

Homestead (John Engle House)

Built 1834 by John Engle

Resource History

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Between the Rivers didn't quite get this one right. The land was not granted to Melchor Engle. And it was not until 1808 when the land finally reached the hands of Philip Engle Jr. (son of Philip Sr. who was son of Melchor Engle).

This land was part of a larger tract granted by Thomas Lord Fairfax to William Stroope (Strupe) in 1762. William's son Jacob inherited the tract and then sold 286 acres to his son (probably William Stroope (Strupe) by Lease & Release in 1778 for £100 (BC DB 5/138). William Strupe (the younger) sold the 286-acre tract to Samuel Hardesty "of Montgomery County, Maryland" in 1789 for £480. Presumably by this time the land was improved to some degree, although considering its proximity to the Potomac River, at the time in the process of being developed by the Patowmack Navigation Company, the land would likely have been quite valuable. Prior to 1790, this tract apparently was never taxed in Berkeley County.

1790 – Samuel Hardesty of Montgomery Co., Maryland sold the 286 acres to Frederick Sly (Sligh) for £700 (BC DB 10/53).

“Beginning at a post on the line of Division between the said William Strupe and John Merrit about 38 poles from the bank of the river Patowmack the Beginning corner of the original tract thence along the lines of the Same N 66° 30' W 226 poles to a walnut Tree thence S 23° W 154 poles to a post in the center head of a Spring at the line of William Halls Deed near and at the north side of Elk branch thence S 62° E 30 poles to a Black Oak in a hill thence S 15° W 36 poles to two white oaks corner to Joseph MCommis deed thence along the line of the Same S 77° E 277 poles to a post in the line of MCommis and corner to John Merritt and then along Merritts line N 3° W 109 poles to the Beginning containing 286 acres of land...”

Frederick Sly was assessed for his 286 acres in 1790 at a rate of 7/2. This assessment rate never changed under Sly ownership (through 1805).

1798 – Matthew (Mathias) Sly, son of Frederick Sly, was assessed for two houses in Berkeley County: one in the “country” valued at \$210, and one “at the mill” valued at \$131.25.

Both of these houses were likely log construction.

“Sligh's Mill” later became known as “Strider's Mill” and was located on the south side of the tract, on the north side of Elk Branch (see 1852 Brown map).

1808 – Mathias Slyh [sic], Henry Slyh, and Thomas & Mary (Sly) Melvin, heirs of Frederick Slyh [sic], sold 224 acres of the tract to Philip Ingle (Engle) and John Daniels for \$5,169.25 (JC DB 4/476).

