

Minor's Hill House

6346 Nottingham Street

Tax Map Parcel number: 041-1-((13))-5-0058E

Site Visit August 30, 2016

1. Report with recommendation prepared by: C. Richard Bierce, AIA Historical Architect & Preservation Consultant, Fairfax County ARB member. August 31, 2016 (4 pages)
2. Field notes and floor plans prepared by: Debbie Robison, Preservation Project Manager, Fairfax County History Commission member. August 30, 2016 (4 pages)
3. Report with recommendation prepared by: Debbie Robison, Preservation Project Manager, Fairfax County History Commission member. September 2, 2016 (8 pages)

Appendices: The following research was prepared by Debbie Robison, Preservation Project Manager, Fairfax County History Commission member.

1. Chain of Title. August 26, 2016
2. 1773 William Darne's leased land
3. Darne's lease agreement with George Minor
4. Fairfax County Land Tax Records
5. Photos from Library of Congress website
6. Virginia Map, zoom showing Minor Hill

Acknowledgment to Debbie Robison and Richard Bierce for their time, knowledge, energy and willingness to volunteer countless hours to Fairfax County's History Commission and ARB. Their expertise in historical architecture is invaluable to Fairfax County.

C. Richard Bierce AIA

Historical Architect and Preservation Consultant
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August 31, 2016

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Linda Blank, Preservation Planner, FC-DPZ
RE: Site Visit/Initial Assessment of Minor Hill, Nottingham St., McLean, 8-30-16

Purpose: To assess likely age and integrity of oldest portion of the existing house:

A: Property Evolution: (History as currently understood from notes, deed extracts, historic photos and other data provided by DPZ and by D. Robison of SWSG):

- 1690: Anecdotal date ascribed by last private owner: (no attribution)
- 1730, Mar. 04: 652 acres, Northern Neck Grant to James Going & Simon Pearson:
- 1730's: Anecdotal attribution of construction date in TV interview by Steve Masters:
- 1770's: Anecdotal statement of E.L. Templeman had G. Minor living in house when a rear wing was added by James Wren, later demolished for larger addition; This date predates Minor's purchase:
- 1773, July 01: 150 acres leased to William Darne from Thomas Pearson, required to build dwelling necessities: later map shows dwelling and 3 outbuildings; Darne dies in 1808:
- 1789, April 10: Pearson heirs sold entire acreage to George Minor, no mention of lease to Darne, (or to Minor, presumed as noted above to be living on the property):
- 1803, 18 July: George Minor's Will: Residence (on S. side of Alex/Leesburg turnpike) to wife Mildred, and 10 slaves; (by location, not the house on Nottingham)
Son William got portion of property leased by William Darne, presumed to be Nottingham site); rest of property sub-divided to heirs:
- 1814: Anecdotal story from several sources of Dolley Madison staying with Minors while fleeing British army; no attribution or documentation cited in these notes:
- 1862: Occupation of Minor's Hill by Union Army documented, with photos:
- 1861-5: John Minor occupied Minor's Hill house intermittently after his own residence was removed by troops:
- 1908 Nov. 11: Deed of another George Minor, Minor's Hill; 326 acres, to several purchasers, including William Duvall, developer of early subdivision:

Summary: Key dates that may suggest possible construction:

- 1690: No data- not credible:
- 1730: Original Grant: No documentation of occupancy by Grantees- not credible:
- 1773: Lease to Darne, with requirement to build: Earliest possible date that is credible:
- 1789: Purchase by Minor: Minor Sr. known to have lived elsewhere on property, 'south of turnpike'; no documentation of son's ownership, much less residence, of Minor's Hill until after Darne's death on 1808: this date not credible:

B: Description of Existing Structure:

(see sketch plan measured and prepared by D. Robison)

The oldest portion of the multi-faceted dwelling is a small area at the northwest corner of the lot nearest the intersection of Nottingham and Virginia Sts. It is a small rectangle in plan oriented approximately on the north-south axis. It measures 24'-11" by 14'-8-1/2" wide to the inside face of structural log walls that are roughly 12" thick. These are covered by roughly furred out finished walls. A finished ceiling on sawn lath covers 3" x 8" joists @ 24" o.c. Joists and logs were once exposed and had been whitewashed. The floor has 2" t&g hardwood boards laid over 6" t&g pine floor boards that bear on floor joists, most of which are 8" diameter logs. Floor and ceiling joists are clear span.

There is a window on the north wall, a narrow door to a later addition on the east wall, a 4' wide door and a small window on the west elevation and a door flanked by two windows on the south elevation. The most striking feature of the space is triangular stone fireplace roughly 8' on each face which abuts the east wall. It projects nearly 9' into the space and has two fairly shallow fireboxes on each face. The firebox openings are framed with stone jack arch lintels that bear upon steel plates, probably angles.

The stone mass bears directly upon the soil of the crawl space with no deep footing. The area was excavated partially to permit installation of a modern furnace, and the battered walls of the soil under the stone were parged to help stabilize the structure. The chimney above the first floor ceiling consists of two flues in a small brick stack near the east wall that extends to the exterior. The only visible connector was found by Ms. Robison and consists of a deteriorated 6 penny cut nail with a forged head, typical of the last quarter of the 18th c.

The simple gable roof had no dormers in the 1862 photos but small windows on the north and south elevations suggest the likelihood that there was a low, unheated sleeping loft above the first floor. The square brick chimney is located near the ridge in the photo.

The early narrow footprint with addition was given a single story saltbox addition along the east wall before 1862 as it exists in the series of photos taken during the War. Also, the small projecting wing with a brick fireplace still in place on the north side of the original and later footprints shows slightly in one of the portraits of Union officers in front of the west elevation. This is the fireplace illustrated in Mrs. Templeman's book that she identified, incorrectly, as the colonial fireplace of Minor Hill. This fireplace is more likely to have been used for cooking than the two in the older section of the plan, but is constructed entirely of brick with a small single flue chimney that is attached to the exterior of the north wall of the older structure.

These single story log/frame features were extended vertically to include fully accessible second floor living areas at some point after the War. A large two story mass was added to the southern end, with one story kitchen and recreational spaces extending to the east from its base. Modern garages complete the ensemble, the bulk of which appears to be early to mid- 20th c. in origin. The older log/frame areas were later encapsulated with brick veneer, to be visually consistent with the masonry construction of the south and east additions.

C: Determination of Possible Age:

From documentary overview, combined with visual inspection, it is apparent that the earliest structure on the site was probably built no earlier than 1773. It was a small freestanding, single story gabled log building roughly 15' by 25'. The fenestration pattern visible today on the west and south elevations is confirmed by the 1862 photo. The log portion appears to have been covered with clapboards as are the saltbox and kitchen addition, the whole covered with what appear to be wood shingles. The chimney is visibly brick

Analysis of small vernacular buildings of this period in northern Virginia suggests several possibilities as to original purpose for its construction. The first that usually arises is the presumption that it was an early 'colonial/pioneer/log cabin'. There were many but few survive, and from the data that does survive we see a different construct than what is shown in this house. In the earliest period, fireplaces with attendant superstructure were usually placed on an end wall of the small rectangular footprint and the bulk of the structure was outside of the exterior wall of the house itself. This was to lessen the possibility of fire damage, and to keep the excessive heat out of the interior in southern homes. The fireplaces served both as heating and cooking features, were larger, deeper, and taller than any that exist in the house today and most had very deep timber lintels, even when set into a stone wall. The two fireplaces that are extant are not sufficiently constructed for any purpose other than heating and their fundamental shallowness suggests that coal grates were employed rather than having roaring wood fires. Coal was readily available in Northern Virginia by the end of the 18th c..

The large stone mass of the joined fireplaces is not unusual in this area in that the Potomac Gorge is a ready, and nearby, source of free construction materials. The form, placement and construction of this one however suggest the possibility that it is not an original feature of this building. The triangular footprint was common when two smaller spaces were served by a single chimney and the footings for same were integral to the building of the entire structure. From visual appearance, there is a thought that this feature was possibly built later, and that there were indeed two separate rooms, the dividing partition long since removed.

Regardless of the date of the chimney *etc.*, it is clear that the structure was not initially built for a dwelling. One could not cook in the structure as constituted. Given the fact that this area was entirely given to large scale agricultural use in the 18th c., and that much of the land was owned by absentee planters (*viz.*, extensive holdings by the Fairfaxes, George Mason, *etal.*), it is entirely possible that the earliest freestanding buildings were functional shells, such as warehouses, in support of the plantation's principal enterprise. Habitation followed as the need for workers, (slaves,) and overseers continued to expand. As no documentation to the contrary exists, if this structure is earlier than the 1770's it was most likely built in this capacity.

The requirement that the first known tenant (a plantation manager?) build the necessary service structures in 1773 even more strongly attests to the validity of the hypothesis offered by Ms. Robison in comparing this house with one in Manassas we worked on several years ago. Slave quarters were often built in arrangements similar to this with shared structure, separate entries into separate but very small 'family areas', and no cooking facilities, as these were part of the plantation complement of shared facilities.

