



BA-70  

Pot Spring

Architectural Survey File

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

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

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 06-23-2004

BA-70
Pot Spring
2207 Eastlake Road
(NE of Pot Spring & Timonium Rds.)
Lutherville-Timonium

1803

This 2 1/2-story stucco-covered stone house was built in the Federal style by Judge David McMechen on a 327-acre tract that also included slave quarters. The house is five bays wide and three bays deep, with a four-bay long wing at the rear. The gable roof now holds five gabled dormers across the front, but only the outer two are probably original. Originally (at least in a pre-1936 photograph) the house had a large two-story Doric portico with a fanlight in the tympanum, which had a modillioned raking cornice. The house and portico both originally had a dentiled cornice. The portico had a second-story porch with an iron railing, onto which a second floor center door opened. Both center doors are surmounted by fanlights, although the second floor door has been converted to a window with the removal of the portico. All windows on the main block appear to be 6/6 sash. The rear wing has two gabled dormers on one side, also with 6/6 sash windows. The four second-floor windows on this side are 6/6, while the three windows below these appear to be 9/6, 8/8, and 9/6, with the second bay from the left having no window. This bay had a door in a 1965 photograph. This same photograph shows a door in the rear first floor bay of the visible gable end of the house, where there had been a window in the earlier photograph.

Advertised by Mrs. McMechen in the American of April 28, 1835, along with two lime kilns, the house "in the modern style of stone, rough cast, with a portico in front and rear, built on an elevation which commands a view of the whole farm." This suggests that the rear wing was added after 1835, and replaced a rear portico. The 1850 map of the area shows the owner as Alexander H. Tyson. It was purchased by Joshua F.C. Talbot in 1853. The 1877 Hopkins atlas shows the owner as Thomas Poultney. Poultney had acquired it from Adam D. Talbott in 1874. It was purchased in 1887 by Emory Warfield, the uncle of Wallis Warfield, who spent summers there. It has been owned and restored since 1965 by John D. Bitner.

Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 0300705304

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Pot Spring

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2207 Eastlake Road not for publication
 city, town Timonium vicinity of Councilmanic District 4th congressional district 2nd
 state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Lee W. Warner & Mrs. Amy E. Warner
 street & number 2207 Eastlake Road telephone no.:
 city, town Lutherville-Timonium state and zip code MD 21093-2707

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 8478
 street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 522
 city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory
 date federal state county local
 repository for survey records 100 Community Place
 city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. BA 70

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Pot Spring is a stone house in Federal style covered with stucco since its inception. The house had a two-story four-columned portico until 1936. Now there is no porch on the main façade. The house is L-shaped in plan. The main block is five bays wide and 2-1/2 stories. Entry is via a recessed front door set under a fanlight in a carved frame. Over the center door is a small shallow balcony with a door set in a recessed round-topped opening. The upstairs door is also topped by a fanlight. There are five dormers on the main façade. There were only two dormers when the enormous pedimented portico was in place. A dentiled cornice runs across the entire front of the house. Inside end-chimneys rise at each end of the main block. The main block is three bays deep on the east end. On the west there is a smaller telescope segment four bays wide built in 1936 to the design of William D. Lamdin of Palmer and Lamdin as a gable-roofed, lower wing, definitely missing in the 1920s photographs. The rear wing is flush with the east wall of the main block and runs back four bays. The rear wing was described by some writers as log, but it is definitely stone, shown in old photos to be stucco-coated the same as the main block. The rear wing is five bays deep and has two dormers on the east side.

This house was a major showplace of a wealthy city attorney when built and is of the best of materials. The house is built on a center-hall plan and the hall measures 14 by 40 feet. Inside walls are of stone, 20 inches thick, stone partitions rising fully two stories. Some of the present interior fittings are imported from other old houses, for example, the chandelier with 1,150 pieces of prismatic glass from Waterford. The main wooden elements, mantels, stairway, etc., are original and did not need to be restored after periods of neglect—there were no significant periods of neglect or vacancy. This house had electricity, modern heating, and plumbing at least as long ago as 1930.

