

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-27

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

Historic Col Lyde Griffith Farm
 other Mehrle Warfield Farm, Babble Brook Farm

2. Location

street and number 7301/7307 Damascus Road ___ not for publication
 city, town Gaithersburg ___ vicinity
 county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mehrle B Warfield et al
 street and number 7301 Damascus Road telephone
 city, town Gaithersburg state MD zip code 20882

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County liber folio
 city, town Rockville tax map tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- _____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- _____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- _____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- _____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- _____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- _____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- _____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
_____ building(s)	_____ private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ Total
		_____ government	
		_____ health care	
		_____ industry	
		_____ landscape	
		_____ recreation/culture	
		_____ religion	
		_____ social	
		_____ transportation	
		_____ work in progress	
		_____ unknown	
		_____ vacant/not in use	
		_____ other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The dwelling house is a log and frame structure with a three bay, side gable main block. The dwelling is believed to date from the turn of the 19th century. The roof and sheathed with metal and punctuated by interior chimneys near both gable ends. The central form has been expanded with additions on three sides. A one-bay attached garage extends across the rear façade. The structure is covered with artificial siding. One of the chimneys was rebuilt and the fireplace removed.¹

The bank barn photographed in 1973 is no longer standing. The property included the Griffith family graveyard which was plowed over by 1969. The stone of Lyde Griffith was visible at that time.²

The dairy barn is a stanchion barn constructed of rusticated concrete block with a metal-sheathed, wood-framed, "self-supporting truss" gambrel roof. The original portion, built in 1930, is seven bays long and has a concrete block dairy (mil house) attached by a covered [passageway to the northeast of the barn. The barn has received two addition, a four bay by five bay section built at the northwest end in 1937, and a seven bay section built at the southeast end in 1957. Both additions are of concrete block and continue the original roof line. A silo constructed of concrete tiles wrapped with steel tension rods stands at the southwest side of the 1930 center section of the barn. The three sections of the barn vary somewhat. In the 1930 portion the rusticated concrete blocks are tan colored with grayish-white blocks used around the windows and as quoins at the corners. The 1937 portion has a similar pattern of concrete blocks, except large wood lintels are used over the windows. The windows in both of these sections consist of single panels of glass in metal frames resting at an inward angle on a hopper-like frame. The glass panels are recent replacements for the original wood sash. The walls of the 1957 portion are flush concrete blocks of uniform color. The windows contain four-light metal window sash; the bottom two lights are fixed and the upper two lights swing inward.

The gambrel roof on the barn is covered with sheet metal which has been painted silver. Three dormers project from the northeast side of the roof and give access to the hay mow above the milking floor. The dairy has a gable roof covered with its original metal roofing. Two small ventilators are mounted on the ridge of this roof. The interior of the barn consists of a concrete floor, plastered walls. And wood ceiling of narrow, beaded boards. A driveway runs the length of the barn. On each side of the driveway are the manure gutters, cow platforms, metal pipe stanchions, and feed troughs. Metal columns support boxed wood beams.³

Several non-contributing metal buildings are located in the complex. A non-contributing residence of recent vintage stands southeast of the historic house.

¹ Janie Payne, 1969 history of property.

² Ibid.

³ Rebeck, Andrea. MHT form, 1987.

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Dwelling House
Front south façade, 12-2007

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Rear façade, right, and east façade, left. 12-2007

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Rear façade and west side, 12-2007

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General view, rear façade, 12-2007

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Dairy barn, 12-2007

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Mehrle Warfield Barn
Andrea Rebeck, 1987

