

Harewood
Sandy Springs
Maryland

Heitzman, J. L.

HABS No. *MD-601*
HABS
M.D.

16 SANSP

5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Washington, D.C.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Delos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADDENDUM TO:
HAREWOOD
17600 Meeting House Road
Sandy Spring
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS MD-601
HABS MD,16-SANSP,5-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAREWOOD

HABS NO. MD-601

Location: Harewood is located at 17600 Meeting House Road, Sandy Spring, Maryland, 20860. It is located at a bend in the farm road between Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House and the actual spring. Harewood is located at latitude: 39.143074, longitude: -77.024187. This point was obtained in 2016 using Google Earth (WGS84). There is no restriction on its release to the public.

Owner: Dr. Burton Johnson and Martha Johnson, his wife

Present Use: Harewood is the Johnson's private residence. Also on the property is an assortment of outbuildings including Edward Stabler's early nineteenth century engraving plant/workshop, now used as a guest house; a stone meat house & dairy, granary, wagon shed, and a modern structure now used as an office that was built within the stone foundation walls of the 1822 barn. Much of the surrounding twenty acres is used for agricultural purposes, usually planted in feed corn or other grains.

Significance: Erected in 1793-1794, Harewood is the historic homestead of the influential Stabler family and is among a handful of extant dwellings built by the early founding families of the Friends community of Sandy Spring.¹ Harewood is located in the very heart of the community; it is adjacent to the meeting house that formed the center of both spiritual and social life, and the spring, an important source of water that was also the derivation for the town's name. The original section of the house was erected in the vernacular hall-and-parlor plan that was prevalent at the time. Harewood's design reflects other local building traditions including log/timber frame construction and the plain-style detailing indicative of the Quaker tenets. The house received dining room and kitchen additions in 1821, expanding it to meet the rising social expectations of the era and those of subsequent generations of Stablers. Changes and additions were also made in the early twentieth century, and yet it is a remarkable survivor of early period dwellings in this region, retaining its basic configuration and much of its original fabric including doors, hardware, mantels, and molding profiles.

The original owners of the house were Deborah Pleasants Stabler and her husband, Dr. William Stabler. Although Deborah was widowed at a fairly early age, as a Quaker woman she enjoyed far more respect and financial freedom than most women of her era. Her property remained in her name and under her control. Quakers believed in equality of the sexes, and so Deborah served as an esteemed minister and elder of the Sandy Spring Meeting as well as of the larger Baltimore Yearly Meeting of which it is a part. The property came to her as the granddaughter of James Brooke, Sandy Spring's earliest settler, in 1728. Upon

¹ "Friends" refers to the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

his death in 1784, Brooke was the largest landholder in the area, designating various “plantations” to his many children and grandchildren who, together with their spouses, created the foundation upon which much of the greater Sandy Spring community was developed. Harewood sits on what was referred to as the “Meeting House tract,” so called because the lot upon which the Friends Meeting House was built was taken from it and donated to the community. It was originally allocated to James’s only daughter Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants, but she died before she could claim her inheritance and thus the Meeting House tract passed to her daughter Deborah.

Harewood later became the property of the second of Deborah and William’s five sons, Edward Stabler. While all of their sons made significant contributions to the community, Edward was particularly successful. He was a progressive farmer known for his valuable experimentation in such things as the use of lime and guano fertilizers to rejuvenate depleted soil. He was the postmaster for Sandy Spring for over fifty years, and the first president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He is also noteworthy as an engraver for the state and federal governments, working out of his timber-frame workshop that still sits adjacent to the house. Edward and his wife Ann Gilpin raised ten children here, many of whom also rose to prominence in the community. Upon Edward’s death in 1883, Harewood passed to their youngest son, Arthur Stabler, remaining in the family until 1925.

Harewood was then sold to Washington, D.C. lawyer Dean Acheson and his wife Alice who used it as their summer and weekend retreat. While in residence at Harewood, Acheson served between 1949 and 1953 as Secretary of State under President Truman, whom he occasionally entertained at Harewood. Acheson played a key role in defining foreign policy during the Cold War era, including involvement in the development of the post-World War II Marshall Plan and in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In 1977, after a tenure of over fifty years, the Acheson family sold Harewood on a twenty acre parcel to current owners Dr. Burton Johnson and Martha Johnson, his wife.

Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie, 2013

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Harewood was built in 1793-1794, with additions in 1821 and ca. 1902. The date for the construction of the main block is based upon the 1792 date that Deborah and William Stabler received the property and information contained in Deborah’s personal correspondence that indicates that the house was nearing completion in the

spring of 1793. As Deborah wrote in a letter addressed “Dear Brother” on March 24, 1793, “William Stabler [her husband] left home on 4th day last in order to get a chimney built and a garden began [sic.]” And then on May 5 she writes that until her husband’s return “we cannot fix with certainty on a time to leave Leesburg, my friends in Mland [Maryland] pressed me much to go and stay with them until our house was in a situation to go into.” In the letter, Deborah further indicates that “the time draws near” to move to Sandy Spring.² However, letters dated as late as April 20, 1794 are addressed from “Mossy Brook,” their home just outside Leesburg.³ They likely took occupation soon thereafter, as Edward Stabler was born at Harewood, on September 26, 1794.

2. Architect: The derivation for the design of Harewood is not known, although the hall-and-parlor plan upon which the early house was built was quite common in the region during that time. It was likely the work of one of the local builders within the Sandy Spring community, with the assistance of owner William Stabler (see 4. Builder).

In the twentieth century, local architect John Bancroft designed changes to the house for then owners Dean and Alice Acheson in the interest of repairing and modernizing it, probably in the mid-1930s. At the time of the Acheson’s purchase, Harewood was without central heat, electricity, and plumbing, having been for many years used only seasonally and left empty from the time of Arthur Stabler’s death in 1918 (see section 5. Changes and additions). John Bancroft lived at “Norwood,” which originally lay adjacent to Harewood Farm, and during Deborah Stabler’s residence at Harewood, was owned by a cousin.

3. Owners:

1977, Deed: Liber 5058 folio 564, made 29 November 1977
Alice S. Acheson, widow of Dean G. Acheson
To
Burton Allan Johnson and Martha M. Johnson, his wife

Part of a tract called “Harewood Farm” containing 20 acres of land; also part of a tract called “Harewood Farm” containing 15,010 sq. ft. Being part of the same land described in Liber 4354:242

1973, Deed: Liber 4354 folio 242, made 23 February 1973
Alice S. Acheson and W. Graham Clayton, Jr. executors of the estate of Dean G. Acheson, deceased acting under the last will & testament
To

² Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, “Druggist in Alexandria,” Leesburg, Virginia, “Mossy Brook,” 3 mo. 4th 1793; 5 mo. 5th 1793; “Letters Book,” Item #87.23.170, Sandy Spring Museum Library & Archives [hereafter referred to as SSM].

³ SSM “Letters” Book, Letters to/from Edward Stabler and either William or Deborah are listed from “Mossy Brook,” dates include 4 mo. 20th 1794; 1 mo 30th 1794; 10 mo 27th 1793; 9 mo 15th 1793.

Alice S. Acheson

Part of a tract called "Harewood Farm" containing 109-1/2 acres of land; also part of a tract of land that George F. Nesbitt and Martha C. Nesbitt obtained from Edward Snowden et ux by deed date 30 January 1953, liber 1673:145, containing 7.560 acres; also all that tract of land called "Auburn Farm" containing 5.067 acres.

1925, Deed: Liber 374, folio 320, made 23 May 1925

George A. Solter and Donald M. Liddell, trustees under the last will & testament of Jordan Stabler, late of the city of Baltimore, deceased, and Robert W.B. Mayo, as substitute trustee

To

Dean G. Acheson

Whereas the said Jordan Stabler, by his last will and testament July admitted to probate by the Orphan's Court of Baltimore city 27 June 1916 a certified copy whereof is duly recorded in the office of the register of wills of Montgomery County devised and bequeathed unto the said George A. Solter and Donald M. Liddell, together with Jordan Herbert Stabler all the rest residue and remainder of his property and estate wheresoever situate[ed] upon certain trust in said will . . .

Whereas it was further provide by said will that there should always be at least three trustees of the trusts . . .

Whereas the said trustees in the exercise of the discretionary powers conferred upon them by said will and by an order of court aforesaid have sold unto a certain Dean G. Acheson a certain tract situated and being at Sandy Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland known as "Harewood Farm" with the buildings thereon and all the rights thereof

Consisting of one hundred acres of land more or less, belong to the estate of said Jordan Stabler deceased at and for the sum of \$8,000 and said purchaser had fully paid said purchase money.

Harewood Farm, containing 109-1/2 acres; being the same land which was conveyed to the said Jordan Stabler by Arthur Stabler and wife by deed dated 31 October 1913 and recorded in liber 238:375. Saving and excepting a right of way to Herbert O. and Elsie E. Stabler.

1913 Deed: Liber 238 folio 375, made 31 October 1913

Arthur and Anna Mc. F. Stabler of Montgomery County

To

Jordan Stabler of Baltimore City, in consideration of \$8,000

Being all that farm whereon we now reside containing about 109-1/2 acres and being that part of the same lands and premises heretofore devised to the said Arthur Stabler by the last will & testament of his father, Edward Stabler, late of said Montgomery County, deceased, known as "Harewood" farm . . . It being all and singular the same land and

premises which were devised to Edward Stabler by the last will and testament of Deborah Stabler, late of said Montgomery County, deceased and therein designated as Lot No. 2, and recited to containing 109-1/2 acres of land more or less.

1883 Last Will & Testament of Edward Stabler: Book RWC 6, folio 337, Montgomery County Register of Wills; probated 3 September 1883.

With regard to Harewood, the 2nd item reads: "I give & bequeath to my son Arthur Stabler, the Harewood Farm, containing about one hundred & 22 acres, including the wood lot purchased of Pleasants Stabler."

1845 Last Will & Testament of Deborah Stabler: Book Z, folio 218, dated 9 December 1839; Montgomery County Register of Wills (Hall of Records CR 39,626), probated 15 July 1845, Book 4, folio 373.

"I Deborah Stabler of the County of Montgomery and State of Maryland being of sound and disposing mind and memory as do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following that it to say.

Item: I give and devise unto my son Edward Stabler one half part of my land laying near Sandy Spring meeting House in Montgomery County and state aforesaid, to him and his heirs and assigns in fee simple. It is my desire that the part on which he now resides and distinguished in a map of staid land made by Joseph Elgar date 6th month 1816 as "Lot #2" which map I now enclose in this testament shall be his as above mentioned and on which part or parcel of land I now offer the valuation of twenty seven hundred and thirty seven dollars \$2737.00.

Item: I give and devise unto my son William H. Stabler to him and his heirs and assigns in fee simple the remaining part of said land known as "Lot #1" in said map (except ten aces to be laid off at the north-west corner of said land and hereinafter described on which I hereby affix the valuation of eighteen hundred and ninety dollars \$1890.00.

Item: I give and devise unto my son Caleb Stabler to him and his assigns fee simple one lot of ground in the town of Brookeville (County aforesaid) distinguished in the platt [sic.] of said Town by "no. 48" and containing one quarter of an acre and I now affix the valuation of sixty dollars \$60.

Item: I give and devise unto my grandson Pleasants Stabler to him and his heirs and assigns in fee simple one other lot of ground which I own in the town of Brookeville aforesaid distinguished on the platt of said town by "no.49" containing one quarter of an acres and on which I affix the valuation of sixty dollars \$60.00 together with ten acres of wood land (adjoining and being part of lot no. 1 bequeathed as aforesaid to my son William H. Stabler) at the north west corner of lot as surveyed and measured by William

Darby a platt of which I now enclose in this testament, dated 1st month 20th 1827 and on which I affix the valuation of three hundred dollars \$300.00.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas P. Stabler the sum of twenty seven hundred and thirty dollars \$2730.00 it being the amount which he has already received from me as part of my estate.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son James P. Stabler the sum of twenty one hundred and ninety one dollars \$2191.00 it being the amount which he has received from me in money as part of my estate.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son Caleb Stabler the sum of twenty two hundred dollars \$2200.00 it being the amount which he has received from me in money as part of my estate.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son William H. Stabler the sum of five hundred and ninety one dollars \$500.00 it being the amount which he has received from me as part of my estate.

Item: It is my wish and desire and I do hereby direct that my executors collect all monies which may be due me at the time of my decease and then ascertain how much of how much of my estate is held by each of my sons Thomas P., Edward, Caleb, William H. and James P. and my grandson Pleasants Stabler (the two latter viz. my son James P. and my grandson Pleasant together to be entitled to one fifth part of my estate) and in order that each of them may have in equal share I hereby direct that my executors shall collect from those who have received more of my estate than their shares and pay to others who have received less such sums as shall make the portions of all equal.

Item: I give unto my son Thomas P. Stabler my silver watch and portable desk.

Item: I give unto my son Edward Stabler my eight day clock and six silver spoons now in his possession.

Item: I give unto my grandson Pleasants Stabler all my plate with the above mentioned exception.

Item: I give unto my son Caleb Stabler my surveying instruments and mahogany bureau

Item: I give unto my son William Stabler my gold watch

Item: I give unto my sons Thomas P., Edward, Caleb and William H. and my grandson Pleasants Stabler each a feather bed and furniture therefore and of my and of my books I wish each of those above named to have an equal share that may remain after devising which I now do my folio collection edition of "Sewell's History" to my son Thomas P.

my folio edition of "George Fox's Journal"⁴ to my son Caleb my Quarto⁵ Edition of "Cruden Concordance"⁶ to my grandson Pleasants and my Quarto edition of the family Bible to my son William Henry.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my grandson Pleasants Stabler the desk and book case now in possession of his father James P. Stabler together with my side board and a small walnut table made by his grandfather William Stabler. Any other property not herein specified remaining in possession of my children at the time of my decease and belonging to me I wish to be equally divided between my sons Thomas P, Edward, Caleb, William H. and my grandson Pleasants Stabler.

Item: It is further my will and desire that should a coloured woman named "Nancy Culbert be living at the time of my decease that such of my sons as my be also living shall jointly at their expense provide her with a comfortable subsistence during her natural life the object of which is to prevent her from want or actual suffering she having been a slave and liberated by my father Thomas Pleasants, and moreover that such of my wearing apparel as my daughter in law think suitable shall be given her.

Item: I hereby appoint my two sons Caleb and William H. Stabler of the same county and state the sole executors of this my last will and testament and do hereby revoke and make null and void all other of my wills and testaments heretofore made.

I witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal on this ninth day of the twelfth month eighteen hundred and thirty nine

--Deborah Stabler

Division of Deborah Stabler's land being part of a tract called Snowden's Manor
Enlarged lying in Montgomery County

No. 1 [metes & bounds given] 109-1/2 acres

No. 2 [ditto] 109-1/2 acres

No. 3 [ditto] 109-1/2 acres

[Plats included]

⁴ George Fox founded the Religious Society of Friends in Great Britain, in 1652.

⁵ Quarto refers to a method of printing where by large sheets of paper are folded twice to produce four leaves or eight pages, front and back, and bound that way. It was the earliest method of printing/book-making.

⁶ The full title of this publication is *A Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures*, by Alexander Cruden. A concordance is an index of words in the bible that also gives reference to those words are found in the text. Cruden's is a concordance of the King James Bible and is the most famous English concordance ever written. It was first printed in 1737; reprinted in 1761 and 1769 it is still in print today.

On the 15th say of July 1845 came William H. Briggs, William H. Farquhar and George E. Brooke the three subscribing witnesses to the last will and testament of Deborah Stabler late of said county declared and did solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that they did see the testation therein named sign and seal this will and that they heard her publish pronounce and declare the same to be her last will and testament . . .

Certified by Jas. W. Anderson, Register

1806 Last Will & Testament of William Stabler: Book E, liber 335 (Inventory of the Personal Estate, Book E, liber 405), Montgomery County Register of Wills.

Any rights that William may have possessed in “The Meeting House Tract” later known as Harewood, he convey to Deborah in his will. As it reads: “After my just debts are paid, all the Residue of my Estate of every hind & description both Real and personal I give & bequeath unto my beloved wife Deborah Stabler to be entirely at her Disposal.”

1792 Deed of Partition, made
Estate of James Brooke, deceased 1784
To

Deborah Pleasants Stabler, daughter and heir of Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants, wife of Thomas Pleasants and mother of said Deborah Stabler
All that part of Snowden’s Manor Enlarged and formerly conveyed by Mr. Richard Snowden to James Brooke, the elder, containing 390 acres, exclusive of 2 acres given by James Brooke for the use of the Quaker Meeting. (Also included in Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants allotment, were other tracts of land totaling 2,956-1/2 acres.)

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: While the actual builder of Harewood is not known, Deborah Stabler’s 1793 letter indicating that her husband William had left for Maryland to “get a chimney built” suggests that he had a part in the construction of the house. The supposition that William had at least basic carpentry skills that he could have applied to the construction of the house is found in Deborah’s will where she bequeaths to her grandson “my side board and a small walnut table made by his grandfather William Stabler.” There were certainly others within the Sandy Spring community capable of house building, including neighbor and relation, Richard Thomas, Senior. His brother, William Thomas, and Richard’s son, Richard Thomas, Jr., were also capable builders and were in fact responsible for the construction of the current meeting house, just down the road from Harewood, in 1817. The dining room addition to the house, and perhaps the kitchen as well, was likely the work of James P. Stabler, the son of William and Deborah Stabler, in 1821 (see Original plans and construction). James built the engraving plant or

workshop and the barn (no longer extant) at that time and so it seems likely that he had part in the additions to the house also undertaken at that time.⁷

5. Original plans and construction: Harewood likely began as a hall-and-parlor-plan house of two rooms on each floor (the current parlor and rooms above). The larger “hall” included the fireplace still located on the exterior east wall, apparently the only source for heat for these two rooms. The smaller “parlor” to the west included an enclosed stairway along the north front wall; winders at the foot of the staircase lead to a single run of stairs to the second floor. It is likely that a single-story kitchen structure was located on the site of the current dining room. This would explain the unusually large chimney block and the apparent reconstruction of the dining room fireplace as evidenced by the fire-back dated 1821. Furthermore, the fireplace in the “hall” does not appear to have accommodated cooking as was typical in a hall-and-parlor plan house. Furthermore, the current kitchen is appended to the rear of the dining room *addition* and therefore is not original to the house.⁸ The old kitchen was likely accessed via the passage to the north side of the fireplace.⁹ The second floor probably followed the same plan as the first floor.¹⁰ The third floor may have accommodated bedchambers or storage of some sort, although it was not as finished as it is today. The thickness of the walls suggests that the house is of log construction or at least of heavy timber framing (with the interior walls extending to meet the framing members so that they are not left exposed).

6. Alterations and additions: The first major change was the addition of the dining room, likely replacing the original kitchen. The date for the addition of the dining room to the east end of the house is established by engraving in the stone fire-back that reads “E.S. Jr. 1821.”¹¹ Further evidence that the dining room section was in fact an addition is provided by the variations in the framing of this and the original hall-and-parlor section (as seen from the cellar). Also, the windows in the dining room are set higher on the wall than those in the parlor. The dining room fireplace is located in the west wall and backs up to the fireplace in the original section to form an oversized chimney block. To the

⁷ In a letter, James informs Edward that he built the barn and engraving shop for his use [Edward’s] use. Martha C. Nesbitt, “The Postman Cometh,” *Friends House Letter*, Volume 13, No. 2 (April 1991). Note: this is a quarterly published by the Residents’ Association of Friends House Retirement Community.

⁸ While it is possible that the current kitchen is original and was built as a free-standing structure that was later joined to the house by the dining room, its unusually close proximity to the stone meat house and dairy suggests that was not part of the original layout.

⁹ Alternatively, there is a corresponding doorway to the south side of the fireplace that has since been closed over and made into a bookcase that could have provided entry into the original kitchen. This door butts against the fireplace surround and its awkward proximity may be an indication that the original kitchen was not as deep as the current dining room, thus not allowing much space for the doorway.

¹⁰ Most houses of this era were only one-and-a-half stories and so the possibility exists that the original Harewood was as well, meaning that the second story could have been a bit smaller (due to the sloping ceilings) and perhaps even an open space.

¹¹ It is interesting to note that the inscription includes the “Jr.” attribution, although based on the 1821 date is clearly a reference to Edward Stabler, Sr., as his son, Edward Stabler, Jr. was not born until 1847. It is likely that he was named for his grandfather, and possibly for his uncle, also named Edward Stabler and thus the “Jr.” is in deference to him/them and not *his* father, who was named William.

south front of the chimney block a passage was created and to the rear of it, a small room that now serves as a pantry, but was likely used as the Sandy Spring Post Office for many years. The current kitchen ell to the rear of the dining room was probably added on or about the same time as the dining room. The kitchen, however, was clearly seen as a separate structure; it was originally built as a lean-to type building with a shed roof, while the dining room addition, like the rest of the house, was built as a full two stories. The half story above the kitchen probably served as the cook/servant's bedchamber. Early twentieth century plans of the house indicate that the kitchen originally contained a large open-hearth fireplace to the rear south wall and an enclosed stair to the center of the east wall to access the room above.¹²

While one source suggests that some (unspecified) changes and/or additions were made to Harewood in 1883-1884, more significant changes were likely made in the early decades of the twentieth century.¹³ Based on evidence provided by insurance policies for Harewood, the addition to the south rear of the parlor containing the new stair hall and grand stairway and the adjoining study was made ca. 1902.¹⁴ The next period of change occurred during the 1930s and 1940s. The new owner made changes in an attempt to modernize Harewood, some of which were undertaken with the help of architect John Bancroft. These included the installation of systems such as central heating, plumbing, and electricity. Arcaded sheds were constructed to the rear of the kitchen, and porches were installed at the west side and south rear elevations. To accommodate a living style more conducive to modern standards, the wall between the original hall-and-parlor sections was removed, the two rear wings were raised to a full two stories; dormer windows were installed there and in the main block, and the kitchen was renovated. (For a more detailed description of construction chronology, see Historical Context).

