™ Montgomery Planning

WILSON AND CHARLOTTE JORDAN HOUSE, GERMANTOWN (M:19-13-8)—EVALUATION FOR THE LOCATIONAL ATLAS & INDEX OF HISTORIC SITES



Description

Public hearing, worksession, and action to evaluate 19323 Liberty Mill Road (M:19-13-8), Germantown, for listing in the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites*.



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SUMMARY

- The Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House is a Folk Victorian house constructed ca. 1885 (Figure 1).
- The Planning Board listed the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House in the *Locational Atlas & Index* of Historic Sites as a resource in the Germantown Locational Atlas District in 1976 (Figure 3).
- In 1984, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recommended that the Germantown Locational Atlas District be listed in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. The proposed environmental setting for the district included the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House.
- In 1988, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted the Planning Board Draft of Germantown Master Plan that adopted the HPC's proposed boundary for the Germantown Master Plan Historic District (Figure 4).
- In 1989, the County Council included the Germantown Master Plan Historic District designation in the *Germantown Master Plan* (1989), but revised the HPC and Planning Board's environmental setting, reducing it to the current boundary that excluded the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House (*Figure 5*).
- The *Germantown Master Plan* (1989) changed the zoning of the property to C-T (Commercial Transition Zone). The *MARC Rail Communities Sector Plan* (2019) confirmed its Commercial Residential Neighborhood zone (C-0.5, R-0.25, H-35).
- In April 2025, the Germantown Historical Society requested that the HPC evaluate the property for designation as a historic site. On June 11, 2025, the HPC found that the property satisfied three designation criteria and recommended that the Planning Board list the resource in the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites*.

INFORMATION

Draft

Evaluation for the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic

Sites

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<u>Date</u>

July 3, 2025

Planning Division

Historic Preservation Division

<u>Planning Board Information</u>

МСРВ

Item No. 8

July 10, 2025



The red pin marks the location of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, approximately 375 feet south of the CSX/MARC rail lines in Germantown.

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BACKGROUND

WILSON AND CHARLOTTE JORDAN HOUSE (M:19-13-8)

The Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House is located on the east side of Liberty Mill Road (formerly Germantown Road) south of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tracks in Germantown (*Figures 1-2* and *7-8*). In 1976, the Montgomery County Planning Board listed the subject property to the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites* as a resource in the Germantown Locational Atlas District (M: 17-19).¹

In the 1984 and 1988, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Planning Board, respectively, held public hearings and worksessions on historic resources in the boundary of the *Comprehensive Amendment to the Germantown Master Plan* (1989).² Both bodies recommended establishing a Germantown Master Plan Historic District and agreed on a proposed environmental setting that included the subject property (*Figure 4*). The County Council ultimately designated the Germantown Master Plan Historic District, but significantly reduced its environmental setting, excluding the Wilson & Charlotte Jordan House and many other homes on the east side of Liberty Mill Road (*Figure 5*).

Three houses were included as named contributing resources within the historic district:

- Harris/Alnutt House (19390 Mateny Hill Road),
- Anderson/Johnson House (19310 Mateny Hill Road); and,
- Rayfield/Browning House (19215 Blunt Avenue).

The Council also individually designated three homes—located within the HPC's and Planning Board's broader proposed environmental setting but outside of the Council's approved Germantown Master Plan Historic District—as individual Master Plan Historic Sites:

- Upton Bowman House (19219 Liberty Mill Road),
- Wallich/Heimer House (19120 Mateny Hill Road); and,
- Pumphrey/Mateney House (19401 Walter Johnson Road).³

The County Council found that these houses along with the commercial resources reflected the settlement of Germantown, the lifestyle of its residents, and individuals connected to its development (*Figures 5-6*).⁴

¹ Montgomery County Planning Board, *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring, MD: M-NCPPC, 1976), Map 7, Page 9.

² This document will refer to the *Comprehensive Amendment to the Germantown Master Plan* as the *Germantown Master Plan* (1989).

³ In 1989, the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's *The Preservationist* noted that the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee of the County Council recommended a smaller historic district as part of its recommendation to the full council. "County Council Creates Small Germantown District," *The Preservationist*, 4, No, 5 (May/June 1989): 1.

⁴ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Approved and Adopted Comprehensive Amendment to the Germantown Master Plan* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, July 1989), 233, https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GermantownMasterPlan1989ocr300.pdf.

The County Council included specific language for 19323 Liberty Mill Road (formerly Germantown Road) in the *Germantown Master Plan* (1989):

The property at 19323 Germantown Road and the adjoining vacant lot [to the rear] are suitable for low-intensity office uses and should be rezoned C-T (Commercial Transition) Zone, but the following issues of compatibility need to be addressed at the time of subdivision and/or site plan review:

- Preservation of the existing single-family detached residential character and setbacks.
- Visual screening of parking areas.
- Retention of existing trees.⁵

The property retained its current Commercial Residential Neighborhood zone with a floor area ratio of C-0.5, R-0.25, and H-35 as part of the *MARC Rail Communities Sector Plan* (2019). The property remains surrounded by lots zoned R-200 on the east side of Liberty Mill Road.

Freddie Mac gained possession of the property in August 2024. The Germantown Historical Society requested that the HPC explore listing the Jordan House as a historic site on April 15, 2025. On June 11, 2025, the HPC held its public hearing, worksession, and action on the evaluation of the subject property for inclusion to the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites*. Historic Preservation staff recommended against the designation, finding that the property was relatively undistinguished and met none of the designation criteria for architectural or historical significance. The HPC came to a different conclusion, finding that the Jordan House met three designation criteria as outlined in 24A-3(b) of the County Code and recommended that the Planning Board list the property in the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites*.

The Planning Board has not evaluated the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, on its own merits, for designation as a Locational Atlas Site or Master Plan Historic Site under the designation criteria outlined in 24A-3(b) of the Montgomery County Code. As part of this evaluation, the Planning Board will assess the property's architectural and historical significance and may balance the importance of the property against other public interests as permitted in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* (pg. 22). Should the Planning Board add the property to the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites*, HP staff would prepare an amendment to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* to designate the Jordan House as a Master Plan Historic Site. Because the property has already been thoroughly researched by historic preservation staff and other interested parties, no new historical information would be presented to the HPC or Planning Board in future worksessions. Staff would reformat this memorandum and proceed with the master plan amendment process—public hearings and

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⁵ Ibid, 59.

⁶ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Approved and Adopted MARC Rail Communities Sector Plan* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2019), 89.

worksessions with the HPC and Planning Board—to move forward the item to the County Council in 2026. Historic Preservation staff continue to recommend the denial of the listing.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House is situated on a .19-acre, rectangular parcel, mid-block on the east side of Liberty Mill Road, approximately 375 feet south of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tracks (*Figure 1*). Taxation maps identify the property as Parcel 213 (*Figure 2*). The topography gently slopes downward from the north to the south toward the railroad tracks. The subject wood-frame house is set back 18 feet from the road, separated by a maintained lawn (*Figures 7-8*). A concrete walkway leads from the street to the front porch and bisects the front yard. To the south of the house, an asphalt driveway provides access to a one story, wood-frame, single-car garage in the southeast corner of the rear yard (*Figure 16*). Demarcations of the property is limited to a metal chain-link along its northern edge.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, built ca. 1885, reflects the Folk Victorian style. The simple wood-frame, L-shaped dwelling features a two-story, three-bay, side-gable house with a full-width, front porch fronting Liberty Mill Road. A two-story, rear gable ell extends from its southern extent and a small, one-story, hipped-roof, wood-frame addition is situated along the north elevation of the ell.

The house rests on an irregular-course, uncut, rubble stone foundation. The foundation supports a wood-frame structural system clad in wood lap siding. The original siding, however, was covered with non-historic vinyl siding in 1989. The asphalt-shingle gable roofs feature boxed eaves with gable-end returns. Three internal, gable-end, corbeled brick chimneys pierce the roof towards the gable ends. The northern chimney on the side-gable section of the house has been replaced. Typical fenestration consists of non-historic, one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash windows adorned with fixed, louvered, replacement shutters. All the wood window frames and sills have been wrapped with non-historic materials.

The façade (west elevation) of the house is highlighted by a full-width, one-story, wood-frame porch that rests on a pier brick foundation with lattice infill. Two engaged turned wood pilasters and four turned wood posts support the non-historic, asphalt shingle, hipped roof. Decorative porch details are confined to jigsaw-cut corner brackets. The porch shelters the first story that consists of a centrally located single-light, three-panel, single-leaf, wood door with a rectangular transom flanked

⁷ Oral tradition suggests that the rear section of the house is older, but there is no archival or architectural evidence from the exterior survey to confirm such conclusions.

⁸ The original wood siding on the rear ell, however, remains exposed on the interior of the infilled one-story rear addition.

⁹ Photographs of the façade from the 1980s show two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

¹⁰ Photographs of the porch from the 1980s depict a standing seam metal roof.

by typical windows. The door is protected by a metal storm door. The second story repeats the fenestration pattern with symmetrically placed windows.

The south elevation (side) of the house consists of the side-gable section and the rear ell. Fenestration is minimal, with single aligned windows positioned on the eastern extents of the side-gable section and rear ell, respectively, on both the first and second stories.

The rear elevation (east) of the house has the two-story gable ell on its southern extent, the one-story, infill addition, and the set back side-gable section. Fenestration on the rear ell is limited to a four-light, three-panel, single-leaf, wood door protected with a metal storm door. Similarly, there is no fenestration on the east elevation of the infill addition. The setback side-gable section, partially obscured by the one-story addition, features a single typical window on the first story and two typical windows on the second story.

