

BA-2550

My Lady's Manor Historic District, (Lady Baltimore's Manor)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 06-23-2004

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

My Lady's Manor

AND/OR COMMON

Lady Baltimore's Manor

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Area of 10th Election District, northern

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Baltimore County and western
Harford County

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Baltimore & Harford

005 & 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE (multiple)

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple private and public

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Annapolis

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Sites Inventory, Baltimore and Harford Counties

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

My Lady's Manor is, and always has been, a rural or agricultural area, with one village, Monkton. Monkton first developed around a water-powered grist mill; it continued to thrive because of that available source of power and later in the nineteenth century it became a station on the Baltimore and Susquehanna, later the North Central Railroad. Throughout the region, population growth has been very slow through the past two centuries; while houses exist, representing almost every decade in those two centuries, their density seems remarkably unchanged, and remarkably unlike all other regions so close to a metropolitan center, Baltimore. Contemporary suburban developments are few, so far; those few which do exist are of low density, and they are, for the most part, so sited that the impact of their increased density is minimal. Contemporary industrial sites are virtually non-existent; contemporary commercial sites are very few in number, with but one or two small stores each.

The architecture of this region has always been very traditional, with few attempts at conscious style; indeed, those few attempts are quite conservative. The region abounds in good building stone, so stone has always been a common building material. Clay deposits have allowed brick to be a readily-available alternate, frequently, employed when a greater degree of sophistication was desired. Of course, the once-boundless forests have made log and frame structures commonplace.

The fertile land has allowed the region to be prosperous from the very beginning. The land is well maintained today, as it undoubtedly always has been. Topography is rolling, principally drained by two streams--the Big Gunpowder and the Little Gunpowder Rivers--which course through the hills, between rocky banks and slopes, to their convergence just before they reach the Chesapeake Bay.

In the study of architectural history, dates and so-called styles become important. When that study is focused on a particular region, basically with vernacular structures, styles are easily recognizable, and related structures easily may be grouped. Specific dates are generally rare, however, for vernacular structures. A few buildings will have datestones and a few others will be dated by a documentary reference. Some will have datable original details, such as patented door hardware. Such structures become landmarks, useful in the establishment of relative dates for other structures.

In Maryland, the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records provide a unique and invaluable documentary source for many structures, for those records contain a description of all buildings

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PAGE 1

MY LADY'S MANOR

standing in 1798, including their size, number of stories, and materials, sometimes their shape and internal arrangement, and the size and materials of their associated outbuildings. This landmark record is even more significant because it occurred conveniently as one century passed and another emerged, and as the machine cut nail replaced the hand wrought nail. The attribution of buildings to one century or another is important in our thinking, as is the attribution to the colonial period or to the post-colonial period. Having the documentary records to compare with the physical evidence in the form of nails, and vice-versa, provides double verification of conjecture.

Although permanent settlement in My Lady's Manor began early in the eighteenth century, one should not be surprised to find eighteenth century structures extremely rare. The first structures undoubtedly were small, simple, hasty, crude; they were replaced as soon as time and wealth permitted. St. James' Church remains, without question, the earliest identifiable structure in the region, although it has undergone extensive alterations with additions, beginning late in the eighteenth century. Substantially built of brick by the Established Church, it is related to numerous small Anglican churches in Maryland, rectangular in shape, and with an apse. The apse occurs only rarely in churches of the colonial period, except in Maryland, where its occurrence was common. Its architectural form emphasized the importance of the altar within, certainly related to the so-called "high church" tradition within the Anglican Church; no theory has been advanced for this colonial Maryland "high church" tradition, but its presence is obvious.

The Gwynn House stands alone as a substantial and large house fitting the 1798 description, and retaining much of its original fabric. The other few houses which can be attributed positively so the pre-1798 period retain only their structure and some details.

