

Fort Tonoloway

(Stodderts Fort)

Fort Tonoloway is believed to be west of Little Tonoloway Creek near the Potomac River. The back ground information covers people located on the 1736 Winslow Map around present day Hancock. It then moves forward in time and covers the land owners of the fort site.

1. Charles Polke “Indian Trader” obtains a deed for the tract Henthorns Rest (100 acres) from John & Margaret Henthorn in 1746 (PG. Co. Deed BB1-426). Charles Polke dies in 1753. Christian, the widow of Charles Polke, then marries Ralph Matson. In 1756 Ralph Matson has the land resurveyed and names it Resurvey on Henthorns Rest (Fr. Co. Unpatented Survey# 654 205 acres).

Ralph Matson is deceased by 1779 when Christian Matson & Edmund Polke deed over the land to George Brent (1779 Fr. Co. Deed B-27).

Records state the home of Ralph Matson was burned by the Indians during the French & Indian War.

Maryland Gazette Annapolis March 11 1756 Isaac Baker gave an account of an Indian raid reported From Frederick County:

*"My last was of the 26th instant, on our march to Tonaloways: about 5 miles on this side Stoddert's fort, we found John Meyers' house in flames, and 9 or 10 head of large cattle killed, besides calves, and several horse-kind and sheep. About 3 miles and a half farther up the road, we found a man (one Hynes) killed and scalped, with one arm cut off, and several arrows sticking in him; we could not bury him, having no tools with us for that purpose. **Half a mile further (within a mile of Stoddert's fort) we found Ralph Matson's house burnt down**, and several sheep and hogs killed. When we came to Stoddert's Fort, we found them all under arms, expecting every minute to be attacked.*

Was Ralph Matson's house actually the house Charles Polke or another structure?

According to the letter of Isaac Baker they would be coming in from the east. John Myers land is in the area of Millstone Road and White Oak Ridge.

2. Captain John-No information found

3. Thomas Hargis-Owned the next tract to the southwest along the Potomac River. Darlings Delight (1743 PG. Co. Patented Survey# 610 150 acres) and Darlings Delight (1748 PG. Co. Patented Survey# 611 225 acres).

Darlings Delight was sold off in three parts by Thomas & Elizabeth Hargis

A. Thomas Cresap Jr. (1753 Fr. Co. Deed E-284 75 acres). Thomas Cresap Jr. died in 1756 near Savage Mountain from a gunshot wound received during a skirmish with the Indians. Drusilla Cresap, widow of Thomas Cresap Jr., died soon after. The land then went to their daughter Charity who married George Brent.

B. Joseph Flint (1753 Fr. Co. Deed E-355 50 acres) from Thomas Hargis Jr.

C. Thomas Cresap Sr. (1749 Fr. Co. Deed B-50 100 acres). Thomas Cresap Sr. sold the land to William Gilleland (1750 Fr. Co. Deed B-289 100 acres). William Gilleland died from wounds in battle with the Indians near Fort Frederick in 1756.

4. Thomas Wiggins-No information found

Fort Tonoloway Land Owners

Fort Tonoloway site at the time of the French & Indian War was vacant land. In 1762 the land was surveyed for Joseph Flint which became Resurvey on Flints Chance. The land was sold to George Brent and it remained in the Brent Family for many years after the war.