B. Historical Context:

The Evolution of Harewood House

Harewood is a vernacular dwelling, derived from an early hall-and-parlor-plan structure erected in 1793-94, that has evolved over the course of more than 200 years and in roughly four phases of development. Indicative of local building traditions, Harewood also incorporates log/timber

¹² Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Bodine & Associates, 1982; originally printed 1934), 115.

¹³ According to the *Annals of Sandy Spring* for the years 1883-1884, "New buildings have also been erected or old ones altered and improved" at numerous locations within the Sandy Spring community, including "Harewood." Eliza N. Moore, *Annals of Sandy Spring, 1883-1895, Vol. II: Twelve Years' History of a Rural Community in Maryland* (Baltimore: Thomas & Evans, 1902), 22-23.

¹⁴ An insurance policy for the house dated 1894 lists the kitchen wing, but not the wing containing the stair hall and study. A "reconstruction" of the policy written in 1902 (with hand-written revisions in 1906), lists for the first time a one-and-a-half story wing measuring 11-1/2' x 16'. Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Maryland, "Harewood," Policy #27396, July 23, 1894 (with later amendments hand-written), to Arthur Stabler, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Montgomery County; Historical Society Library & Archives [hereafter referred to as MCHS]. Ibid. #41821, October 13, 1902 (with later amendments hand-written).

frame construction and “plain” styling to reflect the Quaker values of its original owners, three generations of the Stabler family. Harewood’s evolutionary development from simple hall-and-parlor-plan dwelling to rambling country retreat is also of interest as a manifestation of the changes in the standard of living and rising social expectations witnessed throughout the nineteenth century, and into the twentieth. The two, multi-purpose room plan that characterized not only Harewood but a large portion of the dwellings built during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was by the turn of the nineteenth century being supplanted by plans containing more rooms of specialized use, most popularly manifested by the Georgian center-hall house. As this trend has been characterized, “With the influx of new settlers and the maturation of first- and second-generation decedents of original settlers, new dwelling houses were erected and older buildings improved to accommodate the new families and their changing needs and tastes.”¹⁵ As a multi-generational homestead, subsequent generations of Stablers were better able to improve upon their elder’s living conditions. Unlike many of their neighbors and relations, the Stablers choose to expand or alter their existing, first-period dwelling rather than build anew. As devout Quakers, their decision may have reflected adherence to values such as plainness or simplicity, which called upon Friends to be mindful of their material and financial resources and to avoid unnecessary expenditures. The Stablers likewise resisted the period interest in formal symmetry and other stylistic influences, adding to their home as their lifestyles dictated. Harewood continued to evolve into the twentieth as each subsequent generation of Stablers made it their own.

As indicated, Harewood’s early hall-and-parlor plan represented a dwelling type that was popular in this region during the colonial or early settlement period, lasting in some areas through the first decades of the nineteenth century. The plan consisted of two unequally sized adjoining rooms with no intervening passage between them. One entered directly into the “hall,” which was the more spacious principle room that usually contained a large fireplace suitable for cooking. An enclosed stairway provided access to the chamber(s) above, which usually consisted of an open or partitioned half-story used for sleeping and/or storage. The hall was a multi-purpose space where the general functions of the household were undertaken including food preparation and consumption, and other domestic activities, as well as the reception of guests. According to architectural historian Mark Wenger,

The larger room, the hall, had functioned as an informal, all-purpose living space. By its very nature, the hall was a public room—typically it served as the primary point of entry and for that reason was sometimes called the “Outer Room.” In such cases, merely crossing the planter’s threshold placed visiting strangers in the midst of his domestic world. The hall was open to many sorts of people, engaged in varied activities, surrounded always by a wide range of commodities and domestic objects.¹⁶

¹⁵ Myron Stachiw and Nora Pat Small, “Tradition and Transformation: Rural Society and Architectural Change in Nineteenth-century Central Massachusetts,” *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 3 (1989), 135.

¹⁶ Mark Wenger, “Town House & Country House, Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries” in *The Chesapeake House*, Cary Carson & Carl Lounsbury, ed. (Chapel Hill: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation by The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 122.

The hall was augmented by the “parlor” a more private chamber used as a sitting room or family parlor and often as a primary bedchamber as well. The original owners of Harewood, Deborah and William Stabler, may have adhered to the common practice of using the parlor or “best room” as their bedchamber (although assuming the house was originally two full stories, this may not have been necessary). Both rooms of the hall-and-parlor house were generally heated (i.e. contained a fireplace), although it is not uncommon for the smaller parlor room to be unheated. This was apparently the case at Harewood, as evidenced by the single chimney and the fact that an inventory of William Stabler’s household possessions lists only two pair of fireplace andirons.¹⁷ According to Wenger, the simple hall-and-parlor plan was, by the mid-eighteenth century, the “reflexive choice” of Marylanders and Virginians alike.

Harewood in its earliest iteration deviated from the typical plan in that the smaller parlor contained the stairway, and that the house was likely a full two stories in height. There is also no evidence to suggest that the hall fireplace was used for cooking. Instead, it is likely that there was an early adjoining kitchen building located on the site of the current dining room. The notion that the fireplace in the dining room originally encompassed a large hearth for cooking that was later rebuilt, or that a second chimneystack was erected behind the existing one in the hall to accommodate the new dining room, could help explain the overly large configuration of the current chimney block.

Simple hall-and-parlor plans like that demonstrated by the early configuration of Harewood seem very small by today’s standards; however, such dwellings were common throughout the early colonial period and well into the nineteenth century, regardless of the social standing of its occupants. Our understanding of the form that most early dwellings took is often skewed by those that survive, which tend to be the larger, more solidly built masonry structures. Simpler, less substantial early structures either do not survive or are engulfed within later additions, obscuring their true form, as with Harewood. The once common hall-and-parlor plan type appeared in the mid-Atlantic even at the turn of the twentieth century, although it was not until after the first quarter of the nineteenth century that it was associated with less affluent households. Affluence was most often demonstrated then not by size, but by the quality of the materials and finishes, such as the use of brick rather than frame construction, or by decorative moldings, paneled walls, built-in cabinetry, and the like.¹⁸

¹⁷ William Stabler (1806), Last Will & Testament, Book E, liber 335 Montgomery County Register of Wills, Montgomery County, Maryland. William Stabler (1806), Inventory of the Personal Estate, Book E, liber 405, Montgomery County Register of Wills, Montgomery County, Maryland. According to Bernard Herman and Gabrielle Lanier, unheated “parlors” in two-room houses of this type were more common on the lower eastern shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. They were often referred to as “inner room,” “downstairs chamber,” or “sitting room.” Bernard Herman and Gabrielle Lanier, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 16-18.

¹⁸ According to a study by architectural historians Bernard Herman and Gabrielle Lanier, the most extraordinary extant collection of eighteenth century hall-parlor plan houses is found in southwestern New Jersey, erected by Quaker builders, of brick from the clay that was indigenous to the region. More modest examples constructed of wood frame are found along the eastern shore. The plan was also common to southeastern Pennsylvania, constructed mostly in the log or stone indigenous to the region. Herman and Lanier, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 18-19.

The predominance of less permanent wood-frame, small-sized (hall-and-parlor type) dwellings in this region is borne out by the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, while not extant for this part of Montgomery County, exists for neighboring Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties. It indicates that the vast majority of houses were of frame construction, only one or one-and-a-half stories in height, and of dimensions generally not in excess of those of the early Harewood residence at about 24' x 18' (or about 432 square feet). Although the Harewood homestead as built represented the mode or average *footprint*, its two-story height placed it above average in overall accommodation. As the 1798 Federal Direct Tax indicates, two story houses were far less common at that time. According to Wenger, when discussing Chesapeake region houses of the eighteen and early nineteenth century, "Houses of two full stories were not as common as their prevalence today would suggest; indeed, documents suggest that they were exceptional."¹⁹ Of the sampling represented by the area closest to Sandy Spring, the Patuxent & Huntington Hundreds of Anne Arundel County, over half of the dwellings had a footprint of less than 500 square feet and over seventy-five percent were less than 700 square feet; less than ten percent had a footprint of more than 1,000 square feet.²⁰

It is important to note, however, that while the houses of that period were generally small, they were supplemented by an average of two to four outbuildings. Thus the dwelling house was augmented by ancillary structures such as a kitchen, meat house, dairy or springhouse, washhouse, storeroom or shed, etc. Farms also included structures such as a granary, tobacco house, corn house/crib, sheds, stables and the like. It is also worth noting that although kitchens are listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax among the outbuildings, it is unlikely that in this region of the country they were stand-alone structures. More likely, kitchens took the form of a one- or one-and-a-half story structure appended to the side or rear of the house.²¹ Many farm properties also included separate tenant, servant or slave house (enumerated as "negro house" in the Federal Direct Tax), expanding upon the available living/sleeping space. Unfinished lofts or attic spaces also provided supplementary sleeping quarters, particularly for children or servants. William Stabler's inventory lists "4 feather beds & furniture" and "6 pair of bedsteads & cords" (or rope beds to accommodate a straw or similarly filled mattress), suggesting the accommodation of a fairly large household.

¹⁹ Mark Wenger, "Town House & Country House, Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries," 135.

²⁰ Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Patuxent and Huntington Hundreds, No. 9, Particular List of Dwelling Houses, MSA Vol. 729, M-3468-7, pg. 211-232, Special Collections, Maryland State Archives [hereafter referred to as MSA], (available online: <http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000729/html/index.html>). The sampling includes about 130 houses 66 of which were under 500 square feet; 32 were between 500 and 700 square feet, and it drops off even more from there so that only 8 had a footprint of over 1,000 square feet. Likewise, only 28 are listing is being two stories (although some may have had a half story), of which about half were of frame construction; only 17 of the 134 houses in this sampling were of masonry construction.

²¹ The data for the Patuxent and Huntington Hundreds gives the size and number of outbuildings for each property, but not enumerate them. The Horspen and Patuxent Hundreds, however, do, which is where the kitchen appears consistently among the outbuildings. The only exception is where it specifically states that the kitchen is under the same roof as the dwelling house.

At Harewood, the original hall-and-parlor plan with its adjoining kitchen likely remained intact for a generation. Deborah Stabler's widowed circumstances and lack of financial resources limited her ability to expand or alter her dwelling house. Although she sold some of her landholdings in 1816 to ease her circumstances, she used the proceeds primarily to finance her children's education and their other endeavors. The lack of spaces such as an entry passage, stair hall or separate dining room may have also reflected a certain resistance to build more than was needed, a sentiment that was in keeping with the times and more particularly with the plainness or simplicity tenet that was a key component of the Quaker faith. Deborah was in fact a devout Friend, as is evidenced by her status as a minister and elder of both the local Sandy Spring and Baltimore Yearly meetings. Adherence to simplicity was responsible for creating an ethic of reuse that precluded Friends from frivolous expenditures or from wasting that which was still functional. This was often manifested in the built environment by the continued use of older structures or the reuse of their component parts within a new structure. Harewood's simple plan may have also reflected an unwillingness to stand on formality, thus treating visitors and perhaps even servants with greater familiarity than was generally common.

Contributing to the "plainness" of Harewood is the fact that the molding profiles, mantles, and other architectural details—where they exist—are simplistic in composition. Rather than the multi-part architrave surrounds that frame the doorways and window openings of other planter-class homes of the era, Harewood's consist of a plain band with a bead along the inner edge and a half-round or ovolo back-band. While typical of the era, this molding profile generally appears in more humble homes or in the less formal second story rooms of grander houses.²² The chair rail is understated, particularly in the parlor where it is only about an inch or so in thickness. The mantle in the parlor is the most elaborate and although it exhibits the five-part arrangement typical of the period, the components are left plain rather than ornamented with elements such as gouge-work, dentils, garlands, or similar features. The mantle in the dining room, where the only other extant fireplace is located, has only a molded shelf.

Attention is, however, paid to practical detail elements such as the cabinets and coat hooks in the front passage and the corner shelf in the dining room. With the exception of the six-panel front and corresponding rear doors, most are of simple board-and-batten or plank construction. The doors do, however, provide an interesting study in hardware, including early plate latches, box locks, and butt and strap hinges. The plate latches are of particular interest reflecting the transition from early thumb latch hardware to the prevalent use of door-mounted box or rim locks that incorporated a locking mechanism, by using a small brass knob to lift the latch.²³ The plate latch on the rear door in Harewood's parlor, formerly an exterior door, includes a privacy

²² In more high-style dwellings the molding profiles often included a complex composition of multiple, stepped parts, rather than a simple molding with back-band as seen here. The latter type would have been relegated to secondary spaces and not appeared in the principle first floor rooms. The profile at Harewood is, in fact, the same as appears in the second floor rooms in the Thomas-Bentley House (Madison House) in nearby Brookeville, and even in George Washington's Mount Vernon. It is, however, the same as appears in the first floor rooms at "Woodlawn," also in Sandy Spring. Its use could also be a reflection of Quaker simplicity.

²³ By the 1860s door hardware was mortised into the edge of the door and door-mounted box or rim locks were no longer necessary. Sven Kraumanis, "Three Centuries of Door Hardware, Legacy; Vintage Building Materials & Antiques, 2005 (available via the web at: www.legacywintage.com/articles/doorhardware.html).

slide bolt mounted on the plate. The hardware likely dates to the early nineteenth century, as a manifestation of Edward Stabler's short stint as a hardware importer, between about 1816 and 1821. Thus it corresponds with the second period of development at Harewood.

As suggested, major changes first occurred during the ownership of Deborah and William's son Edward, who took over operations of the farm in 1821, making additions to the house at that time. While Deborah had to contend with a fairly large household, it may have been Edward's marriage and the need to accommodate both his new bride and anticipated children, and his mother and remaining siblings—essential two family units—that sparked the expansion of the house. Changes in room use as it relates to rising social expectations may have also been a factor. The early hall-and-parlor plan fell out of favor with the introduction of elements such as the central passage, dining room, and formal parlor indicative of the popularly emerging Georgian style of architecture. Both the center passage and the dining room reflected the rising spatial hierarchy in which the rooms intended for use by the family are separated from those used for the more public reception and/or entertainment of outsiders, both social peers and those of lesser rank or familiarity. The central passage served as a buffer between public and private spaces; it was where visitors waited to be admitted entry into the formal rooms beyond.

Likewise, the addition of a dining room allowed for formal entertaining and the elimination of the dining function from the multi-use "hall." This in turn allowed the former hall to become a more specialized and formal space, evolving into the parlor (with more genteel houses including both formal and family parlors). The center hall Georgian house was the choice of elite households in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, but it took considerably more time for it to be broadly adopted. Again, the 1798 Federal Direct Tax indicates that small dwellings were the norm. Likewise, historian Clifton Ellis points out that according to an analysis of eighteenth century tax records in Virginia, most planters continued to live in unpretentious one and two room, single story structures of less than 540 square feet, despite that increasing wealth, and that their houses became more finely appointed—with brick facades, interior plaster and molding—before they became larger in size.²⁴

The 1821 addition to Harewood consisted of the formal dining room located to the east end of the house, with a chamber above, built either by Edward or his brother James. It is likely that the dining room supplanted the original kitchen and that the current kitchen ell to the rear of the dining room was erected at that time as well. The original kitchen was likely a single or one-and-a-half story structure with a loft above, perhaps with a smaller footprint. Thus it may have been easier to replace the kitchen completely rather than renovate it for use as a dining room, and to raise it to include bedchambers above, while also meeting the roofline of the main block. In fact, the new kitchen, which is still in place, was originally only a story-and-a-half in height and included a large open-hearth fireplace for cooking along the rear (north) wall and a stair to the half story above, both since removed.²⁵ The lit passage with closets located to the front of the

²⁴ Clifton Ellis, "Dissenting Faith and Domestic Landscape in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 7 (1997), 23-40.

²⁵ Evidence for the original half story kitchen is found in insurance documents and for its fireplace and stairway, in a drawing by Henry Chandlee Forman. Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Bovine & Associates, 1982; originally printed 1934), 115.

chimney block that joins the parlor and dining room may have been there originally, as indicated by the consistency of the framing in both the parlor and passage, thereby providing access to the original kitchen from the main block.²⁶ There is a corresponding space to the rear of the chimney that was apparently used by Edward Stabler as the Sandy Spring Post Office and perhaps as a small sitting room. It is also interesting to note that when the additions were made, there was little attempt to impose the balance or symmetry upon the exterior façade that was indicative of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The imbalance and variations in window sizes can now be read as clues to change over time.²⁷

By the early nineteenth century, many of Edward Stabler's neighbors and extended family members had replaced early dwellings with far grander houses that reflected their wealth and status. As early as 1764 his great uncle Basil Brooke had built a house known as "Falling Green" of Flemish bond brick with a wide center hall with a grand stairway flanked by a parlor and a dining room, and a separate kitchen ell. His neighbor and relation William Thomas lived at "Cherry Grove" which was built by his father Richard Thomas in the 1770s as a two-story brick house, two rooms deep with an elegant stair hall, paneled walls, fine finishes, and a separate kitchen wing. The Stablers, however, chose to expand and/or reorganize Harewood rather than replace it with a house more in keeping with current architectural fashion. Instead Harewood more closely resembled the plan of the early frame section of nearby "Walnut Hill," the home of a cousin that consisted of a hall and parlor house with the stair to the rear of the smaller room behind a partition wall and a kitchen ell to the rear of the hall.²⁸ Walnut Hill, like Harewood, received later additions. Deborah's grandfather James Brooke, for all his wealth, never replaced his 1728 one-and-a-half story, log and frame "Charley Forest" house, although he added to it.²⁹ And his son Roger Brooke also built ca. 1760 a log and frame gambrel-roof house

²⁶ An indication that this passage may be an original feature is the fact that there is no break or change in the framing of the floor joists in the area under the parlor and passage; the dining room framing differs considerably.

²⁷ The front doorway appears to be located in the middle of the hall-and-parlor section, from the west end to the center of the chimney block (but not when including the dining room). Moreover, there is no window over the front door and the window to the west of the entry on the first floor is a later addition following the removal of the stairway that appeared along that wall, thus originally creating large expanses of blank wall. The lack of window openings could be further evidence of log construction as creating openings weaken structures of this type. The space between the windows in the main block is also greater than those in the passage and dining room section, and those on the first floor of the dining room are also slightly shorter than those in the passage and the parlor. The later dormer windows are even placed along the roof of the whole structure, but do not correspond to the windows of the front façade, another sign that they are a later addition.

²⁸ Christopher Owen, "Walnut Hill," Montgomery County, Maryland. Maryland Historical Trust Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, 1973 (updated in 1979 by Roberta Hahn and Candice Reed); Notes by "E. Riggs, 1974." The "Notes" refer to the smaller "parlor" room of this early hall-and-parlor plan, which measured 10' x 14', an "entry foyer," with the stair to the rear behind a partition wall. The so-called entry foyer has a fireplace as well. The author compares this plan to that of the Madison House, where the original dining room was later made into an entry hall after the introduction of a formal dining room. Catherine C. Lavoie, "Thomas-Bentley House (Madison House)," HABS No. 1375, Historic American Buildings Survey, 2012.). In all probability, many other houses in the area had a similar plan, but have been expanded and altered over the years. Moreover, fewer of the early frame houses of this era have survived, adding to the significance of those that do, such as Harewood.

²⁹ Charley Forest remained standing until torn out in 1913. Roger B. Farquhar, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland, third edition* (Brookeville, Maryland: American History Research Associates, 1981), 112.

known as “Brooke Grove” that neither he nor his son after him sought to replace.³⁰ All were part of a growing trend to either replace or expand upon the simple dwellings of the past; as architectural historian Mark Wenger points out in his discussion of the “Chesapeake House” of this period,

Most persons, rich and poor, had once lived in ways that were qualitatively similar one to the other, but now the wealthy planter’s house and possessions became conspicuous emblems of social rank and political attainment. The change utterly transformed the better sort of dwelling, which was now built more substantially and with more attention to finish than before. But this “genteel house” was not merely the old house with more embellishment or better materials. To meet new social demand, it had to be reorganized and enlarged. This elaboration of the Chesapeake dwelling was not a linear development in which each new plan form succeeded the then vanquished the one before. It proceeded instead like the branching of a tree and so produced an ever-growing repertoire of concurrent planning options.³¹

The latter description more aptly applies to Harewood, which does not appear today to conform easily to an identifiable plan type or style. Instead it has evolved to meet the changing needs of subsequent generations of the Stabler family, and while occurring within the broader context of mounting social expectations, they are perhaps seen through the lens of Quaker values that call for simplicity and frugality. It is also worth noting that the Stabler’s (like Roger Brooke, IV of Brooke Grove) never owned slaves and perhaps consciously choose not to expand upon their landholdings in a manner in which slaveholding may have been deemed an economic necessity.³² The builder of Cherry Grove, Richard Thomas, had a much larger plantation from which to generate income, but it operated with the labor of over 100 slaves (which Richard manumitted upon his death). While the Stablers possessed land, relative wealth and sophistication, were educated and had broad access to outside markets, they choose to live more simply, thus responding very differently to changing architectural fashion.