Groupings of structures emerge as the years pass, and the use of moulded brick cornice on several houses becomes a noticeable feature on sophisticated structures in My Lady's Manor about 1820-25. Brick cornices throughout the first half of the nineteenth century are common throughout the United States, and the moulded brick cornice is not unique to My Lady's Manor, but it is not common anywhere. In My Lady's Manor, this detail, together with the other typical contemporary details, was applied to otherwise traditional houses, in form related to their eighteenth century ancestors, rectangular in shape, five bays in length with the

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My Lady's Manor

principal entrance centered, and with a gable roof.

That traditional house form lived throughout the nineteenth century; only its details were changed to relate it to its time. My Lady's Manor was not a region with houses of consciously stylish design; that traditional house was standard throughout the century. A group of traditional houses has the kitchen in a rear wing of contemporaneous construction, with a small original pantry in a wing off the kitchen, perhaps the last regional characteristic which can be observed in My Lady's Manor.

Early kitchens in Maryland were, like those in other southern regions, in separate buildings. Maryland has been a transitional area in many ways, and her domestic architecture is no exception. Many early Maryland kitchens, particularly in northern Maryland, were in basements, like their counterparts in more northerly regions of America. As technology allowed the cooking process to progress from an open fire to the enclosed range, the kitchen was incorporated as part of the same structure and on the same floor as the dwelling. Tradition was strong, however, and throughout the nineteenth century the kitchen was usually expressed as a wing, structurally distinct from the principal dwelling, but attached and constructed in the same building effort. A tradition persists that the kitchen wings of many houses are the original dwellings on the property, but in most cases, structurally, they can be proven to be contemporary with the dwelling, frequently constructed, in actual sequence, after the dwelling, but as part of the same building effort.

In the past nature was the all powerful influence in our lives; buildings were oriented to nature, unless an overwhelming reason suggested otherwise. Most early houses have their principal fronts to the south. Many of them are built into hillsides with southern exposure, thus providing the basement story--frequently the kitchen--with the warm sun throughout the day. Obviously, comfort in winter was a more important consideration than comfort in the summer. Taverns and some houses, particularly village or town houses, were oriented to the nearby road. Anglican churches traditionally were oriented with their altars in the east end; in the English tradition, they usually had both west and south entrances, and, still in the English tradition, as a climatic development, the south entrance became the most frequently used one. In America, when an addition was planned, it usually was placed on the south side, naturally, with the principal entrance to the enlarged structure through it. In all these respects, St. James' conforms to tradition. Basically, the common use of central heating systems ended this tradition of southern orientation of houses.

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My Lady's Manor

Of the early barns which still stand, most are enormous in size, built mostly of stone, on hillsides providing two floors with grade accessibility. Unfortunately, none retains its original stalls. Of the many early small outbuildings which remain, many are square with pyramidal roofs, a form which was, perhaps, as appreciated for its decorative qualities as for its practical ones.

A few grist mills have always been located on prime watered sites, but the majority of the structures in My Lady's Manor, prior to the mid-20th century, were farm houses and associated barns and outbuildings, which are, for the most part, as well maintained today as they always have been. A few taverns remain which once served the busy road to York, Pennsylvania; they are now converted to dwellings. Grist mills are no longer active; the two which remain function in the exchange and restoration of antiques. A country hotel, developed after the coming of the railroad, remains as an underdeveloped apartment house; the small but excellent railroad station is vacant, as are the railroad tracks themselves.

All roads are narrow, none exceeding two lanes, none with wide shoulders. They are capable of handling the existing traffic through the region.

Intrusions, at this late twentieth century date, are nearly non-existent. Intrusions are planned, however, in the form of widened roads, particularly through the village of Monkton, with associated higher speeds. Another highway is planned for future years to carry traffic through the region, east and west, with limited local access; this highway could become a very undesirable and divisive barrier, its undesirable sound and air pollution extending far beyond its immediate right of way.

Larger highways in this, and in neighboring regions, will cause increased pressure on the landowners to sell and divide their land for suburban development. The exploitation of the land for housing, their associated shopping centers and other sprawling commercial uses, will, in turn, increase the pressures for bigger highways. The net result will be the loss of spectacularly beautiful open space, and the passing of a regional identity which My Lady's Manor has always had, even lying astride a county line as it does.