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View from Damascus Road

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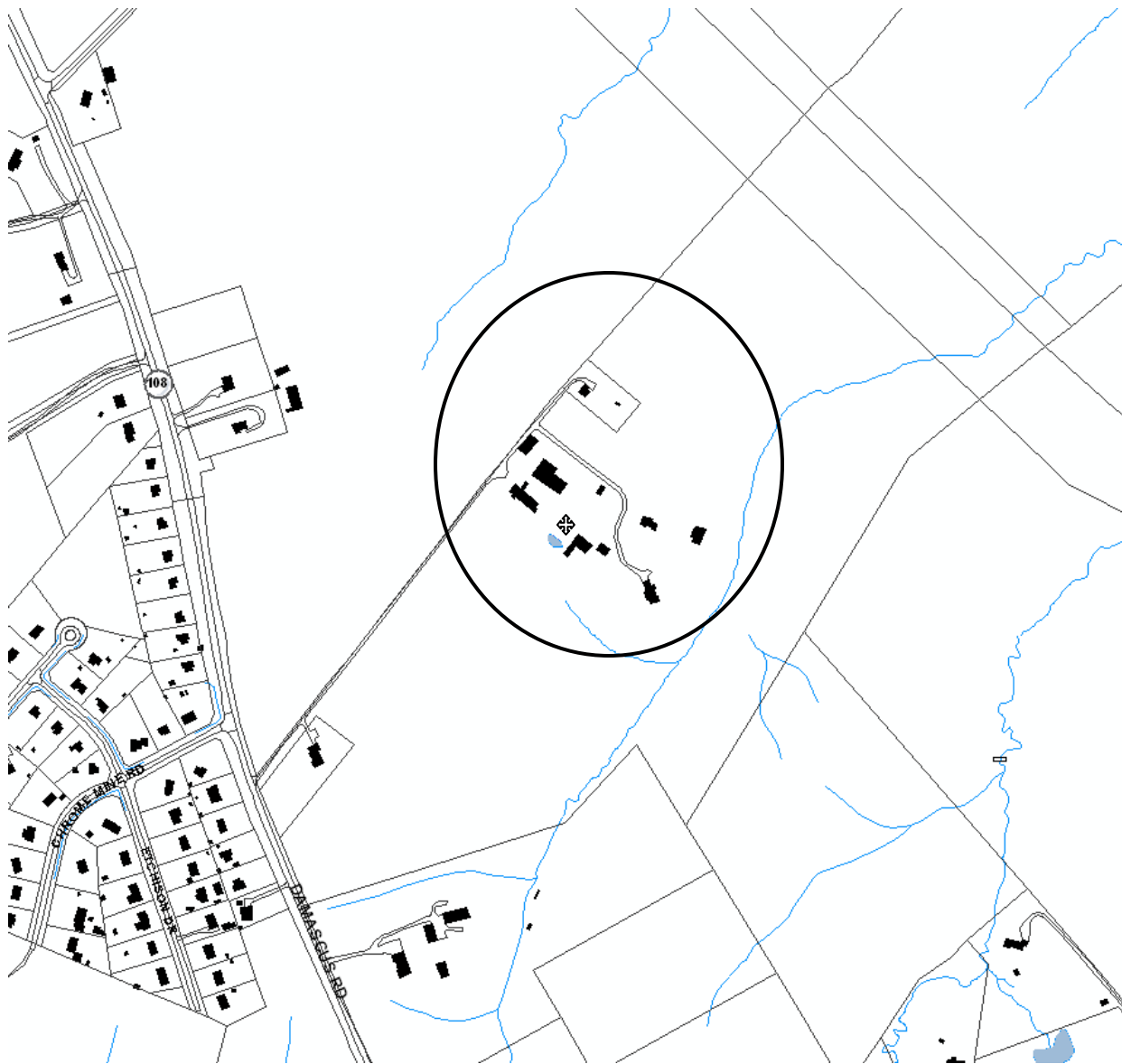
1973 view from Damascus Road

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⊕ Approximate site of Griffith Family Graveyard.⁴

⁴ Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory, MCHS. 3-6-2007. Site 188.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
c1797-1809; 1925	
Construction dates	1930, 1937, 1957

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Col Lyde Griffith Farm has historical significance for its association with an influential citizen and early settler of the Etchison area. The farm has architectural significance for the residence which is highly representative of the first decade of the turn of the 19th century. The log and frame house was likely built between 1797, the date of Col Lyde Griffith's first marriage to Anne Poole Dorsey and 1809, when he married his second wife, Amelia Wayman. The three bay house is a traditional form that was used throughout the region in this era. The dairy barn, built in 1930 and expanded in 1937 and 1957, has additional architectural and historical significance for being highly representative of 20th century dairy farming practices and construction techniques.

Col Lyde Griffith (1774-1839) patented Griffithsburg in 1826. The tract consisted of 1,196 acres of land Griffith acquired by grant and purchase.⁵ Lyde Griffith was County Commissioner, from 1813-1819. It is not known why he was called Colonel. Perhaps he served in the War of 1812. Col Lyde was the son of Capt Samuel Griffith and grandson of patriot Henry Griffith. Capt Samuel (1752-1833) was a Captain in the Continental Army, 1777.

