

Montgomery County Planning Department The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

November 13, 2019

MEMORANDUM

То:	Historic Preservation Commission
From:	Kacy Rohn, Historic Preservation Specialist
Subject:	Thomas H. White House (M: 16/17), 21820 Club Hollow Road, Poolesville
	Removal from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites

<u>Staff Recommendation:</u> That the HPC recommend that the Planning Board remove the Thomas H. White House, 21820 Club Hollow Road, from the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*.

Background: The Thomas H. White House sits on a 389-acre parcel within Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. The entire environmental setting is included in the *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan* (2001) as a Natural Resource designee for park acquisition. The Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Department of Natural Resources designated this area for conservation in the *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan* (1971).

On March 5, 2019, the property owner requested reconsideration of the Thomas H. White House's *Locational Atlas* listing, citing safety concerns with the poor condition of the historic dwelling. Historic Preservation staff visited the property in March and September of 2019, reviewed existing documentation, and researched the history of the property in order to evaluate its historic and architectural significance.

On March 15, 2019, Historic Preservation Supervisor Rebeccah Ballo issued an approval letter for the demolition of a 20th century shed and c.1920s-1930s milk house, finding that this work would not constitute a substantial alteration.

Discussion:

The resource comprises a mid-to-late 19th century farmhouse with several historic and modern outbuildings. The current dwelling consists of the original two-story, three-bay, frame house, and the collapsed debris from an addition to the west elevation. The house has been heavily altered and is in poor condition with collapsed ceilings, significant overgrowth of vegetation, and termite damage to structural members. The property also includes a 20th century garage, shed, milk house, and dairy barn; and a 19th century bank barn foundation and double corn crib.

Though the agricultural setting is largely intact, significant alterations to the historic home and its partial collapse have impaired the property's ability to convey its 19th century agricultural origins. As noted in Section 7 of the Evaluation Report, staff finds that the property does not satisfy the historic, cultural, architectural, or design criteria for designation outlined in §24A-3 of the Montgomery County Ordinance.

<u>Conclusion</u>: The Thomas H. White House does not retain sufficient physical integrity to convey its period of construction, and therefore does not meet designation criteria. The Historic Preservation staff recommends the property be removed from the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*.

Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Planning Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites Evaluation Report

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Thomas H. White House Current Name: Broad Run Creek Farm II Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties #: M:16/17

2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Address Number and Street: 21820 Club Hollow Road City, County, State, Zip: Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland, 20837

3. TYPE OF PROPERTY

- A. Ownership of Property: Private
- B. Category of Property: Commercial Agricultural; Residential
- C. Number of Resources: 6
- D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places: The Thomas H. White House is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Function(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling, Agriculture

Current Function(s): Agriculture

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Site Description:

The Thomas H. White House is located at 21820 Club Hollow Road, at the southwest corner of Club Hollow Road and Edward's Ferry Road in Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland. The house is located on a partially wooded 389-acre parcel within Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve that is bounded by Club Hollow Road to the north, Edwards Ferry Road to the east, farmland to the south, and the National Institutes of Health Animal Center to the west. The Broad Run flows from the northeast to the southwest of the property (App. 1, Fig. 1).

The house is set back from Club Hollow Road and accessed via a gravel drive of approximately 1200 feet. A series of agricultural buildings stretch to the northwest of the house.

Architectural Description:

The Thomas H. White House dates approximately to the third quarter of the nineteenth century.¹ Architectural survey documentation prepared in 1973 reflects a four-part frame building,² but several elements have collapsed or been removed since that time (App. 4, Fig. 1). The current dwelling consists of the original two-story, three-bay, side-gabled frame house with a front porch, later enclosed, and the collapsed debris from an addition to the west elevation. Two wings that once abutted this addition to the west have been removed. The house has been heavily altered and is in poor condition with collapsed ceilings, significant overgrowth of vegetation, and termite damage to structural members (App. 3, Fig. 1-2).