The north (side) elevation consists of the rear ell partially obscured by the one-story addition and the side-gable section. The one-story addition is accessed by a wood stair that leads to a four-light, three-panel, single-leaf, wood door towards its eastern extent. At the eastern and western extents of the addition are small, single one-over-one, vinyl-sash windows. Above the addition is the second story of the rear ell that features two typical windows. The foundation of the side-gable section is pierced by a two-leaf, metal cellar door that access the basement. There is no other fenestration on the gable end.

See *Figures 9-15* for photographs of the house from the 1980s and 2025.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

HISTORY OF GERMANTOWN

The following is an excerpt of the history of Germantown from the *Places from the Past* (2011):

The initial Germantown settlement clustered around the intersection of Clopper and Liberty Mill Roads. German natives Jacob and Dorothy Snyder had established a farm in 1836. By 1850, several other German families settled nearby and, by 1865, developed a commercial crossroads known as Germantown. After the introduction of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad, the community known as Germantown Station grew about one mile north of the original crossroads community. Present-day Liberty Mill and Walter Johnson Roads were the original Germantown Road. The railroad enabled farmers to ship their produce, grain, and milk to Washington, as well as receive fertilizers to enrich the soil for larger yields. The Germantown B&O Railroad Station, built in 1891, replaced an earlier small railroad station located there in 1878. The frame structure was rebuilt, following a 1978 fire, and serves modern-day commuters traveling to jobs downcounty and in Washington, D.C....

¹¹ It is unknown if the vinyl siding obscured any additional window openings.

The Germantown community became the center of commercial activity when the Bowman Brothers built a new steam-driven flour and corn mill next to the new railroad depot, making obsolete the earlier water-driven mills in the area. Bowman Brothers Mill was built in 1888 at the south side of Liberty Mill Road along the railroad tracks. The wooden flour mill burned in 1914, but was rebuilt and modernized in 1916 with six huge silos. In 1918, Augustus Selby and his 4 partners bought the mill, renamed it Liberty-Mill, and operated it until 1963. A grain elevator and grain dryer were part of the operation in the 1920s and 30s, but burned in 1972 after the mill had closed....

Germantown's commercial district grew along Mateny Hill Road between the train station and Liberty Mill Road. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Germantown had two general stores, a post office, three churches, a bank, doctor's office, barber shop, and school. ...Numerous other service businesses in this vicinity included a feed store, carriage making shop, several warehouses, and a stockyard.¹²

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS OWNERS

WILLIAM W. AND HENRY W. BLUNT

In May 1873, Douglas and Mary Clopper—who owned substantial land in Germantown—sold 89 acres within the Chestnut Ridge land patent to William W. Blunt and Henry W. Blunt for \$3,100. 13 William W. and Henry W. were the sons of Samuel and Harriet Blunt, who owned a large plantation in the Clarksburg Election District where they enslaved at least 38 African Americans. 14 William W. married Elizabeth M. Dorsey on March 28, 1861. 15 Prior to Maryland's emancipation of enslaved people in 1864, William W. and Elizabeth owned at least 15 African Americans from the Prather and Hall families. 16 By the 1870s, William W. lived near Germantown, while Henry W. resided in Washington, D.C. 17 In addition to farming, William W. held several public positions, including county commissioner, and was at one point chief-clerk for the office of Collector of Tolls for the C&O Canal in Georgetown. 18

¹² Claire Lise Kelly, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez-Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring, MD: M-NCPPC, 2011), 188.

¹³ In July 1873, the *Montgomery County Sentinel* reported that "Mr. Douglas Clopper, near Germantown, in this county, sold, last week, a small farm of 140 acres to Mr. W. W. Blunt of the same neighborhood, for \$5,600, which was \$40 per acre." Additional deed research and GIS analysis would be required to determine the boundary of this property as its acreage differs from the land records. Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Douglas Clopper and Mary S. Clopper to William W. Blunt and Henry W. Blunt," May 30, 1873, Liber 13, Folio 388.

¹⁴ The 1840 and 1850 United States Slave Schedule records that Samuel Blunt owned 18 and 20 enslaved persons, respectively. In 1860, Harriet W. Blunt, his widowed wife, owned 38 enslaved persons. Montgomery County Planning Department, "Database of Known Slaveholders," 2022.

¹⁵ Maryland, Marriages, 1666-1970, "William W. Blunt to Elizabeth M. Dorsey," FamilySearch.

¹⁶ Montgomery County Planning Department, "Database of Known Slaveholders," 2022.

¹⁷ United States Federal Census, "William Blunt," (1870), Ancestry; United States Federal Census, "Harry W. Blunt," (1870), Ancestry

¹⁸ "Further Telegraphic Summary," *Baltimore Sun*, April 22, 1882, Newspapers.com; "Local and Personal," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, April 21, 1882, Chronicling America.

On February 13, 1882, the Blunts sold 65 square perches of their property—now present-day Parcels 212 and 213 (*Figure 2*)—to James Edmund Wallich for \$75.¹⁹

JAMES AND ANNIE WALLICH²⁰

James Edmund Wallich was born in 1845 in Howard County, Maryland. ²¹ In 1875, James married Anna "Annie" Rebecca Bennett. ²² In 1882, James and Annie Wallich acquired the subject property from William W. and Henry W. Blunt for \$75. ²³ Since they owned the property for only two years, Montgomery County tax assessment records do not reflect their ownership. However, the low purchase price suggests the property had no improvements at that time. By the late nineteenth century, James Wallich had transitioned to carpentry and house construction. ²⁴ In 1895, the *Evening Star* reported the following:

Mr. P. E. Waters of Germantown has purchased a building lot at that place...upon which he proposes to erect a commodious dwelling house. The contractors for building the same are E Emmerson of Boyd's and J. E. Wallach of Germantown.

...Mr. J. E. Wallach has been awarded the contract for building a public school house at Germantown.²⁵

On August 13, 1884, the Wallichs sold present-day Parcels 212 and 213 to Mary V. and Edgar D. Vinson for \$800.²⁶ This conveyance likely included the construction costs for Wallich to build the Vinsons the subject house. On October 18, 1884, the Vinsons secured an additional mortgage on the property for \$162.50.²⁷ Tax assessment records from 1885 listed "Edgard D. Vinson" as the owner of an "Improved Lot in Germantown," valued at \$400 for the land and \$75 for improvements.²⁸ The low improvement value suggests that the house was unfinished at the time of the assessment. Based on this evidence coupled with an examination of the architecture of the building, staff estimates the house was built around 1885.

¹⁹ The chain of title from Clopper to Blunt to Willach is substantiated by the inclusion of Albert G. Gilpin as one of the grantors and reference to the 1878 mortgage in the conveyance. Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Harry W. D. Blunt, William W. Blunt, Elizabeth M. Blunt, and Albert G. Gilpin to James Edmund Wallich," July 29, 1878, Liber 26, Folio 95.

²⁰ The spelling of the family name varies in the historical records including "Wallich" and "Wallach."

²¹ United Sates Federal Census, "James E. Wallich," (1870), Ancestry.

²² Maryland, U.S., Compiled Marriage, 1667-1899, "James E. Wallich to Annie R. Bennett," Ancestry.

²³ Annie Wallach isn't listed on the conveyance from Blunt to Wallich, but is listed on the subsequent conveyance from Wallich to Vinson. Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Harry W. D. Blunt, William W. Blunt, Elizabeth M. Blunt, and Albert G. Gilpin to James Edmund Wallich," July 29, 1878, Liber 26, Folio 95.

²⁴ The 1900 United States Federal Census listed his and his 16-year-old son (John Ira Wallach) occupations as "Carpenter House." United States Federal Census, "James E. Wallek," (1900), Ancestry.

²⁵ "Rockville," *Evening Star*, August 12, 1895, Newspapers.com.

²⁶ Edgar D. Vinson is not listed on the initial conveyance. Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Harry W. D. Blunt, William W. Blunt, Elizabeth M. Blunt, and Albert G. Gilpin to James Edmund Wallich," July 29, 1878, Liber 26, Folio 95.

²⁷ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Edgar D. Vinson and Mary V. Vinson indebted to Benson Talbott," October 18, 1884, Liber 33, Folio 273.

²⁸ Montgomery County Department of Taxation, "Edgard D. Vinson," 1876-1896, T221-8, Maryland State Archives.

MARY AND EDGAR VINSON

Mary V. Vinson was born in Montgomery County in 1849.²⁹ She was the daughter of William and Jane Rice (nee Rhodes), wealthy Virginian plantation owners who relocated to Montgomery County in 1840. The Rice family owned at least 17 enslaved African Americans.

On February 27, 1873, Mary married Edgar D. Vinson at her father's residence.³⁰ By 1880, the couple rented a house in the Darnestown, 4th Election District, of Montgomery County.³¹ The census listed Edgar as a farmer and Mary managed the household.³² In 1884, the couple purchased the subject property at Germantown and built the house around 1885. Between 1884 and 1891, Edgar Vinson served as a constable and ran unsuccessfully for Sheriff of Montgomery County.³³ By 1897, county tax records listed him as owning a "Lot in Germantown (Chest. Ridge)" with a land value of \$50 and improvement value of \$665, confirming the presence of the house by that time.

Mary Vinson passed away intestate in 1894, leaving the ownership of the property uncertain. Although Edgar was listed on the mortgage, the land had been conveyed directly to Mary Vinson from James and Annie Wallich without her husband's involvement. Her heirs included Edgar and their children—Jennie, Eva, Edgar, and Herbert. All the children were adults except Herbert. His minor status complicated the title to the property, but on September 25, 1901, the adult heirs transferred ownership of the property (Parcels 212 and 213) to Mary's sister, Lacy T. Galleher, for \$800.³⁴

LACY AND JOSEPH GALLEHER

Lacy T. (nee Rice) Galleher was born in 1853 and was the sister of Mary V. Vinson.³⁵ She married James Clark (better known as Clark) Galleher on August 3, 1881.³⁶ By 1900, the couple and their three children rented a house in Gaithersburg, Election District 9.³⁷ The United States Census listed Clark's occupation as a grocery clerk.³⁸

²⁹ Chapman Publishing Company, *Portrait and Biographical Records of the Sixth Congressional District, Maryland* (New York: Chapman Publishing Company, 1898), 672-673, Archive.org.