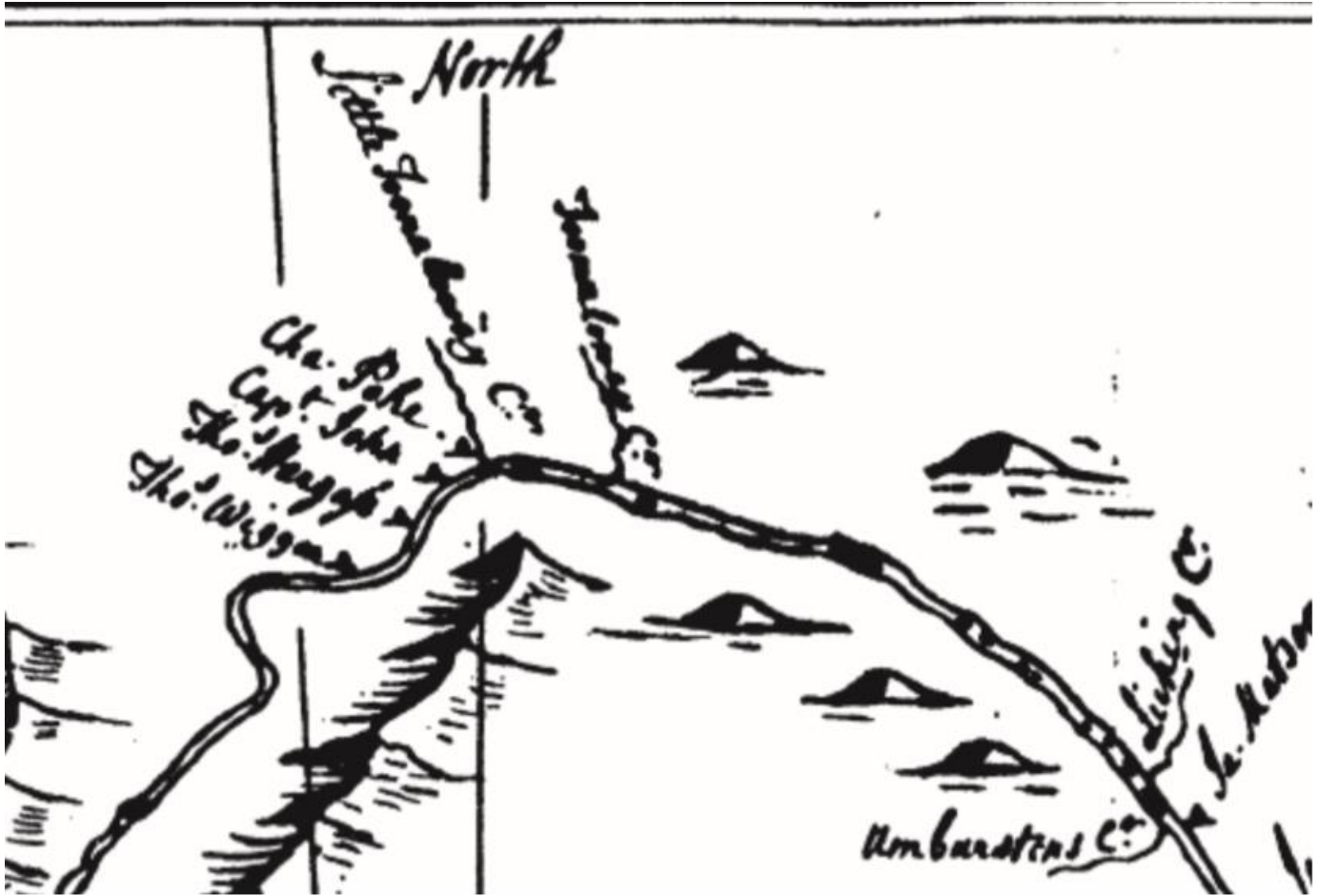
Joseph Flint's first land near the fort is Flints Chance (1754 Fr. Co. Patent #1413 50 acres). In 1763 Flint adds on to Flints Chance with Resurvey on Flints Chance (1763 Fr. Co. Patent# 3437 258 acres). The land which was added covers the area of the fort. Joseph Flint sells a portion of the land where the fort sits to George Brent (1767 Fr. Co. Deed V-123 100 acres).

George Brent who married Charity Cresap dies in 1782. The land goes to his son Thomas C. Brent, who has the different tracts of lands resurveyed to form Brents Chance (1796 Wa. Co. Patent# 163 406 acres).