As suggested, the addition of the dining room at Harewood removed that function from the hall and likely allowed for more refined entertaining. However, the “passage” that was the other element frequently added to houses along with the dining room to control access to the best rooms of the house, was not added and thus one still entered from the outside directly into the parlor or best room of the house. This occurred despite the fact that the passage to the front of the chimney block could have allowed for it with the introduction of an exterior doorway (and removal of the cabinetry).³³ The dining room addition responded to the appeal for greater hospitality, but without the passage appears to have ignored the corresponding emphasis on social segregation. Again, the lack of imposed formality in the form of intervening passages could have been a factor of both Quaker’s more egalitarian view of social relationships and the fact that, particularly in the case of the Stablers, their servants were not slaves, who were

³⁰ It was torn down in 1860 by grandson George Brooke, the year after his father’s death.

³¹ Mark Wenger, “Town House & Country House, Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries,” 120.

³² Their household did include a few free black servants.

³³ It is interesting to note that in his analysis of Harewood in 1934 that Henry Chandlee Forman saw this passage as a potential entry. He deemed Harewood “unique among Maryland plans” because “no main door opens into the hall,” which in this case appears to be a reference to the front passage between the parlor and the dining room.

traditionally kept at a distance from family members and guests.³⁴ The simple enclosed stairway also remained in place; the elegant stair and stair hall found currently at Harewood was not added until the turn-of-the-twentieth century by the third generation of Stablers.

The plan of the second floor of Harewood likely followed that of the first, with rooms over the hall, parlor, and dining room. The third or half story may have been used originally for bedchambers, although perhaps left unfinished. It contained bedchambers by the mid-nineteenth century, as is indicated by a letter written by Edward Stabler's daughter Katherine in 1856 referencing "my room in the third story."³⁵ The kitchen, built as a story-and-a-half structure, had a room over it as well that was accessed via an enclosed stairway formerly located along the east wall.³⁶ It is probable that the room in the half-story above the kitchen was accessible only by this stair and thus was used by a cook or household servant and kept separated from the family bedchambers. With the addition of the dining room, the Stabler's house now had a footprint of about 792 square feet, which together with the kitchen ell raised the square footage of the first floor to 988 square feet by the early nineteenth century.

A measured drawing of the plan of Harewood ca. 1934 indicates that the walls are eleven inches in thickness, nearly twice that of the average frame house of the same era.³⁷ Thus, with regard to the method of construction, it is likely that Harewood is of built of log or heavy timber framing covered with wood siding. While tradition holds that Harewood originated as a log barn, there is no documentary evidence to prove this and in fact the story seems to originate in the twentieth century, first appearing in the *Annals of Sandy Spring* in 1925 and repeated in Roger Farquhar's *Old Homes of History of Montgomery County* in 1952.³⁸ While Farquhar was astute in recognizing the significance of its construction technology he neglect to consider the fact that many houses built by the Quakers of this area, including the Stabler and Brooke families, were built of log or timber framing, some with brick nogging. Moreover, this construction method was widely used throughout the mid-Atlantic region for both dwellings and outbuildings.

This building tradition began in the Brooke family with James Brooke himself, whose story-and-a-half house "Charley Forest" was constructed of logs sided with wood (no longer extant). The house built by his son Roger Brooke, IV was also of log and frame construction, in the one-and-a-half story, gambrel-roofed, Tidewater style (no longer extant). Likewise, sons Richard and

³⁴ The fact that neither of the early generations of the Stabler family held slaves, unlike some of their Quaker neighbors, may also have limited their ability to expand their farming operations and their potential wealth through agricultural endeavors.

³⁵ Katherine ("Kate") Stabler to "sister" (presumably Margaret), from Harewood, 7 March 1856; Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers, Stabler Correspondence, RG 5/057, Section 5, Friends Historical Library (hereafter referred to as Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers).

³⁶ The stairway appears in a drawing prepared by Henry Forman ca. 1934. Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 115.

³⁷ Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 115.

³⁸ Annie B. Kirk, *Annals of Sandy Spring, 1909-1929, Vol. IV, Twenty Years' of A Rural Community in Maryland* (Westminster, Maryland: Times Printing Company, 1929), 472. As it appears: "In 1794 William and Deborah Pleasants Stabler came on horseback from Petersburg, Virginia, and after improving an old tobacco house on the land, they lived in it until the house at Harewood could be built."

Basil appear to have first built of log and frame before constructing far grander residences; Richard built the log “Oakley” in 1764 before erecting the elegant “Fairhill” and Basil erected the frame house with brick nogging later known as “Spring Garden” on his “Falling Green” estate.³⁹ Many of the tenanted properties owned by Brooke and his heirs, as well as other families in the area, also list log dwellings in their early property inventories.

Later generations of the Stabler family would also build in this manner, including the timber frame engraving shop that James Stabler built at Harewood. Caleb Stabler built his log and frame house “Drayton” in 1841-42, as would his brother William, who erected the timber frame and brick nogged “Ingleside” for his son William Henry Stabler, Jr. in 1855, along with three log tenant houses. The progenitor of the Thomas Family of Sandy Spring, John Thomas, is also said to have built a log house before embarking on the construction of his fine brick Tidewater style residence, “Clifton.” His grandson, William Thomas built the frame and log house known as “Ashland Brook,” in Ashton ca. 1800 (the home of his son Edward). Isaac Briggs built a frame covered log house known as “Sharon” in 1794, just down the road from the Brooke and Stabler homesteads in Sandy Spring (the home of James Stabler’s second wife Sarah). Mahlon Chandlee used the same construction technique for his house “Della Brooke” in 1817.

Generally speaking, log construction was popular in the region due to the abundance of timber, it’s simple joinery, and its durability. Although in most cases the timbers were hewn and covered with siding, it was not required, nor was the excavation of a basement, and so they could be quickly and easily assembled. Log structures are, however, limited to usually no more than twenty feet in length due to the limited availability of great lengths of timber. Therefore log dwellings generally appear as only one or two room structures, with log farmhouses requiring separate or appended kitchen/service structures.⁴⁰ The limitation upon size is another reason log dwellings often appeared during the early settlement period when simple hall-and-parlor plan houses were popular.

It is often difficult to identify log-constructed dwellings due to the fact that the logs were rarely left exposed; weatherboards or some form of siding was applied to prevent the logs from decaying. The logs were also often hewn on all sides to make it easier to apply siding on the outside and plaster on the inside, and so they are not always as deep as might be expected; some logs were even hewn to form thick planks.⁴¹ The wall thickness, often measured by the depth of window and door openings, can be an indicator. Chinking, in the form of lime-based mortar or clay sometimes combined with rubble stone, was generally placed between the logs to better insulate the building. Other structural members such as joists, however, were often hewn along

³⁹ “Spring Garden was later the home of Thomas Pleasants Stabler, the eldest son of William and Deborah, and his wife Elizabeth Brooke, Basil’s granddaughter.

⁴⁰ For more information on log construction in the Chesapeake region see, Willie Graham, “Timber Framing” in *The Chesapeake House*, Cary Carson & Carl Lounsbury, ed. (Chapel Hill: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation by The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 220-225.

⁴¹ A good example of plank construction of this nature in the area is the Slave Quarters at Blandair in Howard County; see Historic American Buildings Survey, “Blandair, Slave Quarters,” HABS No. MD-1149-A, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, 2003.

the top only to accommodate elements such as flooring, leaving the rest uncut so as to save on labor. Because the interior walls of Harewood are not visible, it may be that its structure is merely of heavy timber framing, as was used to construct Harewood's Engraving Shop. While there is no cellar under the original main block of the house, flat or pit-sawn timbers are visible from the cellar under the dining room section. The floor joists are simply cut with a lap joint laid over the hewn sill that rests on the low rubble stone foundation. And some of the timbers appear to have been reused.⁴² The joists in the dining room section, which represent a second phase of construction, were left unhewn on all but the top to make for a stable surface for the flooring above, otherwise retaining their rounded configuration and bark exterior. It is also worth noting that small barns and other outbuildings are erected in a very similar manner to timber frame houses, which might also help to explain the supposition that Harewood originated as a barn.

Edward Stabler, an advocate of scientific farming methods widely recognized for his agricultural experimentation, also expanded considerably upon the outbuildings and other aspects of Harewood's farm landscape. It is likely that the stone meat and springhouse is the only outbuilding still standing that dates to the first phase of development at Harewood. William and Deborah Stabler likely raised tobacco, as did their neighbors and kin; the inventory of James Brooke's estate prior to distribution values the various tracts of land in terms of how many pounds of tobacco they paid out annually.⁴³ Thus they would have had a tobacco house on the property in which to dry and store the year's harvest. Orlando Ridout explains the distinction between a "tobacco house" designed for the single purpose of drying tobacco and more a generic multi-purpose barn that generally developed later. Tobacco houses were commonly constructed in five-foot intervals, based primarily on the standard length of clapboards and the optimum load capacity of the rods or sticks upon which tobacco leaves were hung to dry.⁴⁴ According to Ridout,

Chesapeake planters found little need for large, multipurpose barns until well into the eighteenth century. Tobacco and corn required specialized and distinctly different storage structures, and livestock either ranged in woods and marshes or were housed in very basic shelter. As grain supplanted tobacco, however, crop processing and storage needs changed, and horses and cattle were afforded better stabling.⁴⁵

Thus it is not surprising that it was during Edward's tenure beginning in the early nineteenth century that significant outbuildings such as the Engraving Plant and barn (only the remnants of which remain) were added. He grew hay and grain and so it is likely that Edward added the

⁴² Perhaps the timbers came from a former tobacco barn on the site, hence the legend that Harewood originated as such.

⁴³ James Brooke Papers (1705-1784), Special Collections, D418, Box 5, folders 399-474, 1786-1788, folder #415 Answer of Thomas and Elizabeth Pleasants (to same), MSA.

⁴⁴ Orlando Ridout, "Agricultural Buildings" in *The Chesapeake House*, Cary Carson & Carl Lounsbury, ed. (Chapel Hill: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation by The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 184. Ridout indicates that the average tobacco house was 30' to 60' in length and 20' to 24' in width. It is worth noting that this configuration does not match that of Harewood, speculated to have been built as a barn, at 24' x 18' in dimension.

⁴⁵ Orlando Ridout, *Agricultural Buildings*, 196.

granary and hay barn that appear as well.⁴⁶ He may have been responsible for the construction of the [black] smith shop, as he was known to manufacture agricultural implements and improvements to guns. Although no longer extant, Edward erected an ice house at Harewood and a pond lined with boards for the production of both ice and farm-raised fish. His farm landscape included a variety of fields and meadows that reflected his desire to experiment with the production of specialized crops.

With regard to the interior of the house, in a ca. 1855 letter written by daughter Catherine she gives clues as to the use of certain rooms in relaying her house-cleaning efforts and other activities. The letter mentions “turning the *back room* carpet and . . . the one in the *parlor*” and the matting in the “*dining*” [room], and white-washing and cleaning “the *little room*.” As houses moved from the multi-purpose “hall” to the more specialized use of parlor, dining room, etc. names such as “back room,” “little room,” or “dining parlor” were given to spaces designed purely for informal use by family members.⁴⁷ Catherine’s letter also mentions that Ellen “has her bed room in the *West room*.” The letter implies that Ellen is visiting and in need of caretaking, suggesting that the “west room”—perhaps the first floor room that included the original stair—is a sitting room under normal circumstances, conveniently used as a guest bedroom when needed. On the other hand, it could be a reference to the west room on the second floor, making the first floor room the “little room.” The “back room” is likely the room that formerly housed the post office box and is now used as a pantry. Arthur Stabler would later refer to this as the “chimney room” that in 1918 contained, perhaps among other things, letters, papers, pictures, documents, and books.⁴⁸ Catherine also mentions that while she was out, Ed Gilpin left 15 pots of blooming flowers on the “*front porch*.”⁴⁹ Harewood probably had an entry porch or portico originally, but longer porches, often running the full length of the front façade, were gaining in popularity by the mid-nineteenth century.

Further changes to Harewood likely did not occur before the later nineteenth century. According to the *Annals of Sandy Spring* for the years 1883-1884 “New buildings have also been erected or old ones altered and improved” at a number of residences within the Sandy Spring community, including “Harewood.”⁵⁰ However, the notation does not elaborate on the actual changes that were made. The dates coincide with the death of Edward Stabler in 1883 and the beginning of son Arthur Stabler’s ownership of Harewood and may reflect delayed repairs or improvements to suit Arthur’s lifestyle. An insurance policy dated 1894 described Harewood as a two-story dwelling of ten rooms constructed of wood and measuring 18’ x 42’ with a one-and-a-half story kitchen wing measuring 14’ x 15’. The house then included three fireplaces (and the same

⁴⁶ These outbuildings also appear on the 1894 insurance inventory (and subsequent amendments).

⁴⁷ Mark Wenger, “Town House & Country House, Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries,” 132.

⁴⁸ Arthur Stabler (1918), Will & Testament, Book HCA 22, folio 32, Montgomery County Register of Wills, Montgomery County, Maryland.

⁴⁹ Catherine Stabler to “sister,” (presumably Margaret Stabler), Harewood, Sandy Spring, 6th night [month and year unknown], Catherine Stabler folder, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers. Kate mentions both “mother” and “father,” that they had a “letter from Jordan” and that Louis Stabler’s whereabouts are unknown (he went west), and other people and events that could help date the letter. Jordan, who was born in 1840, is likely away at school and thus in his teens. Based on this and the dates of the other letters in the collection, it was written in the early to mid-1850s.

⁵⁰ Eliza N. Moore, *Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. II*, 22-23.

number of chimneys), and one passage.⁵¹ The roof was shingled and in a “fair” state of repair. It appears that because the house is described as two rather than two-and-a-half stories that the third floor was at that time unoccupied and/or not properly finished according to the standard of the day, and the dormers had not yet been added. The insurance policy also lists a tenant house described as measuring 16’ x 30’ and being one-and-a-half stories in height with four rooms and one flue (or chimney). Numerous outbuildings are listed including a one-and-a-half story stone dairy and meat house (12-1/2’ x 12-1/2’), a carpenter shop (18’ x 36’), smith shop (16’ x 20’), a barn and sheds, corn house & granary (12-1/2’ x 20’), carriage house & shed (15’ x 26’), wagon house, hay house (18’ x 36’), and hen house (14’ x 14’). The stone dairy and meat house, carpenter shop (Edward Stabler’s Engraving Plant), and the wagon house with sheds are extant. It is interesting to note that the policy indicates that the house is vacant during the winter months, when Arthur and his wife left the farm for Washington, D.C.

Despite the lack of year-round tenancy, Arthur Stabler made significant changes at the turn of the twentieth century, adding the rear wing that includes a formal stair hall and a study. The date for this addition is documented by the reissuance of the insurance policy in October 1902 in which a one-and-a-half story wing measuring 11-1/2’ x 16’ not previously enumerated is listed.⁵² A first floor plan for Harewood produced by Henry Chandlee Forman for his 1934 book *Early Manor or Plantation Houses of Maryland*, and copied by HABS for the collection a few years later, curiously do not include the addition.⁵³ It is likely that because that wing was relatively new at the time and clearly not original (i.e. historic) they chose not to show it.

Both drawings do, however, show the partition wall and original stair located in the west end of the parlor; thus it appears that these features remained intact for a few decades, despite the addition of the new stairway. Also, the photograph taken by Forman of the front of the house indicates that the window that currently exists to the west of the front door (and likely to one to the west side wall) had not yet been installed; its later installation likely signaled the removal of the stair along that wall. The stair and stair hall is an interesting addition to the house. Although tucked behind the parlor and out of sight, the stair is a very elaborate, well-executed reproduction and while appropriate to the period of original construction, is somewhat out of character with the simplicity of Harewood’s design. Perhaps Arthur Stabler was attempting to elevate the status

⁵¹ This would include the current fireplaces in the parlor and dining room, and one in the kitchen that was removed in the 1930s or 1940s.

⁵² An insurance policy for the house dated 1894 lists the kitchen wing, but not the wing containing the stair hall and study. A “reconstruction” of the policy written in 1902 (with hand-written revisions in 1906), lists for the first time a one-and-a-half story wing measuring 11-1/2’ x 16’. Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Maryland, “Harewood,” Policy #27396 (July 23, 1894, with later amendments hand-written) and #41821 (October 13, 1902, with later amendments hand-written), for Arthur Stabler, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Montgomery County Historical Society Library & Archives [hereafter referred to as MCHS]. Although curiously the policy still lists the house as containing 10 rooms. It could be that new stair hall is not considered a “room” and the addition of the study as a room is offset by the use of the former “back room” as a pantry and thus no longer considered a “room.”

⁵³ Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 115. Historic American Buildings Survey, “Harewood,” Sandy Spring Maryland, HABS No. MD-601, Supplemental Material, Sketch, prepared by John H. Scarff, February 1936. Note: it is likely that the HABS sketch was copied from the one made by Forman, as his book is cited on the card upon which the sketch appears, and the HABS sketch does not match the accompanying HABS photograph, which shows the new first floor window and the new west porch.

of his family home from simple farm dwelling to gentleman's country retreat.⁵⁴ Finally, an amendment to the insurance policy in 1904 adding \$400 in value to the \$1000 previously placed on the house mentions the "new porch and general repairs such as new weather boarding, windows, blinds, and floors."⁵⁵

The next period of significant change occurred at Harewood during the ownership of Dean and Alice Acheson, who purchased it in 1925 from the heirs of Jordan Stabler, Arthur's Brother, who had purchased it in 1913. The Achesons made numerous changes and upgrades to Harewood, which was then still without central heating, plumbing, and electricity. They used it as a weekend and summer house for many years, and thus major changes may not have been made for over a decade; according to their son David, the house was without heat until the 1940s.⁵⁶ Perhaps due to the lack of central heating and the fact that the house still had a wood-burning cook stove, one of the first changes they made was the addition of the shed adjacent to the kitchen in which to store firewood.⁵⁷ It was constructed by a local builder based on a design prepared by Dean Acheson; according to David Acheson, "Dad's drawing for the construction was a bit above the station of the structure itself, employing two Palladian arches on each side of the shed. Dad likes the Palladian form and enjoyed doing the concept drawings for new construction, aware that Thomas Jefferson worked in a similar way and was Palladio's most influential advocate in this country." He also designed a palisade style front gate that curved upward from low brick columns.⁵⁸ To assist them with their plans for remodeling, the Achesons employed local architect John Bancroft of nearby "Norwood," which lay adjacent to

⁵⁴ It is interesting to note that the original stair was left intact, perhaps for sentimental reasons.

⁵⁵ Mutual Fire Insurance Company, amendment to Policy #41821, October 24, 1904.

⁵⁶ David C. Acheson, *Acheson Country; a Memoir* (New York: Norton & Company, 1993), 62.

⁵⁷ While this is a rather late date for such amenities, Harold Stabler recounted that in the Sandy Spring community of the 1880s, "Houses were heated with fire places and with wood or coal stoves. The cooking stove in the Kitchen burned wood. Very few homes, if any, had furnaces for central heating. Water for drinking, cooking and washing usually came from well. The more progressive homes had hand-operated pumps, often conveniently located on the kitchen porch. The plainer homes might have wells with bucket, rope and pulley, or their water might be carried in pails from a spring. Many people caught rain water from their roofs in barrels, which saved the effort of pumping carrying, and provided nice "soft" water for use on wash day. Only a very few homes, like Riverside, Rock Spring and later Brooke Grove, had the luxury of running water in their kitchens, from for tanks which were kept filled by means of hydraulic rams. The first house to have a bathroom in the neighborhood . . . was Rock Spring, home of Roger B. Farquhar and family. Local history was made there in 1879 when, in the new house, a bathroom was provided. Sharon was not far behind in providing a bathroom of sorts—one with a heavy cast iron tub that collected the water you had heated in tea kettles on the kitchen stove so quickly that you would start out taking warm bath and would be taking a cold bath before you got through. It was, I think not until the 1890s of perhaps the late 1880s that windmills for pumping water began to appear on the farm. Then the farm family was likely to have running water in the kitchen, water pipe to the barnyard for watering the stock, and maybe the luxury of a bathroom. And I believe it was a little later than this that people around sandy Spring began to install furnaces for heating their houses." Harold B. Stabler, *Some Recollections, Anecdotes, and Tales of Old Times* (Copyright by Harold B. Stabler, July 1962; available SSM Library), 2-3.

⁵⁸ David C. Acheson, *Acheson Country*, 135. David does not give a date for this addition, but merely states "early in our life at Harewood Farm."