The house rests on a coursed Seneca sandstone foundation. The foundation supports a wood-frame structural system originally covered with clapboard siding, now covered with asbestos shingles. The home has an enclosed one-story front porch and two external chimneys on the east elevation. Fenestration on the façade includes a single-leaf, single-pane glass door with mail slot and sidelights in the westernmost bay of the first story, enclosed within the front porch. The first and second stories, respectively, include two-over-two and six-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows. The building is capped with a rusted side-gabled standing-seam metal roof. The roof features a molded wood cornice, cornice returns, and overhanging eaves.

North Elevation (façade) – App. 3, Fig. 3

The two-story, three-bay north elevation features an enclosed, full-width, wood-frame front porch. The enclosed porch rests on a continuous foundation and is clad in vertical plywood siding and capped with a hipped, standing-seam metal roof. The porch features wrap-around screen windows and a vinyl storm door. Within the enclosed porch, the first story has three bays. The westernmost bay contains a non-historic, single-pane glass door with mail slot and sidelights to the west; the central bay contains a two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash window; and the easternmost bay likely formerly contained the same two-over-two window, but this section of the wall has collapsed. The second story features six-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows.

West Elevation – App. 3, Fig. 4

Original fenestration patterns on the west elevation have been obscured by significant alterations and a large debris pile remaining from a collapsed, two-story, two-bay addition. This smaller frame addition was one room in depth and significantly altered the northernmost half of the west elevation of the original house. The southernmost, rear, half of the original house features a non-historic, one-over-one, vinyl window on the first story and a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window on the second story. A wooden-shuttered window opening remains in the attic level below the gable end.

Architectural survey documentation prepared in 1973 reflects three extant frame wings attached to the west elevation of the main house (App. 4, Fig. 1).³ The debris field reflects the only elements from these additions that remain on site today.

South Elevation – App. 3, Fig. 5

¹ The property was acquired by the White family in 1856 and is noted on an 1871 road survey and plat as the property of Thomas H. White. ² Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet, Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Parks Service, "Thomas H.

White House." Christopher Owens, Park Historian, October 4, 1973.

³ The first of these was a two-story, two-bay wing with an internal brick chimney on the west end, now collapsed. In 1973, this attached via a one-story frame hyphen to an additional two-story, two-bay wing with an external chimney with a stone base and brick stack on the west end. The one-story hyphen and westernmost two-story addition have been removed and no structural elements from these additions remain at the site.

The rear, south elevation of the building has undergone heavy alterations and significant changes to original fenestration patterns. On the first story, a large opening has been cut at the southeast corner and partially infilled with plywood, leaving an opening consistent with the size of a double-leaf patio or sliding glass door. An altered wood-framed window opening towards the southwest corner is vacant. The westernmost bay of the second story contains a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window; the central and easternmost bays of the second story have been altered to contain a single, four-light, fixed wood-sash window.

East Elevation – App. 3, Fig. 6

The east elevation features two external chimneys. The northernmost of these has an uncoursed sandstone base and a brick chimney stack; the southern chimney is constructed entirely of brick. Past architectural survey documentation indicates that the southernmost chimney was added between 1973 and 1989. Fenestration is limited to one four-over-four window in the attic level below the gable end.

Outbuildings

A series of farm buildings stretch towards a rise to the northwest of the main house. The site plan at Appendix 2, Figure 1, reflects the location of these buildings in relation to the house. Buildings are labeled B-G as cross-referenced in Appendix 2.

Building B is a modern, two-bay garage with a gabled roof.

Building C is a small, wood-framed shed structure with a gabled standing-seam metal roof (App. 3, Fig. 7). Cladding on the structure has been completely removed except for under the gable ends of the roof, which feature vertical board and batten wooden siding.

Building D is a small c.1920s-1930s milk house measuring approximately 15 feet by 30 feet (App. 3, Fig. 8). It rests on a concrete slab foundation and is formed of concrete block. The structure is capped with a side-gabled standing-seam metal roof pierced with two ventilators and an internal concrete chimney at the southwest corner. Fenestration includes six-over-six, wood-sash windows and three solid metal doors.

