



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-1147



CASE NO. DOE 25-02 DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO COUNTY REGISTER STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: Walker Place
10240 Fingerboard Road, Ijamsville

Applicant: Dawn Gordon

Public Hearing for consideration of determining the property located at 10240 Fingerboard Road, Walker Place, eligible for the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Dawn Gordon, property owner of record.

The public hearing for the determination of eligibility to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 6:30 p.m., or thereafter, on December 3, 2025.



Figure 1: Subject Property outlined in yellow.

DESIGNATION STATUS

The property has a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form identified by number F-7-76 and known as Walker Place. The property contains the house and bank barn. The property encompasses approximately 25 acres of land.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

A completed County Register nomination form, maps, a statement of significance, and photographs were submitted.

SITE VISITS

Site visits were scheduled for November 21, 24, and 30, 2025. Commissioners were notified of the pending nomination and encouraged to visit the site on these dates. Commissioners who could not attend were encouraged to view the property from the public right-of-way.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The architectural and historical significance of the property is documented in the supporting materials. The property is associated with early settlement of the County and construction techniques and architectural styling of the 18th century. Based on the information provided, Staff find the property is eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A) and 6B(2A).

2) History Summary

The existing MIHP documentation for the property traces the deed history incorrectly. Staff re-did the deed record search from the most recent deed transaction in 2020 all the way back to its land patent in 1756. Several deed records from the 2000s mention the parcel is part of a tract called "Resurvey on Seth's Folly." In 1756, Brice Thomas Beale Worthington patented 50 acres of a tract called "Seth's Folly" originally certified to Seth Hyat and an adjoining vacant tract to create a 1,110-acre tract named "Resurvey on Seth's Folly." Brice Worthington left 200 acres of the Resurvey on Seth's Folly to his son Henry, and the remaining acreage was left to his son John in 1794. There is no mention of any dwelling in the Will. In 1822, deed records show the tract was sold from the estate of John Worthington to Singleton Wooten. John Worthington does not appear to have resided at any time in Frederick County and always remained in Anne Arundel County. Further research is needed to narrow the date of construction; however, it is believed a dwelling was built sometime between 1794 and 1822. Locating John Worthington's Will would assist in this further research.

Singleton Wooten retained the property and was sold in 1860 as part of an equity case of \$17,728. It was sold later to the Worthington family again until 1892 when it was sold to John

Molesworth. Molesworth sold the property to Richard and Alice Walker in 1934 and had several transactions throughout the 20th century before eventually being sold to the Furman family in 2007. The historic name provided in the MIHP form, Walker Place, does not seem an appropriate name after completing the deed research. Staff recommend the name be changed once additional research has been completed to confirm the date of construction for the house.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

Staff find the property is eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- 6B(1A): *The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.*

The property has significant character, interest, and value in the development, heritage, and culture of the County, State, and nation. While further research is necessary to learn more about the Worthington and Wooten families, the buildings that are extant on the landscape today illustrate the farming history of Frederick County. How the Worthington and Wooten families played into the County's history and heritage will need to be further explored prior to an application to designate the property to the County Register. It is clear through the deed records, however, that the property was identified and patented early in the County's history as land prospectors from the eastern parts of Maryland began to move westward into the colony.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- 6B(2A): *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*

The property is an excellent example of Federal style with its symmetrical façade, six-over-six windows, interior gable end chimneys, and an elliptical fanlight over the paneled front doors. A secondary appendage is located on the southern elevation that may have been built in conjunction with the larger two-story block. Further review of this addition is necessary. Later additions extend off the rear of the main house but do not detract from the façade of the building. Staff recommends additional investigation be completed to date these later additions prior to the property being designated to the County Register.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the property be determined eligible for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A) and 6B(2A) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.