

Federal Hill
Built ca. 1850
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This property was originally 416 acres along Cattail Run, cobbled together through the second half of the 18th century by John White and then devised to his son Alexander White in 1793. Alexander White was assessed for a house in Berkeley County in 1798, valued at \$157.50 and occupied by a tenant named Middleton. In 1807, Alexander White sold the 416-acre farm to Joshua Swayne of Frederick Co., Virginia for \$22 ½ per acre, \$9,360 (JC DB 4/482).

Swayne lived in Winchester Virginia but his must have greatly improved the property before he sold it in 1816 to Frederick Eichelberger of Frederick Co., Maryland for \$21,360.85, then down to 388 acres (JC DB 9/285). It is likely that the primary improvement was a mill. However the 1820 assessment of the building value of \$600 on the property does not seem to match the 1816 purchase price. In 1826 George and Adam Eichelberger divided the property into two farms of 196 acres each – George’s being the Federal Hill parcel – but both got some of the “old buildings,” and purchased them from their father Frederick Eichelberger. The deed from Frederick to George Eichelberger of 196 acres, for which he paid \$4,850, included a reservation of the right-of-way “from the residue of the larger tract to the Grist Mill” (1826, JC DB 14/277).

George Eichelberger was assessed in 1827 for a building value on his 196 acres of \$1,500 for “new Mill & Barn \$1,250 & part of old buildings \$250.” In 1831 his value went up \$392 (\$1,892 total) “for new Oliver mill.” It went up again by \$200 in 1833 (\$2,092) without comment. In 1841 his building value was \$2,500, up \$408, again without comment. In 1851, the assessment went up \$500 to \$3,000 without comment. At a total of \$1,108, does this represent the slow construction of a new brick house?

George Eichelberger actually sold the 196-acre farm to his son George W. Eichelberger in 1849 for \$11,760 (JC DB 32/341), although that sale did not show up in the tax record until 1852. The farm was again sold by the Chancery Court in 1881 to Rebecca Hunter for \$15,940 (JC DB K/190). Since the property included the mill, it is difficult to say what the price implies, but it may indicate that the brick house was constructed after the 1849 sale.