



Date: May 5, 2022

To: Plantations II Name Committee Members

From: Rebecca Ballo, HP Supervisor, Montgomery County Planning Department
Jacob Chaires, Cultural Resources Planner I, Montgomery County Planning Department

RE: An examination of the subdivisions known as “Plantations,” and “Plantations II.”

Background

Between 1977 and 1986, the D & A Corporation platted land around modern-day Woodfield and going northwest towards Damascus. In total there were thirty-one separate plats that the D & A Corporation platted around this region, including subdivisions and resubdivisions. On every one of these thirty-one plats, the name of the community being developed was called “The Plantations.” (See Figure 1)

Between 1988 and 2000, there were twelve other plats with the name “The Plantations” added to the Plat Index of Montgomery County. These involved individuals, groups, or companies either subdividing new land, or resubdividing previously subdivided land.

Every plat between 1977 and 2000 titled itself “The Plantations” without any reference to a separation between what is today known as “The Plantations” and “The Plantations II.” However, based on the locations of the two communities (the former being in the northwest, the latter being in the southeast) and the dates of the plats (earlier years in the northwest, later years in the southeast), what was once *one* community called the “The Plantations” in the northwest later became *two* communities as development increased in the southeast. (See Figure 2)

There were no plats associated with this tract of land before 1977 and *none* of the plats that were mentioned above contained any information regarding a former plantation. This would lead one to assume that the D & A Corporation came up with the name “The Plantations” themselves. The name could have been chosen because before 1977, the land that was later occupied by “The Plantations” and “The Plantations II,” was unsubdivided farmland. This is clear from historic aerials. (See Figure 3)

Context & Further Research

No matter why the D & A Corporation chose the name “The Plantations,” there is no evidence they were referencing a previous/historical plantation. However, staff also wanted to examine whether chain-of-title research might reveal an historical plantation that coincidentally occupied what later became the “Plantations” subdivisions. In order to do this, staff chose a deed mentioned on plat 11454 (the first “Plantations” plat) and a deed mentioned on plat 15047 (the twenty-first “Plantations” plat). The former being a part of “The Plantations” and the latter being a part of “The Plantations II.”

Historic Preservation staff performed chain-of-title research on both deeds (See Figures 4 and 5). That research generated the names of two families: the Darby and Magruder families. The Darby family owned and operated a plantation towards the northwest of this region, what is now “The Plantations.” The Magruder’s owned and operated a plantation towards the southwest of this region, what is now “The Plantations II.” This was confirmed upon an examination of the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. (See Figure 6) Both families used a large amount of enslaved labor as evidenced by the 1860 U. S. Federal Census Slave Schedules. (See Figure 7) Several individuals enslaved by the Darby family were also transferred via deeds from one family member to the next. (See Figure 8)

Conclusion

The subdivisions “The Plantations” and “The Plantations II” were likely not referencing a specific plantation, but rather names that were created by the D & A Corporation. However, records show that for over 100 years before the creation of the subdivisions, there were two working plantations on the tract of land now occupied by “The Plantations” and “The Plantations II.” Each of these plantations used enslaved labor.

Attachments

Figure 1: An example of one of the “Plantations” plats. Every single plat had the name “The Plantations” on them. There was never a reference to “The Plantations II.” This is plat 11454.