³⁰ "Marriages," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, March 7, 1873, Chronicling America.

³¹ United States Federal Census, "Edgar Vinson," (1880), Ancestry.

³² Ibid.

^{33 &}quot;Expenses of Montgomery County," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, August 22, 1884, Chronicling America; "Expenses of Montgomery County," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, September 11, 1885, Chronicling America; "Vote at Primary Elections," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, July 29, 1887, Chronicling America; "Democratic Primary Ticket," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, July 15, 1887, Chronicling America; "Expenses of Montgomery County," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, August 31, 1888; "Expenses of Montgomery County," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, September 5, 1890, Chronicling America; "Expenses of Montgomery County," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, September 18, 1891, Chronicling America.

³⁴ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Edgar D. Vinson, Jennie L. Rice, George W. Vinson, Eva N. Vinson, Edgar A. Vinson, Laura C. Linthicum, and Herbert W. Linthicum to Lacy T. Galleher," September 25, 1901, Liber 19, Folio 84.

³⁵ Chapman Publishing Company, *Portrait and Biographical Records of the Sixth Congressional District, Maryland* (New York: Chapman Publishing Company, 1898), 672-673, Archive.org.

³⁶ "Celebrate Golden Wedding," Montgomery County Sentinel, August 7, 1931, Chronicling America.

³⁷ United States Federal Census, "Clark Galleher," (1900), Ancestry.

³⁸ Ibid.

In 1901, Lacy Galleher acquired the subject property, and her family moved into the house.³⁹ However, the Gallehers' ownership of the property remained clouded due to her underage nephew, who was unable to divest his interest in the land. In 1904, the Montgomery County Circuit Court ordered the sale of the property at public auction.⁴⁰ *The Advocate* advertised the sale as follows:

This property consists of a lot in the village of Germantown, at Germantown Station, on the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, containing 65 Square Perches, of land, more or less, improved by a frame DWELLING HOUSE, containing six rooms. The house is in good repair, the lot is well fenced and there is upon it a well of fine water. This property fronts on the road leading to what is known as Old Germantown and is the property where Mrs. Lacy T. Galleher now resides.⁴¹

Lacy Galleher repurchased the property at auction for \$900. 42 In 1910, the couple divided the property, selling the northern section (present-day Parcel 212) to her nieces Jennie Longstreet Rice and Lizzie Rice, daughters of George R. Rice. 43 On July 29, 1926, the Gallehers sold the subject property and house to Lucy W. Selby. 44

AUGUSTUS AND LUCY SELBY

In 1908, the *Democratic Advocate* reported that Lucy W. Fogle married Augustus R. Selby in Sykesville, Maryland. In 1918, the Selbys moved to Germantown, established the Liberty Milling Company, and purchased a no longer extant house across from the subject property on Liberty Mill Road where they lived.⁴⁵ After Lucy Selby acquired the subject property in 1926, the Selbys likely rented the house as an investment, though the identities of the early tenants remain unknown. In 1951, the Selbys conveyed the property to Willard W. and Joan S. Wiley, who immediately transferred it back to them the same day.⁴⁶ Willard, the assistant manager at Liberty Mill, owned property across the street. Augustus Selby

³⁹ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Edgar D. Vinson, Jennie L. Rice, George W. Vinson, Eva N. Vinson, Edgar A. Vinson, Laura C. Linthicum, and Herbert W. Linthicum to Lacy T. Galleher," September 25, 1901, Liber 19, Folio 84.

⁴⁰ Montgomery County Circuit Court Equity Papers, "Lacy T. Galleher vs. Herbert N. Vinson," T415-157, Box 155, Case Number 2123, Maryland State Archives.

⁴¹ "New Advertisements, Trustees' Sale," *The Advocate*, November 11, 1904, in Montgomery County Circuit Court Equity Papers, "Lacy T. Galleher vs. Herbert N. Vinson," T415-157, Box 155, Case Number 2123, Maryland State Archives.

⁴² Hebert Vinson, her nephew, received one-sixth of the sale proceeds (\$126.10), while Lacy received five-sixths (\$630.50) after legal and other expenses. Shortly thereafter, Lacy and her husband secured a \$590 mortgage on the property from her brother,

legal and other expenses. Shortly thereafter, Lacy and her husband secured a \$590 mortgage on the property from her brother, George R. Rice. Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Lacy T. Galleher and Joseph Clark Galleher indebted to George R. Rice," January 17, 1905, Liber 181, Folio 420; Montgomery County Circuit Court Equity Papers, "Lacy T. Galleher vs. Herbert N. Vinson," T415-157, Box 155, Case Number 2123, Maryland State Archives.

⁴³ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Lacy T. Galleher and Joseph Clark Galleher to Jennie Longstreet Rice and Lizzie Rice," July 27, 1910, Liber 214, Folio 270.

⁴⁴ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Lacy T. Galleher and Joseph Clark Galleher to Lucy W. Selby," July 28, 1926, Liber 404, Folio 438.

⁴⁵ "Maryland," *The Grain Dealers' Journal*, 42 (September 10, 1919): 71; Maryland Historical Trust, "Germantown Historic District," https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2019-13.pdf.

⁴⁶ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Lucy W. Selby and Augustus R. Selby to Willard W. Wiley and Joan S. Wiley," February 13, 1951, Liber 1492, Folio 69; Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Willard W. Wiley and Joan S. Wiley to Lucy W. Selby and Augustus R. Selby," February 13, 1951, Liber 1492, Folio 71.

died in 1963, and Lucy Selby died in 1971. Their son, R. Landon Selby, assumed control of the subject property as a trustee in 1967.

WILSON AND CHARLOTTE JORDAN AND RECENT OWNERSHIP

As noted in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form, oral tradition suggest that the Selbys provided the property rent-free to Emory Wilson (known as Wilson) and Charlotte (nee Keefer) Jordan starting in 1951.⁴⁷ In 1926, the Jordans first lived in the Methodist parsonage in Goshen, Virginia, where the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, assigned him for his ministry work.⁴⁸ After four years in Virginia, the Conference reassigned Wilson to Clarksburg, Montgomery County, in 1930.⁴⁹ In 1932, Jordan stopped ministerial work and shifted his career to electrical contracting.

After the couple relocated to the subject house at Germantown in 1951, they remained actively involved with the church community. According to the *Montgomery County Sentinel*, Charlotte served as the Spiritual Life Chairman at Trinity Methodist Church and hosted organizational meetings for the Women's Society of Christian Services at their home. ⁵⁰ In 1986, Trinity Methodist Church honored Wilson and Charlotte with the installation of a stained-glass window. ⁵¹

Beyond their church involvement, the Jordans participated in community affairs. According to the Germantown Historical Society, Wilson was a founding member of the local chapter of the Lions Club and received a service recognition award in 1984.⁵² Additionally, the *Washington Post* reported that Wilson played Santa Claus for Germantown's annual Christmas tree lighting at the post office for at least 35 years.⁵³

The Jordans remained at the subject house until 1986. R. Landon Selby sold the property to Swink Enterprises, which led to their eviction.⁵⁴ Charlotte and Wilson died in 1989 and 1995, respectively.

⁴⁷ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, "Jordan House," (2024), https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2019-13-8.pdf.

⁴⁸ "Jordan-Keefer," *The Daily News Leader*, June 21, 1926, Newspapers.com.

⁴⁹ Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *General Minutes and Yearbook, for 1926-1927* (Nashville, TN: Publishing House, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1927), 17; Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *General Minutes and Yearbook, for 1927-1928* (Nashville, TN: Publishing House, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1928), 65; Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *General Minutes and Yearbook, for 1929-1930* (Nashville, TN: Publishing House, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1930), 29; Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *General Minutes and Yearbook, for 1930-1931* (Nashville, TN: Publishing House, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1931), 27; Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *General Minutes and Yearbook, for 1931-1932* (Nashville, TN: Publishing House, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1932), 25.

⁵⁰ "Clarksburg News," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, April 23, 1952, Chronicling America; "Gaithersburg," *Montgomery County Sentinel*, March 10, 1960, Chronicling America.

⁵¹ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, "Jordan House," (2024), https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2019-13-8.pdf. ⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Eugene L. Meyer, "Germantown: Zip Code Seeking Identity," Washington Post, March 17, 1987, Proquest.

⁵⁴ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "R. Landon Selby, Trustee, to Swink Enterprises, LTD," December 31, 1986, Liber 7528, Folio 625.

Swink Enterprises utilized the house as their office for several years before they sold the property to John and Mary Matheson in 2004. 55 Freddie Mac acquired the property in 2024. 56

STAFF EVALUATION

BACKGROUND

The Montgomery County Planning Board initially listed the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House as part of the Germantown Locational Atlas District—one of the original districts included in the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites* in 1976.

During the 1980s, the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, and County Council evaluated the Germantown Locational Atlas District for potential designation in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. The HPC and Planning Board proposed including the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House within the Germantown Master Plan Historic District's environmental setting. However, when the County Council designated the Master Plan District, it excluded the Jordan House and several other properties. While three of those excluded properties were listed by the County Council as Master Plan Historic Sites, the Council declined to grant the same recognition to the Jordan House.

At the request of the Germantown Historical Society, the HPC held its public hearing and worksession on the evaluation of the subject property as a standalone site for listing in the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites* on June 11, 2025. The HPC found that the property met three designation criteria as outlined in 24A-3(b) of the County Code.

<u>Historical and Cultural Significance</u>

1.D The historic resource exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

HPC Justification: "The property had a long history of local involvement with the community, it was built by a local builder."