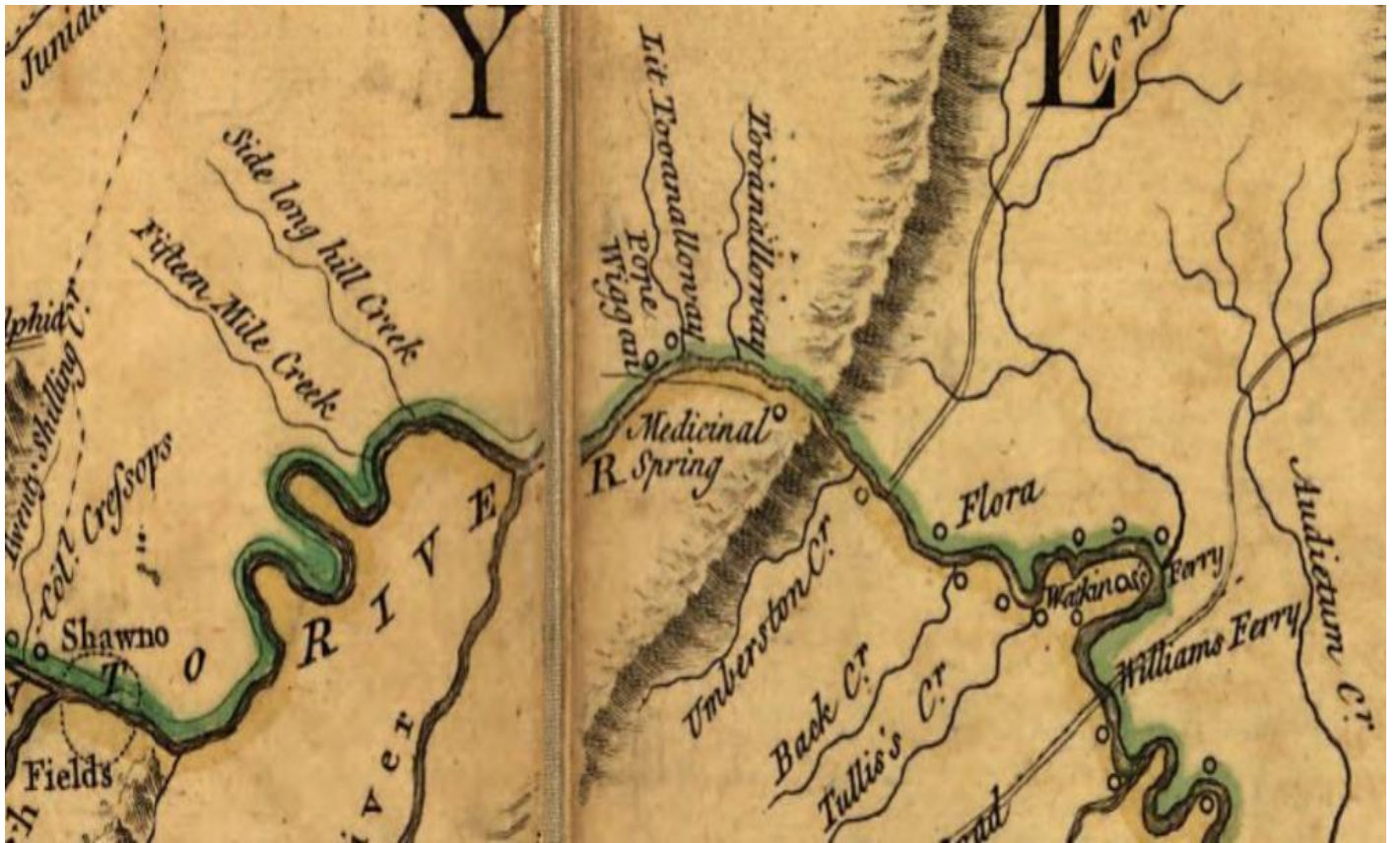
Thomas C. Brent dies in 1831 and leaves the land to his son George Brent.

Land remains in the Brent Family until 1869 when part of the land is sold to Jacob S. Widmeyer. Brent house and family burial ground are located on the property.

