



# THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2016, Volume 53, Number 4

## HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

The Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Holiday House Tour and the 40th anniversary of the Bob Lucido Team of Keller-Williams Integrity. Together, we decided to honor our founder Alda Hopkins Clark and the Clark family with an exciting tour of the Clark family homes. Alda Hopkins Clark was one of the founders of the HCHS sixty years ago and was its first president. The Clark family has been a major force in the history and economic success of Howard County. Mrs. Clark donated to HCHS the First Presbyterian Church on Court Avenue in Ellicott City in 1958 to honor her husband, Judge James Clark, Sr. The church is now the Museum of Howard County History under the direction of the HCHS and Executive Director Shawn Gladden.

The contributions of the Clark family in the history of Howard County are continuing to this day from the establishment of Clarksville by James, John and David Clark and the public service of Judge James Clark, Sr. and Senator James Clark, Jr. to the 170th Anniversary of Clark's Ace

Hardware and the family-oriented Clark's Elioaks Farm. The dedication of the Clark family has been a key strength in the development and success of Howard County.



### CLARKLAND FARM

The epitome of a Howard County Farm House, Clarkland Farm has been in the Clark family since 1957 when Senator James Clark, Jr. combined the 500-acre Brown farm with the Elioak Farm that his father had purchased in 1927. Senator Clark farmed Clarkland Farm from 1946 until his passing in 2006. There is a memorial to both Jim and his wife, Lillian, in the front yard of the home at Clarkland Farm with the inscription, etched in stone, "Never Sell the Land". His daughter, Martha, and grandchildren, Nora and

Nathan Crist, hope to honor that inscription and keep farming in Howard County for generations to come.

James Clark, Jr. lived on Elioak Farm from 1946 to 1958 and then he and his wife, Lillian, and their family moved into the house on the Brown farm. The stone portion of the home dates to the 1840s. The clapboard section is about 100 years old. Jim and Lillian Clark remodeled the home in 1958. Martha made some modifications to the home when she moved in in 2008.



### SPRING HILL

This stone house is one of the earliest examples of its type, material, and method of construction in Howard County. Its

*Continued on Page 7*

#### HCHS MUSEUM

8328 Court Ave., Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(Formerly First Presbyterian Church)  
(410) 480-3250

Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday:  
1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

[www.hchsm.org](http://www.hchsm.org)

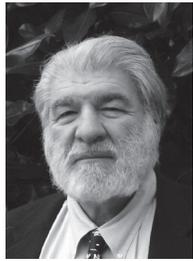
#### HCHS LIBRARY

New location: The Charles Miller Branch Library and Historical Center  
9421 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, Maryland 21042  
(410) 480-3250 (voice)

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 1:00-8:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1:00- 5:00 P.M.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

THEODORE MARIANI



Another year is rapidly ending and we have had many successful fund-raising events to help the Society. However, our most popular and continuing event is

the annual Holiday House Tour. With this year being the 40th anniversary of the Holiday House Tour and the 40th Anniversary of our Holiday House Tour sponsor, the Bob Lucido Team of Keller-Williams Integrity, we are paying tribute to our founder, Mrs. Alda Hopkins Clark.

Mrs. Clark was the wife of Judge James Clark, Sr., a lady of great social

status and a community organizer. She purchased the First Presbyterian Church on Court Avenue in Ellicott City and founded the Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) in 1958 to honor her husband, Judge Clark and his esteemed career. Three Clark family members are on the Board of Directors for HCHS – Martha Clark, Richard Clark and Anne Clark Schoenhut. The Clark family has had a profound impact on the history and economy of Howard County and continue today to support the history and economy of Howard County.