Amalie Adler Ascher described the house in 1982 as having 20 rooms, 10 baths, and 13-foot ceilings. The original stone cottage was by then converted into a den, an enormous space with over head exposed rafters and a great stone and brick fireplace, somewhat modernized from an open hearth for cooking the hearty meals of colonial or early Federal cuisine. A photograph from the Bitner era shows a Baltimore-made Reip oven next to the fireplace, possibly added in the in the 1830s—such ovens being advertised with illustrations in the city papers. (1) Somewhere in the life of the house the center hall stairway was rebuilt as a side hall stair. The dining room has a fireplace topped by a heavy broken-pediment that makes a dramatic addition but John Bitner's research determined that the broken-pedimented overmantel was a 1936 duplication of a Virginia house interior that was itself transplanted to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But the other fireplaces shown in the 1982 *Sun Magazine* tour article are more restrained and in the Federal style.

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BA 70
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 7 Page 2

Thus far, only one published photo has been found of the house when its massive portico was intact. That picture was taken by William H. Fisher, an enthusiast for old houses who did his touring in the 1920s, in this instance visiting Pot Spring when owned by Richard Emory Warfield. More than fifty photos from the 1920s-1930s survive in an album at the Baltimore County Historical Society in Cockeysville, donated by George McKean. Other structures once connected with Pot Spring survive at 1732 Dulanev Valley Road and on the north and south sides of Timonium Road just east of Pot Spring Road. The old spring house survives south of Timonium Road with the street number 2129 Pot Spring Road. (2)North of Timonium Road at the foot of the hill where the mansions stands is a well laid stone wall that once bordered a driveway to the house; it is now on a distinct property, as are the slave houses and spring house.

Pot Spring was a three-part house even in the 1918 tax ledger, the only year measurements were made of assessed property except for 1798. The "dwelling" consisted of the three following segments, worth a total of \$7512:

63 x 40 feet
36 x 20 feet
20 x 20 feet. (3)

NOTES:

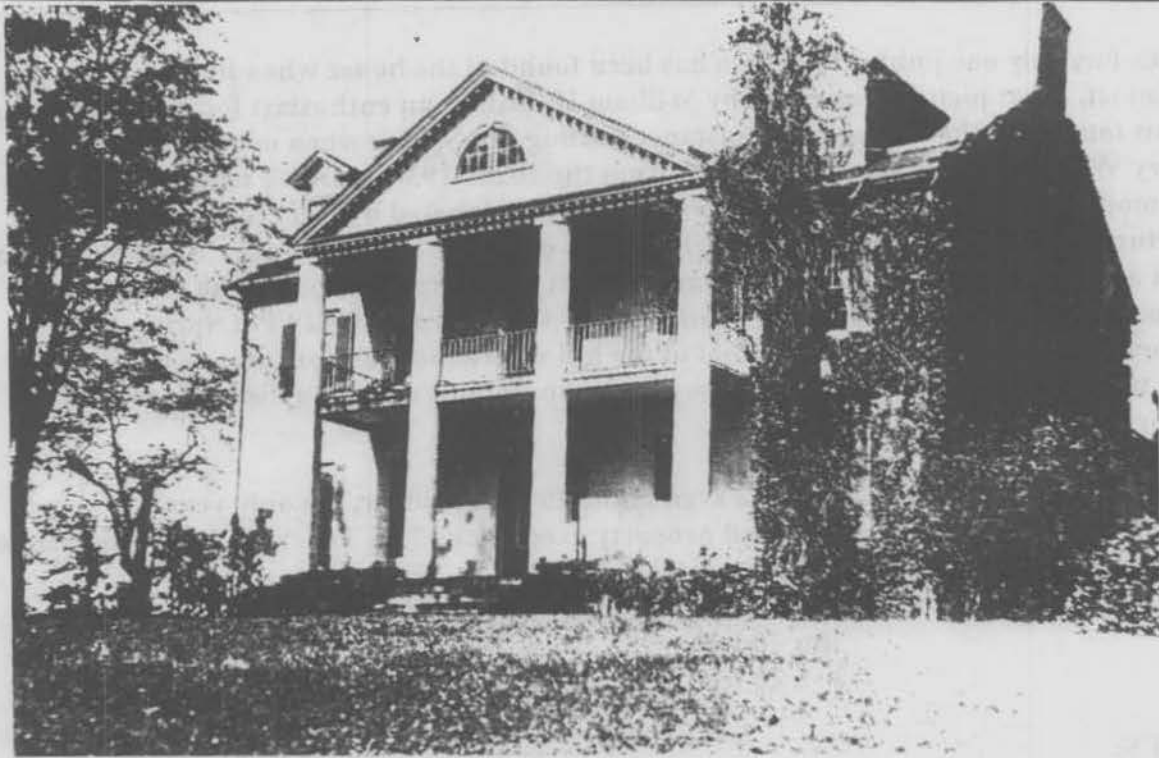
1. Illustrated advertisement by Henry Reip, Baltimore *American*, February 8, 1836.
2. See Tax Map 61, Parcel 42; Lot 40 in Plat Book 19:324.
3. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, District 8, folio 610.