Col Lyde Griffith married first Anne Poole Dorsey (1773-1808), by 1797. In 1809, he married Amelia Wayman (d1823).⁶ With his first wife, Anne, he had four children: Henry (b1797), Elizabeth (1800-1860), Rachel (b1802), and Lyde Jr (1804-1881). With second wife Amelia, he has four more children: Charles (b1810), Milcah or Milcha (b1812), Louisa (b1815), and Walter (1820-1864).⁷ In the 1820 census there were at least 30 individuals associated with the farmstead, including 18 slaves. At the time of Col Lyde's death, the farmstead consisted of 300 acres.⁸

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⁵Payne, Janie. History of Col Lyde Griffith House, 1969. Griffithsburg land patent, Land Surveys and Patents, 929.3

⁶Frederick Post 1833. *Maryland Journal and True American*, cited in Moore, Newspaper Abstracts 1831-40. Griffith family genealogy, R R Griffith, Baltimore 1892. Joshua Dorsey Warfield, The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, 1906, p398. William Hurley, Warfield Families, p11.

⁷pitard.net : Col Lyde Griffith. Sources : RR Griffith genealogy, Anne Arundel Gentry, Griffith et al ancestral study 1939. Worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com Richard Heyduck genealogy.

⁸ 1820 census, M33 /rikk 44:155.

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Chrome mines were operated on Lyde Griffith's land in the 1800s. In 1837, Lyde Griffith made an agreement with Washington Waters, allowing him to mine chrome ore on his property. By 1852, Waters mined 20,000 tons of chrome ore. The Montgomery Sentinel reported that Thompson and Oudesleys of Baltimore sunk a shaft on Col Lyde Griffith's land in 1860. Griffith's mine by that time had yielded 5-600 tons of chrome ore. The Martenet and Bond map of 1865 shows Tyson's Chrome Pits located north of Damascus Road. Mining took on the Griffith farm until the vein gave out.⁹

Col Lyde Griffith was buried on the subject property in the Griffith family graveyard. By 1969 the graveyard was plowed over and loose gravestones were standing nearby. A recent survey identified the gravesite as being near the bank barn site.¹⁰

The Martenet and Bond map of 1865 shows Walter Griffith Heirs owning the property. Youngest child, Walter inherited Col Lyde's house and 300 acres of land upon his father's death in 1839. In 1841, Walter (1820-1864) married Mary Wilson Riggs (1819-1898), daughter of Reuben Riggs. They had four children: Lyde (b1842), Louisa (b1843), William Henry (1847-1923) and Mary E (b1848).¹¹ Living in the household in 1860 were Walter and Mary, age 40, and children Lyde (18), Louisa (15), William H (13) and Mary E (12).

Milcah (Milcha) married the Honorable Samuel Riggs of R. Born about 1813, she and Samuel Riggs lived at The Oaks (MP Site #23/27), and died in 1874.¹²

Lyde Jr. acquired a plantation of 150 acres "where he now lives" upon his father's death in 1839. The farm may be the one shown on the 1865 map on the opposite side of Damascus Road (likely at Resource #14-9). Lyde Griffith died at his home, in 1882, age 80 years.¹³

In 1925, the Griffith family conveyed the farm to Mehrle Warfield, the son of Basil and Alice Warfield, who acquired 195.5 acres. Warfield constructed a dairy barn nearly identical to the one built by his brother Raymond Warfield at the Basil Warfield Farm at 8251 Damascus Road (Resource #15/73). Mehrle B Warfield Sr died in 1977.¹⁴

The Merhle Warfield barn is a good example of a still functioning dairy barn constructed in eastern Montgomery County during the third and fifth decades of the twentieth century. By examining the details of the three sections,

⁹ Maryland Court of Appeals, 1852, Vol 2. pp326+ Waters vs Griffith. Sentinel, 7-20-1860, MCHS transcript. Jane King, Chrome Mining in Etchison, Courier, 2-27-1974. 1865 Martenet and Bond map.

¹⁰ Ibid. Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory.