I hope you will enjoy the bus tour of these beautiful historic homes provided by another annual sponsor, Eyre Bus Service. The bus tour this year will be a very special and memorable tour. I hope you will join us. †

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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SEND US YOUR ARTICLES

Anyone interested in contributing articles or photographs or anything of interest to the Society, please call the Library at 410-480-3250 or email Janet Kusterer at janetkusterer@verizon.net

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

JANET KUSTERER

I am really looking forward to participating in the next "Lunch Date with History" at the Museum on December 2. I will be with Martha Clark, owner of Clark's Elioak Farm, and Linda Harrison Gardner, a daughter of Howard Harrison Jr. who created the Enchanted Forest. We will talk about our book about the Enchanted Forest and hope that you will share your memories of this magical place with us. We will also be signing books—a great gift idea. †

**WE ARE HAPPY TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**



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**HCHS IS ON  BECOME A FAN TODAY!**

For up-to-the minute news on happenings at the Society, become a fan on FaceBook. In addition to finding out what we are up to, you can also post comments, questions and photos of Society events and Howard County history. If you aren't on FaceBook yet, sign up today at www.facebook.com. †

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

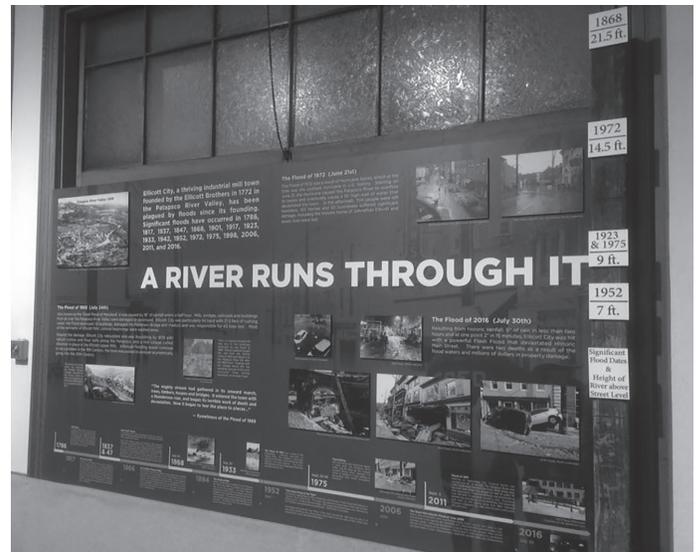
SHAWN GLADDEN



The entire community was affected by the Flash Flood that struck Ellicott City on July 30, 2016. We were having a concert that night at the museum; some of you reading this were there that night enjoying an *Ain't Misbehavin'* Big Band concert when the worst of it hit between 7:30 and 8:30 pm. The damage from this latest flood was devastating as we all

have seen and read in various media and social media accounts. Fortunately, the museum was not affected whatsoever by the storm, except for a small leak in the foyer. We stand behind our friends and partners on Main Street as they struggle to rebuild and restore their homes and businesses. We have opened the museum to businesses that needed places to store items and conduct business while their storefronts were being rebuilt. One of these offers has led to Yoga classes now being held at the museum 7 days a week when we are not open.

The role of the Historical Society is to document events like this for future generations to study, we already have extensive files on most of the floods that have ravaged the Patapsco River Valley dating back to the first recorded flood in 1782. Prior to July, we were working on a Flood exhibit using images and a few artifacts from the collection to tell this tragic history and highlight the stories of survival and rebuilding after each event. The exhibit was scheduled to go to the designer on August 2nd, we decided to pull it back and include this most recent event. By the time this issue of *The Legacy* has hit your mailbox, we will have installed and opened our latest permanent exhibit at the museum, *A River Runs Through It: The Floods of Ellicott City*. The exhibit visually chronicles the major floods from 1782 to 2016, focusing mainly on 1868, 1972, and 2016. We hope the exhibit will give historic context to



visitors and residents alike, as they try to recover from the loss and devastation that occurred this past July. The exhibit is a testament to those who have lost their lives, those who lost their businesses, and the character of this town that we all cherish. We hope that you get an opportunity to visit the museum and see this exhibit. If you have personal stories that you would like to share from any of the flood events that have occurred, we will be collecting these Oral Histories as a part of our collection.