Maryland Historical Trust/ National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

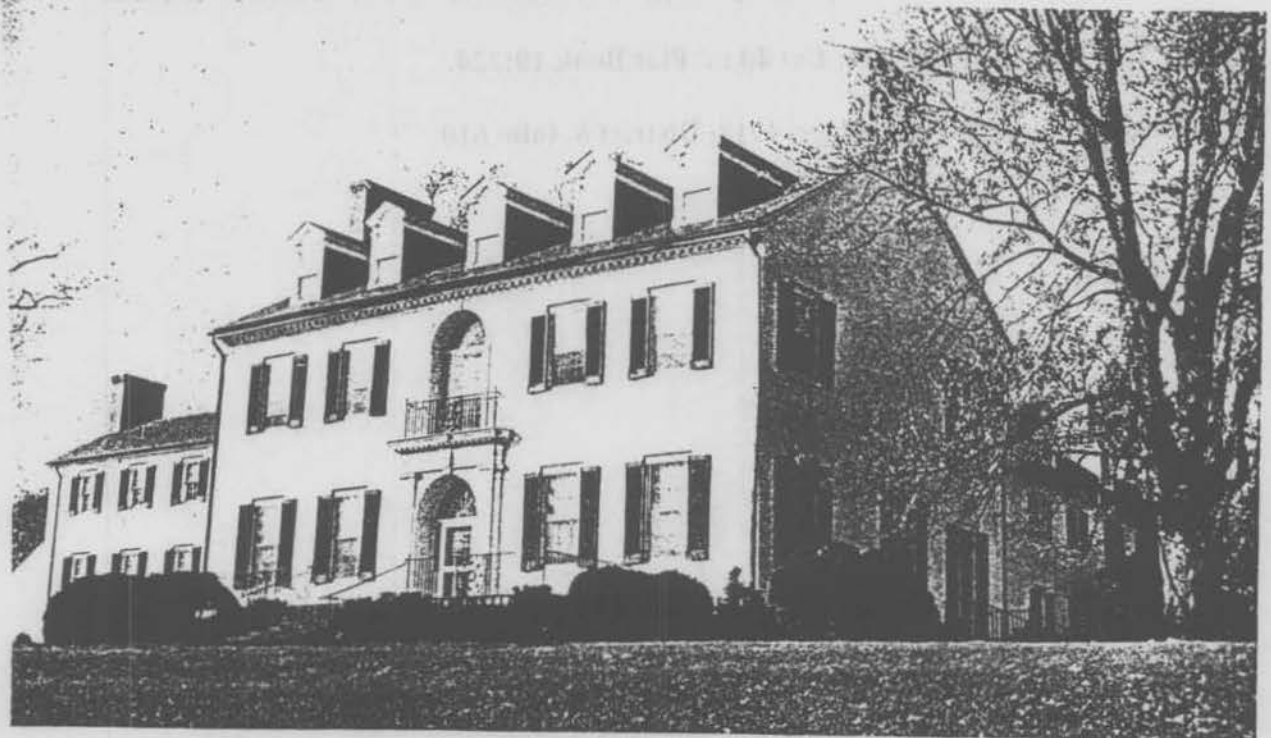
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 7 Page 3