Building E is a c.1920s-1930s dairy barn measuring approximately 35 feet by 50 feet (App. 3, Fig. 9). The barn rests on a continuous concrete foundation and is clad in patched vertical wooden siding. It is capped with a low-pitched standing-seam side-gabled metal roof. Most of the structure's doors and windows are no longer present, but several fixed, six-light wood-sash windows remain in the north and west elevations. The interior has been largely gutted.

Beyond the dairy barn, the land slopes gradually uphill to the northwest. Built into this hillside is the drystacked, sandstone foundation of a former bank barn, Building F (App. 3, Fig. 10). The partial foundation runs approximately 25 feet along what was the northern elevation and 60 feet along what was the western elevation. The foundation and modern wooden poles support a corrugated metal roof used to shelter farm equipment.

Building G is an intact double corn crib resting on a sandstone pier foundation (App. 3, Fig. 11). The barn is a two-story frame structure, clad in vertical planks and painted red, with a gable roof covered in corrugated metal panels. It has a central aisle wide enough to accommodate the passage of a vehicle, flanked by enclosed cribs accessed by double leaf doors on the east elevation. Both the foundation and framed building have been rehabilitated recently with new mortar pointing on the bricks and repairs to the framing system.

6. HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Thomas H. White House and farm are associated with the locally prominent White family, who owned the land for nearly 100 years. Joseph Chiswell White first acquired the property when he purchased parts of the tracts "Forest," "Cider and Ginger," and "Fateague" in September 1856 from John A. Trundle, trustee for his mother, Christiana Trundle.⁴

Thomas Henry White, born September 20, 1831, was the second child of Joseph Chiswell White and Mary Collinson Gott White (App. 5, Fig. 1). His childhood home was the nearby *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*-designated Joseph C. White House (#18/14), a sizable five-bay brick house likely built c. 1822-1824 by Joseph C. White after he inherited the land and three enslaved people upon his father's death in 1822.⁵ Joseph C. White was a prominent local planter active in the Medley's District Agricultural Society, which organized in Poolesville in 1840.⁶ Like many of their neighbors, the White family relied on an enslaved workforce to farm their land. Census records from 1840 to 1860 show between 14 and 19 enslaved people living on Joseph C. White's property.⁷ The 1860 U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedule also shows that Thomas H. White owned three enslaved people: two 15-year-old boys and a 22-year-old woman.⁸ By 1860, enslaved people made up a third of the County's population.⁹

In the years preceding the Civil War, the national debate over slavery divided opinions within Montgomery County.¹⁰ Slave-owning county residents held to the institution and nurtured a sense of political and economic allegiance with the South.¹¹ In the aftermath of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859, Dr. William Brewer called a meeting in Poolesville for citizens to express their opinions on the incident. Attendees resolved that "in view of the warlike attitude taken by the North against the South, we pledge our allegiance to the South in support of our Constitutional rights, and that all we have of force and means shall be devoted, when required, to protect and defend Southern rights against the aggression of the North."¹²

Amid Poolesville's outpouring of Southern sympathy, Thomas H. White and his younger brother, John Collinson White, both joined "Chiswell's Exiles," a volunteer band organized by George W. Chiswell ("Old Chiswell Place," #17/9) in 1859 to defend the Poolesville area from perceived Union subjugation.¹³

In August 1862, "Chiswell's Exiles" fled Poolesville in the night, cutting telegraph wires and crossing the Potomac River to join the Confederate company of their cousin Elijah Veirs White, formerly of Poolesville.¹⁴ Thomas H. White served as a private in Company B of Elijah Veirs White's 35th Virginia Calvary, and his 1930 obituary in *The Confederate Veteran* reports that he also served as a courier and scout for Robert E. Lee.¹⁵ He was captured on June 9, 1863 at Beverly Ford, Virginia, and held as a

⁴ Montgomery County Land Records. "John A. Trundle to Joseph C. White and Mary C. White." September 13, 1856, Liber JGH 5, Folio 354.

⁵ Maryland Historical Trust, Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, "Joseph White House," M:18/14, 1976.