<u>Architectural and Design Significance</u>

- 2.A The historic resource embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.
- 2.D The historic resource represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

⁵⁵ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, "Jordan House," (2024), https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2019-13-8.pdf.

⁵⁶ Montgomery County Circuit Court, "Diana S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, Miroslav Nikolov to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, trustee for Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust," August 12, 2024, Liber 68450, Folio 38.

HPC Justification: "The property represents an architectural type familiar of the period and the area. It is certainly part of a larger architectural style of the community and neighborhood and a recognized structure over a significant period of time."

DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Staff finds that the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House does not satisfy the designation criteria for either historical and cultural significance or architectural and design significance and recommends the Planning Board deny the designation request.

<u>Historical and Cultural Significance:</u> The subject property does not meet the designation criteria as a Master Plan Historic Site for historical and cultural significance. Elements such as nostalgia, age, or the retention of architectural integrity (e.g., design, form) are not, in isolation, sufficient to confer historic significance. For inclusion in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*, a site must demonstrate an exceptional connection to the past at the county, state, or national level.

Examples of recently designated sites or sites under active review that met this threshold includes:

- Heffner Park Community Center (M:37-61) for its role in the development of an African
 American neighborhood in the City of Takoma Park, the leadership and advocacy of Lee
 Jordan who is widely recognized as one of the most influential leaders in the city's history,
 and its reminder of racial segregation in public facilities. The County Council designated
 the property in 2024.
- Krestview (M:37-57) for its association with the growth of Seventh-Day Adventist
 institutions in Takoma Park and the contributions of Drs. Lauretta and Daniel Kress who
 were significant public health advocates. Lauretta Kress was among the first women
 licensed as a physician and surgeon in Montgomery County. The house also served as a
 home medical office that provided vital services to the community. The County Council
 designated the property in 2024.
- Romeo and Elsie Horad House (M:31-87) as a unique resource that represents the development of the historic African American community in Wheaton and its connection to the Webster-Sewell-Horad family. Romeo W. Horad, along with other members of the family, improved the lives of African Americans in Montgomery County and challenged discriminatory housing practices in the twentieth century. Horad's civil rights actions culminated in an unprecedented candidacy for the Montgomery County Council in 1948. His candidacy paved the way for African Americans to engage in local politics. The HPC and Planning Board approved its designation in 2025, and the property is pending review by the County Council in 2026.

• Timberlawn (M:30-11) remains as the only extant part of the former 280-acre estate where Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Camp Shriver in 1962. This unique summer camp, designed for children with intellectual disabilities, inspired and led to the creation of the Special Olympics. Eunice Shriver, a lifelong advocate for disability rights, revolutionized physical recreation for individuals with intellectual disabilities while living at Timberlawn. She personally elevated national awareness and initiated candid discussions regarding individuals with intellectual disabilities. The HPC and Planning Board approved its designation in 2024 and 2025, respectively, and the property is pending review by the County Council in 2025.

In contrast, the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House lacks exceptional character, interest, or value in relation to development of the county, state, or nation, and does not exemplify its cultural, economic, social, or political heritage. Every building contributes to the county's collective heritage, but not all buildings are important to understanding development patterns or the county's past. While the Jordan House dates to Germantown's early development, it does not independently represent a significant historic trend in the community's growth. In certain instances, the importance of a site may be elevated due to a scarcity of resources that reflect a specific period or context, but that is not applicable in this case. In 1989, the County Council designated six single-family dwellings from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries—three within the Germantown Master Plan Historic District and three as Master Plan Historic Sites—because they reflected the character defining features of Germantown and the individuals significant to its early development. The protection of these resources will preserve the historic character of the community moving forward.

Additionally, the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House lacks a meaningful association with a notable event or individual who made substantial contributions to society. While Augustus R. Selby—a prominent figure in Germantown's history and a former County Councilmember—owned the house, the Selbys never resided there. Long-term occupants Jordan and Charlotte Wilson were well-known and respected within the community, but their presence did not significantly impact the development of Germantown or Montgomery County, nor does the house have any direct association with their charitable actions.

Architectural and Design Significance: The subject property does not meet the designation criteria for architectural and design significance as a Master Plan Historic Site. The Jordan House represents a typical and modest example of a Folk Victorian, a style is characterized by simple house forms with constrained Victorian-era ornamentation. The house—a two-story, side-gable, one-room deep, dwelling with a rear ell—follows a form frequently found throughout Montgomery County and the United States. Ornamentation on the Jordan House is minimal, limited to jigsaw-cut trim on the front porch. Absent are lace-like spandrels in the porch friezes found in more elaborate examples of the Folk Victorian style. In addition, previous owners altered the house's original materials by covering the wood siding and replacing the two-over-two, double hung, wood-sash windows. There is no evidence that the resource is a noteworthy example of the style, or that it influenced any architectural trend or

development pattern in Germantown or Montgomery County. Constructed towards the end of the nineteenth century, the Jordan House is indistinct among its contemporaries.

The Jordan House, likely built by local builder James Wallich, does not reflect the work of a master builder or possess high artistic value. A master builder is recognized for exceptional skill in their field or for work that is distinguishable from others due to its quality. Properties attributed to Wallich do not meet these standards, nor do they differ from other late nineteenth century houses constructed by local builders. Moreover, the Wallich-Heimer House Master Plan Historic Site—individually designated by the County Council in 1989 as part of the *Germantown Master Plan* (1989)— more aptly represents the Wallich family's architectural contributions to Germantown.

The Jordan House does not serve as an established feature of the neighborhood due to a singular physical characteristic. The age of a resource or its prolonged presence, in and of themselves, are insufficient to satisfy this criterion. With its typical setback, vernacular form, and minimal architectural detailing, the house does not distinguish itself within the surrounding built environment.

The County Council previously had the opportunity to designate the building as a Master Plan Historic Site as part of the *Germantown Master Plan* (1989) but opted not to do so. Similarly, the County Council did not recommend the property for future evaluation or potential designation in the *MARC Rail Communities Plan* (2019). Staff's evaluation of the property did not uncover any new information regarding its architectural or historical significance that would support a different conclusion—unlike the recent case for the proposed Timberlawn Master Plan Historic Site, where newly explored contexts prompted reconsideration of its eligibility for designation.

STAFF AND HPC RECOMMENDATION

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Board:

- 1. Finds that the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House lacks architectural and historic significance, and therefore, fails to satisfy the designation criteria outlined in 24A-3(b), Historic Resources Preservation, Montgomery County Code; and,
- 2. Denies listing the property in the *Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites*.

HPC RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the Planning Board.

- 1. Finds that the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House has architectural and historic significance, and therefore, satisfies three designation criteria outlined in 24A-3(b), Historic Resources Preservation, Montgomery County Code; and,
- 2. Lists the property in the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Maps, Photographs, and Other Exhibits

Attachment 2: Chain of Title

Attachment 3: MIHP Form (2024)

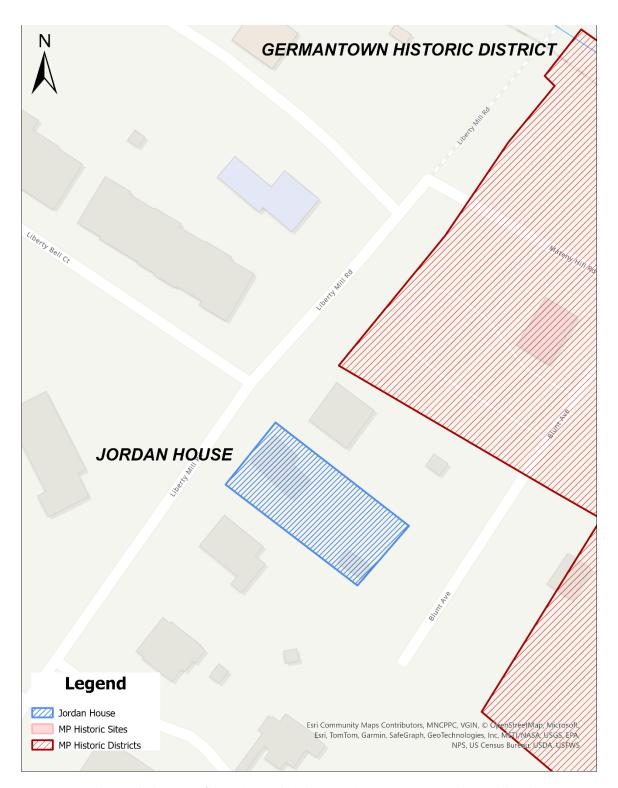


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House at 19323 Liberty Mill Road, Germantown, and the nearby Germantown Master Plan Historic District.

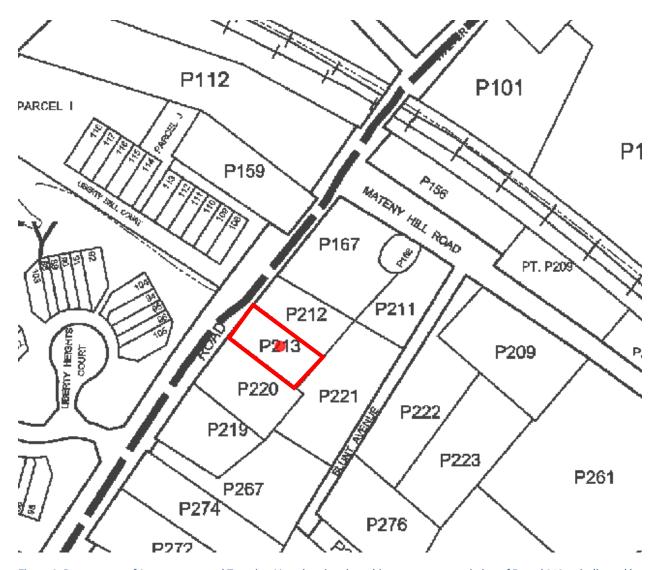


Figure 2: Department of Assessments and Taxation Map showing the subject property consisting of Parcel 213 as indicated by the red dot and outline.

