Riswick Carr. The family eventually settled the lawsuit out of court and Wilton Lambert retained his inheritance of Van View and the accompanying 18 acres. Wilton Lambert was actively engaged in the development of the County, serving on several boards and committees.

- 1903** The 1903 Baist Map shows streets of the Permanent Highway Plan platted over the site. The map shows the property under the name of Wilton Lambert.
- 1906** A 1906 advertisement to rent Van View describes it: “Van View, corner Brightwood and Park Aves, one of the most desirable homes in District, 16 rooms; all modern improvements; garden and acreage, by season or year.” (*The Washington Times*, May 2, 1906, p. 2)
- 1909** In 1909, William Lambert sold his property, as did his neighbors, to the Lynchburg Investment Corporation. Despite this sale, the property and surrounding area remained unsubdivided for the next ten years.
- 1920s-1930s** During the mid-1920s and 1930s, the area was subdivided and developed into a residential neighborhood of single family dwellings. The houses were built primarily by Breuninger builders, though several of those on Kalmia were built by G.G. Loehler. Van View house survived the subdivision of the land on a corner lot between Jonquil and Kalmia at 13th Street that was carved out of the much larger 18 ¼-acre tract. The house was occupied by Gustav Loehler until at least 1937.
- 1940-present** During the 1940s, the house was updated and altered, and sold several times. In 1996, the present owners Charisse and Mario Brossard, purchased the property.