⁶ Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster, A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976: 124.

⁷ 1840 U.S. Federal Census; 1850 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules, Medley's District, Montgomery County, Maryland; 1850 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules, Medley's District, Montgomery County, Maryland

⁸ 1860 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules, Medley's District, Montgomery County, Maryland.

⁹ Hiebert and MacMaster, 152.

¹⁰ Hiebert and MacMaster, 151.

¹¹ Hiebert and MacMaster, 134; 167.

¹² Montgomery County Sentinel, November 18, December 30, 1859, quoted in Hiebert and MacMaster, 164.

¹³ Cuttler, Dona L. and Dorothy J. Elgin, *The History of Poolesville*. Heritage Books, Inc., 2000: 5.

¹⁴ Cuttler, 12.

¹⁵ Confederate Veteran, United Daughters of the Confederacy. Vol 38 (1930): 401.

https://archive.org/details/confederateveter3819conf/page/n401

prisoner of war at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. until released on May 20, 1865, after swearing an oath of fealty to the Union at Edward's Ferry.¹⁶

By 1870, Thomas H. White was a farmer living with his wife Mary Ellen Gott and four children in Montgomery County's 3rd District.¹⁷ A February 1871 survey and plat for a new road identifies the currently designated site as the property of Thomas H. White, suggesting Thomas may have assumed responsibility for the property sometime before he officially purchased it from his parents in May of 1876 for \$4,000.¹⁸ The house was likely built by Thomas H. White between his father's purchase of the land in 1856 and the 1871 survey reference. It appears in the 1879 Hopkins Atlas of Montgomery County, in which Thomas H. White, farmer, is listed as a patron.¹⁹

By 1880, the household had grown to include Thomas and Mary White, their six children, Mary's sister Laura Gott, a schoolteacher, and three servants: two farmhands and a young woman to help around the house. The 1880 Census also reflects a Black family living at the same dwelling: two farm laborers, Lawson Robertson and Arthur Prather, Prather's wife Henrietta, an assistant cook, and their one-year old son, Richard.²⁰ The White family's expanding household is likely reflected in the additions made to the original house.

After Mary White's death in 1890, Thomas White remarried his sister-in-law Laura Gott. Shortly after their marriage, in June of 1892, Thomas and Laura White mortgaged the property to James G. Holland for two thousand dollars.²¹ When White defaulted on the mortgage in 1897, the property went to public sale and was purchased by Huldah A. White, widow of Thomas White's older brother Richard Gott White.²² It eventually passed into the ownership of Huldah White's granddaughters Laura V. White and Mary W. Lankford, and Mary's husband W. Fleming Lankford. In April 1942, the property passed out of the White family's ownership when it was sold to W. Scott MacGill and Haile and Eleanor Chisholm.²³

7. DISCUSSION

The Thomas H. White House consists of a mid-to-late 19th century farmhouse with several surviving outbuildings and represents a resource type common to the area and the time in which it was built. The house and farm buildings retain much of their original environmental setting, but extensive deterioration of the home's architectural features and structural integrity have impaired its ability to convey any association with the historic and cultural patterns of the Poolesville area. The property does not meet the criteria for historic designation outlined in §24A-3 of the Montgomery County Ordinance.

The resource does not meet the criteria for historical and cultural significance. The Thomas H. White House does not strongly convey the county's historical development and is not associated with any significant events or persons. Other nearby resources more clearly represent the White family and

¹⁶ "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia." Record M324. National Archives and Records Administration. Compiled 1903-1927.

¹⁷ 1870 U.S. Federal Census.

¹⁸ Montgomery County Land Records, "Plat of road from Elgins Gate on River Road to Edwards Ferry Road near John Young's Mill." February 4, 1871. Liber EBP 17, Folio 156-157.; Montgomery County Land Records, "Joseph C. White and Mary C. White to Thomas H. White," May 6, 1876.

¹⁹ Hopkins, G. M. (1879) Atlas of fifteen miles around Washington, including the county of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879. [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/87675339/.