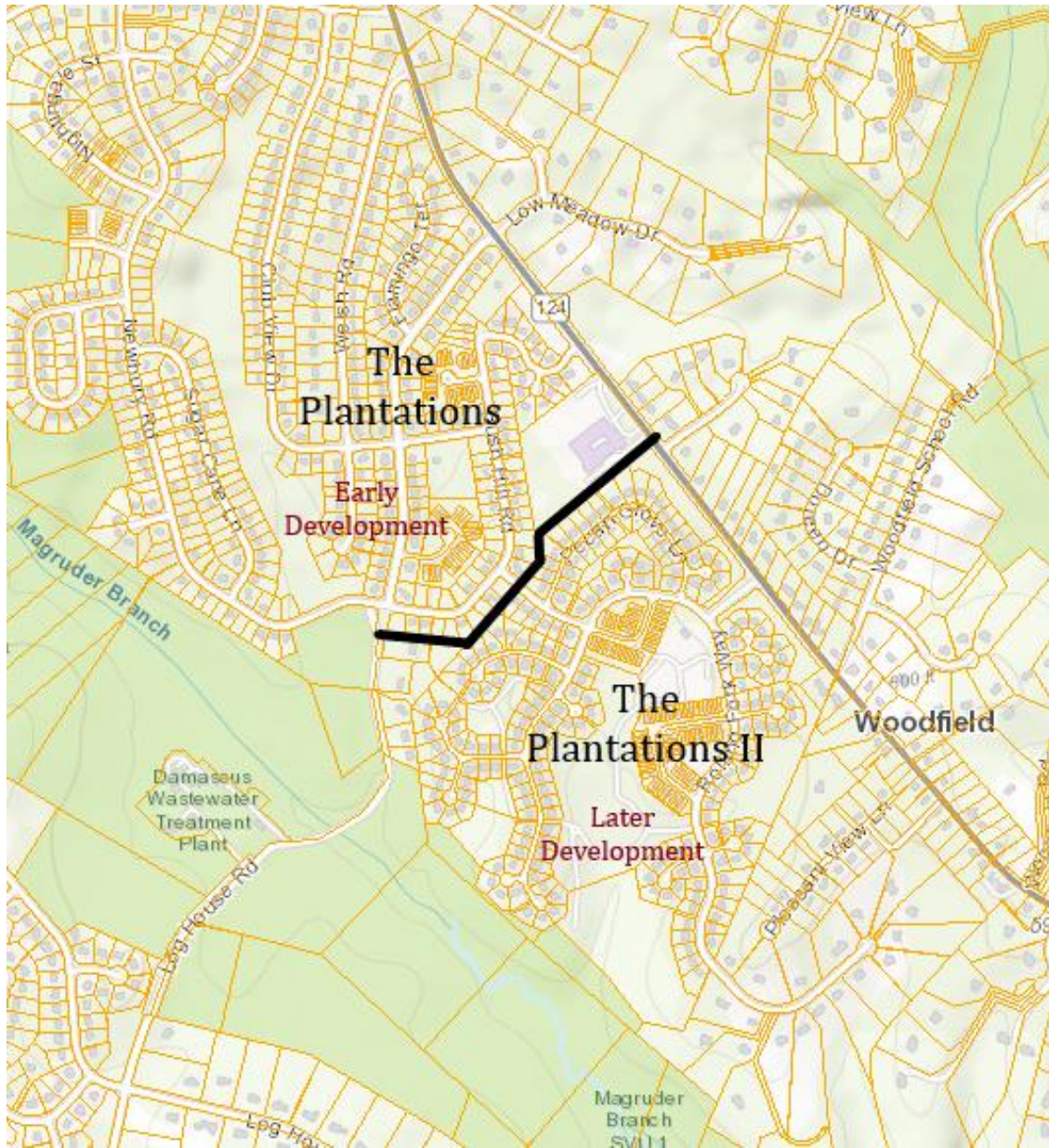


Figure 3: Before 1977, this area was unsubdivided farmland.