Over sixty principal structures, plus numerous important outbuildings associated with them, are included in this study. St. James' Church has been studied by others, and it is included, by reference; the Miller House was unavailable for study, but it is included in the following list of groupings because it is so closely related in character to other houses of the region. Obviously, some structures will fall into more than one category, hence they

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My Lady's Manor

are included in each, as appropriate.

Colonial with post-colonial additions, and closely related to similar buildings in Maryland

** St James' Church

Existing structure conforms to description of 1798, and retains identifiable early work

Gwynn House

Beautiful Meadows (probably; 1798 records incomplete)

Manor Glen (important outbuildings and barn, probably post 1798)

Gabriel Holmes House

Martin Fugate House

Existing structure retains some dimensional characteristic related to 1798 description

Breezewood (portion of library)

Greenbank Farm (any of the several sections of the wings)

Harmony Hall (size of middle wing, but not material)

Andor Farm (cellar beneath middle wing)

Bacon-Crosby House (wing)

Shepperds Lot

Existing structure retains some dimensional characteristic of a period earlier than the finished house, not described in 1798

Stonehaven (cellar not conforming to size of structure above)

Sparks-Ness House (evidence of gradual growth, both horizontally and vertically)

Guild House (cellar, possibly)

Larger structures of the very early 19th century

Verdant Valley Farm

* Melbourne Farm

Perdue-Moore Barn

McIntosh House

(See continuation sheet No. 5)

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Larger structures, 1815-1840

With moulded brick cornice

Andor Farm

Clifford

Partridge House

Atlanta Hall (plan not typical)

With corbeled brick cornice, Flemish bond fronts

Christmas House

Harmony Hall (brick cornice eliminated)

Tally-Ho-Lindenhope (conjectured brick cornice
eliminated)

Sutton's Tavern (with a saw-tooth course)

Stone Houses

Brerewood-James Constable House

Fancy Hill

* Pearce-Ensor House

Others in period

Rectory

Sutton's Tavern-Riepe House

Manor View Farm

Smaller early 19th century structure

Retaining extensive original work

Hutchins House

Tenant House of Andor Farm

Henson House

Retaining little visible original work

Grant House

Gillespie House

* Bishop's Lot

Stone House ruin on railroad (possibly late 19th
century)

* Manor Glen tenant house

Traditional structures of the Greek-Revival period, 1840's

Houck House

Belmore

Bellefield

(See continuation sheet No. 6)

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Structures of the third quarter, 19th century

Three storey, wood
 Bacon-Crosby House
 Nelson House
 Traditional form, stone
 ** Parsons House
 Berndt House
 Miller House

Traditional form, wood
 Greenbank Farm (front section)
 Moore House
 Patchwork

Traditional form, 'L' shaped with small original pantry
 Moore House
 Patchwork
 Pearce-Stegman House
 Codd House
 Miller House (not examined)
 Station Masters House
 Almony Tavern (variation)

Brick, with wood lintels, common bond
 Codd House
 Monkton Hotel
 Monkton Mill
 Monkton Mill Miller's House
 Station Master's House
 Pearce-Stegman House

Other traditional structures
 Monkton Hall
 Obricheit House
 Fairview
 Stonehaven

Late 19th century, with conscious style
 Monkton Station
 Sparks-Ness House
 Valko House
 Klingmeyer House

(see continuation sheet No. 7)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Maryland history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1713 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

My Lady's Manor is an important area in northern Baltimore and Western Harford County whose historical origin dates to 1713 and which has, through the years, remained a relatively isolated agricultural area in which one can see the development of architectural styles from pre-1800 to the present day. This area, because it has been segregated from the influence of industrial development and relatively free of great sociologic change until recently, has not been subjected to the gross intrusions which have destroyed the character of so much of our countryside. In its present state, My Lady's Manor is an area which represents Colonial life, the antebellum years, the Victorian era and adaption to modern times without losing all of the color or artifacts of its past.