²⁰ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Montgomery County, Maryland, Population Schedule, 3rd Election District, p. 27.

²¹ Montgomery County Land Records, "Thomas H. and Laura R. White to James G. Holland," June 20, 1892. Liber JA 32, Folio 182.

²² Montgomery County Land Records, "Thomas H. White to Huldah A. White." August 21, 1897. Liber JA 60, Folio 144 – 147.

²³ Montgomery County Land Records, "Laura V. White, Mary W. Lankford and W. Fleming Lankford to W. Scott MacGill; Haile Chisholm and Eleanor M. Chisholm," April 28, 1942.

Poolesville's 19th century agricultural heritage. Thomas H. White's familial home, the Joseph C. White House (#18/14), is designated to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. The home and land were owned by the White family for 175 years and housed several generations of this prominent local family.²⁴

The Thomas H. White House also fails to meet architectural and design criteria for designation. This is a vernacular-styled, frame dwelling, typical and unexceptional for its period of construction. Its poor condition renders it incapable of conveying any distinctive characteristics of its period of construction or any artistic value. Other nearby sites include more intact collections of 19th century domestic and agricultural buildings. For example, the *Master Plan*-designated Edward J. Chiswell Farm Complex (#16/2) includes the ca. 1830 home, as well as a tenant house, bank barn, stable, and additional outbuildings.

8. CONCLUSION

The Thomas H. White House no longer retains the physical integrity needed to convey its period of construction and historic significance. While it remains in its original location and retains much of its original environmental setting, the collapse of the house impairs the property's ability to convey its 19th century agricultural origins, despite the extant bank barn foundation and corn crib. The house has lost its integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association as a result of significant and poorly executed exterior modifications including the enclosure of the front porch, alteration of fenestration patterns, and application of asbestos siding. It has also experienced the collapse of internal structural elements and the removal or collapse of previous additions. Other nearby resources better reflect characteristics typical of this resource type and period.

For these reasons, the Historic Preservation Office recommends the property be removed from the *Locational Atlas of Sites and Districts*.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Property Land Area: 389.84 acres Account Number: 00038401 District: 03

Environmental Setting Description: The Thomas H. White House is located at 21820 Club Hollow Road, Poolesville, Montgomery County, Maryland. The proposed site to be removed from the *Locational Atlas of Sites and Districts* consists of the entirety of the property

10. PROPERTY OWNERS

Name: Broad Run Creek Farm II LLC Address: 11209 Potomac Crest Drive, Potomac, MD 20854

²⁴ Maryland Historical Trust, Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, "Joseph White House," M:18/14, 1976.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Kacy Rohn, Montgomery County Planning Department, Historic Preservation Specialist Date: October 2019

12. MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED

Ancestry.com [numerous]

- Cuttler, Dona L. and Dorothy J. Elgin, *The History of Poolesville*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc. 2000.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland*. Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Montgomery County Land Records, http://www.mdlandrec.net