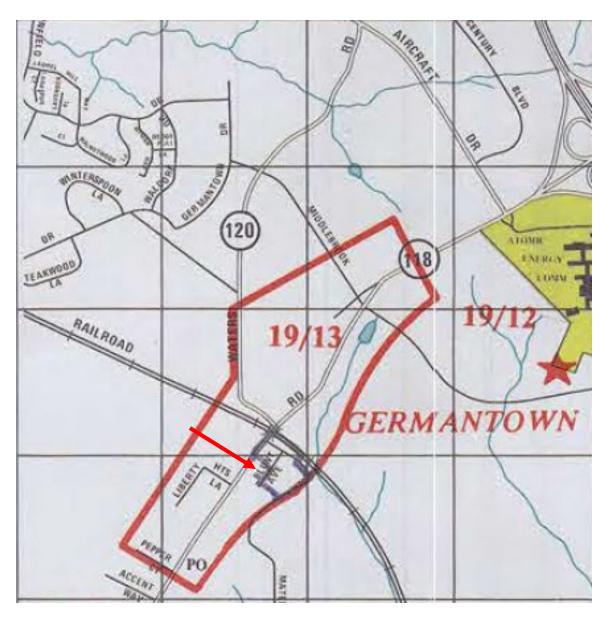


Figure 3: View of the Germantown Locational Atlas District as established by the Planning Board in 1976. The red arow points to the approximate location of the subject property.

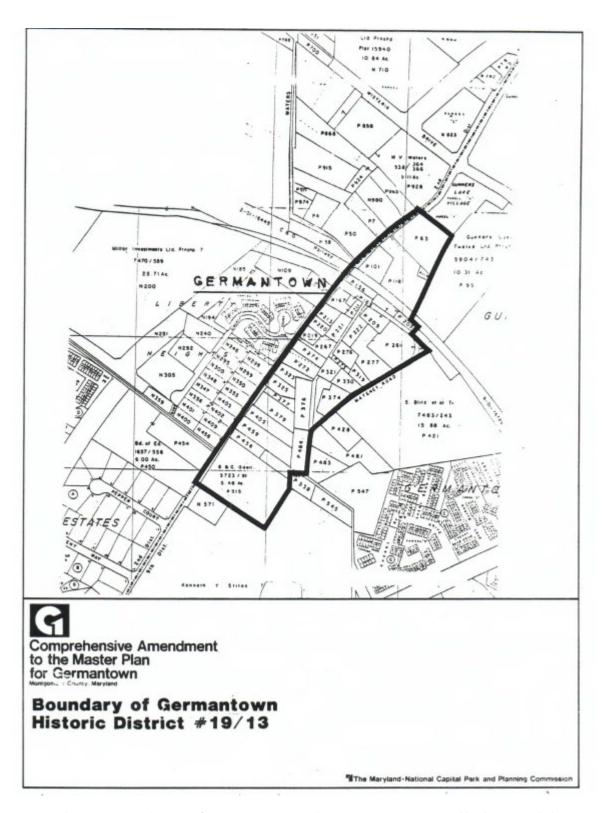


Figure 4: The environmental setting of Germantown Master Plan Historic District proposed by the HPC and Planning Board but not adopted by the County Council in the Germantown Master Plan (1989). The red arrow points to the subject Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House.

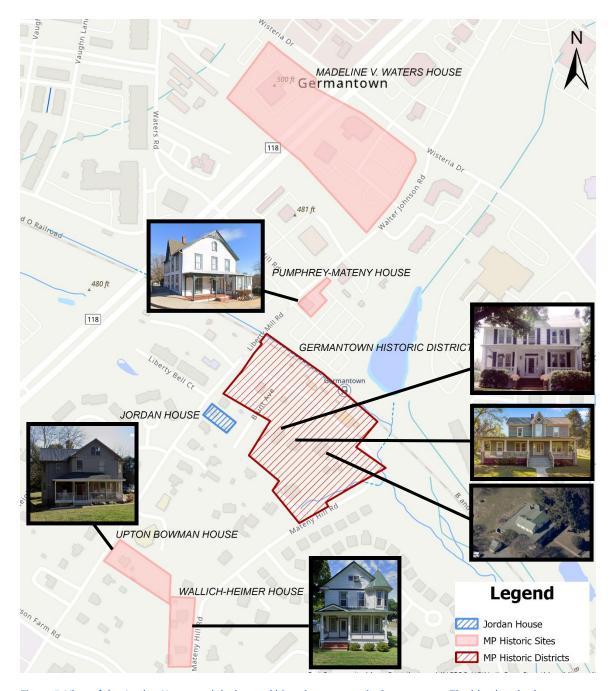


Figure 5: View of the Jordan House and designated historic resources in Germantown. The blue hatched area represents the subject property at 19323 Liberty Mill Road, the red hatched area is the Germantown Master Plan Historic District approved by the County Council, and the red shaded areas are the individually listed Master Plan Historic Sites. The photographs show the six single family houses protected as part of the *Germantown Sector Plan* (1989).





Figure 6: Six houses in Germantown designated as part of the *Germantown Sector Plan* (1989). The top three were listed as individual Master Plan Historic Sites and the bottom three were designated as contributing resources within the Germantown Master Plan Historic District.



Figure 7: View of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, looking from the west, 2025. The red arrow points to the subject house.



Figure 8: View of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, looking from the south, 2025. This view shows the property relationship to the railroad. The red arrow points to the subject house.



Figure 9: View of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, 1984.



Figure 10: View of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 19323 Liberty Mill Road, undated.



Figure 11: View of the facade of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 2025.



Figure 12: View of the facade and side (south) elevation of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 2025.



Figure 13: View of the rear and side (south) elevation of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 2025.



Figure 14: View of the rear and side (north) elevation of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 2025.



Figure 15: View of the facade and side (north) elevation of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan House, 2025.



Figure 16: View of the one-car garage in the rear yard of the property, 2025.

ATTACHMENT 2: CHAIN OF TITLE

Grantor	Grantee	Record Type	Date	Liber & Folio
Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, Miroslav Nilolov (Substitute Trustees)	Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust	Substitute Trustees' Deed	August 12, 2024	68450, 38- 40
Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc (Assignor)	Federal Home Mortgage Corporation, Trustee for Freddie Mac (Assignee)	Corporate Assignment of Deed of Trust	June 14, 2023	67120, 303- 305
John J. Mattson Jr.	Bank of America, N.A.	Loan Modification Agreement	February 19, 2014	4318, 294- 310
Bank of America	Diane S. Rosenberg, Mark D. Meyer, John A. Ansell, Kenneth Savitz, Stephanie Montgomery	Appointment of Substitute Trustees for Deed of Trust	July 31, 2013	47720, 99- 101
N/A	N/A	Certificate of Satisfaction	September 24, 2007	34904, 476
John J. Mattson Jr, Mary H. Mattson	Countrywide Bank, FSB	Refinance, Deed of Trust	September 17, 2007	34898, 421- 432
John J. Mattson Jr, Mary H. Mattson (Borrower)	Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (Mortgage)	Certificate of Satisfaction	September 16, 2004	31079, 252- 253
John J. Mattson, Jr. and Mary H. Mattson	Nationwide Home Mortgage Inc.	Deed of Trust	July 29, 2004	28290, 395- 408
Swink Enterprises	John J. Mattson, Jr. and Mary H. Mattson	Deed	July 28, 2004	28290, 389- 394
Swink Enterprises, LTD	Swink Enterprises, LTD	Confirmatory Deed	March 5, 1990	92222, 348- 350

R. Landon Selby, Trustee	Swink Enterprises, LTD	Deed	December 31, 1986	7528, 625- 627
Lucy W. Selby	R. Landon Selby, Trustee	Deed In Trust	March 20, 1967	3610, 464- 471
Willard W. Wiley, Joan S. Wiley	August R. Selby and Lucy W. Selby	Deed	February 13, 1951	1492, 71-72
Lucy W. Selby, Augustus R. Selby	Willard W. Wiley, Joan S. Wiley	Deed	February 13, 1951	1492, 69-70
Lacy T. Galleher, Joseph Clark Galleher	Lucy W. Selby	Deed	August 2, 1926	404, 438- 439
Lacy T. Galleher, Joseph Clark Galleher	George R. Rice	Mortgage	January 17, 1905	181, 420- 422
Charles W. Pettyman (Trustee for the Court of Equity)	Lacy T. Galleher	Deed	January 10, 1905	180, 322- 323
Edgard D. Vinson, Jennie L. and Frederick Rice, George W. Vinson, Eva N. Vinson, Edgar A. Vinson, Laura C. Linthicum, Herbert W. Linthicum	Lacy T. Galleher	Deed	September 25, 1901	19, 84-87
Edgar D. Vinson, Mary V. Vinson	Benson Talbott	Mortgage	October 18, 1884	33, 273-276
James E. Wallich, Annie R. Wallich	Mary V. Vinson (the wife of E.D. Vinson)	Deed	August 13, 1884	33, 245-246
William W. Blunt, Elizabeth M. Blunt, Harry W. Blunt, Albert G. Gilpin	James Edmund Wallich	Deed	February 13, 1882	26, 95-97
Harry W. D. Blunt, William W. Blunt and Elizbeth M. Blunt	Albert G. Gilpin	Mortgage	July 29, 1878	18, 322-326
Douglas Clopper, Mary S. Clopper	William W. Blunt, Henry W. Blunt	Deed	May 30, 1873	13, 388

ATTACHMENT 3: MIHP FORM (2024)

Jordan House M: 19-13-8

19323 Liberty Mill Road

Germantown

c. 1884 Private

The Jordan House is two-story, L-shaped frame house clad with vinyl siding. The three-bay front faces the road with a center doorway and a porch on the first level covering the entire length of the front of the building. The rear L is two-stories and extends behind one-third of the front section with a door in the gable end. A one-story shed roofed section is inside the elbow of the L which looks to be of log construction and may be older than either of the other two sections. There is a small modern cinder block garage in the rear southeast corner of the yard.