In addition to the exhibit, we have been working with Preservation Howard County, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Preservation Howard County, and Howard County Government to provide historic research for some of the buildings affected by the flood, illustrating the significance of each site and justifying their saving and restoration. We have also assisted in fundraising efforts for the Ellicott City Partnership through the sale of bracelets and donation collection. Our organization is committed to the restoration of our Historic town and look forward to busy Main Street festivals and scores of visitors, we will rebuild and we are ECstrong. ♣



HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE, ALAN KITTLEMAN, LOOKS OVER THE NPS UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SIGN AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SIGN UNVEILING

On Saturday October 1st, the Howard County Historical Society and our partner, the Howard County African American Heritage Program, unveiled the first of four National Park Service signs acknowledging sites that were approved for the "Network to Freedom" Underground Railroad Trail. The first sign was unveiled at the County Courthouse. The ceremony was attended by members of the HCHS Board, members of HCHS, partner organizations, and local politicians. This program coordinates preservation and education efforts nationwide and integrates local historical places, museums, and interpretive programs associated with the Underground Railroad into a mosaic of community, regional, and national stories. The 1843 Howard County Courthouse, located on Court Avenue in the Historic District of Ellicott City, Maryland, was the location for judicial proceedings related to legal cases involving those charged with encouraging slaves to run away from 1843 to the end of slavery in Maryland on November 1, 1864. Funding for the signage was made possible through the gracious support of the Modern Woodmen, a fraternal benefit society. ♣



GAITHERS CHANCE

## LEST WE FORGET...

BY NANCY JONES

The current 'gold-rush-feel' of development in western Howard County reminds us of the importance of preserving and documenting the County's earliest history, lest we forget. One such circumstance, prompting this article, is the new subdivision called "Gaithers Chance" on Ten Oaks Road, halfway between Clarkesville and Dayton.

### SAMUEL GAITHER OF "GAITHERS CHANCE"

The 50 original acres of "Gaithers Chance" in Anne Arundel, now Howard, County was granted to Samuel Gaither son of John on October 19, 1747. The Gaithers are a "First Family" of both Virginia and Maryland. Samuel is a direct

descendant of John Gaither who arrived in Jamestown in 1620, and then settled, in 1649, on 875 acres of "Abington", South River Hundred, Anne Arundel County (Maryland National Register Property #AA-174). Other families from Virginia who will be familiar to you as early landholders in what is now Howard County are: Brown, Burgess, Davis, Dorsey, Gaither, Howard, Norwood, Simpson, and Todd.

Samuel of "Gaithers Chance" was baptized in All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, April 7, 1717. On January 9, 1733, Samuel's Father John, heir to "Abington", purchased "Left Out" from John Howard (Anne Arundel County Court Land Records, Book RD #2, pp.

40-42). At John Gaither's death in 1739, he bequeathed his 252-1/2 acres of "Left Out," to be divided among three of his sons: John, Edward, and Samuel. That division was accomplished in 1739 (Anne Arundel County Court Land Records, Book RD #3, p. 244) with Samuel receiving 106-1/2 acres of "Left Out". "Left Out" is directly across Ten Oaks Road from "Gaithers Chance" and is also now being developed as the "Ten Oaks" subdivision. It was in 1747, that Samuel patented the 50 adjoining acres, which he called "Gaithers Chance".

Additional branches of the Gaither family were also some of the earliest settlers in Howard County. Most notably, Col. Benjamin Gaither is credited with riding on horseback throughout the region to obtain signatures on a petition to establish Christ Church, Queen Caroline Parish, in 1728. Mary Gaither married Edward Norwood, and they were original pew-holders at Christ Church. Edward Gaither was a witness on the deed for the two acres that the Dorseys donated for the establishment of the Church.

Ruth Gaither (b. 1679), married John Warfield of Capt. Richard and they lived at "Warfields Plains". Their eldest son Richard remained on "Warfields Plains"; son John married Rachel Dorsey, daughter of Joshua Dorsey; son Benjamin Warfield, a vestryman of Christ Church, lived on "Warfields Range"; and, their daughter Ruth married Capt. Richard Davis, all of present-day Howard County.