In 1713, on the occasion of his fourth marriage, Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, gave his new bride 10,000 acres to be known as My Lady's Manor.¹ He died two years later, at age 78, and his wife Margaret Charleton, survived him by but sixteen years. At her death this tract of land was left to her step-granddaughter, Charlotte Calvert, a daughter of the fourth Lord Baltimore. Charlotte was married to Thomas Brerewoods, Thomas and Charlotte, transferred "My Lady's Manor" to his father, Thomas Brerewood, Sr.² The eldest Brerewood sold his home and belongings in England and came to The Manor in 1731 to develop it.

¹Record of patent and bounds of My Lady's Manor (September 10, 1713) Liber DD#5, pt. 2, folio 806

²Charlotee and Thomas Brerewood, Jr. to Thomas Brerewood, Sr. Liber IS#I, folio 222 through 229.

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Late 19th Century, vernacular
Richard Cromwell House
Houcks Mill
Guild House

Contemporary
** Bunting House

- * Dated by datestone
- ** Dated by documentary reference

SIGNIFICANCE -- ITEM NUMBER 8 CONTINUED - MY LADY'S MANOR

As is so frequent even at the present time, an error occurred concerning the transcription of the original boundaries of The Manor, and when the discrepancy in the title issued to Thomas Brerewood, Sr. was discovered, an early legal problem threatened, but was averted by the action of Governor Sharpe.³

A survey of the property was made by William John Bond and the 10,000 acres was divided into lots of varying sizes which were then leased to tenants. These leases were for the duration of life of the tenants and prescribed the rights of both tenant and landlord, and the yearly rent, payable in tobacco.⁴ The elder Brerewood, in addition, established a small center on the Big Gunpowder which he called Charlottetown after his daughter-in-law. Nearby, he built a house and warehouses for the storage and shipping of tobacco which was the currency of most of the tenants.⁵ This apparently was a thriving community until the elder Brerewood died suddenly in 1746. His will, filed February 10, 1746, designated

³Letter from Governor Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, Arch. Md. VI, p. 101.

⁴See leases from Thomas Brerewood. List of Grantors 1624-1768. Baltimore Land Records.

⁵Turner, Robert N. and Hutchins, Elmore, St. James of My Lady's Manor 1750-1950, Baltimore, 1950, p. 106 and following.

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his daughter-in-law, Charlotte Brerewood as his heir and Mr. William Dallum of Joppa, Maryland, as the agent in this country to oversee the property (Brerewood's son, William, designated agent previously, had died prior to his father).⁶ From that point on, the activity and prosperity of the community was based more on hard work of the tenants than collective leadership.

Because of the question which arose concerning ownership of the entire area of My Lady's Manor and multiple lawsuits that ensued, many of the tenants failed to pay rent for the property.⁷ This list of tenants is interesting in that it contains many of the names which appear at a later date as owners of property on The Manor.

These lawsuits continued until the Revolutionary War, and even afterward an attempt was made by the sixth Lord Baltimore to collect monies due to him from various Maryland Manors from the time of his ascension to the title of Lord Baltimore until the Revolutionary War.⁸

The sixth Lord was so convinced of his right to all of My Lady's Manor that upon his death, he left this area as well as many other properties in Maryland to his illegitimate son, Henry Harford.⁹ And many of the state sale records in 1782-85 are listed as confiscated British property belonging to Henry Harford.¹⁰ At a later date, some deeds written about property on My Lady's Manor specifically excepted claims of the Harford heirs in guaranteeing permanency of title.¹¹

⁶Will and codicil of Thomas Brerewood, Sr. Wills: Liber A, folio 379-382.

⁷Henry Harford, Esq. - West Shore Rent Rolls, p. 94 in Claims, American Loyalists, Maryland 1786-87. Maryland Hall of Records microfilm #1234.

⁸Turner and Hu chins, op. cit., p. 109-111.

⁹Arch. Md. VI, p. 11.

¹⁰Salebook of Confiscated British Property 1781-85, p. 55-56.

¹¹Holiday and Duvall to Jacob Norris, Liber WG#x, folio 404, May, 1875.