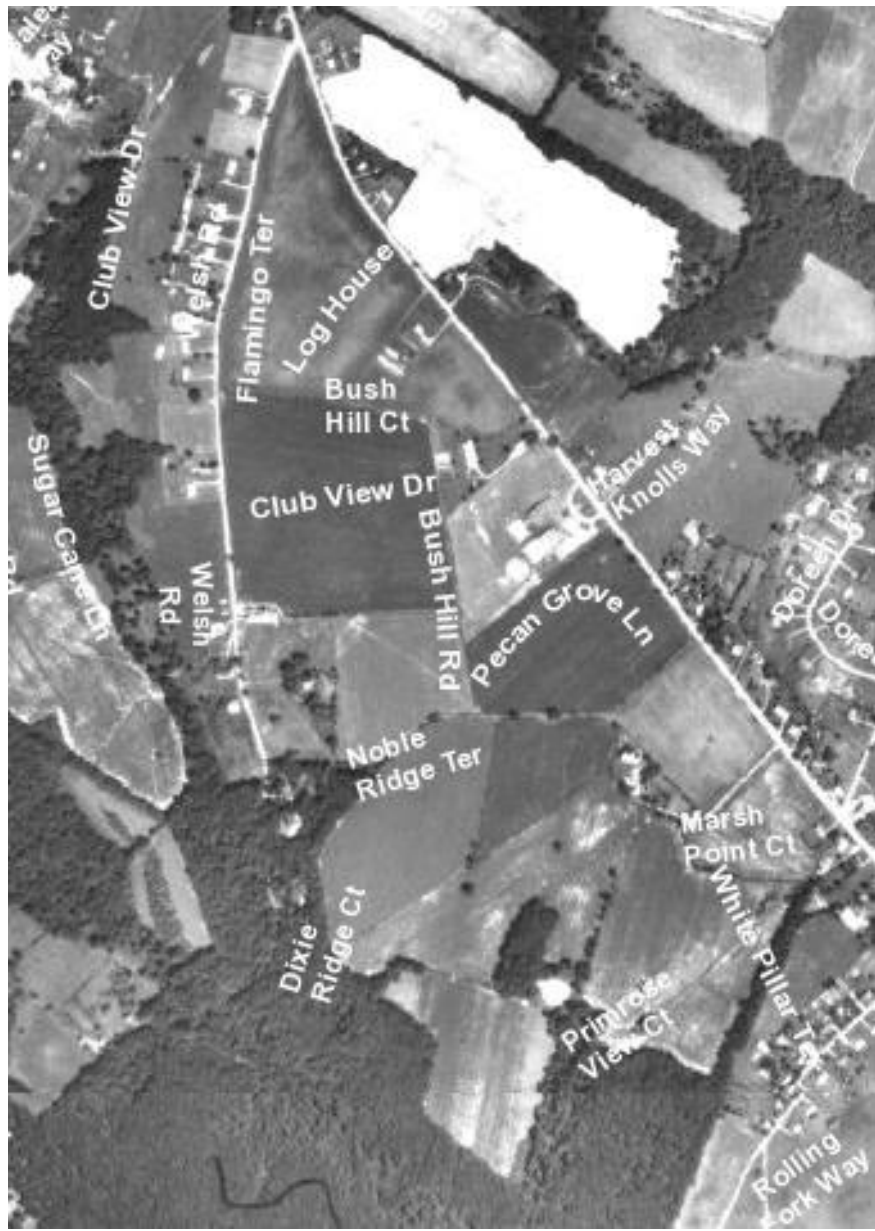


Figure 4: Chain-of-title research regarding plat 11454 (Currently located in “The Plantations”). This is a list of deeds working backwards through time, beginning with the deed when the D & A Corporation, the original developer of “The Plantations,” received the land.

Date of Deed	Clerk, Liber/folio	Grantor(s)	Grantee(s)	Notes
8/18/1976	HMS, 4833/710	Alvin I. Brown, Donald L. Brown, William Gasperow, Sylvia R. Gasperow	D & A Corporation, President John A. Petit	John A. Petit was later the President of Petit & Griffin, Inc., which developed communities such as Willow Wood, Flower Hill, Hunting Hill Farm, and Emory Grove.
1/12/1965	CKW, 3316/164	Warts, Inc., President Alvin I. Brown	Alvin I. Brown, Donald L. Brown, William Gasperow, Sylvia R. Gasperow	N/A
1/12/1965	CKW, 3316/135	James E. Welsh, Genevieve E. Welsh	Warts, Inc., President Alvin I. Brown	I matched historic aerials with plats for subdivisions surrounding what later became “Plantations.” Those plats referenced James E. Welsh, which confirmed that this was still the same tract of land as “Plantations.”
10/17/1955	CKW, 2135/40	Hazel W. Young	James E. Welsh, Genevieve E. Welsh	First mention of this tract of land which was historically known as “Cow Pasture.”
10/17/1955	CKW, 2135/38	Nettie Lynch, James E. Welsh, Genevieve E. Welsh	Hazel Young	N/A
10/14/1955	CKW, 2124/478	William A. Lynch, Nancy T. Lynch	Nettie W. Lynch	N/A
2/4/1955	CKW, 2027/154	Nettie W. Lynch	William A. Lynch	N/A
3/27/1942	CKW, 873/238	Russel V. Lewis, Louise L. Lewis	Nettie W. Lynch	This deed states that the land originally came from William J. Lewis, who himself received the land in three separate deeds (only one of those deeds was primarily related to this tract of land). Due to this fact I was able to skip several deeds in the chain-of-title.