Harewood.⁵⁹ This occurred sometime in the mid-1930s. Among the changes was the addition of a two-story porch to the west end that was screened on the first floor with a partially enclosed sleeping porch above, and the French doors that lead out to it.⁶⁰ Probably undertaken at the same time as the porch addition, was the removal of the partition wall between the rooms of the original hall-and-parlor section of the house and of the original stairway. This opened up the space, creating the large parlor enjoyed today. The removal of the stair also prompted the addition of windows in the northwest corner.⁶¹

Also occurring on or about this time were accommodations made to improve the living space on the third or half-story of the main block including the raising of the roof on both wings, and the addition of the dormer windows to both those wings and to the main block. All of these improvements were complete by August of 1936.⁶² Two story porches were added to the rear of the main block, adjoining the two wings and creating a glass-enclosed breezeway or solarium on the first floor and a screened porch above. The kitchen was also remodeled, removing the old cook's fireplace and wood burning cook stove. The Achesons may have removed the kitchen stair at this time as well, replacing it with the current enclosed stair that runs between the kitchen and dining room. (While it appears to be of greater antiquity, the stairway is not included on either the Forman or HABS drawings of the 1930s.)

The Achesons are responsible for changes to the outbuildings and grounds at Harewood as well, furthering signaling its move from working farm to country retreat. They remodeled Edward Stabler's engraving shop as a guesthouse, appending a bathroom to the rear. They had planned to dismantle the failing barn and reuse the timbers, but a fire broke out before this could happen, in 1960.⁶³ After the barn burned, the stone foundation walls that remained became the enclosure for Mrs. Acheson's A-frame-design art studio and adjoining walled garden with fountain.⁶⁴ The

⁵⁹ Martha Nesbitt, "Harewood Farm," Montgomery County, Maryland. Maryland Historical Trust, Inventory Form, February 1979. Martha Nesbitt, "Montgomery County Landmarks Survey, "Auburn, Harewood, and Sandy Spring Farms," 1978 (copy located in Harewood File, SSM).

⁶⁰ Nancy Hearon, *Sentinel, Correspondence*, "Harewood's dignity as evident as ever," SSM, Newspaper clipping, "Harewood" file, SSM, date unknown.

⁶¹ Evident that the two windows that now appear in the northwest corner, one to each wall, include the fact that the interior moldings that surround them are very plain and do not match those found elsewhere in the house. There is also a photograph of Harewood from the latter nineteenth century that clearly indicates there was not window west of the front entry. "Harewood, Sandy Spring, latter 19th century," SSM, Box 9, item #83.53.1.

⁶² The date for these changes is based on the fact that the house is described in the insurance policies, held by Arthur Stabler from 1894 until 1916, as a *two-story* dwelling, rather than the current two-and-a-half stories. Likewise, both the kitchen and stair hall/study ells or additions are listed as one-and-a-half stories. The main block now contains three dormers at both the front and rear elevations, and wall dormers to either side of the half-story additions. In addition, the dormers are not in situ in the ca. 1934 photograph that appears in Henry Chandlee Forman's *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, but are there in the 1936 HABS views. Likewise, the Forman view indicates that the rear kitchen ell had a shed roof, rather than the cross-gable that appears on both rear ells today. The westernmost first story window has not yet been installed in the ca. 1934 view, but does appear in 1936.

⁶³ The fire was caused by threshing machine located in the barn that backfired, igniting newly cut wheat that lay on the floor. The machine belonged to a local farmer who leased the fields surrounding Harewood. David Acheson, *Acheson Country*, 181.

⁶⁴ Martha Nesbitt, interview with Mrs. Acheson, October 27, 1978, as cited in "Montgomery County Landmarks Survey, Auburn, Harewood, and Sandy Spring Farms."

stone foundation forms the rear wall of the studio, now used as a home office for current owner, Dr. Burton Johnson. They also built the swimming pool at the edge of the woods to the southwest of the house in 1937, as well as tennis courts (no longer extant), gardens, and the gate previously described.

It is interesting to note that Harewood was the subject of architectural surveys conducted in the 1930s by both well-known architect-historian of the greater Chesapeake region Henry Chandlee Forman and by the then newly created Historic American Buildings Survey. *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, in which Harewood appears in 1934, was Forman's first in a series of books on Maryland architecture. It is a curious inclusion considered Forman deemed it "unique among Maryland plans." The feature that made it "unique" was the fact that "no main door opens into the hall," which in this case appears to be a reference to the front passage between the parlor and the dining room. Forman appears not to have comprehended the fact that the house was built in phases and derived from a hall-and-parlor plan. Forman describes Harewood as "An old Stabler homestead of friendly dignity [that] stands beside the Sandy Spring Meeting House. Brick walks wind through the garden, the stone spring house juts off from the kitchen, and attached to the spring-house is a shed with three round-arched openings with keystone. No main door opens into the Hall. This feature is unique among Maryland plans."⁶⁵ The only other house within Sandy Spring that Forman included in his book was Della Brooke.

Just a few years later, on August 5, 1936, photographer for HABS John O. Brostrup visited Harewood.⁶⁶ On that same day, he photographed a few other sites in Sandy Spring including Auburn's barn, the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House, Cloverly, Avelon, Cherry Grove, Norwood, and Woodlawn. He photographed a few other sites within the greater community within that general time-frame including Basil Brooke's Falling Green, Richard Brooke's Fairhill, and John Thomas's Clifton. While certainly recognizing the significance of these houses, the reason for their recordation is otherwise unknown.⁶⁷

The Stabler Family of Harewood

When Sandy Spring's first settler James Brooke died in 1784 he was possessed of nearly 20,000 acres of land lying to either side of the Patuxent River and encompassing what would eventually become the villages of Sandy Spring, Ashton, Brinklow, Brookeville, and Olney. In his will, Brooke designated various parcels to his six children and numerous grandchildren. Together with their spouses, Brooke's heirs created the foundation upon which much of the greater Sandy Spring community was developed. The Brookes intermarried with many of those who also hailed from early Quaker settlers to Sandy Spring, most notably the Thomas family, whose first settler,

⁶⁵ Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 115.

⁶⁶ He may have been accompanied by John A. Scarff, the district officer for Maryland whose sketch plan also appears in the HABS collection, although because the HABS sketch does not vary from Forman, it is likely that it was just copied.

⁶⁷ A few other houses in the Sandy Spring area that were also important were overlooked such as Charley Forest (1728), Brooke Grove (ca. 1760), and Sharon (1794). Only Clifton, the oldest among them, ca. 1740, was measured and drawn.

John Thomas, like James Brooke, had obtained his initial land through his marriage to one of the daughters of Richard Snowden. Others Brookes married into well-respected Quaker families from Virginia and Pennsylvania, such as the Pleasants, Stabler, Bentley, Briggs, and Ellicott families. Most of the Brooke offspring had already settled on their properties long before James Brooke's death and established "plantations" and tenanted farms that yielded them income. As a Quaker community, life revolved around the meeting house, the center of religious, social, and economic life. The greater Sandy Spring community would grow to become one of the richest agricultural areas in the county, expanding to include mills of various types and other light industries. The latter were centered in the market town of Brookeville and included grain, seed, lumber, and fulling mills, blacksmiths, tan yards, carriage, wagon, and harness makers, and shoe and hat manufacturers. Harewood is among a handful of extant dwellings built by the Brooke clan of early founding families of Sandy Spring.⁶⁸ It was erected on the "Meeting House tract," so called because the lot upon which the Quaker Meeting House was built was taken from it, and was thus situated within the literal and figurative heart of the community. This tract was allocated to James's daughter Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants, then of rural Virginia.

Interestingly, Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants' acquisition of the highly desirable "Meeting House tract" only came to her through a protracted legal battle over her share of her father's estate, and she would die before she could claim her inheritance. The only daughter of James Brooke and his wife Deborah Snowden Brooke, she was also the only one of their children to leave Sandy Spring, marrying into the well-placed Pleasants family of Goochland County, Virginia. Her brothers who lived within the greater community had already settled on large tracts of their father's land, to which they would gain legal title following his death. Thus, it was argued, Elizabeth was left with far less desirable holdings. The dispute ended up in chancery court where Elizabeth contended that, "The lands allotted me by his [James Brooke's] will bears no proportion in value to those allotted the brothers." Elizabeth goes on to outline the deficiencies in her lands, including poor soil quality, rocky and uneven terrain, and the lack of "improvements."⁶⁹ In fact, according to the records of the case:

⁶⁸ James and Deborah Brooke's home "Charley Forest" was built in 1728 on what is now Brooke Road, but is no longer extant. His Son Roger built "Brooke Grove," Richard built "Fairhill," Basil built "Falling Green," Thomas' plantation was known as Brooke Black Meadow, and Elizabeth's property passed to her daughter who built Harewood. Of them, only Falling Green and Harewood are extant.

⁶⁹ According to Elizabeth's testimony, "The lands allotted me by his will bears no proportion in value to those allotted the brothers for the following reasons: 1st, the quality of the soil itself it being thinner and much more laborious than theirs, 2nd it is extremely hilly & broken and for the most part unfit to occupy on that acct. 3rd it is very stony, 4th it is not compact 5th it has no meadow lands 7 lastly the plantations are greatly injured by occupation in every one of the particulars they fall for short of the lands allotted to the brothers, for it is an observation with those acquainted with the value of land that one acres of level ground of equal soil to hilly one is worth 2 such acres, and if the hilly land is also encumbered with stone the level acre is equal to 3 such, now that my land is eminently deficient when compared with theirs in all these particulars must be evident on [?] superficial inspection. . . . I fully believe that our dec'd father intended the Meeting House land should go to us and for that reason I am willing to [?] it. I have not seen the plot but suppose it to be tolerably compact but on inspection I find it for the most part to be thin [?] cold, and [?] encumbered with a considerable quantity of sunken grounds unfit for meadow and without nay meadow at all." James Brooke Papers (1705-1784) et. al; D418, [Box 4], Folders: 302-398, 1768-1785, (00/09/03/28); folder #388, 1785, MSA. "My Objections to the proposed method of a division of the lands belonging to the estate of James Brooke by Thomas Pleasants."

On the lands allotted Roger Brooke there were eight tenants about the time of the testor's [James Brooke's] death, exclusive of his dwelling plantation, who paid in tobacco or service to [the] amount of about eight thousand four hundred pounds of tobacco; that on the land allotted Richard Brooke there was at the time six tenants, exclusive of his Quarter, where he worked three hands and his dwelling plantation, which paid in or was worth to him (exclusive of said dwelling plantation) about seven thousand eight hundred pounds of tobacco—that the said land allotted Thomas Brooke there were six tenants exclusive of his dwelling plantation, which paid seven thousand two hundred pounds tobacco—but on the land allotted the defendant [Elizabeth] there were at that time only six tenements, and no dwelling plantation, which paid seven thousand pounds of tobacco.⁷⁰

In her testimony, Elizabeth would stake her claim to the other parcels stating that, “I fully believe that our dec'd father intended the Meeting House land should go to us,” meaning she and her husband, Thomas Pleasants. However, during the division of James Brooke's vast estate prior to his death, his son Roger Brooke had “insisted a certain parcel of three hundred and ninety acres called the Meeting house land should be allotted [to] him or else he should not have a convenient tract to give his son in law Richard Thomas, Junior,” who was married to his daughter Deborah. Thus it appears that the case was forced into chancery court in large part due to a dispute over the initial distribution of the Meeting House Tract (later known as “Harewood”) to the young couple.⁷¹

Roger Brooke had requested that Richard Thomas, Senior, who James Brooke had retained to survey and partition his lands amongst his children, set aside “the Meeting house land” for Richard and Deborah. This would have been an advantageous situation for them, for as the testimony in the case revealed, “he [Richard Thomas, Jr.] would get the Meeting house Land, for this Tract *adjoined the Land he lived on*, and that his father in law the defendant Roger said the same day he would contend for.”⁷² Richard and Deborah Thomas were at the time residing upon and farming part of his father, Richard Thomas, Senior's “Cherry Grove” plantation that adjoined the disputed tract.⁷³ Another of the brothers, Basil Brooke, offered testimony in the

⁷⁰James Brooke Papers, Box 5, Folder #415 “Answer of Thomas and Elizabeth Pleasants.” In another's testimony, however, the following was stated: “The defendants further admit that the said Richard Thomas and William Robertson did make division of the said lands but that it appears unequal and unjust because exclusive of their Manor plantations allotted the plaintiffs they have allotted to them about six thousand acres of rich and valuable lands without giving these defendants any part and in lieu thereof have allotted to these defendants the land above described which are barren and uncultivated—that the lands allotted the plaintiffs as to his defendant is informed there are on Roger Brookes part nine tenements, on Richard Brookes part eight tenements and Thomas Brookes part seven tenements including their dwelling plantation, *whereas on the lands allotted these Defendants there are only two plantations and a water grist mill in bad repair and the mill stones nearly worn away.*” James Brooke Papers (1705-1784) [Box 5], (00/09/03/29), Folder 412, 13 Feb 1787; “Answer of George and Deborah Chandler and of Elizabeth Brooke to the Bill of Complaint of Roger, Richard and Thomas Brooke,” Dated 13 February 1787.

⁷¹ James Brooke Papers, (00/09/03/29), D418, 1789-1790.

⁷² James Brooke Papers, Box 5, Folder #412, “Answer of George and Deborah Chandler and of Elizabeth Brooke to the Bill of Complaint of Roger, Richard and Thomas Brooke,” 13 February 1787.

⁷³ The fact that Richard Thomas, Jr. was living on lands adjacent to the Meeting House Tract is also evidenced by James Brooke Papers, item #449 “Plat of 390 acres allotted Elizabeth Pleasants” the boundaries of which include, to

case and “reminded him [Roger] that that parcel of land was directed by the testor [James Brooke] on his death bed to be included in the defendant Elizabeth Pleasants part in the presence not only of his sons but of the trustee himself.”⁷⁴ Thus despite Roger Brooke’s attempts to leave his daughter well established nearby, it was not to happen.

While it appears that Roger Brooke and Richard Thomas, Sr., were in collusion, acting to the unfair advantage of their children, the testimony reveals otherwise. In fact, Richard Thomas was fairly distraught over the suggestion. The division of land was predicated on James Brooke’s desire to pass on to his children that land upon which they had already settled and worked. According to the testimony of Richard Thomas, James Brooke had desired “that each of his [here “children” is crossed out] sons should have their part laid off conveniently together so as to include their Dwelling Plantation and the places which they had themselves improved or had received rent for, while he was living.”⁷⁵ Thomas also stated that he “did make the division of land in conjunction with Wm Robertson and that the same in his judgment was agreeable” with his own.

Richard Thomas was tied by kinship to the Brooke family even before his son’s marriage to Deborah Brooke; James Brooke and Richard’s father John Thomas had both married daughters of Richard Snowden, from whom much of their land had been granted. As he testified, he had known James Brooke for upwards of forty years. It is also evident that the division of land made by the surveyors was not only informed by James Brooke’s wishes, but that he and his sons were involved in the partitioning process. As recorded in the chancery proceedings, “On several occasions he [James Brooke] went over his lands with his sons and Richard Thomas, pointing out the boundaries and telling them his wishes.” It should also be noted that, despite the lawsuit, the immediate Brooke family were close knit and James Brooke had provided monetarily for his daughter, Elizabeth Pleasants, prior to his death, as he had done for his other children. It was only the distance that divided them, and in fact Elizabeth expressed her distress over the infrequency with which she was able to see her siblings and other family members, writing to her father in 1773, “I hope the rest of my dear brothers and sisters will not forget to come to see me as often as possible—oh the satisfaction it would be to see them once more at our home, is more than I can express, but if it can’t be, I must submit.”⁷⁶

Richard Thomas, Junior and his wife Deborah Brooke, as fate would have it, received property in what is now Brookeville, the town that they then founded. It appears that Richard had already built a mill adjacent to this property, and where David Newlin also had a mill. Naming the town

the north- Richard Thomas, Jr.; to the east, Richard Thomas; to the south, Mordacai Moore; and to the west, Samuel Thomas.

⁷⁴ James Brooke Papers, Box 5, Folder #415.

⁷⁵ James Brooke Papers, Box 5, Folder #467 testimony of Richard Thomas before the commissioners, 4 Dec 1787.

⁷⁶ A letter from Elizabeth to James Brooke, addressed “My D’r [dear?] Honored, Tender Father” from “thy very loving daughter” it appears that he is both providing her with gifts of cash, due to “general scarcity of money throughout the colony” and with loans to pay their debts. Elizabeth mentions a visit by her brother and sister, stating “I also thank my daddy for encouraging their coming, for I began to think myself forgot by my friends.” Letter from Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants to her father, James Brooke, dated, November 24, 1773. SSM Book #3 of the Abstracts of the Estate of James Brooke.

for his wife's family, Brookeville included fifty-six lots running along a main thoroughfare optimistically dubbed Market Street. Intersecting Market were North, South, High (renamed Water), and Race streets. High Street ran north one block and then headed south connecting to the road to Sandy Spring.⁷⁷ Numerous members of the Sandy Spring Quaker community invested in lots in Brookeville, including William and Deborah Stabler (although they never built on the two lots that they purchased). By 1825, half of the members of the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting resided in, maintained residences, or held lots there. It is interesting to consider that Brookeville may not have been established had Richard and Deborah in fact received the Meeting House tract. While Elizabeth Brooke Pleasant did ultimately receive this and other properties, she died before she could lay claim to them. It thus passed to one of her five daughters, Deborah.⁷⁸

Deborah was at the time settled in Leesburg with her husband, Dr. William Stabler. William and Deborah Stabler were married on June 4, 1789 at the Cedar Creek Friends Meeting House in Hanover County, Virginia, near her family home in the town of Beaver Dam, Goochland County. She was then twenty-six years of age, having been born on November 25, 1763; William was four years her junior. William was the eldest living son of Edward Stabler and Mary Robinson Stabler of Petersburg, Virginia. Edward was originally from York, England and Mary from Chester, Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia. In attendance at the small wedding service was William's brother Edward, and it was there that Edward would meet his future bride, Mary Pleasants, Deborah's younger sister. William and Edward were very close, and Deborah would become like an older sister to Edward, and he a trusted, life-long confidant and advisor.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ Richard and Deborah sold the first lot to Caleb and Sarah Bentley in 1798 and it was on this lot that their fine brick house was built, possibly the first in town. Thirteen, mostly quarter-acre, lots were next sold for \$12 apiece, on 31 October 1800. Samuel Leeke purchased lots #44 & 45 (Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Liber I, folio 286), William Stabler purchased lots #48 & 49 (I:300), Samuel Wright purchased lot #18 (I:335), Israel French purchased lot #46 (I:347), Deborah Phillips purchased lot #41 (I:348), John Leeke purchased lots #10 & 11 (I:369), and Gerrard Brooke purchased lots #12, 13, 14, & 15 (I:385). By 1806, twenty lots had been sold. Julie Shipe, Sylvia Nash and Candace Reed. "Brookeville Historic District," Montgomery County, Maryland. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1978 (item 8, page 8). National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

⁷⁸ While Deborah and her husband settled here in 1793, the property actually went to her father Thomas Pleasants following the death of her mother in 1792. Thus, from a legal standpoint, Deborah inherited the property through her father's will. An abstract of the will reads, to "his daughter Deborah Stabler 390 acres on the Patuxent River, mostly in Ann Arundel Co. on which Joshua Powers now lives as a tenant; also an adj. strip on both sides of sd. River containing 150 acres, begin the lower end of a tract called Brookes Addition and adj. Sewden [sic.] Manor." The Edward Pleasants Valentine papers: abstracts of records in the local and general archives of Virginia . . ." Thomas Pleasants, of Goochland Co., Will of, p. 976; available through ancestry.com. Deborah was one of the seven children of Thomas and Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants, including sons James Brooke and William Henry, and daughters Henrietta, Margaret, Deborah, Mary, and Sarah.

⁷⁹ According to his son and biographer, William Stabler, "From the time of her [Deborah] marriage to his brother William, she had exercised over him the care of an elder sister; [which was] this care was often of great value and importance to him." William Stabler, *The Memoir of the Life of Edward Stabler* (Philadelphia: John Richards, 299 Market Street, 1846), 20 (copy at the SSM, rare books, item #2004.2.4). After the death of William, Deborah and Edward remained close, visiting when they could and often seeing each other at Quaker meetings. She also relied on Edward for advice. This is exemplified in one letter where she writes: "I have been looking for thee several weeks; and not I begin to feel most impatient to see thee; but fear something of consequence detains thee at home.