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My Lady's Manor was English property and was therefore seized by the Maryland Alien Property Commission during the Revolutionary War and held throughout the war period by the state. After the war, it was resurveyed and was sold at public auction in approximately the same parcels that Brerewood had established. This auction was held on The Manor at Slade's Tavern on October 22, 1782.¹² a & b This auction differed from many other sales of alien property in that it was held on-the-site and not at Annapolis. At the auction, and for several years following,¹³ the land was sold to tenants on the land, to land dealers, or to soldiers returning from the Revolutionary Army who used their Army Depreciation Certificates to pay for the land and then often resold the same land to the resident tenant for hard money. Some of the land remained in the names of these non-resident owners for years, and among the patents issued by the State of Maryland for these various lands, the names of General Mordecai Gist, Captain John Gist, Colonel Thomas Price and Major Jonathan Sellman are prominent.¹⁴ The purchasers of these lands filed certificates of survey, some of which were followed by patents from the State,

¹² (a) Proc. Commissioners of Confiscated British Property 1781-82
p. 185, order for advertisement of sale June 24, 1782
p. 200, instructions to surveyor
p. 229, sale postponed
p. 230, advertisement of postponement
p. 232, note that sale took place
(b) Salebook of Confiscated British Property 1781-85
pp. 55, 56.

¹³ Salebook of Confiscated British Property 1792-95, p. 2.
Salebook of Confiscated British Property. Sold by Executive 1801-1818,
pp. 5-7.

¹⁴ See Ref. 12 (b).

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My Lady's Manor

and others apparently remained only as certificates of survey. If the original purchasers failed to make payment, the land was then resold. This makes researching of title to various properties fairly complex.¹⁵ Many of these patents, although the land was obtained in the 1780's, were not filed until as late as 1812, despite transfer of rights to the land prior to this later date.¹⁶

The boundaries of The Manor, established in 1713, were questioned in the late 18th century, and a survey was done by George Presbury, surveyor of Baltimore County, in September of 1788.¹⁷ On the complaint of Thomas Bond of Harford County, who stated, "a tract of land commonly known as My Lady's Manor.....the courses whereof are constantly changing", the boundaries of The Manor were resurveyed in June of 1791, and at this time, stones were put at the various corners where the direction of the boundary changed.¹⁸ At least one of these stones remains, but it is not numbered so that its original location cannot be ascertained. The original corner, "bench-mark" stone, has been recently found at its proper site (Photograph #1). (See Appendix 1 - Maps - pages 16 & 17)

¹⁵ Index of Patented & Unpatented Certificated, Baltimore County, pp. 246-251.

Index of Patented & Unpatented Certificated, Harford County, pp. 45-46.

Return Book for Reserved Lands, pp. 19-22.

Sales of Holiday, Ramsay and/or Duvall, Libers WG#1, Q, R, T, V, W, X, and Y.

¹⁶ Holiday, Ramsay and/or Duvall to various owners Liber WG#x, folio 325, 332, 367, 404, 423, 586, etc.

¹⁷ Survey by George Gould Presbury, Sept. 26, 1788. Resurvey Plats #54, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

¹⁸ Resurvey for Thomas Bond, Esq. of Harford Co., June 18, 1791. Liber WG#GG, folio 524-5.

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My Lady's Manor was not a true manor in the sense that there was a large manorial residence with an overseer and many less well-off tenants, but rather one which was an isolated collection of tenant farmers at first and independent farmers after 1782. Surrounded on the west and northwest by the Big Gunpowder, on the south by Clymalira (a five thousand acre estate of the Carrolls), on the east by several large grants (Quinn and the Isle of Caprea), as well as smaller land-holdings, and on the north and northeast by the sparsely settled portion of Baltimore and Harford Counties, My Lady's Manor remained relatively isolated from its surroundings. Communication with the metropolitan center of Baltimore was by means of the Gunpowder River to Joppa down which the agricultural products from The Manor were shipped.¹⁹ There were several mills, a blacksmith shop and so on, especially in the town originally named Charlottetown, but renamed Monkton.