### THE GAITHERS CHANCE PROPERTY

Notably, the "Gaithers Chance" of 270 years ago has remained largely intact over the centuries. Samuel's original 1747 warrant for "Gaithers Chance" describes the land as lying on the West side of the Middle River of Patuxent on the draughts

of a branch called Siglands branch beginning at 3 bounded white oaks standing in a fork of the aforesaid branch between a tract of land called "Thomas his Lott" and a tract of land called "All Together". (Source: Source: Maryland Land Office, Anne Arundel County, SR 7484, Book BT & BY3, p. 206.)

The house on the land now being developed is typical of a mid-19th century farmhouse, with one remarkable and very significant difference – the 1700s two-room log cabin remains and is incorporated into the farmhouse, with the original Log Cabin walls, low doorways, and stone fireplace featured! A Gaither family graveyard, original stone spring house, and stone foundations of many original outbuildings dot the property. The view from the house is of a lovely pond (probably the remnants of Siglands branch) and gently rolling hills, much as it would have appeared to Samuel in 1747.

By the year of his death in 1783, Samuel had enlarged "Gaithers Chance" by an additional 50 acres and, in the 1783 Tax Assessment, "Gaithers Chance" was valued at \$75, including 100 acres, 4 horses, four black cattle, and 13 sheep. Samuel's Will, which was proved August 11, 1783, names as heirs wife Ruth, daughter Nackey, and son Rezin. Rezin inherited "Gaithers Chance" and lived-out his life there with wife Sarah and at least the five children mentioned in his Will: daughter Achsah, and sons William, Elijah, Rezin, and Greenbury. (Source: Prerogative Court, Register of Wills, original will, Box G, Folder 11, Maryland State Archives, MSA C155-10, Location 01/04/14/003, dated 18 April 1783, proved 11 August 1783.)

The 1798 Tax Assessment for "Gaithers Chance" indicates the dwelling was a 20x16 log house and, by 1816, "Gaithers Chance" was being divided among the 5 living children of Rezin and

Sarah. Achsah, who married William Scrivener, sold her 1/5 share to brothers William and Greenbury (Source: mdlan-drec.net, Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 4, p. 315). Elijah sold his share to brother William (Source: mdlan-drec.net, Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 7, p. 261), while Rezin sold his share to brother Greenbury (Source: mdlan-drec.net, Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 7, p. 262). So, by 1820, Gaithers Chance had descended to two brothers William and Greenbury, from their Grandfather Samuel and Father Rezin.

Files at the Howard County Historical Society provide additional information. When William died without a Will, his estate was settled in court. A Trustee Sale was ordered and the Public Notice described "Gaithers Chance" in this way:

"September 13, 1852: A parcel of Land containing about 100 acres, more or less, now occupied by Mr. Greenbury Gaither, situated on the right-hand side of the road from Clarksville to Poplar Spring, about 3 miles from Clarksville, and three and a half miles from Triadelphia Factory. This property adjoins the lands of Mrs. Christiana Close, Mrs. Ruth Dorsey and Mrs. Scrivener. The improvements consist of: Two two-story log dwellings, stone shed, Quarters, stone Dairy, Barn, Blacksmith Shop, Stables and Tobacco House. There is on the place a good Apple Orchard and Meadow. The soil is well adapted to the cultivation of corn and tobacco. This property will be divided in lots to suit purchaser. Its boundaries are described in a deed recorded in Liber WSG No. 7, folio 261 &c., one of the Record Books of Anne Arundel."

The sale will begin on the first named lot. Mr. Greenbury Gaither will furnish any information desired about the property.

September 13, 1852 A.B. Hagner, Trustee"

## THE GAITHER FAMILY GRAVEYARD – "GAITHERS CHANCE"

With regard to the family graveyard on the property, only two headstones remain: 1) William Gaither, who died May 24, 1849, "in the 61st year of his age;" (as best as can be determined on the worn tombstone) and, 2) the partial headstone of Samuel Close, b. 1765, who is likely related to Greenbury's wife, Catherine Close.

According to records in the possession of the national "Society of John Gaither Descendants," at least four others are buried there: Rezin Gaither, d. 29 December 1848; Rezin Gaither, Jr., d. 26 May 1868; James H. Gaither, died 19 February 1863; and, Mary Anne Gaither, d. 3 May 1870.