William H. Fisher's 1920s photograph, south facade



South facade, 1953 County Directory

m a r g i n

m a r g i n

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	Unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or		
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Pot Spring is a large Federal house in stone and stucco perched on a hilltop. This house is post-1798 and was built in the early 1800s by David McMechen. Sometimes McMechen the builder is described as a judge, but local histories seem to have David McMechen confused with his brother. Scharf's history of the city and county described David McMechen as a member of the rabid and youthful Whig Club that in 1777 wanted to tar and feather newspaper publisher William Goddard for suggesting that the colonists accept Lord Howe's terms for peace (1). McMechen was one of the early body of city attorneys enumerated by Scharf (2). In the 1783 tax list of Deptford Hundred, what is now the Fell's Point neighborhood, McMechen was a taxable landowner. Brooks and Rockel's county history reports that McMechen was elected as an Antifederalist to the State's convention to ratify the U. S. Constitution in 1788. (3) Scharf also mentioned that McMechen and Samuel Chase were attacked by handbills calling them "Enemies of the New Federal Government" for their Antifederalist stance. (4) McMechen was elected to the House of Delegates at least five times and served in the first branch of the Baltimore City Council from the Fourth Ward when Baltimore Town achieved a charter as a city in 1797. (5) Scharf also listed McMechen as a founder of the Charitable Marine Society in 1796. (6)

Penniman's plat of reconstructed land surveys shows that David McMechen patented 327 acres called Pot Spring in 1789; this land was an awkwardly shaped parcel; part of Wheeler's Hall (1720) was resurveyed into this tract. Later deeds show that parts of the old land survey to the west, Litchfield City, came into McMechen's hands by purchase. David McMechen [spelled McMackin] was found in the 1798 tax list with 778 acres of such familiar land grants in the present Pot Spring Road area as Rachel's Prospect, Litchfield City, and Jeopardy; his two-story stone house measured 22 by 30 feet, The house of that tax list was a dwarf structure in comparison to the surviving Pot Spring mansion that measures 63 by 40 feet.

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BA 70
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: POT SPRING

Section number 8 Page 2

The other structures enumerated in 1798 in this Back River Upper Hundred were

Stone kitchen, 1 story	22 x36
Old log hen house	12 x 12
Meat house	12 x 12
Log meat house	12 x 14
Milk house	8 x 10
Log barn	20 x35
Very old stable	no data in 1798
Log dwelling house, 2 story	18 x 30
Old log kitchen	14 x 20. (7)

Brooks and Rockel also noted that McMechen was one of the city's many political figures to build a country house in Baltimore County and they also mentioned his investment in the Baltimore and Yorktown Turnpike Company in 1804; the turnpike could have made his landholdings more valuable and smoothed the path to sell farm products in town. (8)

A number of families have resided at this mansion. In recent years, there has been a considerable turnover of ownership and in the post-War era, the grounds have been reduced to a mere carpet around the great structure. Pot Spring was always meant to be a showplace, not the modest resident of a regular farmer. A great amount of original material in high style survives inside, elegant stairway, mantels, and fanlights over the main doors. In the 1960s, the house was thoroughly restored but it had never approached ruin or decay as its acres dwindled.

The best date for the main house is 1803, built by David McMechen. The magnificent house was by some accounts tacked onto an existing log structure but the primitive rear wing standing today is of stone. Former owner John Bitner wrote that the surviving rear wing does not match the dimensions taken in 1798. Bitner and other writers have placed the construction date of the house at the time of McMechen's marriage to Margaret Carroll in 1803. It is puzzling why anyone would preserve a log starter house in the course of building such a monumental home. The *Sun* in 1980 placed the date of the "log" part at somewhere between 1728 and 1732---very early, almost absurdly early, for settlement in the area beyond Timonium. (9)

John Bitner wrote an extensive paper in 1965 based on a complete title search and platting out of the patents and land purchases by McMechen. Mr. Bitner found that the Pot Spring mansion sits not on the tract Pot Spring but on Roberts Forrest [sic]. Roberts Forrest had been surveyed in 1702/03 by John Wilmott I. (10) McMechen purchased 327 acres from John Wilmott III in 1788 and probably acquired the old Wilmot house in the bargain. (11)

Maryland Historical Trust/ National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 3

The card file in the Maryland Historical Society lists the marriage on October 22, 1803, of David McMechen to Miss Margaret Carroll "at the seat of Daniel Carroll, Esq." (12) Only a few years later, David McMechen died at age 56 "at his seat in Baltimore County." (13) He also owned a town house at 4 North Calvert Street. His widow in 1812 married Samuel D. Harvey of Philadelphia. (14) The following year Margaret Carroll McMechen Harvey died at age 36; the Baltimore *American* reported that her father's home place was Mount Dillon, an area near the present intersection of I-695 and I-70. (15)

