
THE ABRAHAM BRADLEY FARM

When Abraham Bradley, a distinguished citizen and native of Philadelphia, was appointed Assistant Postmaster General by President Madison in 1800, he and his family moved to Washington, D.C. The purpose was to move the federal post office from Philadelphia to the new center of government and make arrangements for all ten of his employees. During the War of 1812, when he realized the vulnerability of the federal government and his property to British attack, Bradley purchased the old Belt farmhouse and property some ten miles north of the White House. This 218-acre tract, now the site of the Chevy Chase Club, was originally part of the 560-acre grant, called Chevy Chase, deeded to Joseph Belt in 1725.

In addition to building his brick home on what is now Oliver Street, Colonel Belt in the late 1740s had built a large frame house on his tobacco farm about a half mile north of his residence. To reach his tobacco farm, he probably used part of Brookeville Road and then built a road west to the farm and then on to Rockville Pike. This road became known as Jackson Road, now Bradley Lane, and was for several years the main east-west road between Brookeville Road and the Washington-Fredrick Road or Wisconsin Avenue.

The only remnants of the old farmhouse are a single beam in one of the main Chevy Chase Club buildings and a nearby chimney with the numerals 1747 on it.

Linscott Hall



The Bradley Farm House was the first home of the Chevy Chase Club.

COURTESY, CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAYES MANOR

One of the less well-known but lovely Georgian style mansions in this area is Hayes Manor, located at the end of Manor Road in the Chevy Chase Lake area. The original house was built on some 700 acres, probably purchased from the "Clean Drinking" grant, in 1765 by the Reverend Alexander Williamson. The Reverend Williamson, a friend of William Pitt, then Prime Minister of England, named the mansion Hayes Manor in honor of the Prime Minister's country home. William-

son, a loyal Tory during the American Revolution, suffered financially and socially during that war and was forced to sell off pieces of his property. The property was purchased by James Dunlop from the Reverend Williamson in 1792 and remained in the Dunlop family until 1965. The original house has had two wings added, one in 1899 and the other in 1908. The present estate is about ten acres.

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