If this were its initial function, that probably changed as the 19th c. wore on and there was a need by Minor family members to occupy more of the family holdings. This may explain the upgrade and refinement seen in the saltbox space addition, exterior cladding, and significantly, the small kitchen on the north side. By the time of the War and Union occupation, this once simple structure had been transformed into a more comfortable and serviceable dwelling ensemble that it once was.

It was not a mansion but it grew to its ultimate form by the middle of the 20th c. At the beginning of the 19th c. (*ie.*, 1814) it most likely was not yet a home of modestly wealthy plantation owners who entertained the President's wife. The Senior Minors lived elsewhere, and no information is known to this writer about their dwelling. Or mansion.

D: Conclusion:

The working hypothesis is that the structure in question dates from the last one third of the 18th c. It was gradually altered and made livable up to the time of the War and later upgraded significantly throughout the remainder of its service life into the 20th c.

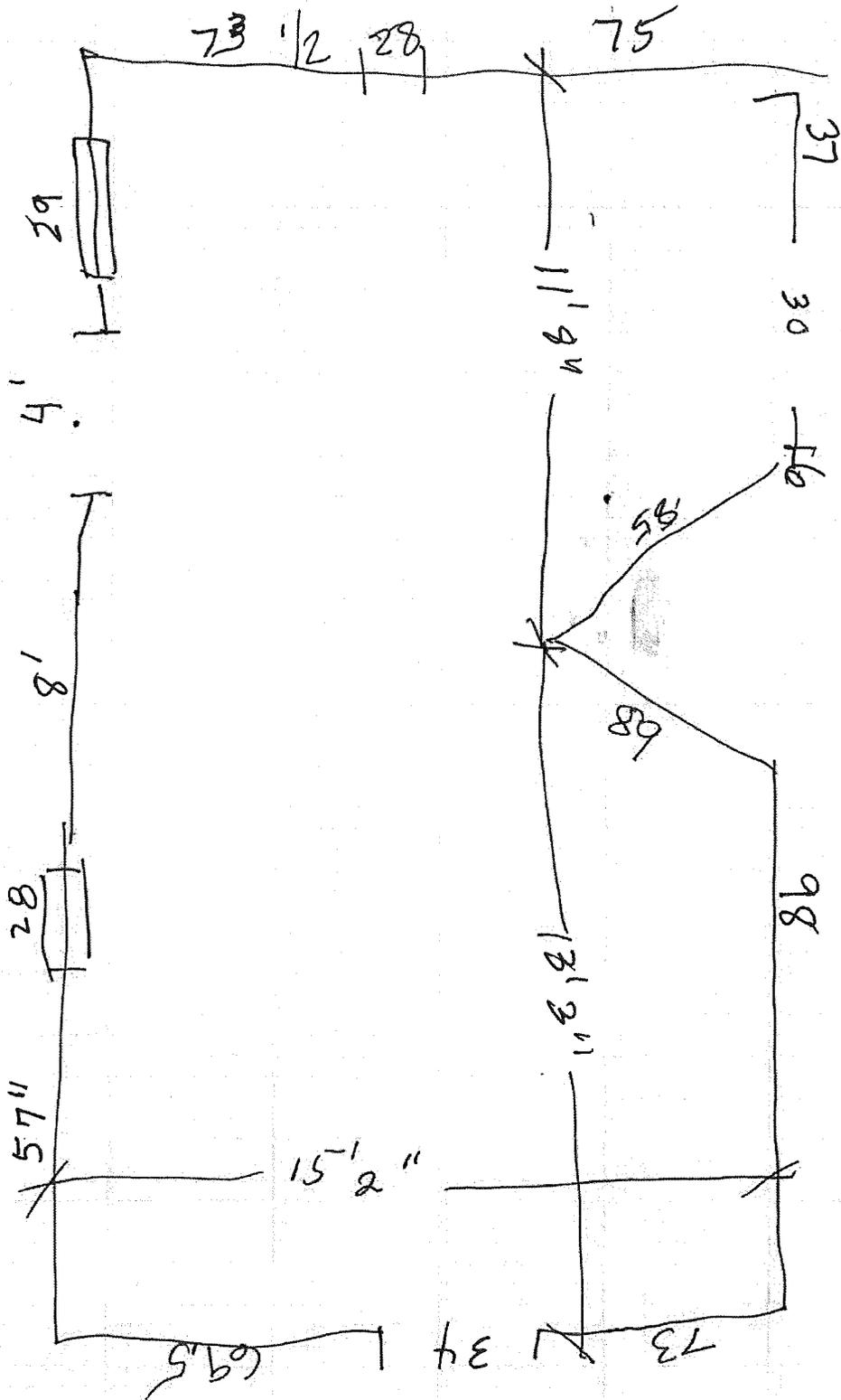
E: Assessment of Integrity:

From the foregoing discussion, it should be clear that the architectural and historical integrity of the early structure have been severely compromised at best, and fundamentally destroyed at worst. Restoration is technically feasible, for it was not a large or complex structure, but a good deal of it would of necessity be speculative and could only be justified if historical significance or persons or events at the site could be substantiated to a far, far more compelling degree than has thus far been presented.

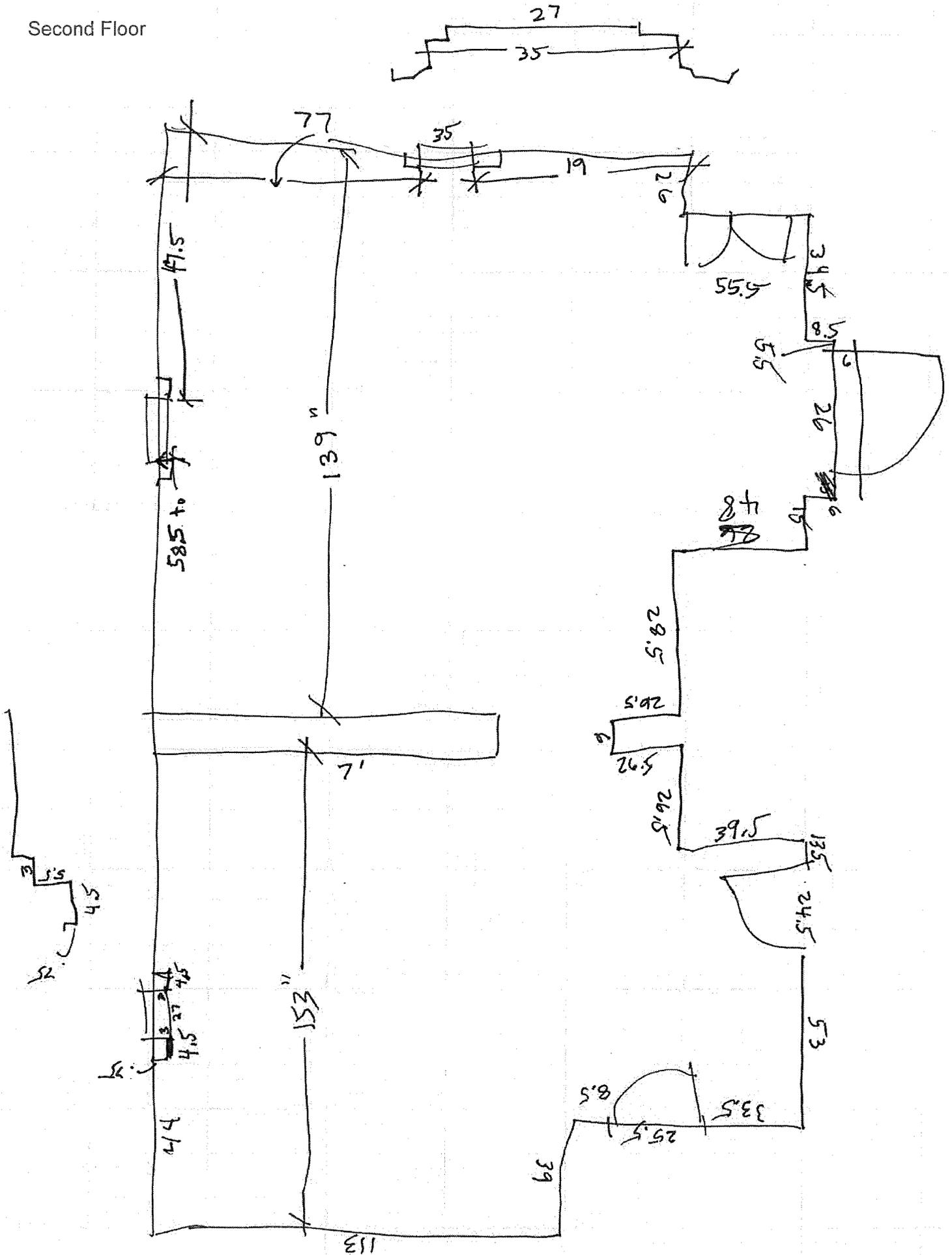
F: Recommendations:

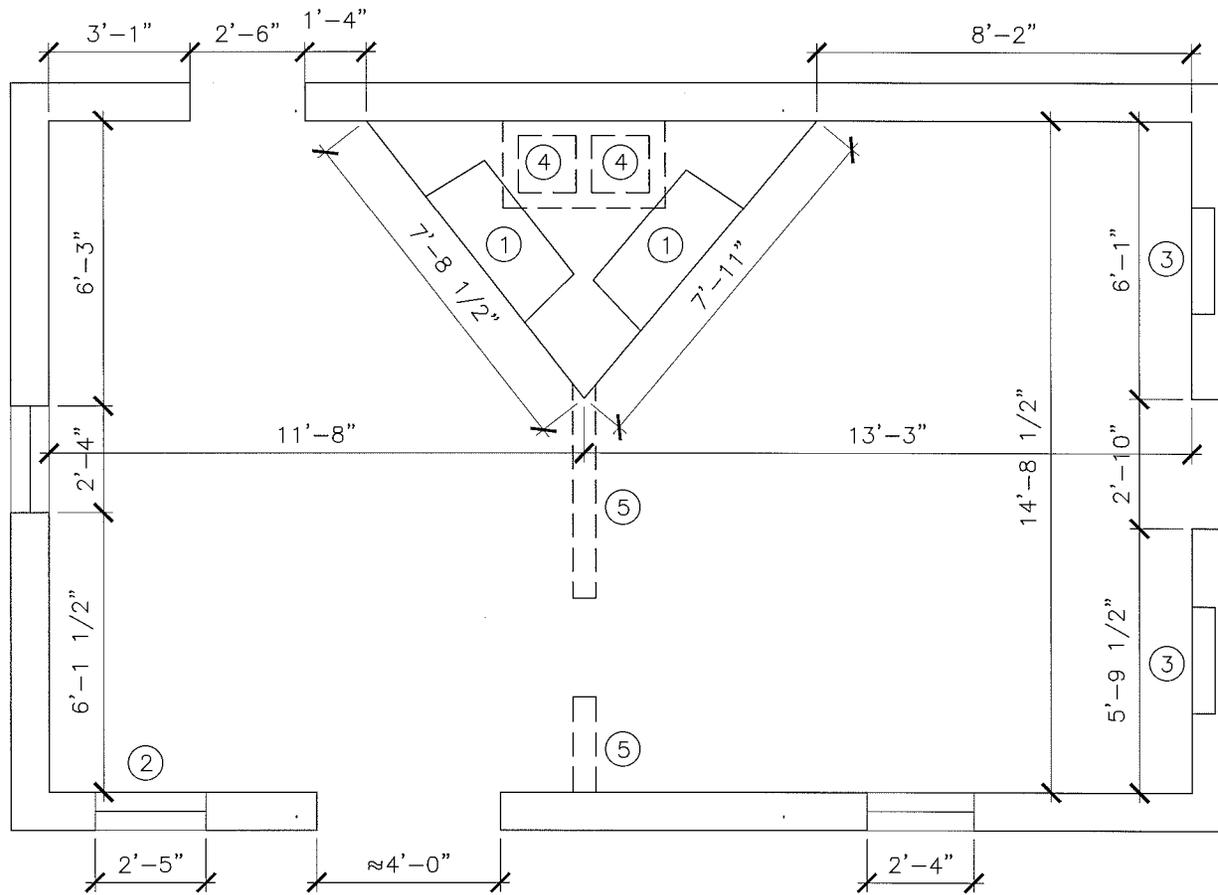
- If time and resources permit, a HABS Level I architectural survey should be undertaken in order to retain a record of the entire assemblage of structures as it currently exists:
- If time and resources permit, a Phase I archaeological assessment of the remaining and accessible portions of the early site should be undertaken as well as shovel test excavations in the immediate area of the oldest section:
- If time and resources permit, dendrochronology testing should be undertaken on selected wood framing members (floor joist and rafters) in the oldest section where samples include outer bark layers:
- If permitted, demolition should be observed by a knowledgeable preservation professional in order to photo document the process and to obtain close examination of potentially significant artifactual or architectural evidence as it emerges to further enrich the story of construction; significant artifacts to be retained for further study if possible:

2nd floor
3 x 8 joists
24" O.C.
3/4" trim



Second Floor





1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SK1 SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

NOTES:

- ① FIRE BOX DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.
- ② LOCATION OF WINDOW IS APPROXIMATE.
- ③ FORMER WINDOW CONVERTED TO BOOKSHELVES. LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS APPROXIMATE.
- ④ FLUE QUANTITIES AND SIZES ARE ESTIMATED.
- ⑤ PARTITION WALL REPORTED BY PRIOR OWNER. LOCATION OF DOORWAY UNKNOWN.

MINOR'S HILL HOUSE

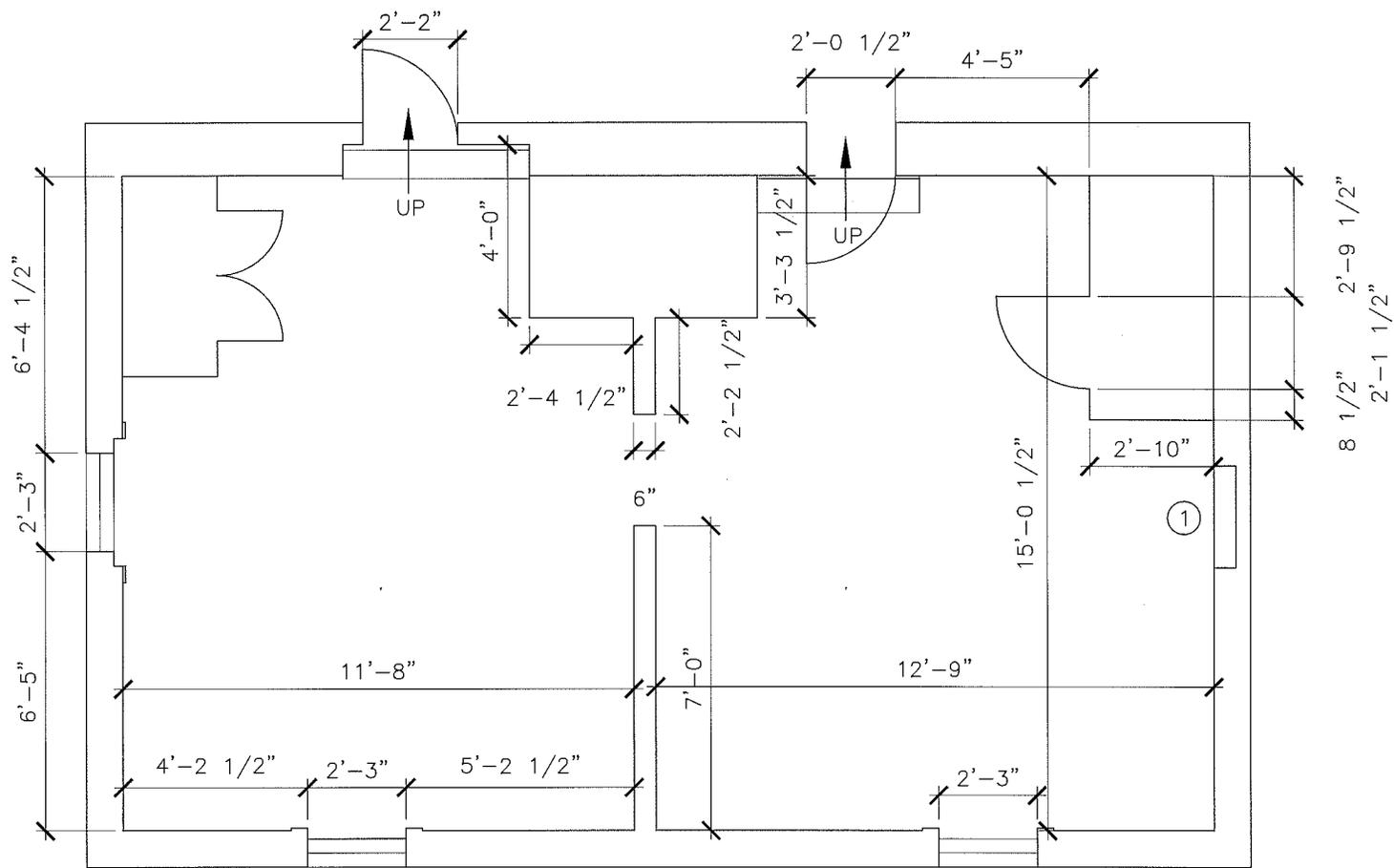
6346 NOTTINGHAM STREET
 McLEAN, VA 22101

DRAWN BY
 D ROBISON

DATE
 08/30/16

FIGURE

SK1



1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 SK2 SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"

NOTES:

① FORMER WINDOW CONVERTED TO BOOKSHELVES. LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS APPROXIMATE.