The Jordan House is the oldest house in the area around the Germantown Railroad Station.

James Wallich, a local builder, constructed the front portion of the house c. 1884. The rear

L was likely constructed soon afterward. In the twentieth century, the house was occupied by prominent local citizen Wilson Jordan.

Inventory No. M: 19-13-8

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of I	Property	(indicate preferred	name)		
historic	Jordan House				
other	Selby House				
2. Location					
street and number	19323 Liberty N	Mill Road			_ not for publication
city, town	Germantown				_ vicinity
county	Montgomery				
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and mailing	g addresses of all owner	s)	
name	Freddie Mac Se	asoned Credit Risk Transfe	r Trust		
street and number	3217 S. Decker	Lake Dr.	-	telephone	
city, town	Salt Lake City		state UT	zip code	84119
Contrit Contrit Detern Record	outing Resource in outing Resource in nined Eligible for the nined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE	t or Research Report at MH	and Register land Register		
6. Classifica	tion				
Categorydistrict _x _building(s)structuresiteobject	Ownershippublic _x_privateboth	Current Function agriculturecommerce/tradedefense _x_domesticeducationfunerarygovernmenthealth careindustry	landscaperecreation/culturereligionsocialtransportationwork in progressunknown _x_vacant/not in useother:		Noncontributing

7. Description		Inventory No. M:19-13-8
Condition		
excellent	deteriorated	
\underline{x} good	ruins	
foir	-141	

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The house is a two-story L-shaped frame house clad with vinyl siding. The three-bay front faces the road with a center doorway and a porch on the first level covering the entire length of the front of the building. The rear L is two-stories and extends behind one-third of the front section with a door in the gable end. A one-story shed roofed section is inside the elbow of the L which looks to be of log construction and may be older than either of the other two sections.

The three bay front of the house is the newer section and the two-bay rear L is the older section. The front porch has turned porch posts and decorative brackets. Both sections have a gable roof. There is a chimney at either end of the front section and an older, larger chimney, unused, at the gable end of the rear section. The vinyl siding was added in 1989. All of the windows have modern shutters. A dirt floored 5 foot high basement is under the front section with a blackrock stone foundation, and a crawl space under the rear section with a shale/quartzite foundation. The small shed roofed section inside the elbow of the house has a door facing north. This may be the "Carpenter shop" identified on the 1879 Hopkins map. According to the 1978 MHT survey by Geraldine Berkman (the only survey ever done of the Germantown Historic District) 19323 Germantown Road (now Liberty Mill Road) is described as: Jordan House -- two story with a three bay front in fair condition. "The early part of the house is said to have been built in 1860s, later and major part (the entire front wing) in the 1870s. The house definitely existed here in the recollection of older residents, in the 1890s." Wilson Jordan, occupant of the house from 1951 to 1986, said that the owner of the house, Lucy Selby, told him that the older, rear, section of the house was built in the 1880s, and the front section in the 1890s.

In 1883 the southern half-acre of the original one acre property was purchased by James Wallich, a house carpenter by trade for \$75.3 He built the house on the southern, higher, part of the property and sold it in 1884 for \$800. The construction date of 1884 makes this the oldest house still in existence in the historic Germantown.

The front addition was most likely built by Lacy and Clark Gallaher, who were renting the house in 1900 and purchased it in 1901.⁴ In 1910 the Gallahers sold the northern section of the lot, which was vacant. They may have used the revenue from the sale of the land to finance the construction of the front section of the house.⁵

There is a small modern cinder block garage in the rear southeast corner of the yard.

¹ ACHS Summary Form for the Germantown Historic District, 19-13, 1976.

² Gazette newspaper, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1988, p.2.

³ U.S. Census 1900, Montgomery County Land and Assessment records

⁴ U.S. Census 1900, Montgomery County Land and Assessment records

⁵ Montgomery County Land and Assessment records

8. Signification	ance			Inventory No. M:19-13-8
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and ju	stify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 <u>x</u> 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	 economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement 	 health/medicine industry invention landscape architectory law literature maritime history military 	performing arts philosophy politics/government ure religion sciencex social historytransportation other:
Specific dates	1884-1986		Architect/Builder Ja	mes Wallich
Construction da	tes 1884 & 1894			
Evaluation for:				
	National Register	Maryland	d Register	xnot evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Jordan House is the oldest house in the area of historic buildings around the Germantown Railroad Station. When the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O railroad was completed in 1873 the commercial center of Germantown moved one mile to the east to surround the railroad station. The Jordan House was built by a local vernacular house builder who constructed other buildings in the area and whose son was also a house builder who constructed and lived in a nearby house that is on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation as an individual site. Stripped of the vinyl siding, the integrity of the house in its three stages is intact, unlike other nearby 1890s-1920s buildings that have modern additions and changes. This demonstrates the growing prosperity of the town.

Francis Cassatt Clopper, the namesake of the nearby Clopper Road, was the leader in founding the Metropolitan Railroad Company in 1853. This railroad company went bankrupt because of lack of funding, but after the Civil War the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company took over the charter and completed the construction of the railroad through Montgomery County in 1873. This railroad became the main route west out of the port city of Baltimore via Washington, D.C. -- and changed Montgomery County forever. It changed the agriculture of the up-county from wheat and corn to producing perishables such as milk and dairy products, peaches and apples. Steam-powered grist mills were built next to the railroad, spelling the end of the water-powered mills. It turned sleepy rural villages into summer vacation spots for city residents, including a Methodist Chautauqua at Washington Grove. Down-county it spawned new railroad suburb towns for residents working in Washington, D.C. ⁶

When the railroad was completed in 1873 the commercial center of Germantown moved one mile to the east to surround the railroad station. The new town of Germantown Station grew quickly and by 1879 had a carriage making and repair business a harness maker, three general stores and a seed and fertilizer store, a shoe maker, and coffin maker and undertaker. A large steam-powered grist mill was constructed next to the railroad in 1888. The mill burned down in 1914, but was rebuilt and became the Liberty Milling Company, the second largest mill in Maryland. A Community Bank was built in 1922.

Mr. Clopper, in anticipation of the railroad, had purchased land around the proposed Germantown station. Francis Cassatt Clopper passed away in 1868 and this tract of land consisting of more than 90 acres on the south side of the road from Neelsville to Darnestown (now Liberty Mill Rd.) and west side of the railroad passed to his son Douglas Clopper.

⁶ Harwood, Herbert H., Jr., *Impossible Challenge II, (Baltimore: Barnard Roberts and Co.,1994), 163-184. Soderberg, Susan C., The Met: A History of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad,* (Germantown, MD, Germantown Historical Society, 1998), 5-8,48-50.

⁷ 1879 Hopkins map; T.H.S. Boyd, *The History of Montgomery County, Maryland from its Earliest Settlement in 1750 to 1879*, (Baltimore, Clearfield company edition, 1968), 130-131.

⁸ Susan Soderberg, A History of Germantown, Maryland, (self published 1988), 141-164.

Inventory No. M:19-13-8

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Jordan House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

In 1870 Douglas Clopper sold 1 acre of this land from the railroad running southwest along the road from Neelsville to Darnestown (now Liberty Mill Road) to Frank Stang for \$45. This acre contains the property where the Jordan House now sits. The following year Frank Stang sold the same property to Basil Waters for \$300 (indicating that a building was erected on the property in that year). In 1878 the heirs of Basil Waters sold the one acre to Thomas L. Henderson, who, according to the 1879 Hopkins map of Montgomery County, is living in a house on the northern portion of that property in 1878.

In 1883 James Wallich purchased the southern section of that property, consisting of 17,696 sq. feet (including where the Jordan house now sits) for \$75. Wallich sold this property the following year to Mary Vinson for \$800 indicating that this is the year (1884) that the older section of the house was built. John Wallich (Wallick) is listed in the 1900 census as a "house carpenter." His son, John Wallich, also a house carpenter, built and lived in the Wallich-Heimer House (M:19-13-7) in 1913. 10

This property was purchased by Lacy [Rice] Gallaher in 1901, who divided the property into two halves of about 8,850 sq. ft. each. She kept the southern parcel with the house (9,379 sq. ft.), where she had been living with her husband, Clark Gallaher, for some time before. Clark was working as a clerk at the nearby general store. Lacy and Clark Gallaher sold the northern vacant parcel to Jennie Longstreet Rice and Lizzie Rice in 1910. By 1920 Lacy and Clark are living in Gaithersburg with their daughter, Bessie, who had married Clark Kline. They sold the southern parcel with the house in 1926 to Lucy Selby, wife of Augustus Selby, manager of Liberty Milling Company next to the railroad.

In the heyday of the busy agricultural railroad town in the 1930s the house was part of the center of this busy railroad town. To the south of the house lived the town tinsmith, and then there were the houses of the telegraph operator for the railroad, the rural postman, the livery stable owner and the local grange. Across the street was the large estate of Andrew Baker, founder and Board member of the Germantown Bank and creator of the Cider Barrel (M:19-33 and National Register eligible).

Augustus and Lucy Selby lived in a house next door to the north of the Baker family. The Jordan House, owned by Lucy Selby, was across the street and rented out, probably for extra income. In 1951 Wilson Jordan and his wife Charlotte moved into the house where Lucy Selby did not charge them rent. Lucy died in 1971, but stipulated in her will that the Jordans could live in the house rent free as long as they liked. The trustee for Lucy Selby, R. Landon Selby, sold the property to Swink Enterprises in 1986.¹³ Nevertheless, in 1986, the house was sold to James Swink of Swink Enterprises and the Jordans were evicted.