10/19/1882	EBP, 27/261	Philemon M. Smith, Eliza A. Smith	William J. Lewis	This deed states that the land originally came from Aden Darby to his son Nicholas Darby, and then to Philemon Smith through an estate transaction. This deed also mentions that the land in question was bounded by what was historically known as "White Oak Chapel," to the south, and Damascus to the north. The 1865 Martinet and Bond Map of Montgomery County confirms that Nicholas Darby did own this tract of land, and it is the same tract as the modern-day subdivision known as "Plantations."
3/1/1882	EBP, 26/220	Thomas Anderson (Trustee for the Darby Estate)	Philemon M. Smith	N/A
5/24/1852	Multiple Deeds	Aden Darby	Nicholas R. Darby, Rebecca R. Darby, Ruth C. Darby, William Darby	Deed EBP 27/261 stated that the land was transferred from Aden to Nicholas, however, there are no deeds that referenced the actual transfer. It is likely that the land simply 'passed down' to Nicholas, perhaps through a Will.
6/24/1833	BS, 6/40	Amon Riggs	Aden Darby	N/A
8/15/1789	B/5	Henry Griffith	Amon Riggs	First appearance of the tract name "Cow Pasture."

Figure 5: Chain-of-title research regarding plat 15047 (Currently located in "The Plantations II"). This is a list of deeds working backwards through time, beginning with the deed when the D & A Corporation, the original developer of "The Plantations," received the land.

Date of Deed	Clerk, Liber/folio	Grantor(s)	Grantee(s)	Notes
6/7/1984	HMS, 6423/546	Heritage Builders, Inc., President Harold C. Morris	D & A Corporation, President John L. Petit	N/A
6/1/1978	HMS, 5155/578	Kathryn H. Magdeburger Carr, Paul E. Magdeburger, Alice Magdeburger Sedwick, Robert P. Magdeburger	Heritage Builders, Inc., President Harold C. Morris	These were the children of Edward C. Magdeburger and Elviria Magdeburger who died. The children received the land through a Will, not a deed.
1/27/1949	CKW, 1226/41	John A. Woodfield, Nancy M. Woodfield	Edward C. Magdeburger, Elviria Magdeburger	Mentioned that this tract of land was originally known as "Ray's Adventure" and "Hope Improved."
8/28/1923	CKW, 1226/37	Board of Education of Montgomery County	John A. Woodfield	N/A
10/1/1984	EBP, 33/385	George W. Woodfield, Mary L. Woodfield, Basil B. Crawford	Board of County School Commissioners of Montgomery County	N/A
12/4/1883	EBP, 30/59	Thomas Anderson, William Veirs Bouic, Jr. (Trustees)	George W. Woodfield	Anderson and Bouic Jr. were acting as Trustees for an equity case (No. 438) involving the estate of Edward W. Woodfield.
9/13/1871	EBP, 19/368	Zackariah S. Magruder, Alice E. Magruder, James Magruder, Elizabeth T. Magruder, Rebecca Windsor, Rufus K. Magruder, Columbia Magruder and others	Edward Woodfield	N/A
3/4/1823	W/442	William Scott	James Magruder	N/A

11/18/1822	W/304	William Clements	William Scott	Clements was acting in his capacity as a Sheriff in this deed. He was responsible for selling the land due to the result of a court case. However, the scan of the deed is hard to see, which made it impossible to work backwards any further in the chain-of-title.
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Figure 6: Martenet and Bond’s Map of Montgomery County (1865) showing the historical locations of the Darby and Magruder farms. These locations match up with the locations of “The Plantations” and “The Plantations II,” respectively.