MINOR'S HILL HOUSE
 6346 NOTTINGHAM STREET
 McLEAN, VA 22101

DRAWN BY
 D ROBISON

DATE
 08/30/16

FIGURE
SK2

Minor's Hill House

Background History

Colonial Grant

James Going and Simon Pearson were granted 652 acres in 1730 from the proprietors of the Northern Neck of Virginia.¹ Over time, ownership of the land passed through several men named Simon and Thomas Pearson. Simon Pearson, who received the grant, bequeathed the land to his son, Thomas Pearson, who bequeathed the land to his son, Simon Pearson. This Simon Pearson gave the land to his brother, Thomas Pearson.²

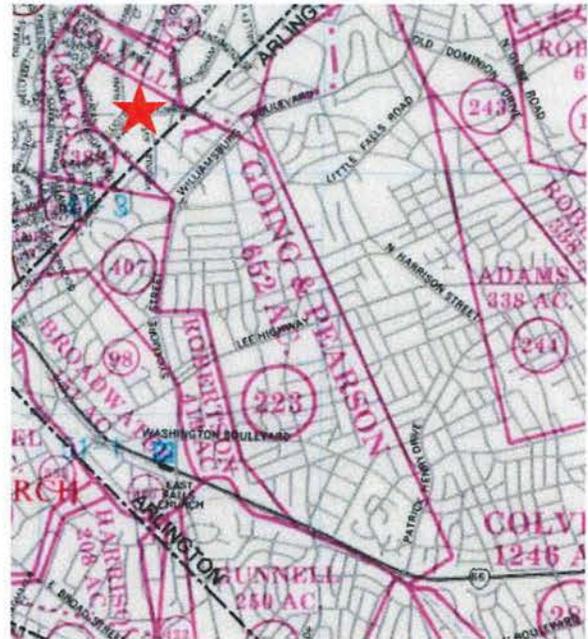


Figure 1: Going and Pearson Grant of 652 acres. Fairfax County Grant Map by Beth Mitchell

William Darne Lease 1773-1809

In 1773, Thomas Pearson leased 150 acres to William Darne. The term of the lease was for the lifetimes of William Darne, Sarah Darne, his wife, and Thomas Darne, his son. The lease required Darne to *build all necessary houses as shall be wanted to carry on with conveniency the farmers or planters business...and that he will plant on come convenient part of the demised premises one hundred apple Trees of good frute and two hundred Peach Trees and to keep the same within a strong and close fence and clear from Damage of Creatures...*³

In 1785, Virginia conducted a census of inhabitants. William Darn [sic] is listed in Fairfax County with one dwelling and three outbuildings.⁴

The various uses of the outbuildings are unknown. One of the outbuildings may have

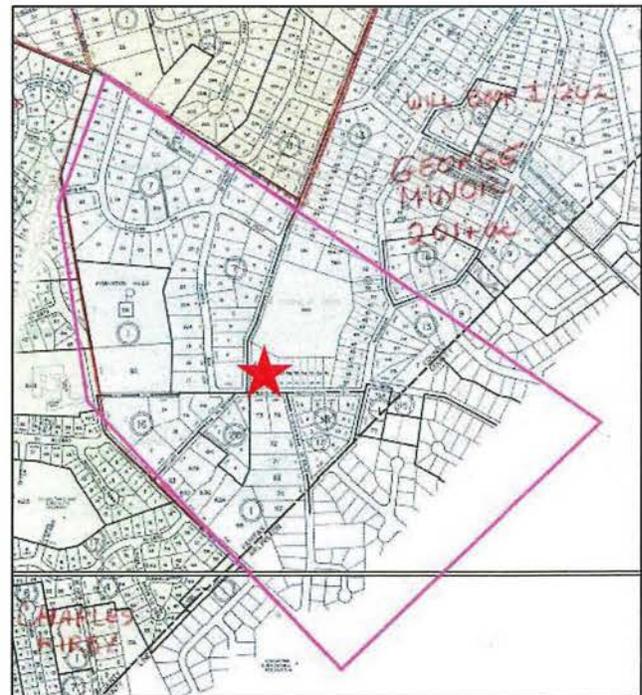


Figure 2: William Darne's Lease hold Plotted Over Fairfax County 1860 Land Ownership Map. Background map by Beth Mitchell.

been a slave cabin since William Darne was a slave owner. At his death, he bequeathed ten slaves to his children.⁵

In addition to farming, William Darne was a tobacco inspector at the Falls Warehouse. George Minor, Sr. was also a tobacco inspector there.⁶

George Minor Sr. Ownership 1789-1803

George Minor, Sr. purchased the 652 acre parcel of land from Thomas and Simon Pearson, which included the William Darne leasehold, in 1789.⁷ Darne was living on the land in 1803 when George Minor Sr. died.⁸

George Minor, Sr. did not live on Minor's Hill. He lived on a 300 acre farm that he purchased in 1785. The farm was located near present-day Seven Corners. The Middle Turnpike (now known as Leesburg Pike) passed through the northern portion of the parcel. Minor's dwelling was located on a hill south of the turnpike. In his will, Minor specified that he lived southwest of the turnpike leading from Alexandria to Leesburg.⁹

George Minor Sr. bequeathed *that part of the land whereon William Darne lives (agreeable to the lease of said Darne)* to his son George Minor, Jr. who was at the time living on land on Pimmit Run that was bequeathed to his brother Daniel Minor.¹⁰

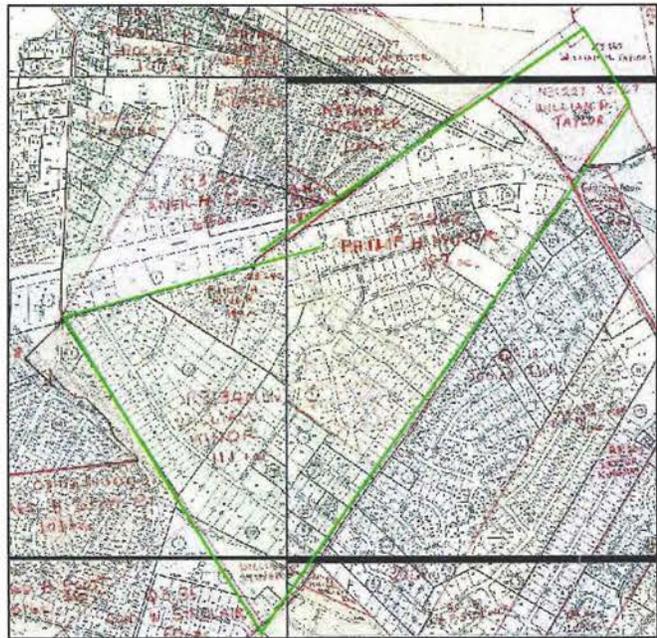


Figure 3: Plat of George Minor's 300 acre farm where he resided at his death, over Fairfax County 1860 Property Ownership Map by Beth Mitchell

George Minor Sr. also owned slaves. The slaves were divided among the heirs in 1814.¹¹

George Minor, Jr. Ownership 1803-1865

George Minor, Jr. continued the lease with William Darne, though the term was modified to include only the lifetimes of William Darne and his wife Sarah.¹² William Darne died in 1808.¹³ His widow Sarah was the head of household in 1809.¹⁴ Sarah Darne's date of death is unknown.

It is unclear when George Minor Jr. moved to Darne's former leasehold, possibly between 1810 and 1820. During the War of 1812, Colonel George Minor led a militia regiment. It has been

suggested that Dolley Madison visited the home of George Minor in 1814 following the burning of Washington while George Minor was with his troops. However, this is unlikely. Sources indicate that Dolley Madison stayed at Miss (or Mrs.) Minor's House but the sources don't provide a given name.¹⁵ One possibility is the house of Miss Ann Minor who inherited George Minor Sr.'s house near the turnpike road. Numerous people fled Washington and crowded into Miss Minor's house. It is more likely that they stayed a Minor house near the turnpike. A major road from Washington intersected the turnpike near Miss Ann Minor's house. It has also been suggested that Dolley Madison may have brought George Washington's portrait to Minor's Hill, though this is incorrect.

In 1820, the first year land tax assessments separate out the value of buildings, George Minor Jr.'s building value was \$1,000. This amount would suggest a moderate size dwelling. The value of Minor's dwelling, as reported in the tax assessments, remained constant at \$1,000 until 1840 when the assessed value was reduced to \$250. Properties were reassessed in 1840 as a result of the 1838 depression. The small value suggests that Minor did not maintain his dwelling or make improvements during this time. The assessed value dropped to \$200 around 1850 and remained at that level through the remainder of Minor's life.¹⁶

George Minor suffered financial difficulties due to the Panic of 1819 and subsequent depression. Many banks failed, including the Mechanics Bank of Alexandria where George's brother, Philip Minor, was cashier. George Minor, along with his brothers, had entered into a bond to secure Philip Minor for the sum of \$20,000. Philip Minor was taken to court to recover bank losses. The bank argued that Philip Minor did not perform his duties appropriately, including failing to make timely reports and turning over funds to the bank directors, wasting bank funds, and appropriating bank funds for his own and others use. The case went to the US Supreme Court who found in favor of the bank directors.¹⁷ George Minor was held accountable for one fourth of the damages and costs. His share was at least \$4,500, which was a significant amount at that time. He entered into trust agreements using his properties as collateral to secure the debt.¹⁸

Civil War Occupation 1861-1865

Beginning about June 1861, Union troops were in the area of Minor's Hill. By Fall of 1861 the troops were building huts on Minor's Hill for their winter encampment. John Minor, George Minor's son, lived in the house on Minor's Hill for a portion of the war after his own house was destroyed. He received written permission from Major General Wadsworth to take charge of the Minor's Hill house. He was in favor of the Union, though he said that his father, Col. George Minor, was a strong secessionist.¹⁹

John Minor stated in a Southern Claims Commission deposition that the Confederates never reached Minor's Hill. Fence rails were taken from the property by General Morell's Union forces to build winter huts. All of the fencing on Minor's Hill was destroyed.²⁰

Soldiers took a couple of plows from John Minor to construct an avenue on Minor's Hill for dress parade. The men plowed the land, dug out the stumps, had it rolled and graded, and topped it with gravel.²¹

There appear to have been several structures at Minor's Hill as depicted on a Civil War era map.