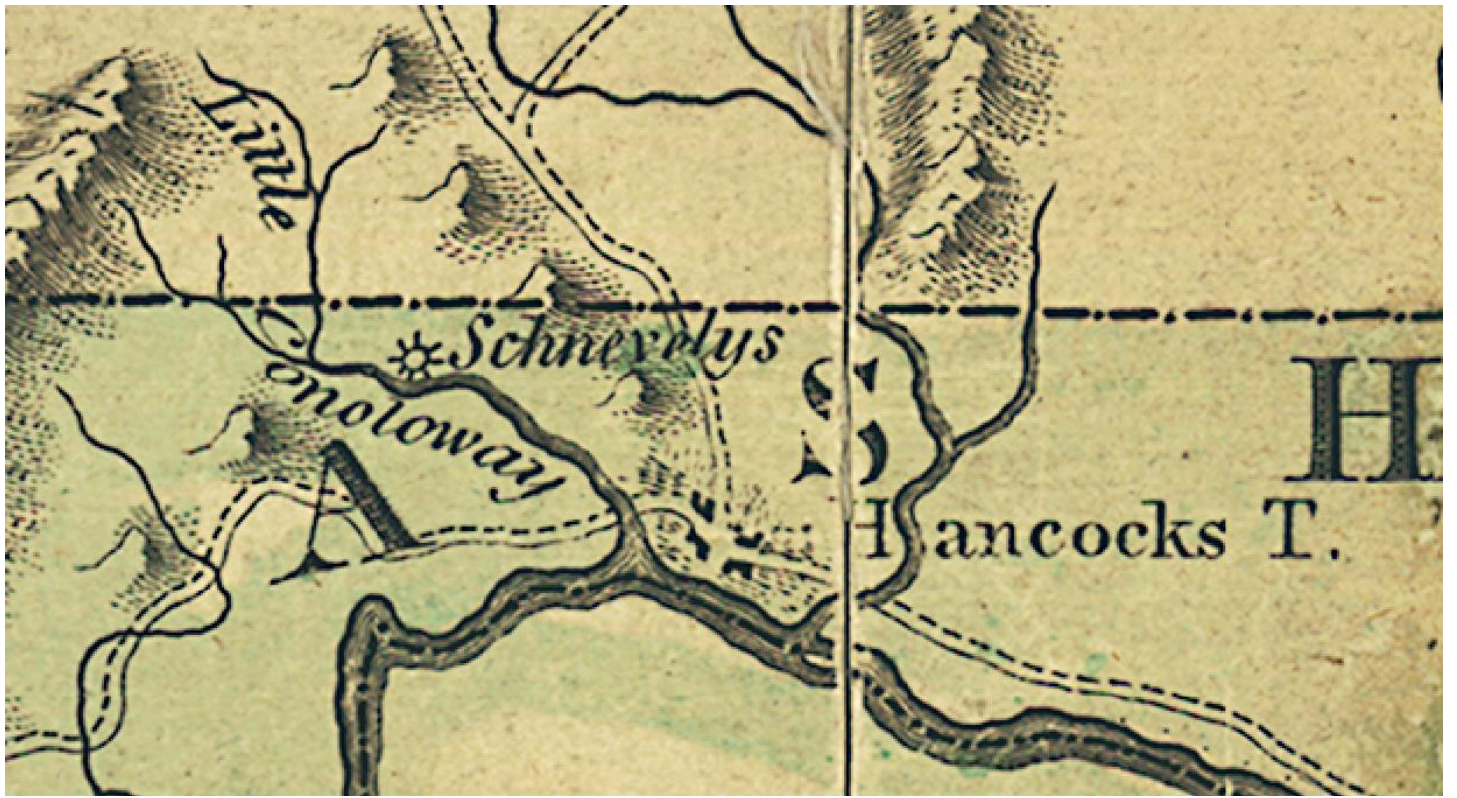
To	From	Date	Deed
Jacob S. Widmeyer	George Brent (Grandson of George Brent)	1869	WMCKK 2-21 144.5 acres (Brent Burial Ground)
James R. Smith	Jacob S. Widmeyer (Estate)	1893	101-281
Brent G. Smith (Etal.)	James R. Smith (Equity Case)	1906	124-704
Raymond J. Funkhouser	Brent G. Smith (Etal.)	1918	153-461
George R. Moler	Raymond J. Funkhouser	1920	158-48
Charles H. Locher	George R. Moler	1925	171-587
State of Maryland	Charles H. Locher	1938	207-275 26.3 acres