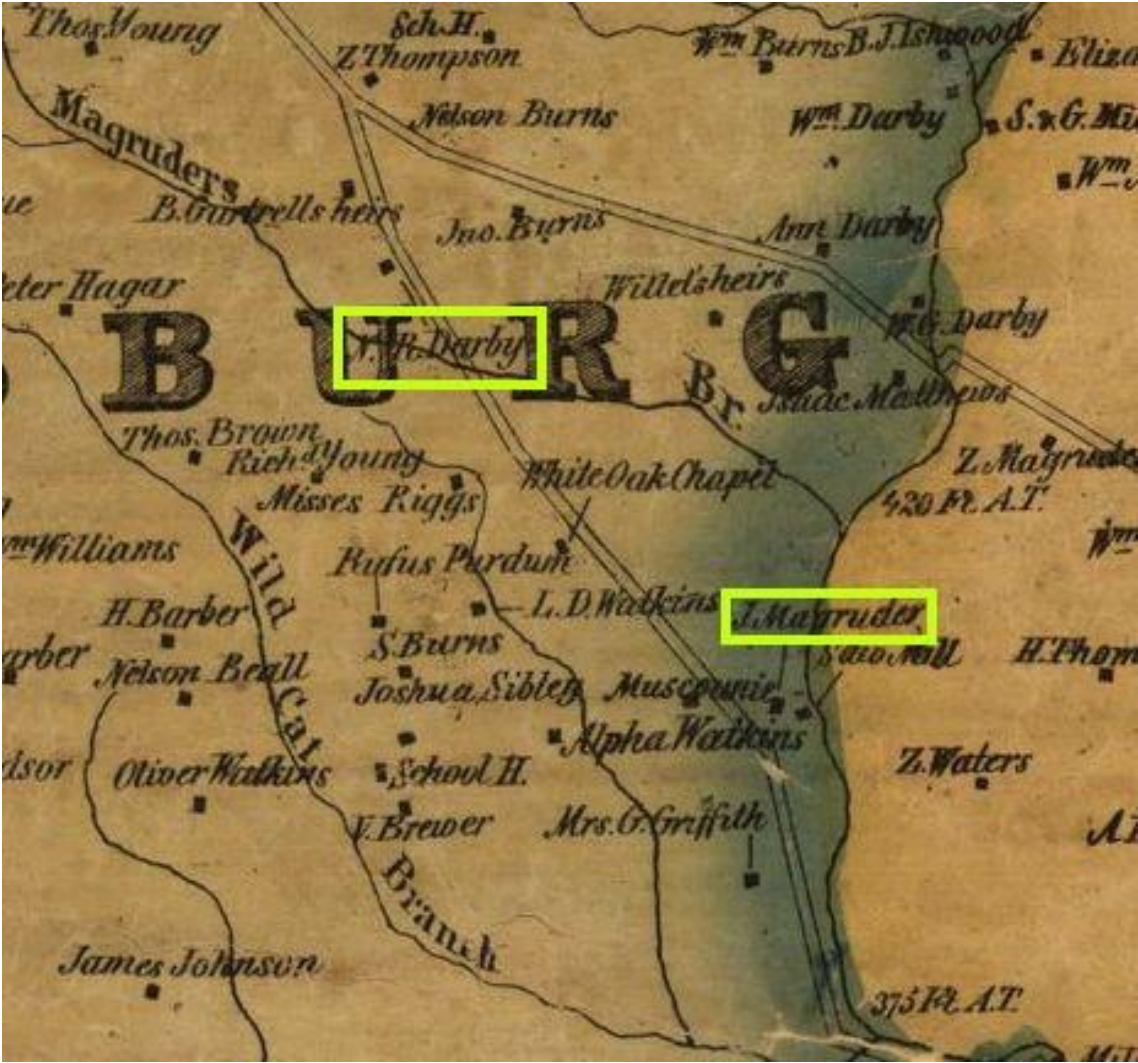


Figure 7: 1860 U. S. Federal Census Slave Schedule, including the names of James Magruder, Aden Darby, and their respective slaves.