The Howard County Planning and Zoning Office is in the process of officially documenting this graveyard. Please let them know if you're aware of others who may be buried there. I personally suspect it is also the burial ground of Samuel (b. 1717, d. 1783) and wife Ruth.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

The "Gaithers Chance" farmhouse is in the County's database as a potential candidate for historic designation. You can view it on the Maryland Historical Trust site as Survey #HO-999.

Naming the new subdivision "Gaithers Chance" recognizes the original patent of almost 300 years ago and the family who, for over 100 years, lived and are buried there. Paying homage to the centuries-old farms under development today is a wonderful way to keep our County's history alive – lest we forget!

Nancy Jones is an Annapolis resident and on the Board of Directors of "The Society of John Gaither Descendants," [johngaither.org](http://johngaither.org). †

## ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

The Museum of Howard County History will display an exhibit on floods in the Patapsco Valley starting November 2016. The exhibit will highlight significant floods in the region dating back to 1786, with emphasis on the 1868, 1972 and July 2016 floods.

One of the artifacts displayed will be a signed portrait of Dr. Thomas Boyle Owings of Ellicott City. The portrait was



donated to the historical society by Lee Owings Warfield in 2015. Dr. Owings lost his wife and six children in the 1868 flood. The "Great Flood of Maryland", as it's sometimes re-

ferred to, hit July 24, claimed 43 lives and destroyed or caused damage to numerous mills, bridges and railroads all over the Patapsco Valley.

According to a Baltimore Sun report written shortly after the flood, Dr. Owings left his home against his wife Margaretta's wishes to tend to a professional call. He was less than a hundred feet from his home on his return when he was forced to take refuge in a neighbor's home as the flood waters tore through town. He watched in horror as his wife and children climbed to the roof of their home and hung onto the chimney. His home later flooded off its foundation before lodging into an adjoining home. Dr. Owings instructed a man to cut through a series of homes to get to his. Dr. Owings' home eventually collapsed, killing his entire family. He was on the verge of ending his own life by jumping into the current before a group of men pulled him back. He later remarried before his death in 1914.

An official exhibit opening date will be posted on the Howard County Historical Society's website and social media pages. ✚

## 2016/17 UPCOMING EVENTS



THE ENCHANTED FOREST



THE COLUMBIA JAZZ BAND

## DECEMBER

FRIDAY 12/2, NOON - 1PM

### Lunch Lecture Series: "The Enchanted Forest – Maryland's Storybook Park" Linda Harrison Gardiner/Martha Clark/Janet Kusterer

Come and join Linda Harrison Gardiner, daughter of the original creators of the Enchanted Forest, Janet Kusterer, a well-respected local Howard County author and Martha Clark, owner of Clark's Elioak Farm and current home of the Enchanted Forest, as they discuss and answer questions.

SUNDAY 12/11, 12:45PM - 6PM

### 40th Annual Holiday House Tour

To honor our own history, this year's very special tour will feature Historic Houses that all have a connection to the Clark family. Alda Hopkins Clark (wife of James Clark, Sr.) is the founder of the Howard County Historical Society. This year also marks the 40th year in the Real Estate business for our Sponsor, Bob Lucido.

SATURDAY 12/17, 6PM - 8PM

### Museum Concert Series: Columbia Jazz Band Holiday Concert

Tickets are \$12 per person in advance and may be purchased at the door if not sold out. Members of HCHS are free; tickets must be reserved ahead of time. Doors open at 5:30pm. Part of the proceeds benefit the Howard County Historical Society.

12/17, 1PM - 4PM

### Howard County Genealogical Society Help Desk

The Howard County Genealogical Society will be hosting a free help desk on the third Saturday of every month at our Archive and Research Library located on the second floor of the Miller Branch Library.

## FEBRUARY

2/19, 1PM - 4PM

### Howard County Historical Society Annual Meeting Guest Speaker – Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman

Miller Branch Library Meeting Rooms.