Wilson Jordan was a well-known and beloved figure in Germantown. He had been the Southern Methodist minister for the up-county circuit which included five churches from 1930 to 1932 when he had to leave the ministry because of ill health. He then became an electrician, a trade he had been trained for before becoming a minister, upgrading and installing electricity in many houses in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. Jordan was a founding member of the local Lions Club in 1951 and was very active in the local community, receiving the highest award of that club, the Al Evans Service Award, in 1984. He is fondly remembered by many old-time residents as the Santa Clause in the club's annual Christmas tree lighting, a part he cherished for thirty-five years, listening to the hopeful wishes of local children, and later of the children of those children. He always greeted everyone, young and old, with a hearty "Howdy Old Timer." Wilson Jordan was a devoted and helpful member of the Trinity United Methodist Church where he

⁹ Montgomery County, Maryland Land and Assessment Records.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1930; Cavicchi Clare Lise, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardiez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Maryland-National Capital Park ad Planning Commission, 2001), 204.

^{11 1900} United States Census

¹² 1920 United States Census

¹³ Montgomery County, Maryland Land and Assessment records.

¹⁴ Gazette newspaper, Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1988, p.2.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:19-13-8

Name Jordan House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

served as a lay leader for many years. A stained glass window in this church was dedicated to Wilson and Charlotte Jordan in 1986, paid for by a fund contributed to by 48 families and two groups. ¹⁵ Charlotte Jordan died in 1989 and Wilson Jordan in 1996. ¹⁶

Swink Enterprises occupied the house for a few years as an office, then sold it to John and Mary Mattson in 2002. John died in November 2023 and Mary, who is disabled and cannot work, was evicted from the house in March 2024 for non-payment of mortgage.

It should be noted that the map included in the documentation for the Germantown Historic District (M:19-13) mistakenly indicates that the lot improved with the Jordan House is vacant (see parcel #213).

¹⁵ Germantown Historical Society Archives: Program for the dedication of the Wilson and Charlotte Jordan window, Trinity United Methodist Church, April 27, 1986.

¹⁶ Germantown Historical Society Archives: *Gazette* newspaper, Wed., Jan. 17, 1996. Program of the "Service of Death and Resurrection for Emory Wilson Jordan," Jan. 15, 1996. "Biography of Wilson Jordan," 1986 & 2024.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. M:19-13-8

Cavicchi Clare Lise, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardiez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (M-NCPPC, 2001) Maps: Martinet and Bond (1865); Hopkins Atlas (1879)

MARC Rail Communities Sector Plan, Maryland-National Capital Park and planning Commission (M-NCPPC), 2019.

Montgomery County Land and Assessment records

Rivers, Roads and Rails Transportation Heritage Area., Heritage Montgomery, 2023.

Soderberg, Susan, A History of Germantown, Maryland (self published, Germantown, MD 1988), 172, 131-147.

Soderberg, Susan, *The MET; A History of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad* (Germantown Hist Soc., 2016), 48-50. U.S. census records 1900, 1920, 1930

10. Geographical Dat	1	0.	Geog	grap	hical	Data
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Acreage of surveyed property Acreage of historical setting	.2	-		
Quadrangle name	Germantown Quad	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000	

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property lies on the east side of Liberty Mill Road (formerly Germantown Road, formerly Neelsville-Darnestown Road), approximately 150 feet south of the intersection of that road with Mateny Hill Road, consisting of 8,317.24 square feet of land and being tax parcel #213.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Susan Cooke Soderberg, President		
organization	Germantown Historical Society	date	September 27, 2024
street & number	19313 Liberty Mill Rd	telephone	310-814-5048
city or town	Germantown	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-697-9591 M: 19-13-8 Jordan House 19323 Liberty Mill Road Germantown, Montgomery County

Chain of Title

Land Records for P213 (19323 Liberty Mill Road)

The property is within the land called Chestnut Ridge patented by George Buchanan in 1732.

1849-1851 -- Land was acquired from landowners by Montgomery County for a road from Neelsville to Darnestown. The Landowner list includes Francis Cassatt Clopper *Montgomery County Land Records Liber STS 4 folio 524*

1870 -- Douglass Clopper to Frank Stang, one acre with meets and bounds defined, for \$45. (P167, P212 & P213)

Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP 8, F 14

1871 -- Frank Stang sells the one acre to Basil Waters for \$300

Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP 8, f 262

1878 – Eliza Waters (heir) sells the one acre to Thomas N. Henderson. *Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP 11, f 248*

1883 – William W. Blunt sells to James Wallich 65 sq perches (southern portion of above) for \$75. *Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP26, f 95* (P212 & P213)

1884 – James Wallich sells to Mary Vinson, 65 sq. perches for \$800. (P212 & P213) *Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP 33, f 245*

1901 – Heirs of Mary Vinson (deceased), which includes Jennie Longstreet Vinson Rice and her husband Frederick Rice, sells the property of 65 sq. perches to Lacy Gallaher for \$800. (P212 & P213) Liber TD 19, f84

1905 -- The sale of the property of 17,696 sq ft (65 sq perches) was contested in the court by Herbert V. Vinson. The court claimed the property, which was then purchased by auction by Lacy T. Gallaher for \$900. *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 180 folio 322.* (P212 & P213)

1910 -- Lacy Gallaher divides the property in half and sells the northern parcel of 34.45 sq. perches to Jennie Longstreet Rice and Lizzies Rice. **P212**

Montgomery County Land Records Liber 214 folio 270

1924 – Jennie Longstreet Rice (unmarried) and Lizzie Rice sell the parcel of 34.45 sq. perches to Oscar Gillingham.

Montgomery County Land Records Liber PBR 352, f 365

1927 – Oscar Gillingham heirs sells the parcel of 34.45 sq. perches to Katherine Gillingham. **P212** *Montgomery County Land Records Liber PBR 444, f 425*

1928 – Katherine Gillingham sells the 34.45 sq. perches of land to the Liberty Milling company. **P212** *Montgomery County Land Records Liber L 454, f 404*

1926 – Lacy Gallaher sells the southern half of the property to Lucy Selby. P213 *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 404, f 438*

1937 - Lucy Selby sells the southern half of the property to the Liberty Milling Company. P213

M: 19-13-8 Jordan House 19323 Liberty Mill Road Germantown, Montgomery County

Montgomery County Land Records Liber L 652, f 484

1951 -- - Lucy Selby sells the southern half of the property to Willard and Joan Wiley. P213 *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 1492, f69*

1951 – Willard and Joan Wiley sell the southern half of the property to Lucy Selby. P213 *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 1492 folio 71*

1967 – Lucy Selby transfers the southern half of the property to R. Landon Selby, Trustee. P213 *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 7405, f764*

1967 -- Liberty Milling Company sells the northern half of the property to R. Landon Selby. P212 *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 3606, f633*

1986, Nov. 13 – Swink Enterprises purchases the northern half of the property, 34.45 sq. perches (17,695 sq. feet), from R. Landon Selby. P212

Montgomery County Land Records Liber 7405, f 764

1986, Dec. 31 – Swink Enterprises purchases both parcel 212 and parcel 213 from R. Landon Selby *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 7528, f 625*

1990 – Swink Enterprises "corrects" the mistaken purchase of parcel 212 twice by referring back to the two separate parcels, now combined. But includes as "Schedule A" the description of another property a mile away. *Montgomery County Land Records Liber 9222, f 350*

2004, Sept. 14 – Swink Enterprises sells to John J. and Mary H. Mattson parcel 213 (19323 Liberty Mill Rd) but also includes parcel 212 because it refers back to liber 7528 folio 25 which includes both parcel 213 and parcel 212, but refers back to Liber 3610 folio 464 (1967) which also include both parcels in the metes and bounds, but "saving and excepting [parcel 212]. The description of the property in this deed is identical to the metes and bounds in the 1967 deed, but the "Saving and excepting" clause describes a different property a mile away instead of parcel 212, making this deed essentially invalid.

Montgomery County Land Records Liber 28290, f 389

M: 19-13-8 Jordan House 19323 Liberty Mill Road Germantown, Montgomery County

Description of property from 1871 deed Stang to Waters

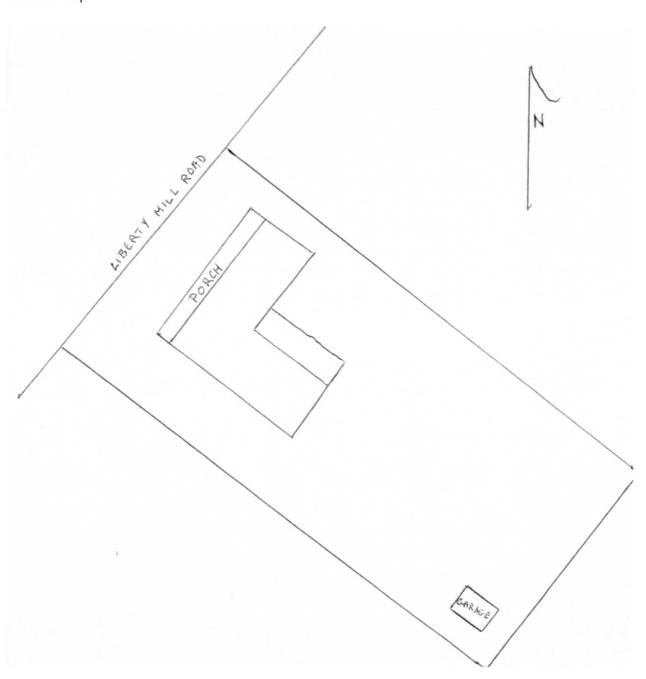
- 1) In 1870 Douglass Clopper sells to Frank Stang property on a tract of land called Chestnut Ridge, beginning at a flint stone planted near the railroad bridge and on the east edge of the public road and hence running south 59° east 10 perches to a stone thence south 41° west 16 perches to a stone thence north 59° east 9 ½ perches to a stone thence north 59° west ½ perch to the public road thence with the road north 41° east 16 perches to the beginning containing one acre of land more or less for \$45.
- 2) In 1870 Frank Stang sells the same described lad to Basil Waters for \$300. In 1884 James Wallich sells 65 perches of the above property to Mary V. Vinson, which is then purchased in 1905 by Lacy Gallaher, described as: Beginning at a stone planted at the Northwest corner of a tract of land [one acre] conveyed by Douglas Clopper to Frank Stang it being on the southeast side of the public road from Neelsville to Darnestown and running on the southeast side of the road south 41° west 7 3/10 perches [120 ft.] to a stone and then south 50 1/4° east 8 6/10 perches [142 ft] to a stone and then north 38 3/4° east 8 7/8 perches to a stone in the line of the lot conveyed to Stang, then on this line north 58 5/8° west 8 ½ perches to the place of beginning, containing 65 square perches of land. P212 and P213
- 3) In 1910 Lacy Gallaher divides the plot in two, selling one of the two to Jennie Longstreet Rice and Lizzie Rice, described as:

Beginning at a stone planted at the Northwest corner of a tract of land [one acre] conveyed by Douglas Clopper to Frank Stang it being on the southeast side of the public road from Neelsville to Darnestown and running on the southeast side of the road south 41° west 58 ft., thence south 50.25° east to point on the third line of a conveyance from Charles W. Prettyman, Trustee to Lacy T. Gallaher made the tenth day of January in the year 1905 and recorded in land records of said County in Liber 180 folio322, 75 feet distant from the end of said line of said conveyance, thence north 38.75° est 75 ft. to a stone on the line of the lot conveyed to said Stang, thence on that line north 58 3/8° west 140.25 ft. to the place of beginning; containing 34.45 sq. perches of land. **P212**

4) In 1926 Lacy Gallaher and her husband Joseph Clark Gallaher sells the other half of the property to Lucy Selby described as the meets and bounds of #2 minus the meets and bounds of #3. **P213 (19323 Liberty Mill Rd.)**

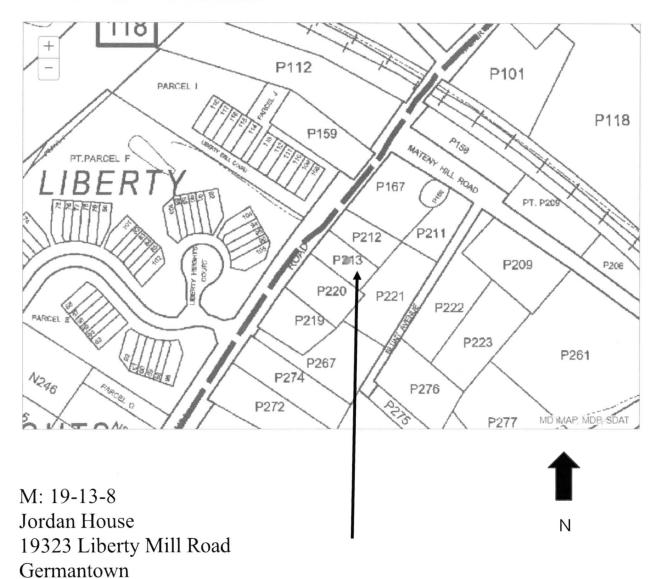
M: 19-13-8 Jordan House 19323 Liberty Mill Road Germantown

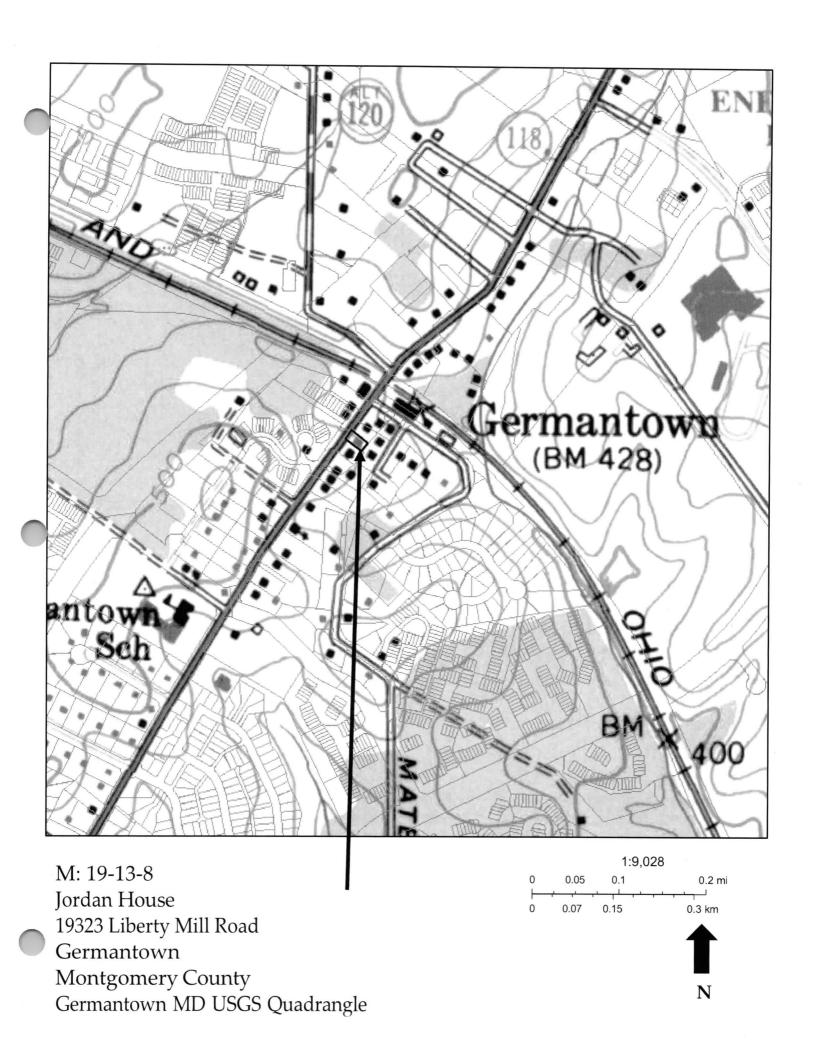
Sketch Map

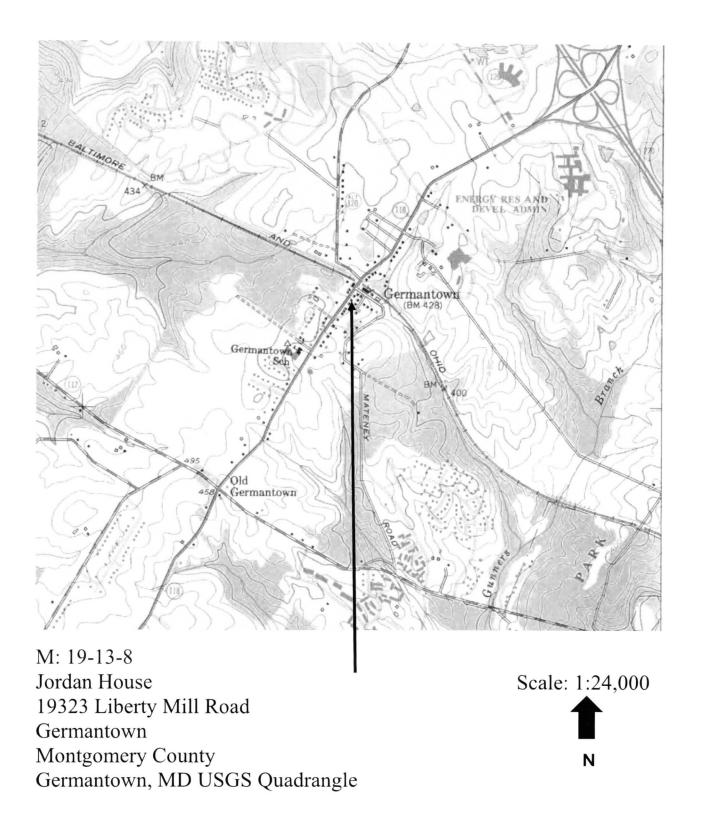


District: 09 Account Number: 00776366

Montgomery County







M: 19-13-8 Jordan House 19323 Liberty Mill Road Germantown

Photo log

Name of Photographer: Marco Gonzales Date of Photograph: November 9, 2024 Location of Original Digital File: MD SHPO

Photo 1 of 8:

Front Façade, camera facing southeast M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_01.tif

Photo 2 of 8:

South (right) Façade, camera facing east M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_02.tif

Photo 3 of 8:

Rear Façade, camera facing west M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_03.tif

Photo 4 of 8:

Rear Ell, camera facing south M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_04.tif

Photo 5 of 8:

North (left) Façade, camera facing southwest M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_05.tif

Photo 6 of 8:

Real Ell Foundation, camera facing south M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_06.tif

Photo 7 of 8:

Roof, camera facing northwest M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_07.tif

Photo 8 of 8:

Southwest Chimney, camera facing south M; 19-13-8_2024-11-9_08.tif



Jordan House M: 19-13-8

front facade

camera facing southwest

photo 1 of 8



Jordan House M: 19-13-8 right facade commerca facing east

Photo 2 of 8



Jordan House M:19-13-8
Photo 3 of 8
rear forcade, camerafacing west



Jordan Hous M: 19-13.8

Photo 4 of 8

reas facade from ground level



Jordan House M: 19-13-8

Photo 5 of 8

left facade, Camera facing soutwest



Jordan House M: 19-13-8

photo 6 of 8

different foundations

oldest on left



Jordan House M:19.13-8

Photo 7 of 8

roof showing chimneys



Jordan House M: 19-13.8

Photo 8 of 8

close up of oldest chimney