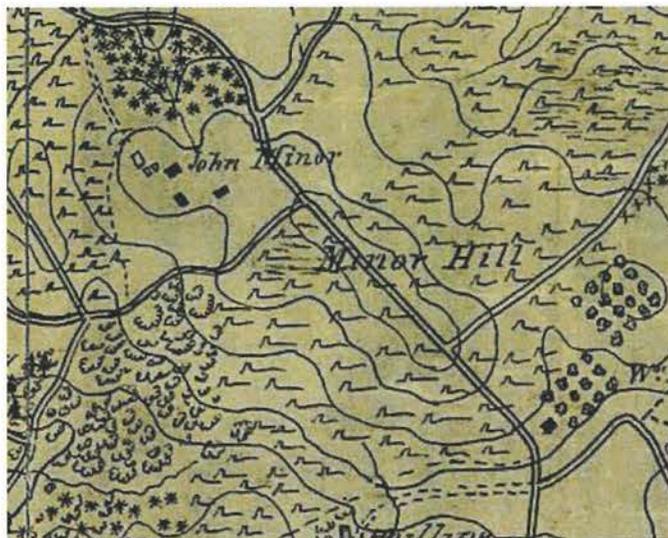


Figure 4: Structures at Minor's Hill During Civil War, Map title is Part of Virginia From Alexandria Above Washington

The Official Records of the Civil War indicate that there was a battery on Minor's Hill. General Morell did report from Minor's Hill that Confederates were attacking his pickets with artillery, infantry, and cavalry, though he didn't mention where his pickets were located. An observation balloon, the Intrepid, was inflated and moved to Minor's Hill in November 1861 by T.S.C. Lowe. He observed that the enemy was not in force east of Centreville.²²

Civil War era photos show a signal tower at the Minor Hill house with a telegraph pole in the background. General Morell is shown in a photo at the house. The Library of Congress photo caption indicates that the house was General Morell's headquarters.²³

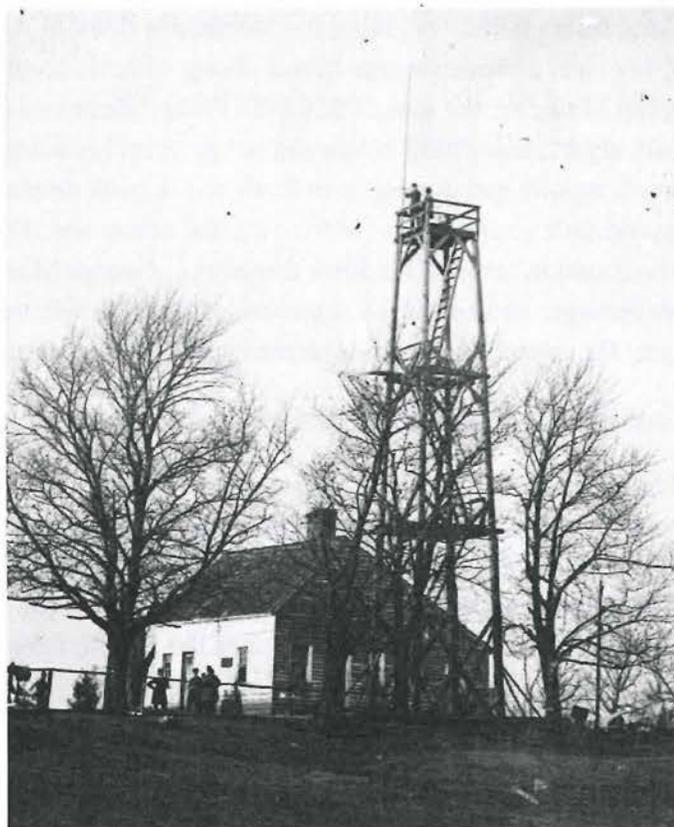


Figure 5: One of several Civil War Era photos of the Minor Hill House, Courtesy Library of Congress

Building Evolution

The earliest portion of the Minor's Hill house was a ~15' by ~25' log structure. Paint on the log walls and ceiling joists suggests that the interior of the structure did not originally have plaster walls or plaster ceilings. The first floor ceiling joists were hand hewn on all four sides and therefore do not exhibit diagnostic saw mark patterns. An original roof rafter shows that the joint was hewn and pegged.

There is a large triangular shaped stone fireplace with two small fireboxes. As observed by Richard Bierce, a Historical Architect and Preservation Consultant, the small fireboxes suggest that the fireplaces were used for heating and not cooking.

Although it is questionable whether the existing stone fireplace is original, it is possible that a triangular-shaped fireplace was built as part of the original construction. The wood sills used



Figure 6: Wood Sills Used to Support Triangular-Shaped Fireplace

to support the fireplace, which were observed in the cellar, are attached to the original log floor joists. The construction appears to be consistent with the original building. The existing stone fireplace was constructed using a lime/sand mortar, suggesting it dates at least to the 19th century. It likely existed at the time of the Civil War since the photos show a brick chimney that is the same width as the existing chimney.

A wall likely extended from the fireplace to the front wall dividing the space into two rooms. It was reported that a wall previously existed at this location. A cut nail with a hand forged head was identified suggesting that the original structure was constructed during the Darne leasehold period. Because the structure does not have a cooking fireplace and because each room had an exterior door at one time, it is possible that the building may have been a slave cabin with two separate living spaces. The second floor under the roof rafters may have been used as a sleeping area. Archaeology is recommended to investigate if this building may have served this purpose.

As noted by Richard Bierce, a single story saltbox addition was constructed along the east wall of the original building. An addition on the north side of the building, observed in a Civil War era photo, may have functioned as a kitchen. These additions are no longer extant.

The land tax building assessments suggest that George Minor Jr. may have constructed the additions prior to 1820, possibly after he acquired slaves from his father's estate in 1814 but

before the Panic of 1819. Minor may have moved to the property at this time after converting the structure into a dwelling. He may have replaced the original flooring, as evidenced by the reciprocal saw marks on the underside of the floor boards and the machine cut nails. He also may have plastered the walls and ceiling at this time. Cut nails were used to secure the furring strips for the lath to the log walls. Exterior wood siding was likely applied at this time since the siding shown in Civil War era photos extends across the original log structure and the saltbox addition.

The value of the house declined significantly by 1840, possibly due to Minor's financial difficulties.

Sometime after the civil war, in the late 19th or early 20th century, the saltbox addition was removed and the original portion of the building was enlarged to two stories. The brick chimney was extended above the new roof line. The brick color of the original chimney is different from the brick color of the chimney extension. The mortar used for the chimney extension contains Portland cement.

A brick veneer was constructed over the original construction. The brick was laid in running bond fashion without a rowlock course.

Periods of Significance

Two periods of significance are suggested by the research.

- Original construction during the Darne leasehold period, possibly as a slave cabin
- Civil War era occupation by Union troops

Unfortunately, a large portion of the original building is no longer extant, such as the original flooring, roof rafters, roofing material, and demising wall. This loss has diminished the historical integrity of the structure to the point where it's a toss-up whether the original log building retains its historical significance. If archaeology is permitted and there is a determination that the structure was a slave cabin, this may raise the level of significance due to the rarity of extant slave cabins.

Most of the building as it existed during the Civil War era is no longer extant, including the saltbox addition. The historical integrity of the Civil War era building has not been retained.

Recommendations

I concur with the recommendations put forth by Richard Bierce for archaeology, dendrochronology, a HABS survey, and demolition monitoring with photo documentation/study if time and resources permit.

It is desirable, if possible, to explore the following:

- Was the log cabin as a slave cabin? Recommend archaeology to explore this hypothesis.
- When was the log portion of the building constructed? Recommend dendrochronology on log joists to determine when the logs were cut.
- When was the saltbox addition constructed? Was the building modified into a modest dwelling before or after the War of 1812? Recommend dendrochronology on the roof rafter of the addition.
- What was the log corner notching, i.e. V-notches, square, dovetail? This may be observed if the veneer is removed.



Figure 7: Saltbox Addition Roof Rafter, Photo courtesy Steve Masters

¹Northern Neck Grant from Thomas Fairfax to James Going and Simon Pearson, NN C:118, Library of Virginia.