¹¹ Sentinel 9-16-1898 Mary W Griffith Obituary; William H had a son Lyde Griffith who married Julia Snouffer, Sentinel 12-7-1894. Genealogical Abstracts, p158. Familytreemaker.com Dustin Lee Watson tree.

¹² Sentinel, 3-6-1874 cited in Malloy and Jacobs, Genealogical Abstracts, MCHS.

¹³ Malloy, Sween, Manuel. Abstract of Wills, 1826-1875, p66. Sentinel, 2-24-1882. A Lyde Griffith, likely Jr, was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates where he served from 1842-44 and 1846. Likely this is the same Lyde who was nominated delegate to the State Convention of 1833, appointed to the County Orphan's Court (1831), appointed to the Grand Jury (1831), served as Commissioner of the School Fund for Cracklin District (1831), and served as Election District Judge for District #1 (1831). Hiebert and MacMaster (1976).

¹⁴ Frederick Post, 1-26-1977.

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the original 1930 midsection, the 1937 addition to the north, and the 1957 addition to the south, one can see in ne building the change in design and materials that occurred over this period of time. The Merhle Warfield barn is quite typical of these changes. The 1930 section was built of high quality panel face concrete blocks, with white blocks accenting the corners and window openings against the darker tannish-grey blocks. Window lintels were formed from the white blocks, also. The 1937 section is similar except that the window and door lintels are large wood lintels painted white. This is very typical of barns built in the late 1930s, and indicates that the quality of the design and its execution had declined somewhat during the years of the Depression. By the time the 1957 section was built, aesthetics were of even less concern, for the concrete blocks are flush, grey, rougher, and considerably less interesting to look at than their 1930s counterparts. This trend began in the 1940s and was a result of the hard economic times before the war and the scarcity of materials during and immediately after the war.

The interior of the barn, as surveyed in 1987, was identified as a classic example of the modern, sanitary dairy barn decreed by the health officials who regulated milk production. Although county regulations did not go into effect until after 1934, farmers were being encouraged to construct specialized milking barns which could be kept cleaner than the older wood bank barns. This barn complies with the suggestions for greater cleanliness. Its floor is concrete and has the easier-to-clean manure gutter, metal stanchions, and concrete manger. The walls are hard plaster. The ceiling consists of tight-fitting, narrow, beaded wood boards, intended to prevent dust and hay from sifting down out of the hayloft and into the milking area. As was the practice of the time, the walls and ceiling are painted white to preserve the appearance of cleanliness.

The farm of 87.6 acres continues to be owned by the Warfield family.