SCHEDULE 2—Slave Inhabitants in Clarkburg District in the County of Montgomery State of Maryland, enumerated by me, on the 7th day of September, 1860. Jos. A. Sancy Ass't Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS	DESCRIPTION			Engaged from the State	Number manacled	Dist & det. of stock	No. of other slaves	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS	DESCRIPTION			Engaged from the State	Dist & det. of stock	No. of other slaves
	Number of Slaves	Age	Sex						Number of Slaves	Age	Sex			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1	18	M						1	18	M			
	2	13	M						"	16	M			
	3	2	M						"	14	M			
	4	7	M						"	10	M			
	5	5	M						"	6	M			1
Charles McKing	6	70	M					Mason Burrell	7	13	M			
	7	48	M					Stuart Glyde	8	23	M			
	8	40	M					Pony Branning	9	40	M			
	9	30	M						10	15	M			
P. N. Smith	10	34	M					Benj. Beall	11	11	M			
	11	18	M					"	12	6	M			
	12	16	M					Wm. B. Lewis	13	30	M			
	13	12	M					"	14	65	M			
John A. King	15	35	M					"	15	43	M			
J. M. Griffith	16	14	M					"	16	41	M			
Wm. B. Buntin	17	70	M					"	17	40	M			
	18	18	M					"	18	20	M			
	19	16	M					"	19	20	M			
	20	14	M					"	20	19	M			
Jas. S. Kemp	21	18	M					"	21	13	M			
Seymour Matthews	22	11	M					"	22	9	M			
James Magister	23	48	M					"	23	25	M			
	24	39	M					"	24	25	M			
	25	37	M					"	25	55	M			
	26	31	M					John R. Lewis	26	12	M			
	27	16	M					Exphat Summers	27	55	M			
	28	14	M					"	28	50	M			
	29	13	M					Theresa Summers	29	74	M			
	30	11	M					"	30	33	M			
	31	9	M					"	31	17	M			
	32	9	M					"	32	16	M			
	33	7	M					"	33	14	M			
	34	5	M					"	34	13	M			
	35	3	M					"	35	9	M			
	36	1	M					"	36	5	M			
Aden Searby	37	30	M					"	37	2	M			
	38	59	M					William Melton	38	43	M			
	39	37	M					"	39	40	M			
	40	26	M					"	40	26	M			
	41	32	M					"	41	25	M			

No. of males, 18
No. of females, 0
No. of males, 20
No. of females, 0
Total slaves, 20

No. of slaves, 20
No. of males, 20
No. of females, 0
Total slaves, 20

No. of slaves, 20
No. of males, 20
No. of females, 0
Total slaves, 20

Jos. A. Sancy

Figure 8: There were deeds though on May 24th, 1852, from Aden Darby to his children. One deed transferred farm animals and equipment to Nicholas, while the other three transferred slaves to Nicholas, William, Rebecca, and Ruth.

5/24/1852	JGH, 1/281	Aden Darby	William Darby	One negro man named Isaac, 20 years One negro man named Sam, 45 years One negro girl named Sarah, 18 years
5/24/1852	JGH, 1/282	Aden Darby	Rebecca R. Darby, Ruth C. Darby	One negro woman named Harriet, 40 years One negro man named Thomas, 21 years One negro man named Frank, 19 years One negro girl named Rachel, 18 years Robert, Laura, and Manzella
5/24/1852	JGH, 1/283	Aden Darby	Nicholas Darby	Four horses, eight cows, eighteen sheep, sixteen hogs, one wagon and harness
5/24/1852	JGH, 1/284	Aden Darby	Nicholas Darby	One negro man named Ben, 40 years One negro girl named Maria, 15 years