While the brothers were still both minors, they lost their mother and were placed at various Friends boarding schools. A few years later they would lose their father as well, and William and Edward would be separated. William was apprenticed to Dr. John Thompson of Petersburg, Virginia, to learn the druggist and apothecary trade, and Edward was sent to apprentice elsewhere.⁸⁰ In a letter, William's fondness and concern for his brother is evident. In his address William states, "It is with the warmest affection of brotherly love that I now salute in this manner, we are now left in this transitory & visionary world without Father or Mother to direct our steps We are now agoing [sic.] apart to part for some short time personally, but I hope that mutual brotherly love we owe one to the other will still subsist & flow with as unresistable [sic.] a power as ever it did." Invoking the Quaker values with which they had been raised, William advises Edward to keep to his faith and avoid the "vile reprobate set of young people . . . who will lead thee in error." As William suggests, "I would wish thee as a brother not to be following the fashions of this world as they lead to no good; but evil, but endeavor to keep as the ninth Queary [sic.] says in plainness of speech, behaviour and apparel," a reference to Quaker tenets.⁸¹

Eventually Edward would be joined with William and Deborah in Leesburg, where William had been for some time engaged in the drug business. It is unclear whether William actually practiced medicine, as is implied by the title "doctor," or merely ran an apothecary or perhaps a dispensary, prescribing medicines and administering care; a 1792 letter from his brother Edward is addressed to "William Stabler, Druggist."⁸² An account book kept by William between 1787 and 1792 suggests that he was involved primarily in producing and/or distributing medicines. The ledger indicates that he also performed some dental extractions, and at least one case of "blood-letting" a patient appears.⁸³ Most "doctors" of the period learned through apprenticeship

Should this not be the case do some soon, as I wish for thy feeling and sympathy in some business of consequence respecting James and Caleb another opening has offers of which I am not competent to judge, and knowing thy confide more in thy judgment than anyone else it is much my desire to see thee as soon as thou canst come with convenience." Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Sandy Spring, 29 December, 1814, SSM 81.5010.33.

⁸⁰ William Stabler, *The Memoir of the Life of Edward Stabler*, 17. It was the school of a Friend, Benjamin Russell, who ran what at the time was considered "the most approved Friends school in Virginia." But soon their father moved them to a school he thought better—Pipe Creek in Maryland, ran by Joel Wright, where they remained a year or more. While William was apprenticing, Edward was placed with brother-in-law Mahlon Hough at Hillsborough, of Loudon County, Virginia. But here Edward was obliged to associate with "dissolute men" and thus he left to live with Samuel Hough, near Leesburg, the husband of sister Ann.

⁸¹ William Stabler to Edward Stabler (brother), Leesburg, Virginia, March 14, 1785; Stabler Family Correspondence, FHL.

⁸² Edward Stabler to William Stabler, Druggist, Leesburg, Virginia, 31 July 1792; Stabler Family Correspondence, FHL.

⁸³ Stabler Family, Accounts Books, 1787-1820, Special Collections, MS 775, Vol. I, 1787-1792, Maryland Historical Society [hereafter referred to as MHS]. Daily accounting of expenditures, most entries simply "to medicine" some/fewer for "merchandise" Specific medicines rarely named: fetid pills, solution gum ammon, No specific medicines listed and payment is generally in cash, although sometimes in goods such as 1 barrel flour, bushels of rye or wheat, pasturing or keeping of a horse and of a cow (1790, by Dan'l McIlroy). William even receives as payment, chairs; 8 mo. 13 paid by Samuel Gover by "1 small high chair" and "6 chairs" "1 small chair." Entry dated 4 mo. 22 1791 to Joseph Smith "To bleeding thy wife." Interestingly, on one occasion the ledger

rather than formal medical training. This was a factor of the limited institutions for medical training and the role physicians were able to play at that time; an understanding about the causes of disease were extremely limited and therefore so were effective treatments.⁸⁴ From 1789 until the close of 1791, Edward spent his time helping his brother with his work and learning the trade. In 1792, perhaps anticipating William and Deborah's move to Sandy Spring, Edward opened his own apothecary shop in Alexandria, Virginia (now a National Historic Landmark museum).

While William and Deborah were very content with their life in Leesburg, William apparently suffered from a serious medical condition likely of a respiratory nature, and Deborah thought that life in rural Sandy Spring would be more conducive to good health. At the same time, however, in a letter dated March 24, 1793 addressed to brother-in-law Edward she expressed "the fatigue attendant on our proposed undertaking." According to the letter, "At this time I find myself relieved from some of the fearful apprehensions I have had, of half starving on a farm, for which, as I esteem it a blessing, I hope to be thankful."⁸⁵ Plans were well underway for their removal to Sandy Spring and in fact William had left three weeks earlier to "get a chimney built and a garden began."⁸⁶ The chimney presumably was for their house in Sandy Spring, then under construction. Based on a 1783 description of the property including an "old dwelling house" and a "framed tobacco house," local legend has it that the house at Harewood was actually erected from a log barn already on the property.⁸⁷ This claim has not been substantiated, however, and may merely be a reflection of its rather boxy, vernacular form and partial log or timber frame construction. In a different account it is stated that, "after improving an old tobacco house on the land, they lived in it until the house at Harewood could be built."⁸⁸ There is also conflicting information with regard to what was actually on the property at the time of Elizabeth Pleasants inheritance.

indicates that William is paying another physician to tend to himself and Deborah; to Dr. James Shasto [or Shafto?], in contra column "By attendance on me in Spring 1789" & 6mo. 13 1790 "by attendance on D. Stabler, 4 days."

⁸⁴ The earliest American medical colleges were not established until the latter part of the eighteenth century, first at the College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania), in 1765, and then at Harvard, in 1782. The absence of domestic medical schools required American doctors to train abroad, many at Edinburgh in Scotland, which was then considered the best in the world. As was far more often the case, however, would-be physicians learned medical practice through an apprenticeship. At the time of the American Revolution, it is estimated that only about 400 of the 3,500 physicians practicing in the colonies possessed a medical degree. Francis R. Packard, *History of Medicine in the United States*, 2 vol. (New York, 1931), as cited in Duffy, *Epidemics in Colonial America*, 7. The first dispensary in American open in Philadelphia in 1786 and served in some ways as an outpatient clinic.

⁸⁵ Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Leesburg, Virginia, 3 mo. 4th 1793, SSM.

⁸⁶ Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Leesburg, Virginia, 3 mo. 4th 1793, SSM.

⁸⁷ Martha Nesbitt, "Montgomery County Landmarks Survey," page A1. The joists that underpin the dining room section of the house, built by Edward Stabler in 1821, are of rough logs hewn along the top edge only, thus giving the appearance of log construction. However, the framing under the main block is of flat sawn timber framing. It is also worth noting that the description of buildings in this account does not correspond with that given in the inventories of James Brooke's estate. This author was unable to locate the tax assessment cited here for 1783.

⁸⁸ Annie B. Kirk, *Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. IV, 471.

The spring rains persisted that year, delaying their departure and thus, as Deborah relayed to Edward in May 1793, “We cannot fix with certainty on a time to leave Leesburg.”⁸⁹ Despite her reluctance to leave, Deborah was already being welcomed into the Sandy Spring Community. As she tells Edward, “My friends in Mland [Maryland] pressed me much to go and stay with them until our house was in a situation to go into.” While acknowledging that “my connexions [sic.] in Mland are truly desirable” Deborah preferred to linger a bit longer in Leesburg “among a people, where, I’ve found, tender sympathizing friends.” Deborah’s apprehensions about life in Sandy Spring were subsiding, or perhaps she had merely resigned herself to what she obviously thought would be a more meager life than the one that she enjoyed in Leesburg. She proclaimed that “as the time draws near, I feel myself more reconciled than in the earlier prospect of a removal, and as to a liveing [sic.], the desire of my heart is to be contented with a little, and that little earned in an honest way, accompanied with a divine blessing, thus thou hast nearly the sum of my earthly wishes.” William and Deborah left shortly thereafter with their first son, Thomas Pleasants Stabler, then nearly two years of age. Their son Edward was born in September 1794, not long after their arrival at their new home.

Deborah experienced hardships in Sandy Spring, but on the whole enjoyed a prosperous and happy life here. William was evidently able to practice medicine in Sandy Spring and their farm yielded a return. Yet despite the healthful environs, William died of “hemorrhages” in 1806 at age thirty-nine.⁹⁰ Deborah hints at his long suffering when she wrote,

Thus ended the useful life of my amiable and tenderly affectionate husband, and on the day following, his remains were interred in Friends Burying ground, after which a solemn meeting was held, and a living testimony borne to the all-sufficiency of that power which had enabled him to maintain the conflict through much suffering, and finally, I trust, to find rest from all trouble.⁹¹

William did not die before fathering five sons: Thomas Pleasants (1791), Edward (1794), James Pleasants (1796), Caleb Bentley (1799), and William Henry (1802), all of whom would live to adulthood, marrying, and father children of their own. According to the census records for 1800, William and Deborah Stabler’s household then included along with the immediate members of their family (four of their five sons), three male and three female white individuals and four free blacks, likely farm hands and household servants, and possibly other members of their extended family.⁹²

An inventory of William Stabler’s personal property taken at the time of his death paints a picture of life at Harewood. Of course, because the property was Deborah’s legacy, there was no assessment of it and his will merely states “After my just debts are paid, all the Residue of my Estate of every kind & description both Real and personal I give & bequeath unto my beloved

⁸⁹ Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Sandy Spring, Maryland, 5 mo. 5th 1793, SSM.

⁹⁰ While his illness is not given, it is likely that William suffered from consumption or tuberculosis.

⁹¹ “A Memorial from Indian Spring Monthly Meeting, in Maryland, concerning our deceased friend, Deborah Stabler,” copy located within the Misc. letters, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

⁹² U.S. Federal Census, 1800, District 1, Montgomery County, Maryland. The free white males include two between the ages of 10 thru 15, and one between the ages of 16 thru 25; of the free white females, one was between the ages of 10 thru 15, and two were aged 45 and over. The ages of the free blacks are not enumerated here.

wife Deborah Stabler to be entirely at her Disposal.”⁹³ He appointed his friends Caleb Bentley and Roger Brooke (also a relation) as executors, along with Deborah. As the inventory indicates, the farm included both livestock and grain production. The livestock includes four horses, twenty-five hogs, including two “breeding sows,” fourteen goats, seven sheep, one bull and three cows, along with three young cattle and a calf. The horses were used to pull the farm wagon and the “Riding Carriage” listed in the inventory, as well as the “Barshear plow & swingle tree.” The barshear plow was a horse-drawn cast iron plow first manufactured about 1800 and used into the early twentieth century, and the swingle tree, a crossbar to which the traces of the horse’s harness are attached to the plow. Harrows used to break up hard ground were also listed, as are axes, hoes, and mattocks (a digging tool). The presence of a “wheat fan” used to winnow grain and grain tubs indicates that wheat was the principle crop on the farm. A “cider works” and cider barrels suggests there may have been an orchard. The number of hogs on the farm implies that they were raised to produce income as well as food for the family, while the cows likely provided them with milk and cheese. Also among the implements lists were shoe-makers tools, a “chest of tools” and “old iron” hinting at an added level of self-sufficiency.

With regard to household items, also listed was an array of wooden ware, earthen & stone ware, and crockery ware, pewter and tin ware, knives & forks, one oven, skillets and iron pots, tongs & shovels, glass bottles with ground stoppers, tea kettle and canisters, bread basket, cream pot, a metal mortar, sugar boxes, table linens, and candle sticks & snuffers. As a sign of William’s medical practice was a “medicine chest” and scales & weights. His inventory included “1 desk & book case” presumably a single piece of furniture, as well as a separate “writing desk” and books. Only two andirons were listed, indicating two fireplaces and more to the point, that the upstairs rooms may have been unheated. A “warming pan” was used to heat the beds at night. A total of ten beds were listed including four “feather beds & furniture” and six more stand “bedsteads & cords” or rope beds, which is an indication of the relatively large number of people living at Harewood. The inventory includes three “case of drawers” to accompany the bed furniture. Other furnishings include both a large dining table and a smaller “Breakfast table,” eight Windsor chair and twelve “old chairs,” and one “large chair,”⁹⁴ two cupboards, and a small trunk. Among the more costly items listed is a “looking glass” and an “eight day clock.” Perhaps most interesting are the “25,000 brick” listed in William’s inventory, suggesting that he may have been planning an addition to the house or other substantial farm structure.⁹⁵ Equally likely is that William was making bricks for sale; later evidence indicates that son James Stabler was making bricks in 1819, and that grandson Arthur Stabler also pursue brick-making in the latter part of the nineteenth century.⁹⁶

⁹³ William Stabler (1806), Last Will & Testament.

⁹⁴ William’s grandson Arthur Stabler would later leave to his cousin upon his death in 1918 “the high backed chair, brought by our grand parents from Leesburg, Va., now in my bedroom.” Arthur Stabler (1918), Last Will and Testament, Book HCA 22, folio 32, Montgomery County Register of Wills, Montgomery County Maryland.

⁹⁵ William Stabler (1806), Inventory of the Personal Estate, Will Book E, liber 405-407, Montgomery County Register of Wills.

⁹⁶ Evidence of James Stabler’s brick-making appears in his ledgers for the Sandy Spring Store for 1819, which include heading for “Brick Yard” and for “Blacksmith Shop”; Stabler Family, Accounts Books, 1787-1820, Special Collections, MS 775, Vol. 2, back pages of book, MHS. Arthur is listed in the U.S. Census for 1870 and as “farmer & brickmaker.”

While Deborah was left a widow at forty-three to raise five children, then age fifteen to four, she was not without position and resources. In addition to her own strength of will, as a Quaker she enjoyed far more respect and financial freedom than most women of her era. Her property remained in her name and under her control, and because Quakers believed in equality of the sexes, Deborah served as an esteemed minister and elder of the Sandy Spring Meeting as well as the larger Baltimore Yearly Meeting of which it was a part. As did many devout Friends of her era, Deborah traveled to meetings in Maryland and neighboring states to exchange ideas and information and to share in her faith. She was fiercely supportive of her children and would aid them in all their endeavors. When Edward, while apprenticing for his uncle Edward in Alexandria, was arrested for refusing to serve in the militia during the War of 1812 as per his pacifist Quaker beliefs, Deborah was able to write to her friend Dolley Madison with the simple message, “My son Edward had been arrested and lodged in jail because he refused to take up arms. I want thee to tell [President] James [Madison] to have him released at once,” and so it was done.⁹⁷ As Deborah once said, she “honestly craved a situation for my children’s establishment, best calculated to retrain their wanderings and circumscribe their views within the limitations of Truth,” the latter term a reference to Quaker beliefs.⁹⁸

With the help of her sons, Deborah managed the farm. While she enjoyed the assistance of free black servants and/or farmhands, in keeping with Friends’ beliefs, she never owned slaves. In fact, she requested her brother-in-law Edward to obtain for her “Clarkson’s work on the abolition of slavery” the work of well-known English Abolitionist Thomas Clarkson.⁹⁹ As with most women of her era, Deborah spun yarn, knitted, and sewed.¹⁰⁰ In addition to her work as mistress of the farm and Quaker minister, Deborah supported a school at Harewood and also taught at other schools within the community at various times. A small school operated out of Harewood, beginning in 1808 and extending through 1816, with a brief hiatus in 1809. In a letter to Edward that year, Deborah mentions that “It is concluded for Margret (Judge, the young teacher) to spend this winter in Mary James’s School in Baltimore, to qualify herself for further usefulness to the children, I expect she will go in a week or two.”¹⁰¹ According to one recollection, “A number of the now elderly people of Sandy Spring neighborhood remember going to school to her [Margaret Judge] at Deborah Stabler’s, a period of their lives to which it is pleasant to recur. Deborah took some boarders into her home to attend Margaret’s school, some of whom were from Washington City.”¹⁰² Deborah was also called upon to serve as head of the girl’s section of

⁹⁷ Richard Henry Spencer, ed., *Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia of Maryland* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1919), 82-83.

⁹⁸ Deborah Stabler to “Dear Brother” (likely brother-in-law Edward Stabler), undated, SSM 81.5010.34.

⁹⁹ Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Alexandria, Virginia, 8 November 1809, SSM 81.5010.25.

¹⁰⁰ In a letter Deborah states, “When school was vacated I got the girls fixed at spinning thy yarn.” Also referenced are a “flax wheel” and the use of wool and merino fleece. Deborah Stabler to Mary Stabler (undated), SSM 81.5010.36.

¹⁰¹ Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Alexandria, Virginia, 8 November 1809, SSM 81.5010.25.

¹⁰² Memoir of Margaret (Judge) Brown, Benjamin Hallowell, 1872, Card File, Organizations, Schools, SSM.

the nearby Fair Hill School, beginning in 1820; census records indicate that there were thirty-one students under her charge.¹⁰³ She continued to teach intermittently throughout her lifetime.¹⁰⁴

Deborah became a Quaker minister in 1804, prior to William's death. According to her later memorial, it was then that "she became exercised under a prospect that she should be called into the work of the ministry. The concern of her mind, preparatory to entering on this important service, was deep and weighty."¹⁰⁵ She was soon recommended as a minister by the Indian Creek Monthly Meeting, of which Sandy Spring Meeting was a part. In this capacity, Deborah made numerous trips to meetings in Maryland as well as in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia. In one letter, while still on the road, Deborah writes of a trip among Quaker meetings of 800 miles.¹⁰⁶ As part of her ministry, and perhaps having learned from her husband, Deborah provided medical attention to those in need. Female ministers and elders generally concerned themselves with domestic issues, which would have included tending to the sick. In a letter to her sister Mary she wrote:

I have some many wants in the way of keeping up my practice of Quakery, or nursing among the sick. I can't recollect near all, but what I do must make known in the first place [that] I have relieved another bemused and half useless hand by administering the valuable articles, repellent tincture and Robram's plaister, which exhausted my small stock of tincture, and another case a little similar now exists within *my practice*. A little of the spears of peppermint, some Magnesia and Salts with a vial of spirits of Turpentine and sweet oyl [sic.], will enable me possibly to afford relief to some [italics by author].¹⁰⁷

In 1806 Deborah was again struck with tragedy; this time it was the death of her sister Mary, who was also the wife of her brother-in-law Edward Stabler. As a result, Deborah took in their young children, of which there were five in all, probably until 1808 when Edward remarried.¹⁰⁸ It is likely that at least the eldest child, William, remained with his father, because in 1808 he established his own apothecary. Like Deborah, Edward took solace in his faith, also becoming a Quaker minister, and in the spring of 1810 they embarked together on a two-month-long tour among the meetings in Virginia.¹⁰⁹

Census records for 1810 indicate that Deborah's household was comprised of twelve individuals including sons William Henry (8), Caleb (11), and Thomas (19); Edward was at the time living with his uncle Edward Stabler in Alexandria and apprenticing in the apothecary business. Also

¹⁰³ U.S. Federal Census, 1820, District 1, Montgomery County, Maryland. Five were under 10 years of age, 17 were between 10 and sixteen, and 9 were between 16 and 21.

¹⁰⁴ In 1805, she and William filled in at a nearby school when one of the teachers became incapacitated and that is evidently when Deborah acquired both her experience and reputation as a capable teacher. Martha Nesbitt, "Montgomery County Landmarks Survey, Auburn, Harewood, and Sandy Spring Farms," pg. 1-B, 3.

¹⁰⁵ "A Memorial from Indian Spring Monthly Meeting, in Maryland, concerning our deceased friend, Deborah Stabler," p. 2.

¹⁰⁶ Deborah Stabler to Asa Moore, 28 September 1813, SSM 81.5010.26. The letter indicates that she has "just arriv'd in Waterford."

¹⁰⁷ Deborah Stabler to Mary Stabler (sister), undated (prior to 1806, when Mary died), SSM 81.5010.36.

¹⁰⁸ William Stabler, *The Memoir of the Life of Edward Stabler*, 42.

¹⁰⁹ William Stabler, *The Memoir of the Life of Edward Stabler*, 50.

in the house was a young woman between 25 and 16 years of age, and three girls between the ages of 10 and 15. It is likely that the young woman was Margaret Judge who operated the small school out of Harewood previously mentioned, and the others, her students. Also at Harewood at that time were four free blacks. According to the Annals of Sandy Spring, between 1813 and 1816 the Sappold family lived at Harewood. They were part of “a large immigration to our vicinity” at that time, many of which eventually continued their migration west to Ohio. The Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends had recently sponsored the establishment of a yearly meeting in Ohio (1812) and many Friends, including some within the Sandy Spring community, headed west.¹¹⁰

In 1816 Deborah sold 73-3/4 acres of the western section of her property to her second cousin, Philip E. Thomas, who later became the first president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. He had recently left Baltimore to return to the quiet of Sandy Spring, purchasing the adjoining “Norwood” estate. She then subdivided the remainder of her property into three farms, each consisting of 109-1/2 acres. The section that included her dwelling house and home farm was designed as Lot #2. (Legend has it that Edward later named the farm “Harewood” after bagging an amazing number of hares while hunting on the property.) Lot #1 would eventually become Auburn Farm, the home of son William Henry Stabler and wife Eliza Thomas. Lot #3, known as the Sandy Spring Farm for its proximity to the actual spring, was sold in 1832 to her cousin William Thomas (son of Richard Thomas, Sr.) of adjoining Cherry Grove. The partitioning of the property and sale of the western section of her lands was motivated by her need for funds to help educate and establish careers and/or farms for her sons. In a letter to brother-in-law Edward just prior to the sale she writes needing money to furnish Caleb with proper clothing, stating that “his pantaloons were not decent, having been of an indifferent quality, his coat and waistcoat were also much worn.” She also needed money to send Henry to Westtown School and to properly clothe him as well. Her son James, who was still at home and to whom she might otherwise have turned to for help, was apparently also in a precarious position. As she indicates in the letter, “I have very little income. Should James stand, so as to do business to advantage, *and part of the Land is sold*, it may possibly make it easier.”¹¹¹ Deborah may also have supplemented her income in other ways. Her letters indicate that she was engaged in knitting as well as in spinning wool and flax, although it is hard to know if she operated this as a cottage industry or merely for family use. As mention, Deborah also administered medical care to her neighbors, although again it is difficult to know whether this was an extension of her husband’s practice or merely to tend to the needs of her community as part of her duties as a Quaker minister and elder.