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Chain of Title

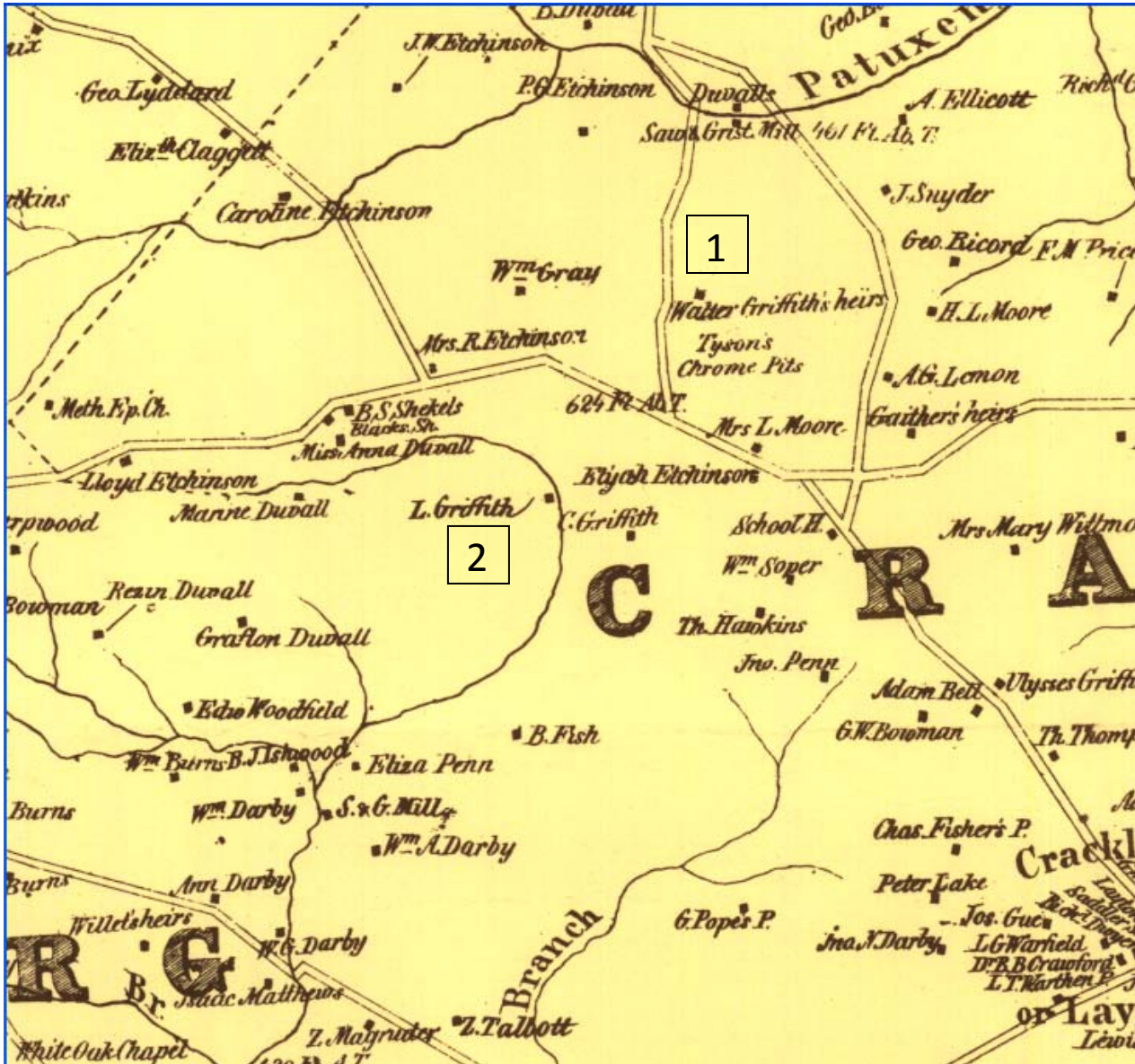
Deed	Date	Parties	Land
6893.280	May 1985	Raymond Curtis Warfield To Merhle Wayne Warfield	\$15 Transfer of land interest "Merhle B. Warfield, Jr. and Gloria M. Warfield have $\frac{3}{4}$ undivided interest and Merhle Wayne Warfield has $\frac{1}{4}$ undivided interest."
6630.690	December 1984	Merhle B. Warfield, Sr. To Merhle B. Warfield, Jr. and Gloria M. Warfield	\$1 87.61 acres $\frac{3}{4}$ interest
4889.505	December 1976	Merhle B. Warfield, Sr. To Merhle B. Warfield, Jr., Gloria M. Warfield, Merhle Wayne Warfield, and Raymond Curtis Warfield	\$25,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ interest of Griffithsburg to Merhle B. Warfield, Jr. and Gloria M. Warfield $\frac{1}{4}$ interest each to Merhle Wayne Warfield and Raymond Curtis Warfield
3577.309	August 1966	Merhle B. Warfield and Mary E. Warfield (wife) To Merhle B. Warfield, Jr. and Gloria M. Warfield (wife)	\$5 1.5604 acres Griffithsburg and/or Great Meadows "Together with the buildings and improvements..."
2286.325	November 1956	Merhle B. Warfield and Mary E. Warfield (wife) To Merhle B. Warfield, Jr. and Gloria M. Warfield (wife)	\$10 195 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres Griffithsburg "Merhle B. Warfield and Mary E. Warfield convey an undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ interest to Merhle B. Warfield Jr. and Gloria M. Warfield."
Liber P.B.R. No.374, folio 429	June 18, 1925	William L. Griffith and Nellie M. Griffith (wife) To Merhle B. Warfield and Mary E. Warfield (wife)	\$10 195 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Griffithsburg "Together with the improvements..."
360.244	October 1924	Thomas L. Dawson and F. Barnard Welsh (trustees) To William L. Griffith and Nellie M. Griffith (wife)	\$5,000 Griffithsburg and/or Great Meadows "Together with all the improvements"