Tax records for the early 19th century are spotty, but an 1823 entry exists for Election District No. 2 (the old districts were promulgated in the Baltimore *American* of August 23, 1800). William McMacken [sic] was listed with 572 acres of "Pot Spring" and a substantial \$1200 improvements, plus 13 slaves. (16) The vast Hampton estate in the same tax district contained \$5,000 of improvements, a truly staggering sum. David McMechen's will had left Pot Spring Farm and Jeopardy his wife; the rest was to go to his brother; Mrs. Margaret Carroll McMechen conveyed "her dwelling plantation and summer residence in Baltimore County" to William McMechen by deed of trust. (17) The Deihlman file at the Maryland Historical Society contains some card entries for a Judge McMechen, no first name, who "flourished" in the 1820s, that is, there were newspaper mentions of him without significant facts. Scharf's necrology of Baltimore City and County listed William McMechen as a "judge of the city court." Scharf's State history listed William McMechen as an associate judge of the Baltimore City Court, appointed 1817, serving until his death. (18) Scharf's county and city history reports that William McMechen in 1817 was on a committee to lay out wards and streets in the city and that may explain the name McMechen Street in the Bolton Hill area that appeared on Poppleton's 1822 map of the city existing and projected streets. (19) William McMechen was also an original incorporator of the Savings-Bank of Baltimore. Newspaper sources reveal that William McMechen had married Eleanor [sic] B. Armistead on February 20, 1800 at Old Saint Paul's. The Scharf necrology reported that the judge died on November 4, 1832, at age 60 (20). Thus it is clear that the second owner of the house, not its builder, was the judge. John Bitner, owner of the house in the 1960s, had corresponded with some McMechen descendants in California who claimed that their ancestor had been a delegate to the Constitutional Convention but voted against ratification. (21) However, the *Maryland Manual* lists no David McMechen attending any such convention, and in addition, the sources state that David McMechen died childless.

In 1835, Mrs. Ellen McMechen, the widow of William McMechen, advertised the property for sale in the *American* of April 28. The advertisement was addressed "To Cap[italists]", and offered two lime kilns along with the property; the advertisement described the house as built "in the modern style of stone, rough cast, with a portico in front and rear, built on an elevation which commands a view of the whole farm." The term "rough cast" meant stucco-coated. In addition to the house, the buyer could also acquire:

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BA 70
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 4

The stock consisting of Slaves, Horses, Cows Oxen, the farming utensils, and in fact every thing necessary for immediate cultivation would be sold if desirable with the farm. (22)

A buyer for the place was found in the person of Mary Tyson on September 15, 1835, when trustee George Winchester disposed of the property. (23) The land conveyed bounded on the William Bosley tract Jeopardy conveyed in 1819 from the McMechen family. (24) Mary Tyson conveyed to trustee George S. Gibson on August 29, 1837, with the stipulation that the place was to pass to Rebecca Howard once Miss Howard married the owner's son, Alexander Tyson. (25)

The 1850 map by J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne showed Pot Spring Farm in the possession of Alexander H. Tyson. Ownership was complicated by a number of lawsuits including one in the High Court of Chancery entitled Alexander H. Tyson-v.-George S. Gibson, trustee. Edwin W. Henry, described in some sources as a physician, acquired the place in September 1852 from George W. Dobbin, a court appointed trustee (26). Thirteen months later, Henry sold to J. F. C. Talbot (27). The next generation of ownership was that of Joshua Frederick Cockey Talbott, who as early as 1846 acquired part of "Salona, being that part of the farm known as Pot Spring Farm . . . on the west side of old York Road and part of Litchfield City and Waters of Helicon" from Alexander H. Tyson. (28) In 1855, Talbot acquired further property from Mrs. Ellen McMechen.