Deborah sent her children to the (Quaker) Westtown School outside Philadelphia, and Edward and Caleb were also sent away to apprentice, which was difficult for her both financially and emotionally. As Deborah later conveyed to her granddaughter while *she* was away at school,

¹¹⁰ Eliza N. Moore, *Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. II*, 32-33. These represented the first migrations of Friends westward. The Indiana Yearly Meeting was formed in 1821, with others to follow. Both are still highly active meetings, although in a more evangelical tradition that includes ministry rather than traditional unlead, silent worship as still practiced by eastern Friends.

¹¹¹ Deborah Stabler to Edward Stabler, Alexandria, Virginia, 24 March 1816, SSM 81.5010.42.

“My dear children were all at Weston (sic.), three of them sixteen months each, and the other two were two years absent from me, it was a trial, to which I submitted for their good.”¹¹² Her eldest son Thomas married Elizabeth Brooke, in 1813. Thomas and Elizabeth settled at “Spring Garden,” a farm that was part of her father, Gerard Brooke’s “Falling Green” (formerly his father, Basil Brooke’s) plantation. They lived in a home constructed of logs with brick nogging that had been built earlier. In 1816 Deborah’s third son James married Elizabeth Gilpin of “Mount Airy” in nearby Ashton. James and his bride remained at Harewood for the time being.

Also in 1816, Edward removed from Alexandria to Baltimore, where he became a partner in the house of Norris & Brooke, importers of hardware. At the same time Edward was attending a course of medical lectures at the University of Maryland. Having completed his apprenticeship at his uncle’s apothecary, it appears that Edward planned a medical career, following in his father’s footsteps.¹¹³ James and Caleb also considered medicine as a career, but then thought better of it.¹¹⁴ In 1819, James opened the store in Sandy Spring with Caleb Bentley (the building still stands).¹¹⁵ It appears that Deborah financed the construction of the store, which included living quarters above. In a letter to brother-in-law Edward Stabler she discusses her plans, stating:

After farther consultation with several of my friends I have concluded to purchase a small lot of ground at the cross road [unreadable] and put up a building to accommodate a School Master, or some respectable mechanic with a family, also room for the purpose of selling goods as his [James’s] mind seems more and more opposed to go into a Town, and which I have never been much in favor of; this building scheme seems mighty for me to undertake, but hope it will be done without oppressing me with the drudgery attendant on such business, or to the danger of involving myself with debt.¹¹⁶

James had been named postmaster for Sandy Spring in 1817, operating it out of the store building in Sandy Spring.

¹¹² Deborah Stabler to Catherine Stabler (granddaughter), 14 August 1842, Misc. Stabler Correspondence, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

¹¹³ “Death of Edward Stabler; Remarkable History of a Veteran Maryland Postmaster,” Obituary [publication unknown], 1883; clipping from (Anna) Stabler Correspondence, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

¹¹⁴ In a letter Deborah writes, “Respecting James and Caleb, the latter has only a temporary home, the former is nearly out of business, as Cousin Caleb has bully given up merchandise; they have both set their minds on the study of medicine, with which I am not easy.” Deborah Stabler to “Dear Brother” (likely brother-in-law Edward Stabler), 29 December 1814, SSM 81.5010.33. “Cousin Caleb” is likely a reference to Caleb Bentley, who sold his store in Brookeville in 1819 and opened one with James Stabler.

¹¹⁵ Caleb Bentley had recently sold the store and residence that he had established in Brookeville and moved to Sandy Spring.

¹¹⁶ Deborah Stabler to “Dear Brother” (presumably Edward Stabler of Alexandria), undated, SSM 81.5010.34. The letter goes on to express James’s reluctance to leave the area stating: “From calculating on James assistance in the store, poor boy he said to me today he would rather do a small business in the country than make thousands in a town.” The tax assessment record for Deborah Stabler in 1820 include a store property, although the notation is erroneously for “Edward P. Stabler’s Store, rather than James P. Stabler (Edward has no middle initial).

The 1820 U.S. Census lists James as the head of the household at Harewood, which included his wife Elizabeth Gilpin Stabler, his two young sons Pleasants, born in 1817, and Joseph, born in 1820, as well as his mother Deborah and two younger brothers Caleb (21) and William (18).¹¹⁷ Also listed are a teen-aged girl and a man between the ages of 26 and 45, probably a household servant and someone to help at the store.¹¹⁸ Thomas Stabler, now married with four of his eventual eleven children, is listed as head of his own household, presumably at Spring Garden farm provided to them by his wife's father. As with their parents, neither Stabler household included slaves; Thomas's included seven free blacks, presumably household servants and farmhands.

In 1821 Edward returned to Harewood to run the farm. Owing to poor health, he had not been able to complete his course of medical study. James was operating the Sandy Spring Store and had opened a blacksmith shop and a brick yard nearby. It appears that James was interested in pursuits other than farming; in addition to operating the store, he was mechanically inclined and in 1830 would accept a position as Superintendent for Construction for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. That same year he married his second wife, Sarah Briggs, the daughter of Isaac and Hannah Briggs of nearby "Sharon." Before leaving Harewood James built a barn and workshop for Edward's use. In a letter to Edward, James informed his brother that he built the latter two structures "in readiness for thy farm operations."¹¹⁹ The date stone for the barn, only the foundation walls of which are extant, reads: "E.S. Jr. 1822." Thus James may also be responsible for the addition of the dining room to Harewood, which bears a similar date stone reading: "E.S. Jr. 1821." Although the date stone appears to credit Edward Stabler with the addition, it may have been intended as attribution for his status as the male head of the household. It is likely that the kitchen was erected at the same time.

In 1823 Deborah embarked on an extended ministry trip, accompanied by her friend and neighbor Hannah Briggs (later to be the mother-in-law of her son James). Deborah kept a journal in which she chronicles her amazing months-long journey through the wilderness to distant meetings. Also in December of that year, Edward married Ann Robinson Gilpin, the daughter of local hat-maker Bernard Gilpin and his wife Sarah Thomas Gilpin of "Mount Airy" in nearby Ashton. Ann was also the sister of James Stabler's wife Elizabeth. Edward brought Ann to Harewood to live; they would remain there for the rest of their lives, raising ten children.

Deborah's youngest son, William Henry, married Eliza Thomas, the daughter of William and Martha Thomas of the adjoining Cherry Grove, in 1825. It is said that William Thomas built the

¹¹⁷ A son born 14 November 1818 was first name Joseph but did not live. Daughters Deborah, born 12 November 1821 died four months later and a second daughter, Ann, born 26 January 1823 died at age four.

¹¹⁸ U.S. Federal Census, 1820, District 1, Montgomery County, Maryland. Note that this census does not give names beyond the head of household (James), only gender and approximate ages; the names are assumed based on the known members of the family. The other man could be Edward, although he was then living in Baltimore; he would return to Sandy Spring the following year. The notion that the man listed helped in the store is based on the fact that the census indicates that there were two members of the household involved in commerce (women's occupations—in later years listed as "keeping house" are not listed here).

¹¹⁹ Martha C. Nesbitt, "The Postman Cometh."

early part of the Auburn house for the young couple.¹²⁰ In 1832, William Thomas purchased from Deborah the Sandy Spring Farm (Lot #3), which he passed on to daughter Eliza, and thus the property returned to the Stabler family. Son Caleb also married in 1825, to Ann Moore, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Brooke Moore of Longwood, near Brookeville. Caleb would distinguish himself as the first president of the Sandy Spring Bank, established in 1868, a position that he held almost until the time of his death in 1883. He also operated a farm called “Drayton” near Spencerville upon which he built a log and frame house in 1841-42. He operated a store in Ashton for a while, and also dealt in real estate and in fertilizers.

Deborah Stabler continued to reside at Harewood with Edward and his growing family until her death in 1845. As recorded in a memorial written at the time, “According to the testimony of her contemporaries, she was distinguished, even in early life, by a circumspect and prudent deportment, which obtained for her the confidence of a large circle of acquaintance and relations, and rendered her the object of their affectionate regard.”¹²¹ In her will, Deborah Stabler conveyed to her four living sons, and the son of her deceased son James, property and money that she had, for the most part, already provided to them during her lifetime. Edward, of course, received the family homestead, Harewood Farm (Lot #2). William received the adjoining farm upon which he had earlier settled, Lot #1, known as Auburn Farm, with the exception of a ten-acre lot bequeath to her grandson Pleasants Stabler, who also received one of the two lots that William and Deborah had purchased in the town of Brookeville (Lot #49). Sons Thomas and Caleb received cash settlements more-or-less equal to the value of the lands bequeathed to Edward and William. Caleb also received a lot in Brookeville (Lot #48).

Items of personal property were also bequeathed; each received “a feather bed and furniture therefore.” Thomas received her silver watch and portable desk, and her folio collection edition of *Sewell’s History*; Edward her eight-day clock and six silver spoons; Pleasants, the remainder of her “plate” (i.e. silver), and the desk and book case used by his father together with her side board and a small walnut table made by William Stabler. Caleb received her surveying instruments, her mahogany bureau, and her folio edition of *George Fox’s Journal*; and William, her gold watch and the family bible. Deborah also asked a special favor of her sons, that they provide a “comfortable subsistence to a “coloured woman” by the name of Nancy Culbert who had been freed by her father, as well as any items of her clothing that her daughter-in-laws thought suitable.¹²²

While all of Deborah and William’s children led productive, successful lives, Edward was the most accomplished. Edward Stabler was a progressive farmer, machinist, engraver and metalworker, postmaster, insurance company executive, inventor, hunter and sportsman, and

¹²⁰ According to Roger Farquhar, William Thomas built the house for them in 1818. This date is not likely correct, since they were not married until in 1824 and the property was not in Thomas’s possession. Roger Farquhar, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County*,

¹²¹ “A Memorial from Indian Spring Monthly Meeting, in Maryland, concerning our deceased friend, Deborah Stabler,” p. 1.

¹²² Deborah Stabler (1845), Last Will & Testament, Liber Z Folio 218, Montgomery County Register of Wills (Hall of Records CR 39,626), 9 December 1839; 4:373, 15 July 1845.

author/essayist. Edward was only twelve years of age when his father died in 1806. At age fourteen he went to Alexandria to apprentice with his uncle Edward in the apothecary business. As mentioned, after two years, in 1816 he moved to Baltimore where he tried his hand at both medical study and the hardware business. Suffering from ill health, however, returned to Harewood to take up farming; his brother James relinquishing that task to his older brother in 1821. His new wife Ann joined the Harewood household following their 1823 marriage. In addition to raising their ten children (and an adopted daughter), Ann was a highly respected member of the Sandy Spring Quaker Community, serving first as an “Overseer” and then for over thirty years as an “Elder” of the meeting.¹²³ Edward would later say of their relationship and of Ann, “No couple, I firmly believe, ever did, or could live in more perfect peace, harmony and love, than we have done for nearly sixty years of wedded life; and I can truly say—what perhaps few husbands can say so long together—that I do not remember that I ever heard her speak a harsh or unkind word, or return an angry answer to any one in her long life—extended to near eighty-five years—and she had her trails of patience and forbearance, with servants, and in raising a large family.”¹²⁴

About the same time that he took over the farm, Edward began to teach himself seal engraving and die sinking or casting. He met with great success, producing seals and presses for various departments of the federal government out of his workshop or engraving plant that still stands at Harewood. He also provided seals and other engravings for the consular agencies abroad, many of the states and counties, particularly for the courts, as well as for corporations and institutions. He made the award medals for the Maryland Institute, the press and die used by the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, and the seal of the Smithsonian Institute. In 1841 he cast the Great Seal of the United States. He made the seal, and the die used to press the seal onto documents, for the Department of State in 1834, which he recast in 1844.¹²⁵

As a farmer, he is of particular note for his experiments with Peruvian guano and other fertilizers used to rejuvenate soil depleted of its nutrients. Edward and Caleb Stabler, along with Roger Brooke and others in the Sandy Spring area worked together to transform the agricultural landscape. Edward Stabler used manure, guano, and lime spread over his fields of clover, hay, corn and wheat. The manure likely came from his twenty-two head of cattle and his pigs. Edward also grew for his own use potatoes, asparagus, watermelons, lima beans, and raspberries. He published influential articles on agricultural topics. According to one source, “He was among the faithful contributors to the *American Farmer* and won prizes from that paper and the state

¹²³ Edward Stabler to “My Dear Friend,” Sandy Spring, 10 May 1882; Edward Stabler Correspondence, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers. The letter was written as both a memorial and as a thank you to the many who had written to him to express their grief at the passing of wife Ann. The letter makes reference to an “adopted daughter” [no name given] and the letter she wrote to her “father” stating, “I feel deeply her loss, for she was the only one I ever called Mother; and with the name came the love which accompanies it When I came an orphan stranger to her home, [she] took me to her loving heart as her own daughter”

¹²⁴ Edward Stabler, “My Dear Friend.”

¹²⁵ Department of State Bulletin, Vol. XXI, 12 December, 1949; clippings file, Edward Stabler, SSM. The die was used until 1881 when a new die was made using a slightly modified design, altered again in 1911.

agricultural society.”¹²⁶ His 1848 article titled “The Renovation of Wornout Lands” won him first prize in a competition by the journal; the prize included an engraved silver pitcher. Edward apparently received so many inquiries about the use of guano as a result of his article that he claimed responding to these inquiries occupied much of his time.¹²⁷ The article was reprinted and circulated extensively throughout the country. He also won a prize for an article on the comparative advantage of drilling seed over broadcast sowing. Other topics of his contributions include suggesting that provisions be made for water run-off to prevent erosion, draining of lowlands, deep lowing to utilize moisture and increase productivity; the use of marl, lime, bones, leached ashes, poudrette, and green crops; and a system of crop rotation. Edward also won awards for his essays for the Maryland State Agricultural Society on topics including “Underdraining and Ditching” and “Drill Husbandry.” The award for the former article won him a silver premium cream pitcher engraved with his name that he later left to his son Philip; a similarly presented silver bowl went to his daughter Margaret. He was also an agent and correspondent for the Albany, New York’s *Cultivator*.¹²⁸

An extant letter from the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Senate indicates that Edward was in contact with federal officials with regard to his experiments and that he corresponded regularly with one in particular on a variety of topics. With regard to Edward’s article, the official (W. Hickey) responded, “Since the account that you gave me, several years since, of your experience in the use of lime and subsequent use of it myself, I am inclined to believe from the immense resource we have in that article, in different forms, that it is to form the permanent basis of agricultural improvement in our country.” Hickey’s correspondence included articles on Fremont’s exploration of the Northwest, the properties of various kinds of coal, Bache & Gillis’s reports on magnetic variation, etc. outlining the depth and breadth of Edward’s scientific inquiries.¹²⁹

Edward also wrote on fish culture, describing the maintenance required to keep his ¾ acre “ice pond” clear of pests by lining it with wood planks and setting pipes for drainage. The pond was also used to breed carp for sale, sport, and personal consumption.¹³⁰ To store his harvested ice, he also erected at Harewood an oval-shaped log ice house, 8-1/2 feet deep and 14 feet across.¹³¹

¹²⁶ Vivian Wiser, “Improving Maryland’s Agricultural, 1840-1860” *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 64, No. 2 (Summer 1969), 113. According to Wiser, the first commercial shipment of guano arrived in Baltimore in 1843, marking an important milestone in American agricultural as well as that of the state. By 1847, in Montgomery County alone, farmers purchased over seventy tons of guano (p. 108).

¹²⁷ Vivian Wiser, 109.

¹²⁸ *Monthly Journal of Agriculture*, Vol. III (July 1847): 108-14; Diary of Edward Stabler, 1852, MS. 776, MH; *American Farmer*, Vol. III, (July 1847), pp. 9-11; IV (October 1848): 97-104, (December 1848): 161-64; VIII (July 1852): 5-8. As cited in Vivian Wiser, 113.

¹²⁹ W. Hickey, Office of the Sec. Senate U.S. to Edward Stabler of Sandy Spring, 16 April 1845. Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers. The letter is addressed to his “Esteemed friend” and indicates a lengthy and cordial correspondence.

¹³⁰ Clippings (publication unknown) dated 26 September 1882 & 30 June 1883, titled “Statement of Edward Stabler, Sandy Spring, Montgomery Co., Md., Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

¹³¹ Letter from “J & M” from Edward Stabler, dated 21 December 1855, Harewood; Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers. The letter describes the ice house, then under construction and includes a sketch plan. Edward also discusses the ice house in a letter to his daughter Catherine, stating: “We filled the ice house yesterday, cols as it was--& have 49 loads, enough one would think to last ‘till next Janu’y. I think the average of the ice is from 8 to 10

According to Harold Stabler, “The progressive farmers [of the Sandy Spring community] had ice houses and ice ponds, and all were concerned to get their ice house filled at the first good freeze. A mild winter, when the harvesting of ice was delayed until late in the season, caused much anxiety, as it was very important to have ice in summer to preserve food in the refrigerator, and for making ice water, ice tea and ice cream.”¹³² Edward grew a considerable amount of hay and in a letter mentions his three “grass fields,” “both the meadows” and another field, and the fact that some of the hay contained more clover, desired for cow feed, painting a picture of his Harewood farm.¹³³ The same letter indicates that Edward was selling and servicing (and/or making parts for) Wheeler & Wilson sewing machines, likely an outgrowth of his machinist and engraving business. Other letters indicate that Edward used, constructed, and perhaps improved upon mechanized farm equipment such as reapers, fodder cutters, and grinders.

Taking over for his brother James, Edward was named postmaster for Sandy Spring in 1830, a position that he held for over fifty years. James was the first postmaster in Sandy Spring, operating it out of his store, but when he left the area the job was passed onto Edward, who operated it out of Harewood. The post office, or rather the post offices *boxes*, are said to have been in a small room located between the dining room and the kitchen, and local residents came to the back porch to retrieve their mail.¹³⁴ This is likely the small room behind the chimney block, now used as a pantry, which opens onto the dining room, kitchen and back porch. As payment Edward received free postage or franking privileges; considering Edward’s extensive correspondence, this must have resulted in a substantial savings. At the time of his death, he was the longest serving postmaster in U.S. history. The post office was later returned to the Sandy Spring Store and was operated by its various storekeepers for many years. Edward was also one of the founding members of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company and its first president, a position that he held for thirty-five years. The company was formed in 1848 by a group of Friends of the Sandy Spring community after a neighbor’s newly erected barn, filled with the year’s harvest, burned to the ground.¹³⁵

Edward was a well-recognized sportsman, fisherman, and hunter and also held patents on various improvements to guns. Edward was a contributor to various sporting publications, writing on firearms practice and fishing. He hunted extensively through Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and also took trips west to California, Colorado, and Kansas, hunting buffalo and antelope. His hunting companions included Francis Blair, journalist, politician, and founder of the city of Silver Spring; and Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the Army and the engineer responsible for, among other things, the completion of the Washington Monument; and Meshack Browning, Maryland’s most famous backwoodsman and hunter and author of the 1859 memoir, *Forty-four Years of the Life of a Hunter*, which Edward edited. On such trips Edward

inches thick—and our ponds will also supply Uncle Caleb, R.T. Bentley, & in great part Uncle Henry.” Letter Edward Stabler to Catherine Stabler, Harewood, 11 January 1856, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

¹³² Harold Stabler, 4.

¹³³ Letter from Edward Stabler to “James”, Sandy Spring, 25 December 1863. Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

¹³⁴ Eugene P. Campbell, M.D., “Pleasurable Pursuit Began with a Black Jack, *The American Philatelist* (June 1989): 548. According to the article, the post office boxes were removed after 1900. They are now at the Sandy Spring Museum.

¹³⁵ The barn belonged to Joshua Pierce of the farm now known as “Riverton” on Gold Mine Road.

used a Roper repeating rifle with a telescopic site for long-range shooting and explosive hard-point balls, innovations that he patented himself. He made a number of noteworthy improvements to several breech-loading shotguns and rifles. Among them was the magazine attachment that allowed sportsmen to hold in reserve for emergencies six to fourteen charges, and telescoping sights for long-range shooting. He was equally interested in fishing and is said to have introduced the black bass to Lake Roland in Baltimore. Edward's interest in outdoor sports was supposedly motivated by his poor health, although he lived nearly eighty-nine years.