**Call 410-480-3250 for more info or visit [www.hchsmd.org/events](http://www.hchsmd.org/events). All Concerts and Lunch Dates w/History will take place at the Museum of Howard County History (8328 Court Avenue Historic Ellicott City)**

**The Genealogical Help Desk will be held at the Miller Branch Library Historical Center (9421 Frederick Road Ellicott City)**

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
*Continued from Page 1*

early date of construction, vernacular form, stone construction material, and square footprint are notable within the county. Built in 1804, as one of the many “Ridgely-Dorsey” family residences in what was at that time the Howard District of Anne Arundel County. Ridgelys and Dorseys, including a former Governor, resided in Spring Hill until 1910, after which the home passed to the Clark family in the 1920’s.

The property contains the Spring Hill quarters, a stone structure dating to 1790 built originally as a home for Edward Hill Dorsey. The structure has served as slave quarters, a carriage house with modern remodeling of the interior in the 1950s. Most of the improvements to the property were undertaken by former Maryland Governor Charles Carnan Ridgely in 1820.

The farm was owned by the Clark family who also resided to the south at Fairfield Farm. Owner Garnett “Booker” Clark used the outbuildings to make and store whiskey during prohibition.



## VALHALLA

One of Howard County’s best kept secrets, Valhalla, or “heaven” as its Nordic name is translated, is situated on 90 acres of gorgeous green countryside and pasture. Granted to the Marriotts in the early 1700s, prominent Howard County families like the Hammonds and Herberts also lived here until 1954 when Judge John L. Clark purchased the property and granted an agricultural easement to preserve and protect its beauty.

Valhalla is situated at the center of

the property and provides a panoramic view of its rolling hillsides, valley streams, green pastures, and its several barns, guest cottages and out buildings. A well-preserved example of Georgian-style architecture, Valhalla is a large stone home with grand halls, original wood-working and mantelpieces.



## MT. IDA

Mt. Ida has been the home for several prominent Howard County families; the Ellicotts, the Snowdens, the Tysons, the Clarks, and the Millers. The house design bridges the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Today the home serves as the headquarters for Historic Ellicott City, Inc. and the Friends of Patapsco Female Institute.

Mt. Ida was the last house built by an Ellicott in 1828 for William Ellicott, grandson of one of the city’s founding brothers, Andrew Ellicott. Judge John Snowden Tyson and family lived at the residence from the 1850s, with his daughter Ida Tyson, for whom the mansion is now named, remained in the house until the age of 90 in the 1920s.

The last family to own Mt. Ida was Mr. and Mrs. Louis T. Clark and their large family who lived there until 1959. His wife, Desiree Branch, was the daughter of Reverend Henry Branch who was possibly the best-loved and best-known pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The church was purchased by Alda Hopkins Clark in 1958 to create the Howard County Historical Society.

The house was originally built of rubble stone, covered in stucco, and painted the traditional Maryland gold. The building has undergone some recent restoration work to stabilize the structure.



## WHEATFIELD

Wheatfield was the first prominent property of the Clark family, whose ancestors emigrated here from Belfast Ireland in 1790 as indentured servants to Charles Carroll of Carrollton. One time home to James Clark, Sr. and his wife Alda Hopkins Clark, the home remained in the Clark family until 1977.

Samuel Chew owned the house in 1695 as “Chews Resolution Manor” and “Chews Vineyard”. Caleb Dorsey inherited the land in 1718. In 1850 the 202-acre farm was purchased for \$9,000 by James Clark. One son, James Clark Jr. left the farm to join the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surviving prison camp to return as a cattle broker.

His other son John Lawrence Clark, founder of Clark’s Hardware, was born at Wheatfield. He maintained the farm raising a family that would be closely associated with Howard County business and politics. The Wheatfield manor house is built in progressively smaller sections in the “Telescope style” starting in 1802. A water table runs along the foundation of the property.

Architecturally, Wheatfield is significant for its fine integration of several structures into a pleasing architectural composition, having the elements of continuity, rhythm and integrity. ♣

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN OUR TOUR THIS YEAR. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT THE HCHS WEB SITE WWW.HCHSMD.ORG OR IN PERSON AT OUR LIBRARY ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE MILLER BRANCH LIBRARY, 9421 FREDERICK ROAD, ELLICOTT CITY, MD. 21042.



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