The Talbott family was involved in a lawsuit in 1869 regarding the real estate of the late Joshua F. C. Talbott, Sr. At that time, the family holdings were 327 acres, except for a family vault previously reserved to the Tysons (29). The court, as requested in a petition, divided the Talbott property. Adam D. Talbott was awarded Division 1, part of Lot C in this proceeding. In 1874, Adam D. Talbott and his wife conveyed their portion of the property in 1874 to Thomas Poultney (30). The 1877 G. M. Hopkins atlas shows Thomas Poultney's house, no estate name however, on the east side of Pot Spring Road north of Timonium Road. Just south of the house, the atlas showed that some of the ground close to Tomonium Road was being used by the Ashland Iron Company and there was the wording "Ore Bank." The 1959 article about the house noted :

After passing through several ownerships, one part of the property was sold in 1871 to the Ashland Iron Company because of its iron ore deposits. The ore was strip-mined, loaded into wagons and hauled by six-horse teams to the foundry at Ashland. A steam engine at the mine was used to pump water to wash the ore. Cinders from the engine were spread on the road leading across the fields to the present York Road. Hence the name "Cinder Road for this strip. (31)

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 5

In 1887, the heirs of Thomas Poultney, including Thomas Poultney, Jr., Susan C. Poultney, and Evan Poultney, sold to Richard Emory Warfield for \$15,000, conveying "all of Pot Spring ... on the old road to York ... 165 acres." (32). The new owner was of a prominent city family and was the uncle of Bessie Wallis Warfield, who spent time at Pot Springs in the summers of her school days. The future Duchess remembered having to find her way to bed with an oil lamp. Emory Warfield lived in a high style as demonstrated by this item from the *Baltimore County Union* of August 12, 1905:

William Harris, colored, of Towson, is now handling some fine young stock for Mr. R. Emory Warfield from his Pot Spring Farm. A pair of highly bred bay colts make an especially attractive team.

Wallis Warfield Windsor (b. 1896) recalled visiting Manor Glen, Salona, and Pot Spring, the country places of her three uncles:

The house [Pot Spring] itself was a lovely old structure surrounded by spacious verandahs and graced in the front by a balcony supported by tall yellow columns.

The Duchess noted that her aunt, Mrs. Emory Warfield was a great-grandniece of President James Monroe who made a family ceremony of morning prayer:

The servants were summoned from the kitchen to stand in the living room with the family while Aunt Betty read a chapter from the Bible and to kneel with us while Uncle Emory led the prayer.

Another mention of the family occurred in the *Baltimore County Union* on September 24, 1910:

Mrs. Emory Warfield of Pot Spring Farm, Timonium, will hold a cake sale and afternoon tea at her home next Saturday afternoon from 2 to 7 o'clock. The proceeds will be devoted to a fund for the Methodist Episcopal Church at Timonium.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 70
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 6

R. Emory Warfield was still owner at the time of the 1918 assessment, and the tax ledger that year showed him with 280 acres on Pot Spring Road, "1 mile e. of Timonium." The tax assessor measured the house in three blocks and assessed it at \$7512. The dimensions were:

63 x 40 feet
36 x 20 feet
20 x 20 feet. (33).

Warfield also had three tenant houses, barns, and some other useful structures. The tenant houses were worth only \$228, \$268, and \$747, and presumably were the houses that front on Timonium Road, two of them joined together in the 20th century to form a contemporary residence. The "tenant houses" were traditionally the slave houses and they were set far down the hill from the magnificent main house.

In 1926, Douglas R. Warfield of Philadelphia (the son of Richard Emory Warfield) bought the house according to an item in the *Sun* of March 27; the house was a "mansion built in 1795" in this account. (34) One short article on the property stated that it was Douglas Warfield who moved the "pot" from the "pot spring":

During the latter's ownership, the pot bearing on it the name "Pot Spring" was removed from the original spring and placed in position over the spring on the upper part of the property and near the mansion. This spring I in a spring house and there the pot is today [1959]. (35)

The same year, Douglas Warfield sold the property to John P. Baer and wife. (36) Baer was the owner when the first known feature article about Pot Spring appeared in the *Jeffersonian* in 1930. (37) The anonymous article was by the historian of that newspaper, William Williams of Lutherville. Mr. Williams interviewed Elizabeth Slade Cockey Talbott Kelley who had grown up on the estate. Mrs. Kelley recalled a visit by James Ryder Randall, author of the text of "Maryland, My Maryland." Another figure of the time, composer Zeb Ward, had been there. During the Civil War, Mrs. Kelley recounted, the family had hidden "a handsome Confederate officer" for a week while the Federal forces were looking for him. Mrs. Kelley recalled that a troop of Federal soldiers had ridden up during work time on the farm and told the slaves "to throw down their implements" and recruited all the male workers and took them away; the officer in charge also told the women slaves that they were free.