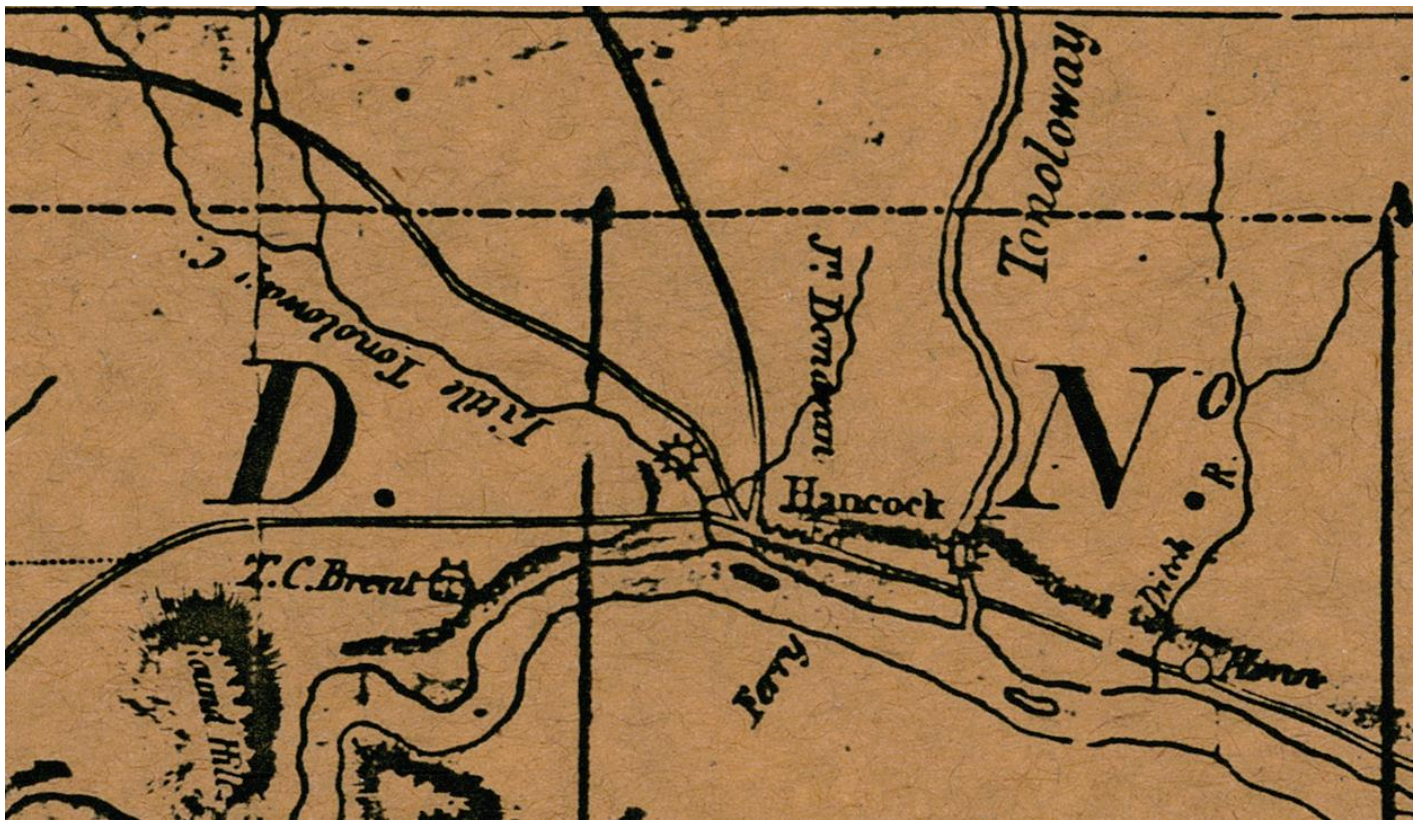
1736 Winslow Map



1754 Joshua Fry Map