The origin of the name Monkton is clouded. One source suggests the town was renamed by William Gwynn, the owner of one of the larger mills in the area, after the site of a priory in Wales.²⁰ Another theory, by Esther Clark Wright, suggests the origin from an estate of Robert Cummin(g)s, "Monckton Mills", which he named in remembrance of his sojourn in Newfoundland.²¹ This later theory is supported by a letter written by Cummings to the Council of Safety dated "Monckton Mills, December 2, 1776 (before the arrival of William Gwynn on the Manor).²²

In the Direct Federal Tax Assessment of 1798, under the title of Upper Gunpowder and Mine Run Hundreds, the Baltimore County section

¹⁹That the Big Gunpowder was used for shipping in 1740-70 is not certainly known but suggested by Turner and Hutchins (op. cit., Ref. #5), p. 106, and by "and safely roled to the nearest landing to the manor and safely housed" when referring to rent payments of tobacco in the leases of Thomas Brerewood, Sr. (see Thomas Brerewood to Martin Bacon, Liber HWS #C, folio 145).

²⁰Turner and Hutchins, op. cit., p. 112.

²¹Esther Clark Wright: The Naming of Monkton Mills, Md. Hist. Mag. 52:248, 1957.

²²Arch, Md. 12:501.

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of The Manor is listed, and a description of each individual structure is given.²³ Unfortunately, those in the Harford County section of The Manor in this tax assessment for Bush River Upper and Edin Hundreds are only listed and not specifically described.²⁴ In the description of structures in Baltimore County, the majority of houses are log, frame or weatherboard and only occasionally does one find a stone dwelling mentioned. There are no brick structures listed. The only brick structure existing at that time was St. James' Church, built in 1755 (this structure has already been accepted by the National Register).

With the prosperity of the country in 1800 to 1840 period, much building took place on The Manor, and many of these structures were for the first time brick. But little contact with the outside world was had prior to 1800. There was only one tavern, Slade's, on "the Great Road between the chapelle (St. James') and the mill (Monkton)", at the origin of Old York Road which led to Lancaster and Philadelphia. As this route became more frequented, several other taverns appeared: Brian's (or Sutton's) Tavern (ca. 1825) and Almony's Tavern (ca. 1850-60), both on Old York Road.

The next big development in My Lady's Manor came in with the building of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad which joined Monkton to the city of Baltimore in 1838.²⁵ With this came new building in the town of Monkton and additional prosperity due to summer visitors. Shortly after the railroad was completed, the only engine "disintegrated" and the cars were drawn by horses for a few years. Of all the five routes of the Baltimore and Susquehanna, the one going through Monkton on the way from Baltimore to York Pennsylvania was one of two profitable ones when all were amalgamated into the North Central Railroad in 1854. Failure to meet payments on loans from the State of Maryland and the resulting fall in the value

²⁴ Direct Federal Tax Assessment, Harford County, 1798, Microfilm, Maryland Historical Society.

²⁵ Evening Sun, July 3, 1939 - Map of routes of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (1844-1845) - Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland TH 2791 B31Z86.

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of the stock enabled the Pennsylvania Railroad to buy the North Central in 1860. The war years were profitable and the Pennsylvania Railroad route from Baltimore to Harrisburg by way of Monkton and York, Pennsylvania prospered.^{25, 26, 27} The Monkton Station (Photograph #2) was built in 1890 and still stands despite the discontinuation of service since 1958.²⁸

None of the important land routes touched the Manor.²⁹ At the end of the 18th century the York Road was a busy thoroughfare. Only two roads existed within the boundaries of the Manor: from the Chapelle to the Mill (Monkton Road)³⁰ and the Old York Road to Lancaster on which Washington was said to have traveled, stopping at Slades Tavern on the Manor.³¹ The map of 1850 shows only these as well as Wesley Chapel, Troyer, Markoe, J. M. Pearce and Hess Roads. On the 1877 map Pleasant Valley Road appears, but this has since been discontinued as a throughway and only the foundations of the houses along it remain.