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 7

The house as described in 1930 had tall pillars in front and double-deck porches. A photo of the house with its four Roman or Tuscan pillars appeared in *Some Old Houses of Maryland*, a book of amateur photographs by William H. Fisher published about 1980 by his widow some 42 years after Fisher's death. The text in this facsimile photo album suggests that R. Emory Warfield was owner when the views were made (page 38). Wallis Warfield Windsor's memoirs described the columns as yellow. (38) Over 50 large professional photographs of the house in the 1920s or 1930s are in the collection of the Baltimore County Historical Society. William Williams said that although the house had plumbing, heat, and electricity, it had not been "ruined by improvements." The old slave houses still stood at the bottom of the hill, and the Pot Spring was still bubbling into a large basin when he wrote in 1930.

Five years after the feature story, Mrs. Margaret B. Baer, then a widow, sold to William C. Stettinius. (39). Most subsequent owners credit Mrs. Stettinius with adding a new wing to the house in line with the main block and say her ownership saw the removal of the four-columned Greek Revival portico. The corporate history of the Palmer and Lamdin architectural firm lists a project in 1936 for William C. Stettinius at "Pott Spring Farm, Dulaney Valley," wherein William D. Lamdin was lead architect. (40) Mr. Stettinius's brother Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., was Secretary of State under Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S Truman just at the point the United Nations was created and World War II ended in mid-1945. By 1937, Mrs. Stettinius was a widow but continued to live on the state.

Post-war prosperity was fueled the expansion of suburbs beyond Towson, and in early 1952, it was announced that Mrs. William Carrington Stettinius (Achsah Ridgely Stettinius) had sold to an undisclosed buyer and would vacate the house within six months (41). The owner sold that year to the Dulaney Corporation (42). By the end of the year the house was on a 25.11 -acre parcel sold to William B. Watkins. (43) An excellent photograph of the house appeared in the Baltimore County 300th Anniversary book of 1959 (44) In 1964, Watkins sold what remained of the house lot to Stewart H. McLean. (45) A year later, McLean sold to John D. Bitner. (46)

John D. Bitner, an aeronautical engineer, took a great interest in the house and made extensive improvements. He once hosted a tour by the Baltimore County Historical Society. Each successive owner has spent heavily on continuing restoration.

John D. Bitner agreed to let the Baltimore County Public Library use a photo of the house on their annual calendar in 1975. Warrington G. Smith, the owner of "Pot Spring Farm" at 2201 Pot Spring Road, made the same arrangement with the Library. By 1982, the main house belonged to Edwin F. Hale, an attorney and owner of a trucking company, who was carrying out extensive improvements according to an article in the *Sunday Sun* real estate section. Hale had taken title in 1979; his improvements included sanding floors, re-plastering walls, and adding new wallpaper. Mrs. Hale had discovered the house when driving through the neighborhood, spotting an "open house" sign posted by a real estate

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 8

agent. Many layers of old wall paper were removed, revealing cracks and lumps in the plaster. Mrs. Hale stated that she had "retained some of the lumps and bumps which add to the character of old buildings. Throughout she used Williamsburg colors, albeit with a little pizzazz, and chose Williamsburg materials for the draperies." The Hales had to remove a family of raccoons that inhabited the space between the second floor ceiling and the flooring of the third story. The owners also restored a wedding-cake chandelier of Waterford glass that originated in some extinct Charles Street house in the city. (39) Another article in the *Sun Magazine* reported that the chandelier came from the home of William Key Howard (grandson of John Eager Howard) of 820 North Charles Street had had been installed in 1936. (48) The house played host to former vice president Walter Mondale to raise funds for the "Committee for the Future of America" on May 20, 1982.(49)

Early in 2000, two new owners, Lee and Amy Warner, were interviewed after ten years of occupancy. The Warners said they were still finding rooms they had not furnished in the vast expanse of house. They counted nine bathrooms and at times seemed to recall 15 of them. The "cabin" at the rear of the house was still there just as historians of 70 years before had reported. Mrs. Warner noted how small paintings and contemporary furniture looked in so cavernous a house: "Regular furniture looks like doll furniture . . ."(50)

NOTES:

1. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, 1881), pp. 708, 779.
2. Scharf, *History of Baltimore City*, p. 707.
3. Neal A. Brooks and Eric Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, 1978), p. 112.
4. Scharf *History of Baltimore*, p. 116.
5. Scharf, *History of Baltimore*, pp. 173, 187.
6. Scharf, *History of Baltimore*, p. 592.
7. Federal Direct Tax List, Maryland, Baltimore County, Back River Upper Hundred, Microfilm No. 606, Maryland Historical Society.
8. Brooks and Rockel, *A History*, pp. 114, 141.
9. Jacquelyn R. Jackson, "Towson-area Family Is Rehabilitating Mansion," *Sun*, October 14, 1980, p. F1.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 9

10. John D. Bitner, "Pot Spring," 1965, ms., Baltimore County Historical Society, Cockeysville.
11. Baltimore City Deeds, WG CC:49, Maryland State Archives, (hereafter cited as MSA).
12. Baltimore *Federal Gazette*, October 25, 1803. The marriage is also recorded in the St. Peters-Cathedral register, Microfilm No. MF 1507, MSA.
13. Baltimore *American*, July 16, 1810.
14. Baltimore *American*, August 7, 1812.
15. Baltimore *American*, August 10, 1813.
16. Baltimore County Assessor's Field Book, 1823, District 2, No. 8238, MSA. [?]
17. Bitner, "Pot Spring," unpagged. Baltimore County Wills, 9:12, MSA.
18. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Maryland* (Philadelphia, 1879), 3:774.
19. Scharf, *History of Baltimore*, p. 62.
20. Scharf, *History of Baltimore*, p. 804. Also, Scharf, *History of Maryland* (Philadelphia, 1879), 3:774.
21. Louise Hickman Lione, "Living In A Fine Antique," *Sun Magazine*, January 23, 1967.
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23. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 252:234, MSA.
24. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 148:182, MSA.
25. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 273:215, MSA. Also, Bitner, "Pot Spring."
26. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 3:188.
27. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 6:322.
28. Baltimore County Judicial Records, EHA 20:380.
29. Baltimore County Judicial Records, EHA 20:368.

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

name of property: Pot Spring

Section number 8 Page 10

30. Baltimore County Deeds, JB 85:361. Also, Baltimore Sun, February 21, 1874.
31. County Directories of Maryland, *350th Anniversary Book of Baltimore County*, (Baltimore, 1959), p. 125.
32. Baltimore County Deeds, JWS 163:154.
33. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, district 8, folio 610, MSA.
34. *Sun*, March 27, 1926.
35. County Directories, 1959, p. 125.
36. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 633:41.
37. "Pot Spring Is Beautiful Colonial Country House," *Jeffersonian*, December 6, 1930.
38. Wallis Warfield Windsor, *The Heart Has Its Reasons* (New York, 1956), pp. 21.
39. Baltimore County Deeds, CWB JR 962:296.
40. L. McLane Fisher, et al., "The Architectural Firm of Edward L. Palmer, Jr., and Its Successors," (Towson, 1982), Project 1370, page 40.
41. "Pot Spring Farm Sale Confirmed," *Evening Sun*, April 16, 1952.
42. Baltimore County Deeds, GLB 2185:97.
43. Baltimore County Deeds, GLB 2478:424.
44. County Directories, p. 125.
45. Baltimore County Deeds, RRG 4384:39.
46. Baltimore County Deeds, RRG 4460:337.
47. Jackson, "Towson-Area Family."
48. Amalie Adler Ascher, "Space Plus Grandeur," *Sun Magazine*, May 16, 1982.
49. Michael Shultz, "Mondale, Stumping for Party, Finds New Support in Timonium," *Evening Sun*, May 21, 1982.
50. Merrill Witty, "Amy and Lee's Piece of History," *Baltimore*, February 2000, p. 67.

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Maryland

BA-70

Baltimore County

Pot Spring

Dist. VIII

NE corner of Pot Spring & Timonium.

2207 Eastlake Road

1776

Stone, plaster-covered house, built by David McMechen on a 327 acre tract; slave quarters. Purchased by Joshua F. C. Talbott in 1852.

(Check address when ready to use)

color slide

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965



POT SPRING PRIOR TO 1936, AS IT APPEARED DURING CIVIL WAR, & PERHAPS ORIGINALLY. FRONT PORCH MAY BE ORIGINAL.



POT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHED FROM SAME SPOT IN 1965