An extant dairy kept by Edward Stabler, Jr. during the winter-spring of 1858 is another revealing portrait of life at Harewood Farm. Although only 15 years of age Edward had a great deal of responsibility on the farm. He was kept busy, six days a week, resting only on "First Day" or Sunday when he would have spent part of the day attending meeting for worship at the Friends Meeting House just down the road. Even in January and February—seemingly slow months on a farm—he was cutting fodder (chopped hay or straw used as feed for livestock), cutting wood, threshing and hulling clover seed, salting and hanging meat to cure in the smoke house, hauling hay, cutting and haul loam (nutrient-rich sandy and/or clay-like soil) for use in the garden, sifting and laying guano, and taking wheat and oats to the mill to produce flour and animal feed. By March, he was spread loam and guano, furrowing, and plowing and planting the fields, despite the fact that there was some snow still on the ground. By March 12 he recorded that "the ground is in first rate order." He plowed for oats and for corn from the 13th through the 16th, operating two ploughs. Edward also sowed cabbage seed, hauled and stacked hay, and hauled manure from the hog pen to fertilize the garden—sixteen cart-load's worth. After the oats had been "plowed smooth" he applied bone dust as fertilizer. All the while, his otherwise idle hours were spent cutting wood and picking stone out of the fields. Similar tasks continued in April, along with work in the blacksmith shop. In the garden, likely intended for the family's own use, Edward planted corn and potatoes; in May, he added parsnips, pumpkins, watermelons, cantaloupe, and lima beans. He tended the raspberry vines, turned the twenty-two head of beef cattle into the woods, milked the seven cows, and white-washed the fencing and gates. He also took wheat to the mill for flour, picking it up a few days later.¹³⁶

By the 1870s Arthur Stabler, the youngest of Edward and Anne's eight sons, took over operation of the farm. At that time, Edward made an advance to him "of stock, farming implement, etc. at an assessed value of 14 hundred & 64, 95/100 dollars." In fairness to the other children, Arthur also paid rent on the farm. According to Edward, "in fixing the rent of Harewood Farm that he & I agreed upon, I considered that the use of the stock, farm implements, etc. & set a loan valuation, without any charge of interest, was equivalent to a reduction of about one hundred dollars in the rent." However, "after a trial" Arthur complained that the rent was too high. Edward reduced it three times until he claimed he was not collecting half of what the farm cost him in taxes, insurance and repairs, leaving him to conclude that, "I am decidedly of the opinion that my son Arthur Stabler has needed more substantive aid & assistance from me in starting out in life than any others of my ten children."¹³⁷ Perhaps farming was not Arthur's strong suit,

¹³⁶ Diary of Edward Stabler, Jr., 1852, Special Collections, MS 776, MHS.

¹³⁷ Edward Stabler (1889), Last Will & Testament, copied by granddaughter Alice Hallowell at "Oak Grove," 11 July 1891; Edward Stabler correspondence, Hallowell-Stabler Family Papers.

although he continued to farm Harewood for many decades. He also pursued brick making at Harewood and eventually branched out into the more lucrative insurance business, in which he appears to have found his calling.

Edward Stabler died at Harewood on September 3, 1883; according to one source, he passed away “in the same room in which he had first seen the light eighty-nine years before.”¹³⁸ Anna, his wife of more than sixty years had died the year prior, after a short illness, but all ten of their children were still living, as were fifteen grandchildren. Edward’s last will and testament reflects his wealth, his intellectual curiosity and wide-ranging interests, as well as his kindness. He died possessed of two farms, Harewood and Springfield, as well as a house in Baltimore located on Lombard Street, and over \$20,000 in bonds and other bank assets. And he had already made cash advances or loans to his children totaling approximately \$30,000. Among the possessions named in his will was a library of books, a collection of telescopes and spyglasses, a compass and a microscope; numerous guns and rifles, many of which included improvements that he had invented; a wide range of silver tableware and utensils, and a couple of Wheeler & Wilson sewing machines. Edward was also thoughtful enough to leave each of his daughter-in-laws some spending money of their own. As indicated in his will, “From love & strong feeling of regard, as an evidence of that feeling, I give to each of my 6 daughters-in-law, viz: Julia D. Stabler, Alice E. Stabler, Eliza B. Stabler, Cornelia N. Stabler, Anna McFarland Stabler, & Carrie S. Stabler, 3 hundred dollars.”

Arthur, who was as noted already operating the Harewood farm, inherited it, although it appears that siblings (Bernard) Gilpin and Kate (Catherine) also resided there at the time of Edward’s death.¹³⁹ Philip inherited Springfield Farm, upon which he was already residing and had made improvements.¹⁴⁰ The other children received the cash equivalent to the farms their brothers had received. Daughter Margaret, the wife of prominent farmer James S. Hollowell, lived nearby on the outskirts of Brookeville. Three of the sons were living in Baltimore; Alban worked for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Edward, Jr. was a coal merchant, and Jordan then owned and operated a grocery store located at Eutaw and Madison streets.¹⁴¹ Samuel was an attorney living in California, and Louis was living in Kansas City (occupation unknown).

¹³⁸ Richard Henry Spencer, editor, *Maryland Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia of the State of Maryland* (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Publishers, 1919), 83.

¹³⁹ The U.S. Census for 1870 lists Edward as head of household and his occupation as President, fire insurance company, then age 75. His wife Ann, age 72 is listed as “keeping house.” The household also includes adult children Catherine, age 42, B. Gilpin, 36; and Arthur, age 27, who is listed as a farmer and brickmaker. Also listed are Hannah E. Birdsall, a 67 year old white female; William and Mary Mitchell, both 18 and in domestic service, and 11 year old black female Ida Bud, also a domestic servant.

¹⁴⁰ According to Edward’s will “If the valuation of these two farms so affixed, devised to my 2 sons Arthur & Philip T. Stabler should exceed the amount devised & intended to be given to my other 8 children, as previously named (for it is my design & intention that all of my children should have an equal share in my Estate) then the said Philip T. Stabler & Arthur Stabler shall pay to the other 8 children such amounts as will make their shares equally of my whole property & estate.” Edward Stabler, Last Will & Testament of copied by granddaughter Alice, Hollowell-Stabler Family Papers.

¹⁴¹ In 1857 Jordan Stabler obtained a clerk’s position in G.H. Reese & Brothers grocery business in Baltimore. He left in 1862 to open his own store on Lombard Street, building a new store on Madison, to which he located in 1866. In 1875 he bought out the adjacent Charles Reese & Company; his firm was known as Jordan Stabler Company.

Arthur Stabler, the new head of household at Harewood Farm, married Anna McFarland in the spring of 1871 and they had been living at Harewood since that time with his parents and two siblings. Anna was born in Pennsylvania and came to Sandy Spring to teach at Fulford, a school in Olney operated by his brother-in-law James Hallowell, where she “proved herself an influential instructor and companion to her pupils.”¹⁴² After her marriage to Arthur Stabler Anne continued to teach for many years in the old school house that stood back of the Sandy Spring Lyceum adjacent to the meeting house. The U.S. Census for 1880 indicates that Arthur was running the farm and that his brother Gilpin was working as a horticulturalist; father Edward is listed as postmaster, while the three women were listed as “keeping house.” Anna and Arthur had no children.

As already indicated, Arthur and Anna made a number of changes to Harewood, most significantly, the addition to the rear western end of the house to include the stair hall and study. Although Arthur farmed Harewood for many years, he later worked primarily as an insurance agent for the Provident Life and Trust Company in their Washington, D.C. office. He was appointed auditor for the Navy Department in 1897, and is listed on the 1894 insurance policy as “farmer and cashier.”¹⁴³ During the latter part of Arthur’s life the farm was operated by his “faithful farmer,” Samuel T. Hill, to whom he would in gratitude leave a plot of land located along Norwood Road.¹⁴⁴ Anna and Arthur lived at Harewood until their deaths in 1916 and 1918 respectively, despite the sale of Harewood to his brother Jordan in 1914. By the late nineteenth century, however, Arthur and Anna they were spending their winters in Washington, D.C., leaving Harewood vacant during those months.¹⁴⁵ Anna died at Harewood and was interred in the burying ground beside the meeting house; Arthur died at his brother’s house and was buried beside her. While the farm had already transferred to Jordan, the few bequests of personal items reveal the generations of family heirlooms still in situ at Harewood:

To my nephew Jordan Herbert Stabler, my desk now in the dining room at Harewood and which was used by my father for many years as his writing desk, also my watch, also the picture of my father and

According to one source, His trade extended throughout the country, and he also sold large orders to the United States government. He imported extensively, dealing in none but the finest goods, both foreign and domestic. A stock company for was formed in 1900.” For thirty years Jordan was president of the Grocers’ Exchange. He was also a director of the Commonwealth Bank. He married Carrie E. Semple of Philadelphia, with whom he had three children. Carrie died in 1886 and in 1894 Jordan married Ellen Walker of New York. He died on June 20, 1916. Maryland Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia, 84.

¹⁴² Annie B. Kirk, *Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. IV*, 235.

¹⁴³ “Applicants for Appointment, Washington, D.C., *The Baltimore Sun*, 25 March, 1897. Mutual Fire Insurance policy, No. 27396.

¹⁴⁴ A note on the Mutual Fire Insurance policy #27396 dated 19 July 1897 (and when revised in 1902, policy #41821) indicates that the policy is to include the tenant’s share or interest of the hay and grain production. Arthur Stabler (1918), Last Will & Testament, Liber HCA 22, folio 32, Montgomery County Register of Wills. As stated: “To my faithful farmer, Samuel T. Hill, the plot of land which reverted to me from my deceased wife.”

¹⁴⁵ Notes included with the Mutual Fire Insurance policy for Harewood written by Arthur Stabler and dated December 5, 1906 and December 26, 1913 both alert the company that “our home, “Harewood” is closed for the winter.” A handwritten notation on policy #27396 indicates that the property is closed in winter and although not dated, the writing matches that of another notation on the same policy which gives the date 19 July 1897.

one of my mother and the picture of the eight brothers, all in the dining room, also the picture of my father on Chest River and the family picture, both in the parlor.

To my cousin Asa Stabler the high backed chair, brought by our grand parents from Leesburg, Va., and now in my bed room, also my clock in my bedroom.

To my brother, Edward Stabler, Jr., all letters, papers, pictures and documents also book which are now in the chimney room of Harewood and my fountain pen.

To my Cousin Albert Stabler my bid buffalo robe now at Oak Grove, and all my tools and apparatus of every kind in the shop, in fact the entire contents of my shop.

To my niece, Virginia Stabler, all by table silver, my mirror now hanging in the parlor, my little square stand with a shelf beneath, also the small black walnut table with two leaves, made by my father . . .

To my nephew, Maurice Stabler, my side-board and china closet, both in the dining room, my cow, my one-horse market wagon . . . and all my sleighs.”¹⁴⁶

Following the death of Arthur Stabler in 1918, and that of legal owner Jordan Stabler the following year, Harewood sat empty. The tenant house on the farm remained occupied, however, and all the farm buildings were being used or looked after by the tenant.¹⁴⁷ In 1925, Harewood Farm was sold by the trustees of Jordan’s estate ending over two centuries of ownership by the Stabler family.

Harewood in the Post-Stabler Years

Harewood was purchased in 1925 by Dean G. and Alice Acheson as their country retreat, and remained so for over fifty years. Dean Acheson (1893-1971) is best known as Secretary of State under President Harry Truman, from 1949 to 1953, and for his role in helping to define foreign policy during the Cold War era, including his involvement in the development of the post-World War II Marshall Plan and the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). His wife Alice was a watercolor artist whose work appeared in numerous galleries in Washington, D.C. including the Hirsh horn, Corcoran, and Phillips.¹⁴⁸ Their primary residence was in the Georgetown neighborhood of the city, in a handsome brick 1820s home located at 2805 P Street. Their weekends and summers were spent at Harewood, where Mr. Acheson worked in his study or spent his leisure time in his flower garden or building furniture. Mrs. Acheson painted landscapes in her on-site studio. According to son David,

¹⁴⁶ Arthur Stabler, Last Will and Testament.

¹⁴⁷ George A. Solter, trustee, to the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Sandy Spring, Maryland, 9 October 1919; amended policy #54492. According to the policy the house and outbuildings were valued at \$2,990.00 It was noted that “This policy contains a winter vacancy permit clause. As the property is at present vacant the entire year, I am hereby notifying you of this vacancy, and am asking that you endorse upon the policy, which is herewith enclosed, a total vacancy permission. The tenant house on the farm is occupied, and practically all of the outbuildings are in use. I am writing this, so that you may know the buildings are being looked after. “According to Harold Stabler, while tenant farmer or farm hands were poorly paid, they received other forms of compensation. At nearby, “Sharon,” “Our regular monthly farm hand in the 1880s got only \$10 a month (later raised to \$12) but there were other emolument: substantial annual “rations” of flour, bacon and salted herring; his house, rent-free; his fire wood; and a garden plot in which he could raise his own vegetables. I think this was the typical arrangement in the neighborhood at the time. Harold Stabler, 6.

¹⁴⁸ Warren Adler, “Living the Artful Life; Mrs. Dean Acheson,” *Dossier* (March 1980): 32.

Dad loved the farm, the cool evenings, cocktails on the lawn, the physically demanding weekend of riding, building chicken coop jumps over fences, working on the gravel road and drainage ditches, the drive through the countryside to and from Washington, the nineteenth-century civility of the Sandy Spring community. He liked the sound of birds and the mooing of cows in his and the neighbor's fields. He liked being a rural squire with responsibility for a tenant farmer and for farm animals. He kept some Hereford cattle and four or five horses.¹⁴⁹

While their formal entertaining was generally done in their Georgetown home, Harewood was their retreat from Washington life. President Truman and his wife, however, were guests at Harewood.¹⁵⁰

Dean Acheson attended Yale University (1912-1915) and Harvard Law School (1915-1918), where he graduated at the top of his class. He then became a clerk/private secretary to Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, from 1919-1921. He worked for the Washington law firm of Covington & Burling, often dealing with international issues. In 1933 he served briefly as Acting Secretary of the Treasury under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, until a dispute with the president caused him to return to his law practice.¹⁵¹ Beginning in 1941, Acheson served as Assistant Secretary of State, implementing U.S. economic policy through Lend-Lease to provide aid to our allies during World War II. In 1944, Acheson represented the State Department at the Bretton Woods Conference where a post-war international structure was first laid out, including the development of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the agreements on tariffs and trade that eventually lead to the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

Acheson served as Under Secretary from 1945 to 1947, during which time he was instrumental in establishing the European Recovery Program. Along with then Secretary of State George C. Marshall, Acheson designed the economic aid program to Europe that helped restore prosperity and curtail the spread of Soviet communism, known as the Marshall Plan. The four-year plan eliminated trade barriers while rebuilding Europe's industry. In 1946 he chaired a special committee tasked with preparing a plan for the international control of atomic energy that resulted in the influential Acheson-Lilienthal report. He devised much of the strategy that came to define American foreign policy as manifested by the Truman Doctrine, laid out in a speech that Acheson wrote. Outlined in the speech was a plan for the support of Greece and Turkey to prevent its fall to the Soviets that many historians consider the beginning of the Cold War.

In 1947 Acheson was awarded the Medal for Merit from President Harry S. Truman, who appointed him Secretary of State in 1949, a position that he held until January 1953. As Secretary of State, Acheson was the principal architect and signatory for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO was established for the mutual defense of its member nations in Europe and North America in reaction to World War II and Soviet and German aggression. NATO represented a significant break from America's previous policy of avoiding such alliances, which was motivated by both politics and the need for military defense. NATO's

¹⁴⁹ David C. Acheson, *Acheson Country*, 69.

¹⁵⁰ Warren Adler, "Living the Artful Life," 32.

¹⁵¹ Acheson expressed opposition to Roosevelt's plan to inflate the dollar by controlling gold prices.

success was soon tested, proving crucial to defense during the Korean War that broke out in 1950 in attempts to fight the potential alliance of the communist countries of that region. Unfortunately Acheson's efforts toward diplomacy lead to accusations that he was "soft on communism."

Despite his retirement from government in 1953 Acheson continued to be active in Washington politics. He returned to his law practice and remained an influential figure in the Democratic Party, heading a number of the policy groups; in that capacity he became an advisor to both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. In 1964 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor bestowed upon an American citizen. Known for his intelligence, wit and candor, a *New York Times* reporter once said of Dean Acheson, "there is no bolder mind in Washington today, no more thoughtful Friend, no better public servant, no better talker or writer, and no more eloquent critic in a city that has forgotten the function of eloquence, criticism and style."¹⁵² Acheson was also the author of numerous books based on his political experiences including *Power and Diplomacy* (1958), *Morning and Noon* (1965), *Present at the Creation: My Years at the State Department* (1970), and *The Korean War* (1971). He won the Pulitzer Prize for history for *Present at the Creation*. Dean Acheson died at Harewood on October 12, 1971 of a massive stroke at age 78; as was his tendency, he had been working at his desk.

Alice Acheson retained Harewood Farm for a number of years following her husband's death, finally offering it for sale in 1977. It is interesting to note that at that time, the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting considered purchasing Harewood due to its historic location and significance to the community. In support of that effort, a Maryland Historical Trust historic district nomination was prepared by Martha C. Nesbitt, the preface to which states:

Should the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting acquire "Harewood Farm," since 1925 the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Dean G. Acheson on Meeting House Road in Sandy Spring, an historic relationship as old as the meeting itself would be reestablished. Prior to the 52 years of Acheson ownership . . . the Harewood property had been in Quaker hands for six generations, some of that time as part of a 392 acre parcel referred to . . . as "the Tract called the Meeting House land." The boundaries of the tract embraced not only the Meeting's present holdings . . . [the 1817 brick meeting house, the Community House and the graveyard], and the land for some distance on either side of Meeting House Road as it passes through the Auburn and Harewood farms to the sandy spring that in 1753 gave its name to the Meeting, but also some portion of the properties on which the Sandy Spring Friends School and the retirement home, Friends House, are located.¹⁵³

The report, which includes a timeline, provides historical information and outlines the relationship of the original Harewood Farm, referred as "the meeting house tract," with the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. The early twentieth century witnessed the dispersal of many of the historic homes from their original founding families and there was a sense of loss within the Quaker community that would eventually lead to the creation of the Sandy Spring Museum. As was recorded as far back as 1925 in the *Annals of Sandy Spring*, "We of the older generation feel

¹⁵² James Reston, "Washington: The Gentleman From Sandy Spring," *New York Times*, 6 April 1966, 42.

¹⁵³ Martha Nesbitt, "Harewood Farm," Maryland Historical Trust, Inventory Form.

deeply the sale in the past two years of six of our old homes.”¹⁵⁴ Along with Harewood, the neighboring Cherry Grove was also sold; as Roger Farquhar noted, “In 1926 the historic old house was closed, passing from the Thomas family, and the family heirlooms [too] were sold.”¹⁵⁵ Riverton may have been among the six as well, as it left the Peirce/Janney family in 1924 after a century of ownership.

At the same time, the sale of the Harewood property appeared in advertisements such as the one from the *Washington Post*,

We are privileged to offer this fine and historic country property located 20 miles from Washington, DC, near the village of Sandy Spring. “Harewood” the home of the late Dean Acheson, contains 120 acres of gently rolling pasture and field lands and is improved by a late 18th century frame house containing five bedrooms, three baths, sleeping porches, paneled library and separate dining room (Plank floors, low ceiling, and many fireplaces attest to its age.) Other improvements include: a guest house, formerly Edward Stabler’s engraving studio, who, in the early 19th century, struck stamps and seals for state and federal governments; a very attractive artist’s studio built in the midst of the stone foundations of an earlier barn; a small caretaker’s cottage, box gardens and a swimming pool.¹⁵⁶

Dr. Burton Johnson and his wife Martha responded, purchasing Harewood and the surrounding outbuildings on 20 acres of land in November 1977. The Johnsons are both medical professionals.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Harewood is a vernacular log/timber frame house of two-and-a-half stories with rear ells at either end to form a U-shaped configuration. It is a rambling, asymmetrical house that has evolved over more than two centuries and thus reflects the changing ideas about the use of living space. It began as an unassuming hall-and-parlor plan typical of the eighteenth century dwellings of the region, which today forms the large living room that is at the core of the house. In 1821, a dining room was added to the east end of the house. It is separated from the original hall-and-parlor

¹⁵⁴ Annie B. Kirk, *Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. IV*, 472.

¹⁵⁵ Roger B. Farquhar, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County*, 116. The older Thomas homestead, Clifton, however, remained in the family until 1960. Woodlawn, owned by the Palmer family since 1822 was sold in 1912. In 1934, Mount Airy was left the Gilpin/Miller family. Many more of the homes of founding families were sold out of the original families in the 1940s. Auburn, originally the home of William Stabler and Eliza Thomas, sold out of its original family in 1945. Walnut Hill also sold out of the Lea/Gilpin family in 1945. Avalon, also in Sandy Spring left the family in 1947. The last of a long line of Brookes on the Brooke Grove property died in 1941, resulting in the sale of the property, and in 1949 sold the Falling Green portion of the vast Brooke estate that had been in the family in 1745 (although maintaining a life estate).

¹⁵⁶ Advertisement for sale of Harewood, *Washington Post*, 4 December 1976. According to the ad, This property is offered in its entirety at \$497,000. IF SIMULTANEOUS SETTLEMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED, the owner will consider selling 90 acres for \$247,000 and the improvement on 30 acres for \$249,500.

section by a large chimney block, with a passage and cupboards to the front and a small room to the rear now used as a pantry that served for many years as the Sandy Spring Post Office. A new kitchen ell was rear of the dining room, probably at the same time. Despite that changes that allowed for more formal living than was possible in the original hall-and-parlor dwelling, Harewood still lacked formalities such as an open stair hall or passage, or other opportunities for architectural ornament. This was likely a factor of the Stabler family's adherence to Quaker simplicity and the humble nature of farm life. Harewood received numerous upgrades in the twentieth century as its occupants transitioned it from farmhouse to gentlemen's retreat. These included the opening up of the hall-and-parlor to create a large formal living room, with French doors onto an enclosed porch, the addition of an elegant stairway and study to the rear, and other upgrades undertaken in an effort to modernize the house. Porches have also been added to shade the entry and the flanking windows of the original "hall" section and to rear of the main block, between the two rear ells or wings.