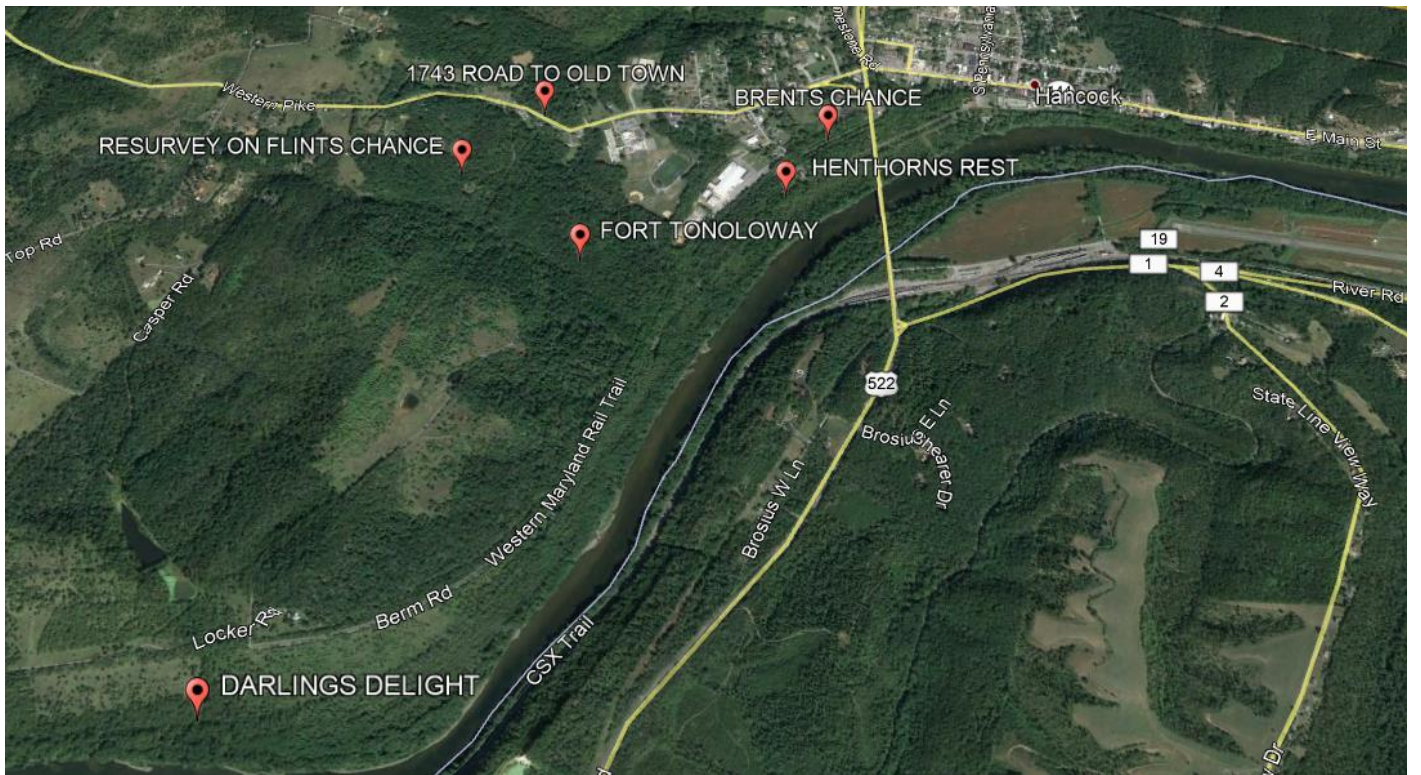
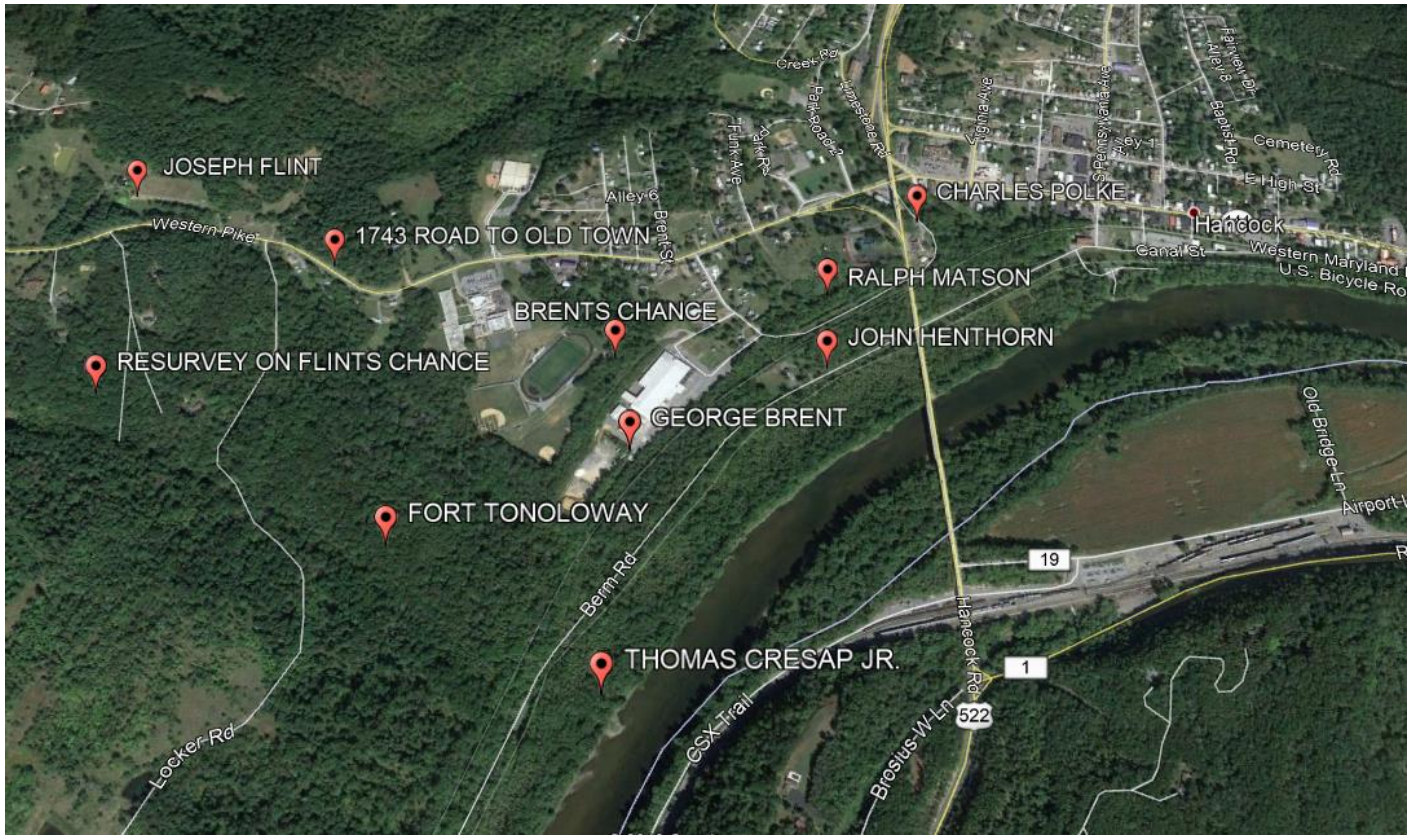
1795 Dennis Griffith Map