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Martenet and Bond, 1865 map

1=Col Lyde Griffith's House, 7301 Damascus Road

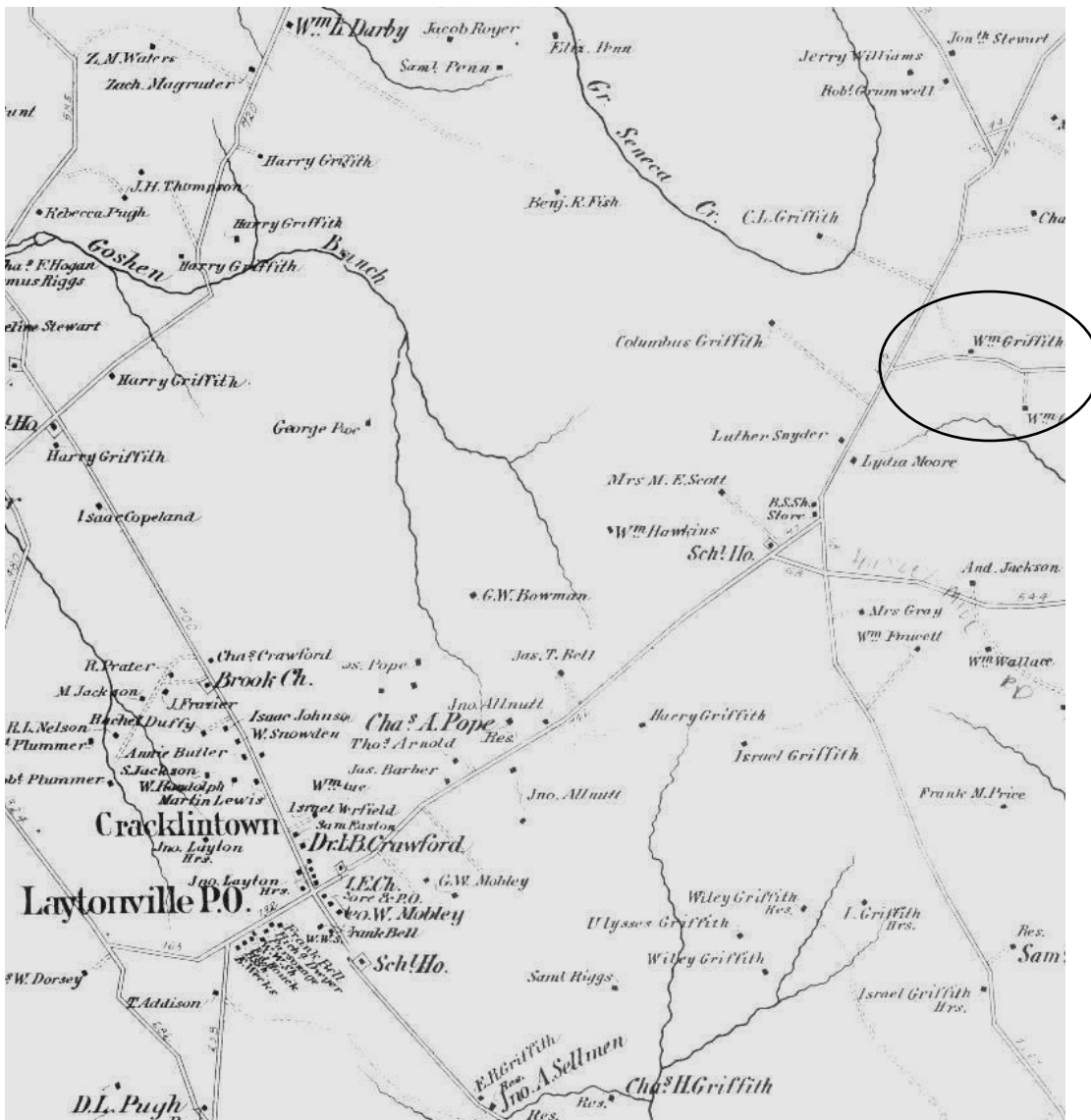
2=likely Lyde Griffith Jr House, possibly resource #14-9 Griffith Log House (Chambliss Ct, Removed from Atlas)

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Hopkins 1878 map

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 87.61 acres

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Clare Lise Kelly and Lorin Farris		
organization	M-NCPPC	date	12-2009
street & number		telephone	
city or town		state	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Waters, Washington vs. Lyde Griffith, Maryland Court of Appeals, 1852, Vol 2. pp326+.