²Deed from Thomas Pearson and Ann his wife and Simon Pearson to George Minor, Fairfax County Deed Book (FXDB) R1(18)481, April 10, 1789.

³Lease from Thomas Pearson to William Darne, FXDB L1(12)63, July 1, 1773.

⁴List of Inhabitants, 1782-1785, microfilm call number 34894, Library of Virginia.

⁵Will of William Darne, Fairfax County Will Book J1(659)163, probated December 19, 1808.

⁶Fairfax County Court Minute Books, i.e. 1783-1788 Book, August 19, 1784.

⁷Deed from Thomas Pearson and Ann his wife and Simon Pearson to George Minor, Fairfax County Deed Book (FXDB) R1(18)481, April 10, 1789.

⁸George Minor's Will, Fairfax County Will Book I1(658)262, written March 1, 1803 and probated July 18, 1803.

⁹Deed from William Bird and Catherine, his wife, to George Minor, FXDB P1(16)444, May 15, 1785.

¹⁰George Minor's Will, Fairfax County Will Book I1(658)262, written March 1, 1803 and probated July 18, 1803.

¹¹Division of George Minor's slaves, Fairfax County Deed Book N2:53. (Missing, information from index.)

¹²Lease from George Minor, Jr. to William Darne, October 1806, Fairfax Circuit Court Vertical File (Drawer X)

¹³Will of William Darne, Fairfax County Will Book J1(659)163, probated December 19, 1808.

¹⁴Fairfax County Personal Property Taxes, 1809, microfilm, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library.

¹⁵Says, Matilda Roberts, "Reminiscences" (ca. 1892), typescript, Eleanor Lee Templeman Manuscript Collection, Says Family; Paul Jennings, *Colored Man's Reminiscences of James Madison*, Brooklyn, George C. Beadle, 1865; Charles Ingersoll, *Historical Sketch of the Second War Between the United States of America and Great Britain*, In Three Volumes, T.K & P.G. Collins, Philadelphia, 1845.

¹⁶Fairfax County Land Tax Ledgers, 1795-1866, microfilm, VA Room, Fairfax County Public Library

¹⁷ Minor v. Mechanics Bank of Alexandria, Justia US Supreme Court,

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/26/46/case.html>

¹⁸ Trust agreement between George Minor and George Terrett to secure bond of Alexander Hunter, Fairfax County Deed Book V2(48)104.

¹⁹ John Minor, Southern Claims Commission Claim, as viewed on Ancestry.com

²⁰ John Minor, Southern Claims Commission Claim, as viewed on Ancestry.com

²¹ John Minor, Southern Claims Commission Claim, as viewed on Ancestry.com

²² Official Records of the Civil War, as viewed on ehistory, The Ohio State University,

<http://ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/124/0266>

²³ Several Civil War Era Photos, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

MINOR'S HILL HOUSE CHAIN OF KEY EVENTS

August 26, 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Description</u>
03 Mar 1730	NN C:118	James Going and Simon Pearson are granted 652 acres.
01 Jul 1773	FX DB L1(12)63	William Darne entered into a three-lives lease agreement for 150 acres from Thomas Pearson for the duration of the lives of William Darne, Sarah Darne, his wife, and Thomas Darne, his son. William Darne was required by the lease: <i>at their proper cost and charge build all necessary houses as shall be wanted to carry on with conveniency the farmers or planters business and to keep the same in tenantable repair during the term yet to come...</i>
1785	List of Inhabitants	William Darn is listed with five whites, one dwelling house, and three outbuildings.
10 Apr 1789	FX DB-R1(18)481	George Minor (1) purchased 652 acres from Thomas Pearson, Ann his wife, and Simon Pearson.
18 July 1803	FX WB I1(658)262	Will of George Minor (1) bequeathed <i>that part of the land whereon William Darne lives (agreeable to the lease of said Darne)</i> to his son George Minor (2). George Minor (2) was living on the land bequeathed to Daniel Minor on Pimmitts Run adjoining William Watters at the time of the will, which was written on 01 Mar 1803.
1803	FX Land Taxes	George Minor (1) is assessed tax on four parcels: 36 acres, 339 acres, 100 acres, and 33 acres in Fairfax County.
Sept 1800- Sept 1803	FX DB D2:166 (missing)	George Minor purchased from Thomas Darne by deed. (missing) [Don't know what Minor purchased.]
1803	FX Land Taxes	George Minor (2) is assessed tax on 100 acres.
1806	Drawer X	George Minor entered into an agreement with William Darne regarding a three-lives lease for 150 acres that Darne obtained from Thomas Pearson in 1773. The lease was to last during the lives of William Darne, Sarah Darne, his wife, and Thomas Darne, his son. There arose a question as to the validity of the lease. George Minor agreed that William Darne would continue to hold the lease,

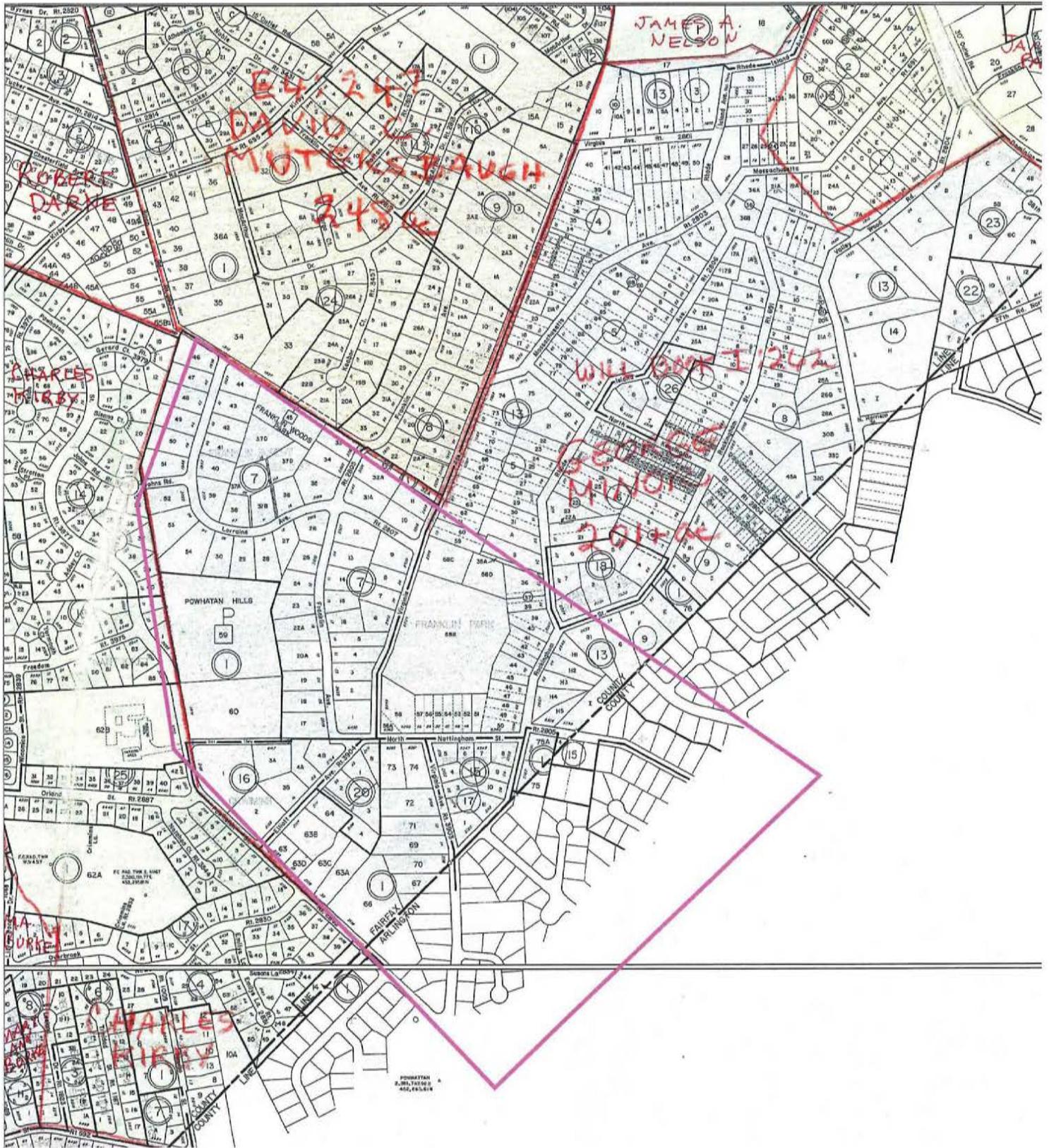
	though only for the lifetime of William Darne and Sarah, his wife. In return, William Darne agreed that if he decided to sell the lease, George Minor would get right of first refusal.
19 Dec 1808 FX WB J1(659)163	William Darne's will probated.
1814 FX DB N2:53 (missing)	George Minor division of slaves
1815 FX DB N2:355	George Minor sold to James Gordon by deed. (missing)
1815 FX Land Taxes	George Minor is assessed tax on 100 acres.
1819 FX DB R2:13	George Minor's heirs (George Minor, Daniel Minor, William Minor, John Minor, Hugh w. Minor, Ann Minor, Philip H. Minor, Smith Minor, Thomas Minor) to Methodist Meeting House trustees.
1820 FX Land Taxes	George Minor is assessed tax on 100 acres that includes buildings valued at \$1,000. He is also assessed tax on a 61.625 acre parcel and a 40 acre parcel (the rest of this parcel is in the District).
1821 FX DB S2()305	Joseph Minor's heirs (George and Mary Minor, John and Mary Minor, William and Catharine Minor, Hugh W. and Ann Minor, Smith and Mary Minor, Philip H. and Sarah Minor, Thomas J. Minor) sold to Daniel Minor.
1827 FX DB X2()200	Hugh W. Minor sold to William Minor.
1831 FX DB Z2:397	George Minor acquired from Daniel Minor by deed.
1842 FX DB G3()171	George Minor sold to William Nelson, Sr.
1861-1864 Southern Claims Commission	John Minor, son of George Minor, lived in the Minor Hill house at various times during the war. His own house was removed from the property by Union soldiers. John Minor was for the Union, though his father was for the Confederacy.
16 Oct 1865 FX WB Z1(675)402	George Minor (2) will probated. He bequeaths his real estate to his daughter Mary Anderson, wife of James Anderson of Montgomery County, MD. He appointed James Anderson, son of James W. Anderson) his executor.
1866 FX Land Tax	Mary Anderson is assessed tax on 201.625 acres on Little Pimmett Run with buildings valued at \$200.
11 Nov 1908 FX DB A7(157)528	William H. Duvall of Washington DC purchased 326.56 acres from James Anderson and Sallie M.