Even to present time, the roads are narrow and fortunately restrict heavy traffic and large vehicles. All bridges over the Big and Little Gunpowder and Charles Run are one lane bridges, some over one hundred years old (Photograph #3).

²⁵ Evening Sun, July 3, 1939 - Map of Routes of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (1844-45) Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland, TH 2791 B31Z86.

²⁶ Ibid., Evening Sun, June 24, 1955.

²⁷ Historical Atlas, Department of Economic and Community Development, State of Maryland, 1973, p. 47.

²⁸ News American, June 9, 1974.

²⁹ Historical Atlas, op. cit., pp. 43, 45.

³⁰ Patents to various owners. See patent to Temperance Bacon, Liber IC # H, folio 706.

³¹ Turner and Hutchins, op. cit., p. 17.

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If one examines the patents issued by the state, the tax rolls of 1798 and 1823,³² as well as the maps of 1850 and 1877, the names of a few families continue to appear frequently. The names of Bacon, Hutchins, Holmes, Slade, Sparks, Nelson, Shepperd, Standsbury, Standiford, Bosley and Curtis are among the original patent holders. Shortly thereafter came Pearce, Howard, and Cockey, and all have remained until present day.

In the St. James' churchyard, one finds monuments to many generations of these still present families, as well as those of generations of Gwynns, Streets, McGaws, Merediths, Andersons, Pockocks, Elliots and Galloways who lived on The Manor from earliest times through the 19th century.

If one reviews the ownership of the various houses on The Manor, he is constantly aware of the intermarriage between families on The Manor with little permanent contact with outside families. This close-knit, cohesive social life was present from the beginning and has been maintained. St. James Church was built with contributions from the residents of The Manor,³³ its residents contributed to the support of the rector,³⁴ and it has remained a center of the social activities even to the present day. It is today the site of area meetings, community dances and even an annual tennis tournament.

The Manor began as an agricultural unit. Even to this day, there are few commercial enterprises within the boundaries. This includes, at present, one tavern (of recent origin), a general store and an antique shop in the village of Monkton proper.

Thus My Lady's Manor originated as an isolated agricultural community rather than a true manor and remained that way geographically, economically and socially until the present time. The name given initially in the deeding of the property in 1713 has remained

³²Baltimore County Tax Assessment, 1823, District V, private copy.

³³Turner and Hutchins, op. cit., p. 1 and following.

³⁴Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Baltimore City and County, 1881, Louise H. Everts, Philadelphia, p. 911.

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and is seen repeatedly in land records. It is customary at the present time for residents of Baltimore and neighboring areas in Maryland to refer to the area as My Lady's Manor and the resident to be spoken of as living "on The Manor".

This isolation and unity of The Manor is threatened in the future. The Harrisburg Expressway and proposed highways increase the accessibility of this area for further development. The proposed widening of the bridge over Loch Raven Reservoir and the widening of the Jarrettsville Pike forecasts disruption of this close-knit agricultural community. The zoning battle which was won in 1972 will flare up again in the near future, and if this remnant of Maryland is to be preserved, it must be done now.

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Appendix I - Maps

There are in existence three surveys of My Lady's Manor for which a literal description of the boundaries are available. These are the original patent in 1713¹, the survey done by George Presbury, the surveyor of Baltimore County in September, 1788², and the re-survey of June, 1791, done at the request of Thomas Bond³. The survey done for Thomas Brerewood in which My Lady's Manor was originally laid out in parcels has been lost and the survey done for the Commissioners of Confiscated British Property in 1782 cannot be found, although the certificates of survey for the individual properties exists for about 70% of the auctioned parcels.

Of the three existing surveys, the 1791 document gives the directions in degrees, whereas the earlier ones give only compass directions.