2. Condition of fabric: Harewood remains in good condition and does not appear to have been changed significantly since the early to mid-twentieth century.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Harewood is a two-and-a-half story, single pile, five-bay, frame house. The main block measures 43'-8" in length and 18' in depth to include the 1821 dining room addition to the east, which was appended to the original hall-and-parlor section. There is an ell to each end at the rear of the house to form a U-shaped structure. To the east is the kitchen ell, which measures approximately 14' x 14', and includes the kitchen and an enclosed stairway. To the west, the ell includes a stair hall and study, and measures 11-1/2' x 16'.¹⁵⁷ Between the two wings is a two-story, glass-enclosed solarium.

2. Foundations: The house rests on a stone foundation and there is a cellar dug out under the dining room only.

3. Walls: The log walls are cover with wood siding.

4. Structural systems, framing: The house is built of wood and is timber framed using flat sawn lumber in the main block. The framing in dining room section includes log joints that were planed flat at the top to receive the floorboards, but otherwise left in their rough state.

5. Porches, stoops: A porch along the north front elevation covers the main entry and two flanking bays. It is supported by four chamfered posts and has a shed roof covered with raised-seam metal, and a wood floor. It is not original to the house, but a porch was

¹⁵⁷ Measurement derived from the insurance policy.

added to the house by the mid-nineteenth century (mentioned in Katherine Stabler's ca. 1856 letter). The current porch likely dates to 1904, when an addendum to the insurance policy lists among recent improvements, a new porch. It is raised up a single step and includes a simple wood balustrade with squared balusters and molded handrail. The ceiling is of beaded board painted sky blue. There is also a porch along the east side of the house, covering the entrances to the dining room and the kitchen. It is similarly constructed and includes floor to ceiling lattice at the north end.

Two story porches were also added to the west side elevation and to the rear, between the two ell additions. The west end porch, like that along the front, is supported by chamfered posts, but has a gable roof. It is screened at the first floor and has been enclosed with wood siding and louvered glass windows to form a sleeping porch on the second floor. The two-story porch to the rear is also of similar construction, with chamfered posts and is screened on the second floor and largely glass enclosed on the first. This porch also serves as an enclosed breezeway on both floors, linking the rooms in the ells to either side.

6. Chimneys: There is a large internal brick chimney located between the original section of the house and the dining room. Its oversize construction at the juncture of the two parts of the house suggested that they may actually be back-to-back chimneys, although it forms a single narrow stack above the roofline. There is also a small, square, external brick chimney to the center of the east wall of the study in the west ell, and in the east ell, east elevation, at the crux with the main block. A sketch produced by Henry Chandlee Forman ca. 1934 indicates that there was once a large fireplace to the south rear wall of the kitchen, which is now gone.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are numerous entrances to the house, the principal one being to the north front façade, in what would have been the western most of the two bays in the "hall" section of the original hall-and-parlor plan. It is a six-panel, cross-and-open-bible style wood door with molded panels. There is no transom or sidelight and it has a plain surround with a cyma-reversa back-band. There is a simple screen door divided by a rail. An opposing doorway in the south wall now provides entry into the enclosed rear porch, but once led to the outside. Just to the west of it is a new doorway into the stair hall. There is also an exterior door in the east end wall of the dining room. It is a heavy batten door, hung by a strap hinge, into which has been cut a window divided into six lights. The kitchen has opposing exterior doorways to the east and west, the latter of which now exits onto the glass enclosed porch or breezeway (which also has a doorway into the backyard).

b. Windows and shutters: The typical window is a six-over-six-light sash. These are likely replacements for the original windows, made at the turn of the twentieth

century as per the reference to new windows in the 1904 amendment to the insurance policy. Also note that the first-floor windows in the eastern, dining room section sit slightly higher than those of the main block. They have the same surround as the doorway, plain with a cyma-reversa back-band. Most windows also include louvered shutters. The windows in the first floor of the kitchen section are also six-over-six-light sash, grouped in a tripartite arrangement. Those on the second floor are paired casement windows of eight lights each. In the gable end there is a group of two such windows, and a single one appears as a wall dormer to the west side. The western ell contains typical windows, with the exception of the second story, south rear elevation where there is a Palladian-like arrangement of center bay with lower flanking bays, all of louvered glass. On the second floor west side are two wall dormers, the south one also containing louvered glass.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The main block and dining room section are under a single, side gabled roof covered with shingles. The ells or wings form cross gable roofs at a low, two-story height.

b. Cornice, eaves: There is a simple box cornice.

c. Dormers: Dormers appear to the front and rear elevations of the main block, three to each elevation and symmetrically placed along the roof. The dormers have gable roofs with a simple molding in the gable ends and six-over-six-light sash windows. There are also wall dormers to either side of both rear ell additions.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first floor consists of a main block of what was originally a hall-and-parlor plan that has since been opened up with the removal of the partition wall and stair to form a single large room. To the east end of the parlor was appended a dining room that shares a large internal chimney block and includes a passage to the north front and a pantry to the south rear. The passage includes built-in cabinets and pegs mounted on board to hold coats and there is a door at either end. The pantry includes built-in cabinets and shelving. Adjoining the dining room to the rear is a kitchen ell. There is an enclosed stairway along the shared wall with a small passage at either end, with the doorway to the east end including access to the stair. To the other end of the house is a later addition that includes a stair hall that is accessed from the parlor (to the north) and from the breezeway (to the east), behind which is a study. The second floor follows a similar plan.

2. Stairways: The original enclosed stairway was removed, likely about 1936. An elegant stairway and spacious stair hall was added ca. 1902. The sketch made by the

Henry Chandlee Forman about 1934 shows the original stair as an enclosed single-string with a winder at the bottom. The new stairway is a well-executed replica of a period stair. It is an open, two-run stair with winders between each run. It has an elegant balustrade with a tapered newel post and delicate, tapering balusters set on a simple square plinth. Newel posts appear at the top and bottom of the entire stair and at each run, where the handrail rises vertically in a “gooseneck” to meet the next run. The intermediate newel posts drop to form pendants and scrolled cut-outs appear in the ends of each step along the open string. At the top of the stair, the balustrade curves to form a graceful arched overlook. There is an enclosed stair between the kitchen and dining room with a simple molded handrail mounted along the north wall. A steep stair, open to one side with a plain handrail (without balusters) provides access to the third floor (or half-story). It is located at the top of the enclosed stair between the first and second floors.

3. Flooring: Wide plank wood flooring appears throughout the first floor in the older sections of the house.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are of plaster. There is a chair rail in both the parlor and dining rooms although they differ. In the parlor, the chair rail consists of a minimal length of molding perhaps an inch in width. That of the dining room is more substantial consisting of a much wider band with a bead along the bottom edge and a molded lip along the top. It also appears slightly lower on the wall in the dining room than in the parlor, meeting the window surrounds just above the sill (and not aligned with it). In the dining room a simple quarter-round shelf appears mounted in the northwest corner at about eye level, perhaps intended to hold a candle.¹⁵⁸ A narrow cornice molding appears in the parlor only.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The surrounds vary somewhat from room to room and, in some cases, even within rooms. The doorway and window surrounds in the dining room are consistent throughout. It consists of a band with a quirk bead along the inner edge and along the outer edge, a quirked half-round molding. The door on the exterior entry is a heavy batten door with a window divided by six lights cut into it. Although hung by standard hinges, a wrought strap hinge is still located to the top of the door. It has an old lift latch and a scrolled deadbolt. The other doorways, those into the front passage, the pantry, and the kitchen are simple batten doors. The latter two have spring-loaded hinges so that the doors close on their own. The door into the passage has a thumb latch with escutcheon.

¹⁵⁸ A similar mounted shelf appears in the Thomas-Bentley House (Madison House) in nearby Brookeville, built about the same time (ca. 1798) and also by Quakers of the Sandy Spring Meeting.

The doorways surrounds in the parlor, however, vary with almost every one. The exception are the matching doorways toward the southeast corner, one on the east wall that has been filled in and is now used as a shallow bookcase and the other on the south wall that leads to the solarium and has a flat panel cross-and-open-bible door with plate latch hardware. Here the surround consists of a band with a quirk bead along the inner edge and a quirked cyma reversa molding along the outer edge. The molding that surrounds the front door is similar to that found in the dining room, but has a wider band. The door here is also of six flat panels (panels molded on the outside face). The doorway from the parlor into the front passage has a very narrow band and narrow stepped back-band and a batten door with knob and plate latch hardware. The doorway at the south wall leading into the new stair hall is a plain surround with butt joint and matches the surrounds on the windows in the northwest corner of the room. It too has a batten door.

b. Windows: As previously indicated, most of the windows are six-over-six-light sash, although the interior surrounds differ. The dining room surrounds, however, are consistent and match the doorway surrounds. Of the three windows in the parlor, the one at the north front wall is similar to those in the dining room, but has a narrower band, along the same width as the molding along the outer edge. The windows in the northwest corner have plain surrounds and date to a much later period.¹⁵⁹

6. Decorative features and trim: There is very little in the way of decorative features and trim in the house, and there are only two complete fireplaces with mantels, one each in the parlor and dining room. The most decorative is that found in the parlor; it is a vernacular interpretation, with a simple bolection molding around the opening, a five-part frieze with unornamented panels. The mantel shelf has a more complex molding profile that extends outward over the panels at either end. Underneath the shelf runs a molding profile that likewise protrudes over the three panels. The mantel in the dining room is far simpler. It has a narrow wood band with a bolection molding around the opening and a shelf supported by a four-part molding profile. The most distinctive feature of this fireplace is the fire-back that includes the inscription: "E.S. Jr. 1821" presumably for Edward Stabler, Jr., the son of the original owner and second master of Harewood. The second floor chamber above the dining room includes a mantel shelf like that found in the dining room, but the opening has been closed over.

7. Hardware: Harewood includes numerous examples of early and interesting hardware, included including early plate latches, box locks, and butt and strap hinges. As mentioned earlier, the plate latches reflect the transition from early thumb latch hardware to the prevalent use of door-mounted box or rim locks, by using a small brass knob to lift the latch. The plate latch on the rear door in Harewood's parlor, formerly an exterior

¹⁵⁹ These windows do not appear in the HABS sketch plan and are, in fact, located where the former stairway once stood.

door, includes a privacy slide bolt mounted on the plate. The hardware was likely installed during Edward Stabler's renovations ca. 1821.

8. Mechanical equipment: Harewood was reportedly still without central heating, plumbing, and electricity when purchased by the Achesons in 1925. They used the house as a summer house for many years, and thus major changes may not have been made for over a decade; according to their son David, the house was without heat until the 1940s.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: The property known as the Meeting House Tract first developed by William and Deborah Stabler in 1793-94 consisted of approximately 390 acres. In 1816, Deborah later sold 73-1/4 acres to her neighbor, Phillip Thomas of Norwood and at the same time subdivided the remaining acreage into three equally sized tracts or farms of 109-1/2 acres. Lot #1 would later become known as the Auburn Farm, owned and operated by her son William Henry Stabler, whose house is still extant. Lot #2 contained the homestead farm; her son and second owner, Edward Stabler, it later named it "Harewood." Lot #3, known as the Sandy Spring Farm for its proximity to the actual spring, was sold in 1832 to her cousin William Thomas (son of Richard Thomas, Sr.) of adjoining Cherry Grove. The improvements to that farm are no longer extant and the property was donated for the creation of the current Sandy Spring Friends School. Harewood Farm retained its 109-1/2 acres until 1977 when it was sold to the current owners, Burton and Martha Johnson, on twenty acres.

Meeting House Road, upon which Harewood is located, is paved to the Friends Meeting House after which it proceeds past Auburn and on to Harewood as a gravel road. A farm road continues from here, turning to wind its way around the eastern edge of Harewood and proceeding to the actual Sandy Spring where it terminates. An old farm road can also be seen running east-west to the front of Harewood, just beyond the fence that encloses the front yard. Although Harewood has been reduced in acreage, much of the former Harewood property is still farmed by Stabler descendants, and so it retains its rural character. It is planted on a rotating basis with corn and wheat. Likewise, numerous outbuildings are also extant at Harewood that harkens back to its roots as a significant local farmstead, as do other elements of the landscape. Edward Stabler's nineteenth century Harewood Farm included numerous fields and meadows planted in grains and may not differ that significantly from the current view. Other elements, however, such as a large man-made pond stocked with fish, are no longer extant. The immediate area around the house includes fencing and gardens probably added during the Acheson's tenure, beginning in 1925. Boxwoods, for example, now flank the front porch. The Acheson also added a swimming pool located at the edge of the woods to the southwest of the house.

2. Outbuildings: Harewood includes numerous outbuildings that proceed outward from the eastern side of the house, as well as a series of connected sheds and arcaded wood

storage facilities appended to the south rear of the outbuilding located closest to the house, the dairy & meat house. Also of note is Edward Stabler's former Engraving Plant, now used as a guest house. Other structures include a wagon shed, and the remnants of the foundation of the former barn that now embraces an A-frame office, built as Alice Acheson's art studio.

The dairy & meat house is a single story rubble stone structure that may date to the first period of settlement at Harewood, during William & Deborah Stabler's tenure. Beyond its evident antiquity, evidence for this may be the unusually close proximity to the ca. 1821 kitchen ell, suggesting that the dairy & meat house pre-dates it. It is two bays wide and one bay deep and measures 12-1/2' square. There is a doorway to the west side of the front elevation with a six-over-six-light sash window to the other side. At the entrance is a batten door with a narrow wood surround. A four-over-four-light sash window lights the side elevation. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles.

Next in the row and of the greatest significance is the timber framed engraving plant. While from the exterior it appears to be a simple one-and-a-half story, gable fronted frame structure, the timber framing exposed on the interior reveals its true structural system. It is likely that this framing method was employed to support the weight of the engraving press, parts of which are still extant. Covered with wood siding, the building rests on a stone foundation and measures 18' x 36' in size. It is three bays wide and two bays deep with the principle entry to the center of the west facing gable end. The front entry is flanked by small, narrow four-over-four-light sash windows and a slightly smaller such window appears in the gable end. It has a wide batten door hung from the inside by strap hinges. A similar opposing door appears to the rear. The windows to the side elevations (likely not original) are paired six-over-six-light sash windows. Inside, the framing, including cross-bracing and overhead beams, is exposed. The ceiling and flooring are of wood plank. Mounted on overhead beams are the circular components from which the belts that drove the engraving press were positioned and a hatch in the floor provides access to the loft above. The remainder of the workings for the press has been removed and the structure has been renovated for use as a guest house. The rear doorway now leads into a large bathroom addition, with natural stone tile walls and floor.

The foundation of the former barn forms the back wall of a modern A-Frame studio and of the adjoining walled garden. The A-Frame structure has a glass-fronted principle façade that includes sliding glass doors. There is also a wagon shed with shed attachments.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings:

Harewood, First Floor Plan, appearing in: Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Bovine & Associates, 1982; first printed 1934), 115.

Historic American Buildings Survey, "Harewood," Sandy Spring, Maryland, HABS No. MD-601, Supplemental Material, Sketch, prepared by John H. Scarff, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, February 1936.

B. Early views:

Perspective view of North (Front) Elevation, "Harewood, Sandy Spring, latter 19th century," SSM, Box 9, item #83.53.1. View provides evidence for the latter addition of the first story, far western window and the dormers, none of which appear in this late-nineteenth century view.

"Harewood," perspective view of front elevation, appearing in: Henry Chandlee Forman, *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Bovine & Associates, 1982; originally printed 1934), 115.

Historic American Buildings Survey, "Harewood," Sandy Spring, Maryland, HABS No. MD-601, one perspective view each of front elevation of house and of the engraving plant, taken by John O. Brostrup, 5 August 1936.

C. Interviews:

Acheson, Alice, interview with Martha Nesbitt, October 27, 1978, as cited in "Montgomery County Landmarks Survey, Auburn, Harewood, and Sandy Spring Farms."

Johnson, Burton and Alice, interview with Author, at Harewood, November 2012.

D. Bibliography:

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Harewood was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, Richard O'Connor, Chief of the Heritage Documentation program; Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief, HABS, beginning in the fall of 2012. The photography was done by Renee Bieretz, working for HABS, with funding from the Maryland Historical Trust. The accompanying historical report was written by Catherine C. Lavoie. Special thanks to Burton and Martha Johnson for their cooperation and hospitality.

Figure #1: Framing as seen under the main block of the house, looking from cellar under the dining room section. Note the flat or pit sawn timbers, notched onto sill plate, the markings of hewn timbers and markings/notching that could indicate the reuse of some timbers. The following photographs were taken by Catherine C. Lavoie in 2013.



Figure #2: Molding profile around parlor window, first period construction.



Figure #3: Molding profile around dining room window, second period of development.



Figure #4: Mantel in parlor.



Figure #5: Mantel in dining room.



Figure #6: Fire-back in dining room fireplace, which reads: "E.S. Jr 1821"



Figure #7: Knob and latch door hardware, ca. 1821



Figure #8: Knob & latch door hardware with security bolt, parlor door that originally opened to the exterior (back) of the house, now enters onto enclosed porch.



Figure #9: Strap hinge on exterior door in the dining room.



Figure #10 & #11: Stairway in stair hall to rear of parlor, ca. 1902 Colonial Revival addition

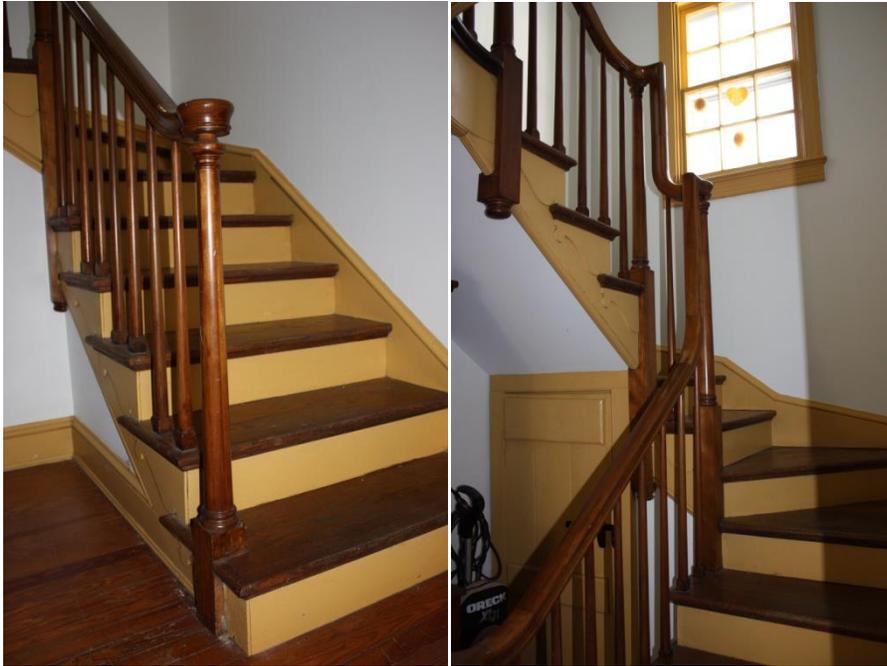


Figure #12: Stairway from second floor

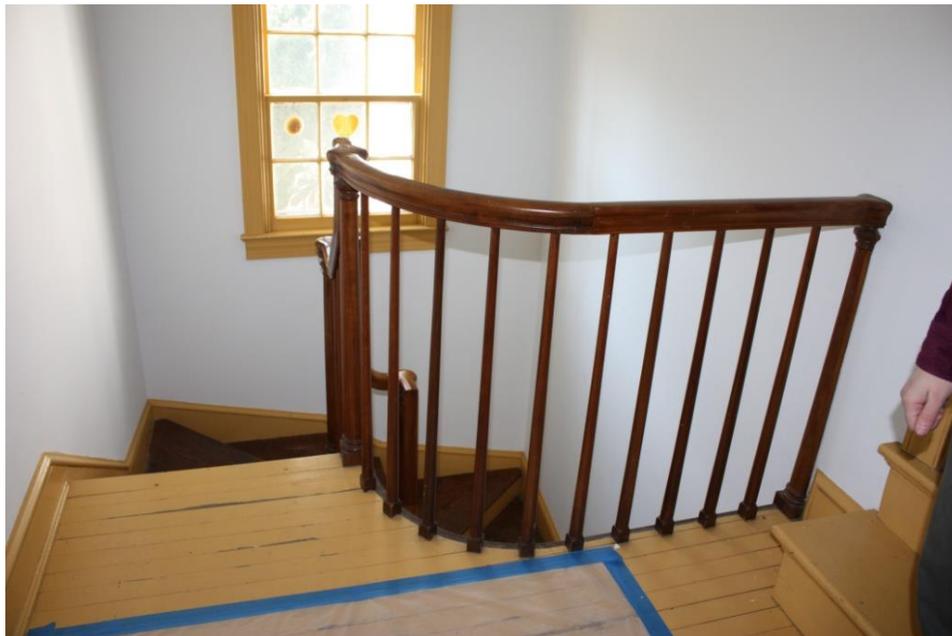


Figure #13 Historic View of Harewood, late nineteenth century; Sandy Spring Museum, negative #241, Box 9, 83.53.1.