APPENDIX ONE: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

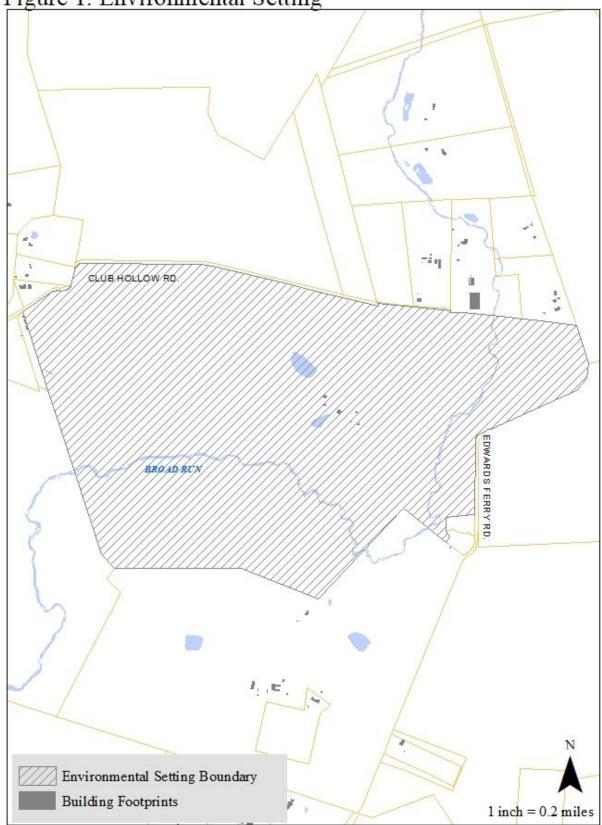


Figure 1: Environmental Setting

APPENDIX TWO: SITE PLAN

Thomas H. White House Site Plan



Figure 1

- A: Thomas H. White House
- B: Modern Garage

C: Shed

D: Milk House

E: Dairy Barn

F: Bank Barn Foundation

G: Corn Crib

APPENDIX THREE: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

All photos taken by Historic Preservation staff, March and August 2019.



Figure 1: View of the façade (north) and west elevation.



Figure 2: View of the south and east elevations.



Figure 3: View of the façade (north elevation)



Figure 4: View of the west elevation.



Figure 5: View of the south elevation.



Figure 6: View of the east elevation.



Figure 7: Outbuilding to the west of the Thomas H. White House.



Figure 8: Milk House, c. 1920s-1930s.



Figure 9: Diary barn, c. 1920s – 1930s.



Figure 10: Bank barn foundation.



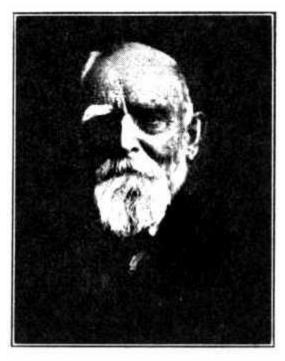
Figure 11: Corn crib.

APPENDIX FOUR: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE THOMAS H. WHITE HOUSE



Figure 1: 1973 Survey Photo of the Thomas H. White House. Source: Photo by Michael Dwyer, Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, 1973.

APPENDIX FIVE: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THOMAS H. WHITE



THOMAS H. WHITE.

Figure 1: Thomas H. White Source: Confederate Veteran Magazine, via Ancestry

APPENDIX SIX: CHAIN OF TITLE FOR THOMAS H. WHITE HOUSE

Date: November 14, 2018 Grantor: Estate of Charles M. Beverley (Beverly); Estate of Margaret K. Beverley; Christine B. Shanholtzer and Philip Shanholtzer; Charles E. Beverly and Patricia Beverly Grantee: Broad Run Creek Farm II LLC Cost: \$1,350,000.00 Liber: 56951 Folio: 16 – 32

Date: December 15, 1978 Grantor: W. Scott MacGill; Haile Chisholm and Eleanor M. Chisholm

Grantee: Charles M. Beverly and Margaret K. Beverly; Charles E. Beverly and Patricia Beverly; and Christine B. Shanholtzer and Phillip Shanholtzer Cost: \$516,753.78 Liber: 5262 Folio: 556 – 569

Date: April 28, 1942

Grantor: Laura V. White; Mary W. Lankford and W. Fleming Lankford Grantee: W. Scott MacGill; Haile Chisholm and Eleanor M. Chisholm Cost: \$10.00 Liber: 880 Folio: 312 – 317

Date: August 21, 1897 Grantor: Thomas H. White Grantee: Huldah A. White Cost: \$3,473.81 Liber: JA 60 Folio: 144 - 147

Date: May 6, 1876 Grantor: Joseph C. White and Mary C. White Grantee: Thomas H. White Cost: \$4,000 Liber: EBP 15 Folio: 158 - 159

Date: September 13, 1856 Grantor: John A. Trundle, Trustee Grantee: Joseph C. White Cost: \$6,389.66 Liber: JGH 5 Folio: 354 – 356 Date: December 20, 1849 Grantor: Hezekiah Trundle Grantee: John A. Trundle Cost: Unknown* Liber: STS 4 Folio: 576 *File not available at time of report's preparation.