The benchmark for the 1713 and 1788 surveys are no longer in existence. Putting those boundaries on a map then would be an arbitrary action. For the survey of 1791 stones were placed at boundary changes with some searching, the original benchmark cornerstone in the southwest corner of My Lady's Manor was located. (Photograph 1). This stone is in its proper position on the appropriate property line and contains the markings as described in the original survey. We are confident of its proper location. Using the location of this stone, the outline of The Manor as defined in 1791 was then laid out. When placed on the tax map (Map 2), there appeared a discrepancy between the boundary and the supposed boundary of The Manor which had been projected from property lines. As can be seen from this map, there are a number of the original boundary lines from the 1782 auction which still represent boundary lines of properties on The Manor. Several of these were laid off on the map and a conjectured boundary of The Manor was thus obtained. Attempts were made to make these two boundaries coincide, but this was not possible using the benchmark stone as a point of location.

The only conclusion that could be drawn from this was that there was an error either in the survey of 1782 laying out the parcels to be auctioned off or the 1791 boundary as the actual boundary of The Manor since its literal description it corresponded to the two previous surveys which were available and there seemed to be some legal precedence for this boundary.

¹Liber DD #5 pt. 2, volio 806

²Resurvey Plats #54, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

³Liber WG #GG, folio 524-5 (See continuation sheet no. 17)

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APPENDIX 1 - MAPS

In 1803 on the petition of Elijah and Thomas Sparks, a piece of property known as "Fairplay" which lay in the southwesternly corner of The Manor was awarded to these two persons by the State of Maryland. It was property which had been confiscated by the Alien Property Commission and not sold in the 1782 auction. Apparently, Thomas and Elijah Sparks noted the discrepancy between the southern border of their properties and the northern boundary of Clynmalira. The southern border of The Manor and the northern border of Clynmalira were coincident. In this action Thomas Sparks received 37 acres and Elijah Sparks 13-1/4 acres⁴.

At present time, there is no evidence that any of the other owners of peripheral lots were aware of the discrepancy in these surveys since there were no further claims for this ground.

⁴ Salebook of Confiscated British Property. Sold by Executive. 1801-1818, pp. 5-7. Liber WG 79, folio 389.

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Late 19th Century, vernacular
Richard Cromwell House
Houcks Mill
Guild House

Contemporary
** Bunting House

- * Dated by datestone
- ** Dated by documentary reference

SIGNIFICANCE -- ITEM NUMBER 8 CONTINUED - MY LADY'S MANOR

As is so frequent even at the present time, an error occurred concerning the transcription of the original boundaries of The Manor, and when the discrepancy in the title issued to Thomas Brerewood, Sr. was discovered, an early legal problem threatened, but was averted by the action of Governor Sharpe.³

A survey of the property was made by William John Bond and the 10,000 acres was divided into lots of varying sizes which were then leased to tenants. These leases were for the duration of life of the tenants and prescribed the rights of both tenant and landlord, and the yearly rent, payable in tobacco.⁴ The elder Brerewood, in addition, established a small center on the Big Gunpowder which he called Charlottetown after his daughter-in-law. Nearby, he built a house and warehouses for the storage and shipping of tobacco which was the currency of most of the tenants.⁵ This apparently was a thriving community until the elder Brerewood died suddenly in 1746. His will, filed February 10, 1746, designated

³Letter from Governor Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, Arch. Md. VI, p. 101.

⁴See leases from Thomas Brerewood. List of Grantors 1624-1768. Baltimore Land Records.

⁵Turner, Robert N. and Hutchins, Elmore, St. James of My Lady's Manor 1750-1950, Baltimore, 1950, p. 106 and following.

(See continuation sheet No. 8)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10,000 acres
UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,6,19,7,0	4,3,8,6,9,8,0	B	1,8	3,7,0,3,2,0	4,3,8,6,1,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3,6,7,5,4,0	4,3,7,8,0,0,0	D	1,8	3,5,9,7,7,0	4,3,8,0,9,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION:
Original grant from Third Lord Baltimore (See statement of Significance.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Dr. Robert M.N. Crosby (cas)

ORGANIZATION: Manor Area Association DATE: February 1975

STREET & NUMBER: TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Monkton STATE: Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: DATE:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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