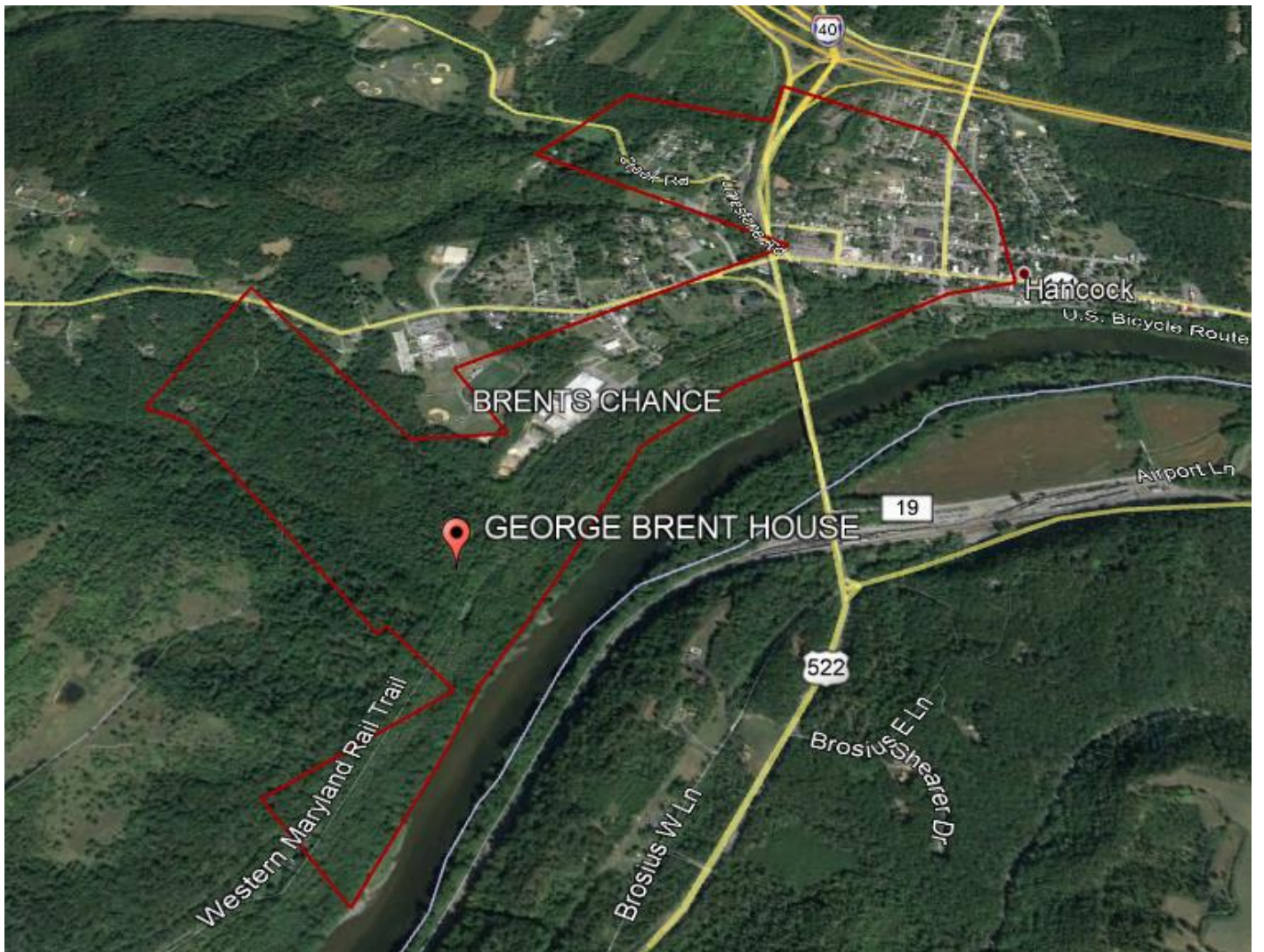


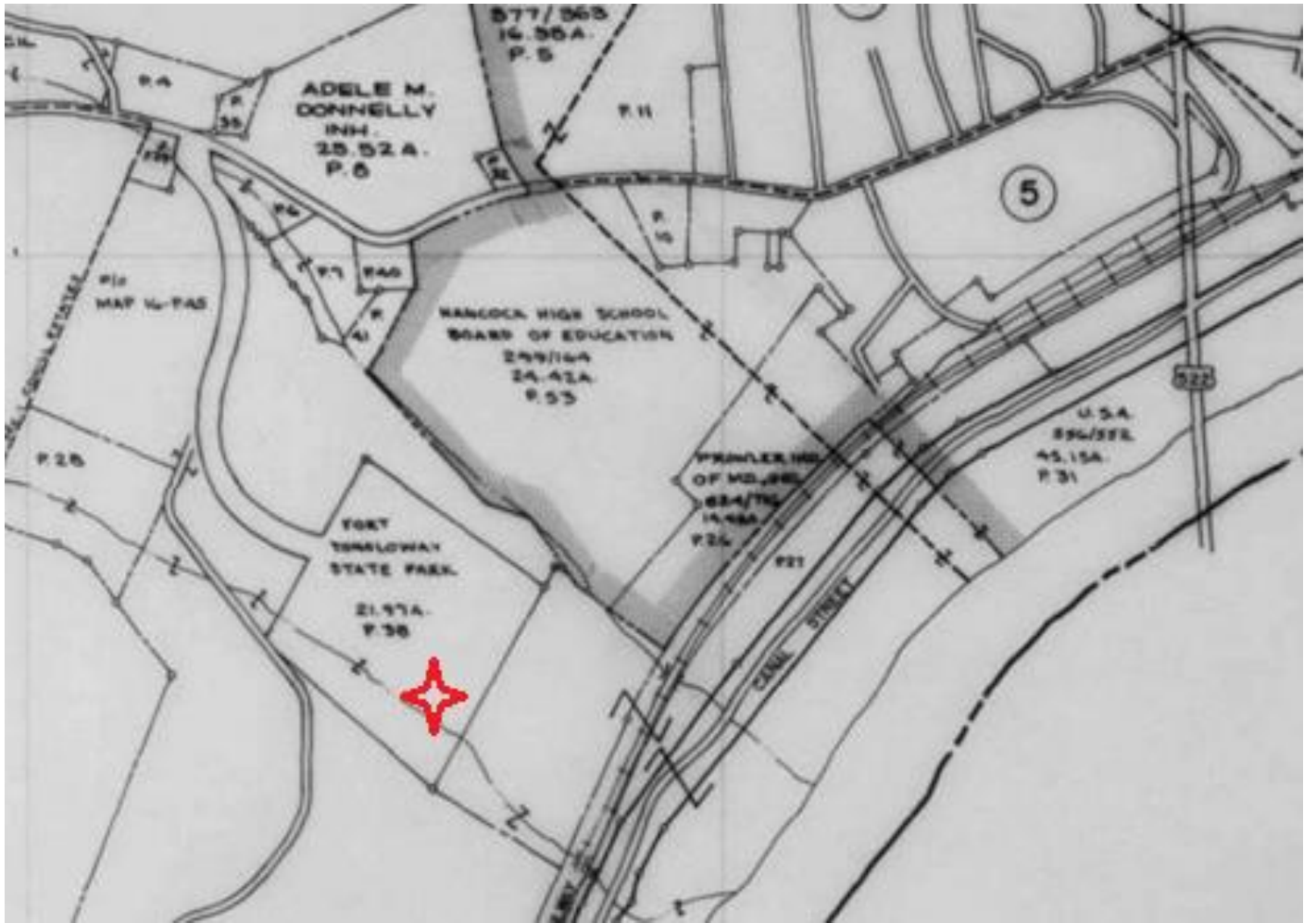
1808 Charles Varle Map



1859 Thomas Taggart Map
Washington County







1977 Washington County Maryland
Property Tax Map



Washington County Deed 207-275

27 June 1938



Fort Tonoloway Property
1937 Aerial Photo



Lidar View 2019
Fort Tonoloway Property
(MD iMap Topography Viewer)