- Anderson, his wife, Edward Anderson and Alice Anderson, his wife, Geroge Minor Anderson and Julia P. Anderson, his wife, Mary E. Rozer and Charles B. Rozer her husband, Frances V. Rozer and Francis W. Rozer, her husband, and Ella Anderson, Widow of Thomas Anderson deceased. Geroge Minor, by his last will and testament, provated on 20 Nov 1865 and recorded in Will Book Z:402 in Fairfax County, devised to his daughter, Mary Aderson, wife of James W. Anderson of Montgomery County, MD all his real estate located partially in Fairfax and partially in Alexandria Counties known as "Minors Hill." Mary Anderson died on 15 Sep 1866 leaving her heirs as her children.
- 01 Apr 1909 FX DB C7(159)182 Franklin Park subdivision. William H. Duvall, owner of land part in Alexandria and part in Fairfax, which was conveyed to Duvall by James Anderson, et al and Myron R Horton by deeds in 1908 recorded in A7(157)528 and A7(157)536. PLAT
- 28 Nov 1949 FX DB 730:282 Sally Irene Harwood purchased acres from Grace Thomas Harwood and Thomas E. Harwood, her husband. (1) Five acres in the Villa Site of Block Five (5) Franklin Park sold by the Franklin Park Corporation to Miss Grace Deborah Thomas. (Was T7()36. And (2) all of lot 58 in block 5 recorded in C7(159)181 Being the same land that was conveyed to Grace Thomas Harwood nee Grace Deborah Thomas by Monroe Creel List in 1917 and recorded in D8()133
- 07 Jul 2004 FX DB 16351:1894 Resubdivision of Franklin Park. Land was acquired in 730:282 PLAT
- 09 Feb 2009 FX DB 20287:1143 Sally Harwood hardy Revocable Trust acquired two parcels from Sally Harwood Hardy. Parcel One contains 12,171sf and was acquired in 1949 and recorded in 730:282. Parcel Two (Lot 58E) containing 57,033sf was subdivided and recorded in 16351:1894.
- 08 Feb 2016 FX DB 24449:158 Mr Project Management, Inc. purchased two parcels from Marion Hardy Larow and Carol Hardy Wadsworth, Successor Co-Trustees of the Sally Harwood Hardy Revocable Trust. Parcel one consists of 12,171 sf (Lot 0411 1305 57A) and parcel two consists of lot 58e containing 57,033sf as

shown on a 2004 plan recorded in 16351:1894. The property was acquired by the trust and recorded in 20287:1143

Abbreviations

AX	City of Alexandria
CF	City of Fredericksburg
cff	Chancery file folder
CR	Court record
DB	Deed book
FX	Fairfax County
LN	Loudoun County
OB	Order Book
OR	Official Records of Civil War
NO	Northumberland County
NN	Northern Neck grant
PW	Prince William County
VBHS	Virginia Baptist Historical Society
VG	Virginia Gazette
WB	Will book
WC	Westmoreland County



JAMES A. NELSON

242
DANIEL M. MITCHELL
345-16

ROBERT D. DARKE

CHARLES M. KELBY

WILLIAM I. 242

MINOR
2014-16

MAY B. BURKE

MAY CAVAIL
115

POWHEATAN
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

This Indenture made this 26th - day of
October in the year of our Lord Christ, One thousand
eight hundred and six, Between William Darne of
the County of Fairfax and Commonwealth of Virginia
of the one part and George Minor of the County
and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth
that whereas Thomas Pearson by his certain Indenture
of Lease executed on the first day of July One thousand
seven hundred and seventy three, for and in consideration
of the rent and Bountys therein contained on the part
and behalf of him the said William Darne to be paid
kept and performed, did demise farm and to let
unto him the said William Darne his heirs, executors,
Administrators and assigns a certain piece, parcel or
Tract of Land situate lying and being in the County
aforesaid being part of a larger Tract conveyed by a
certain Simon Pearson unto him the said Thomas Pearson
which in and by the said Indenture of Lease now of
record in the County Court of Fairfax is more sufficiently
and particularly described, reference being thereunto had
will more fully and at large appear, To have and
to hold unto the said William Darne the said piece
parcel or Tract of Land for and during the full
term of the natural lives of him the said William
Darne and his wife Sarah, and his son Thomas; And
whereas the said Thomas Pearson after the demise aforesaid
by his certain Indenture of Bargain & Sale duly proved
and recorded in the said County Court, did for and
in consideration of the Sum therein expressed, Bargain,
sell and convey unto a certain George Minor now deceased
Father to the George party to these presents the whole of the

aforsaid Tract of Land conveyed by the said Simon Pearson unto him the said Thomas Pearson; who by his Last Will and Testament, duly proved and recorded in the Court of the County aforesaid, did devise all and singular the said piece, parcel or Tract of Land conveyed by the said Thomas Pearson unto him the said William Darnes as aforesaid unto him the said George Minor party to these presents, whereby the reversion and fee Simple estate of the said Land leased as aforesaid, is now vested in him the said George Minor - And whereas doubts have arisen, and ^{are} entertained, as to the validity of the said Conveyance of Lease executed by the said Thomas Pearson unto him the said William Darnes, for remedy whereof and to prevent all litigation and disputes the parties have mutually entered into the following Agreement, to wit, the said George on his part agrees that the said William Darnes his Heirs and Assigns shall peacefully and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy the said Lands and premises conveyed as aforesaid by the said Indenture of Lease for the full Term of the Natural lives of him the said William Darnes and his wife Sarah and the longest lives of them and no longer; and the said William on his part agrees for himself his Heirs and Assigns, that after the death of him the said William and his wife Sarah, the said George Minor his Heirs and Assigns shall peacefully and quietly enter into and take possession of all and singular the said Lands and premises, any ^{thing} contained in the before mentioned Indenture of Lease to the contrary notwithstanding; and that in case he the said William shall at any time hereafter determine to sell the Lease aforesaid for the term of the lives herein stipulated, that the said George shall have the refusal thereof, and that in consideration thereof the said George agrees to give the said William at any time hereafter the price that the same may be valued at

by two disinterested persons to be mutually chosen by
the parties ~ Now this Indenture ^{Witnesseth}
that the said William Darne ^{as well} for and in consideration
of the premises as of the sum of One Dollar to him
the said William Darne in hand paid by him the
said George Minor the receipt whereof he doth
hereby acknowledge, he the said William Darne hath
released, remised, Surrendered and conveyed, and by
these presents doth release, remise, Surrender & Deliver
up unto him the said George Minor his Heirs and
assigns forever, the aforesaid Lands and premises con-
veyed by the ^{said} Indenture of Lease from the said Thomas
Oscar into him the said William Darne as herein before
set forth and described, and every part and parcel
thereof immediately after the death of him the said Willi-
am Darne and Sarah his wife, and the said William
Darne ^{and Sarah his wife} binds himself his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns
to deliver up to the said George the peaceable and quiet
possession of all Singular the premises aforesaid, immedi-
ately after the death of him the said William and his
wife Sarah as aforesaid; and the said George Minor
doth covenant promise and agree to and with the
said William Darne his Heirs and Assigns that he
the said George Minor his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns
will not disturb or molest ^{him} the said William Darne
in the peaceable possession of the said Lands and
premises for and during the natural lives of him the
said William and Sarah his wife, or the longest lives
of them, but that he shall have, hold, Occupy, possess and
enjoy the said Lands & premises without the trouble or inter-
ruption of him the said George his Heirs or Assigns, he the
said William Darne his Heirs or Assigns paying the rent
reserved, and in every respect performing the covenants on
his parts to be paid kept and performed in and by the

before recited Indenture of Lease from the said Tho^s Pearson
to the said William Darnie, and the said William in per-
suance of the before recited agreement doth agree and
oblige himself that in case he determines to sell the
his interests in the before mentioned premises that he will
give the said George his heirs & assigns the refusal
thereof; and the said George on his part doth
further covenant and agree to give the said
William as much for his interest in the said Land
and premises as any two disinterested persons mutually
chosen by the parties shall say the same is worth.

