

Prin. Citiz & Town

Haymarket
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

The Journal Messenger

Date 4/17/95

Green Hill house part of Haymarket history

To the Editor:

In reference to an article by John Kellman I would like to respond. We here in Haymarket do lament the destruction of the house on Green Hill Plantation, as we are beginning to celebrate our 200th anniversary, the founding of Haymarket, by William Skinker, on a portion of his farm.

As we have copies of deeds, and a copy of the petition presented to the General Assembly for the chartering of the town by William Skinker, we have no doubt that he founded the town, and that he lived on the hill behind the town where the house now stands. Our accounts state that he built a log cabin on the 'knoll' of the farm he inherited. We have no account that he built a greater house, only copies of deeds

of transfer of the property when he died, and when it was resold.

We have verification from a member of the Bleight family who bought the farm from the Tylers, who bought the farm from the Skinkers, that the present house was built by the Bleights in 1883. The log cabin remained until the Stantons bought it from the Bleights, and then sold the property to a developer. Mrs. Stanton stated she and her husband removed the log cabin which was the kitchen of the big house.

As a matter of interest, the Bleights inherited from a relative, a printer, in Philadelphia the table on which the Declaration of Independence was printed, as well as some elaborate furniture made for Queen Marie Antoinette, who was attempting to escape to America. The table

lived in the Green Hill house and later in a house in Haymarket, now destroyed, until presented to a museum. So, we feel the house has historical significance. These facts can be verified.

We regret the loss of the pastoral setting of the farm, and feel the developer could make an effort to retain the house as a monument to the founder of Haymarket, as we in Haymarket will now have to look at banks of homes.

We are looking into the feasibility of moving the house, and thank the developer for his offer to allow us to remove whatever we like from the house.

Sarah M. Turner
Haymarket Historical Commission