In Witness whereof the parties to these presents
have hereunto set their hands and affixed their
Seals the day and year first before written —

Signed & acknowledged
in presence of

Wm Darnie Seal

Ja Carson

Wm Darnie Geo Minor

Seal

(Seal) ✓

Deed

Michael Prosk

Geo Minor

October Court 1806.

Certified.

At a Court held for Fairfax County, the 20th October 1806.
This Deed between William Darnie and George Minor, was
proved to be the act and deed of the parties, by the oath of
William Minor, a witness hereto, & ordered to be Certified —

Minor Hill House

Fairfax County Land Taxes

	No. of Acres	Rate pr acre	Description
1795			
George Minor	36	10/7	
Do of Bird	339	16/4	
Do of Pierson	652	12/1	
Do New entry	12	10/7	
Do of Lee	150	11/4	
Ditto new Entry	33	20/0	
1796			
George Minor	36	10/7	
Do of Bird	339	16/4	
Do of Pierson	652	12/1	
Do New entry	12	10/7	
Do of Lee	150	11/4	
Ditto new Entry	33	20/	
1797			
George Minor	36	10/7	
Do of Bird	339	16/4	
Do of Pierson	652	12/1	
Do New entry	12	10/7	
Do of Lee	150	11/4	
Ditto	33	20/	
1798			
George Minor	36	10/7	
Do of Bird	339	16/4	
Do of Pierson	652	12/1	
Do New entry	12	10/7	
Do of Lee	150	11/4	
Ditto	33	20/	
1799			
George Minor	36	10/7	
Do of Bird	339	16/6	
Do of Pierson	652	12/1	
Do New entry	12	10/7	
Ditto	33	20/	
1800			
George Minor	36	10/7	
Do of Bird	339	16/6	
Do of Pierson	652	12/1	
Do New entry	12	10/1	
Ditto	33	20/	

552 acres

[Deb's note: Taxes note part in Alexandria County]

Fairfax County Personal Property Tax

	Free white males	Black > 16	Black >12	Horses
1804				
William	1	4	0	5
1805				
William	1	5	0	4
1806				
William	1	5	0	4
1806				
William	1	4	0	4
1809				
Penelope	0	7	0	6
Henry	1	1	0	1
John	2	1	1	3
George	2	2	1	4
Nicholas	0	1	0	3
Sarah	0	4	1	4
Thomas	0	6	0	2
1810				
Penelope	1	4	1	6
George	2	4	0	4
Thomas	2	0	0	1
Henry	1	1	0	2
Nicholas	0	2	0	3
1811				
Nicholas	0	1	0	3
George	1	4	0	3
Penelope	1	4	2	5
John	2	1	1	5
James	1	1	0	2
Thomas	1	7	1	5
Henry	1	0	0	0

1801			
George Minor		36	10/7
Do of Bird		339	16/4
Do of Pierson		100	14/1
Do		33	14/1
1802			
George Minor		36	10/7
Do of Bird		339	16/4
Do of Pierson		100	12/1
Do		33	12/1
1803			
George Minor's Hrs		36	10/7
Do of Bird		339	16/4
Do of Pierson		100	12/1
Do		33	12/1
1804			
Miner, Geo		100	10/7
Miner, Daniel		36	10/7
Do		33	10/7
Mildred Minor		339	16/4
1805			
Miner, Geo		100	10/7
Daniel Minor		36	10/7
Ditto		33	12/1
Mildred Minor		339	16/4
1806			
Miner, Geo		100	10/
Daniel Minor		36	10/7
Ditto		33	12/1
Mildred Minor		339	16/4
1807			
Miner, Geo		100	1.67
Daniel Minor		36	1.76
Ditto		33	2.01
Mildred Minor		339	2.72
1812			
Miner, Geo		100	1.67 adjoins Columbia district
Minor, Danl		33	2.1 near the Revd W Watters
Mildred Minor		339	2.72
1815			
Minor, William		200	1.67 near the Falls Church
Minor, Daniel	of Moss	130	1.51 on turkey Cock Run
Minor, Jefferson and Ann		339	2.72 adjoins C. F. Whitings

Minor, George		100	1.67	adjoins Columbia DC
1816				
Minor, William		200	1.69	near Falls Church
Minor, Daniel	of Moss	150	1.51	on turkey Cock Run
Minor, Jefferson and Ann		339	2.72	adjoins C. F. Whitings
Minor, George Colo		100	1.67	adjoins Columbia DC
1817				
Minor, William		200	1.69	near Falls Church
Minor, Daniel	of Moss	150	1.5	on turkey Cock Run
Minor, Jefferson and Ann		339	2.72	adjoins C. F. Whitings
Minor, George Colo		100	1.67	adjoins Columbia DC
1818				
Minor, William		200	1.69	near Falls Church
Minor, Daniel	of Moss	150	1.5	on turkey Cock Run
Minor, Jefferson and Ann		339	2.72	adjoins C. F. Whitings
Minor, George Colo		100	1.67	adjoins Columbia DC
Ditto		71.2.16	1.67	By deed from J. Frizzle

1819				
Minor, William		200	1.69	near Falls Church
Do		124.5	1.67	near distr line
Minor, Daniel	of Moore	86.125	1.51	neagr LRT road
Do	of Moss	163	1.51	on Indian Run
Do	of J Minor's Hrs	82	1.76	adjoins Minor's old tavern
Minor, Jefferson and Ann		339	2.72	adjoins C. F. Whitings
Minor, George Colo		100	1.67	adjoins Columbia DC
Do wife's property of Thrift		71.375	1.67	diito
Do of Frizzle		71.625	1.67	ditto

Assessments including Building Values

1820					
Minor, William	DC	133.5	9	near Falls Church	0 by late survey
Minor, Jefferson and Ann		339	16	near Winter Hill	1200
Minor, Daniel	of Moore	86.33	15.82	on LRT road	0
	of Moss	163	25	on Indian run	1750
	of Minor	82	15	at Minors old Tavern	0
Minor, George		100	25	adjoining DC	1000
		61.625	15	ditto	0
		40	15	ditto	0 rest in district

1821					
Minor, George		100			1000
Do	of Adams & wife	61.625			0
Do	of Frizzle	40			0

1830	same as 1821				
1834	same as 1821				
1839	same as 1821				

Summaries of Building Values

1840	Minor, George	100		250
1844	Minor, George			1000 [Deb's note: probably an error]
1845	Minor, George			250
1849	Minor, George			250
1853	Minor, George			200
1858	Minor, George	201.625		200
1866				
Minor, Wm Est	of Minor	112.5	on Holmes Run	300
Minor, Dan'l Est		277.125	On LR Turnpike	1000
do		41.875	At Minor's Old Stand	0
Minor, RH?	of Minor	183	on Holmes Run	600
Anderson, Mary	(Miner) Maryland	201.625	Little Pimett Run	200

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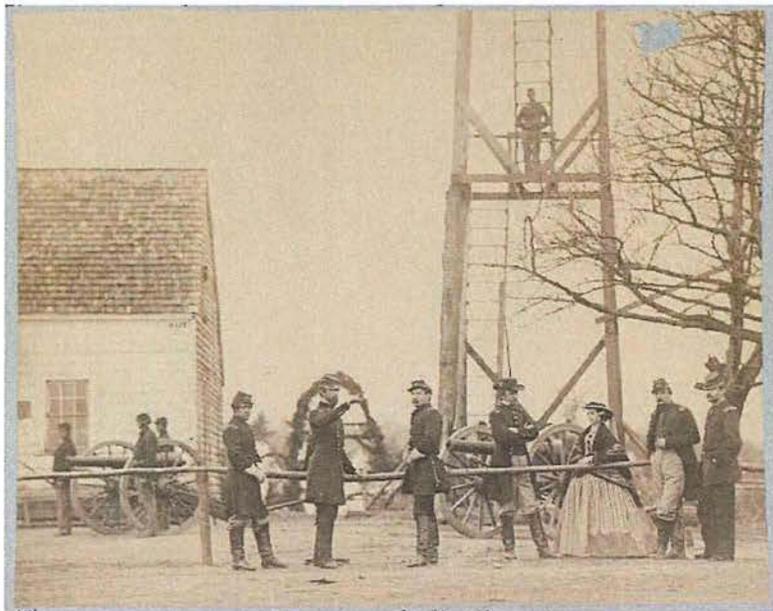
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