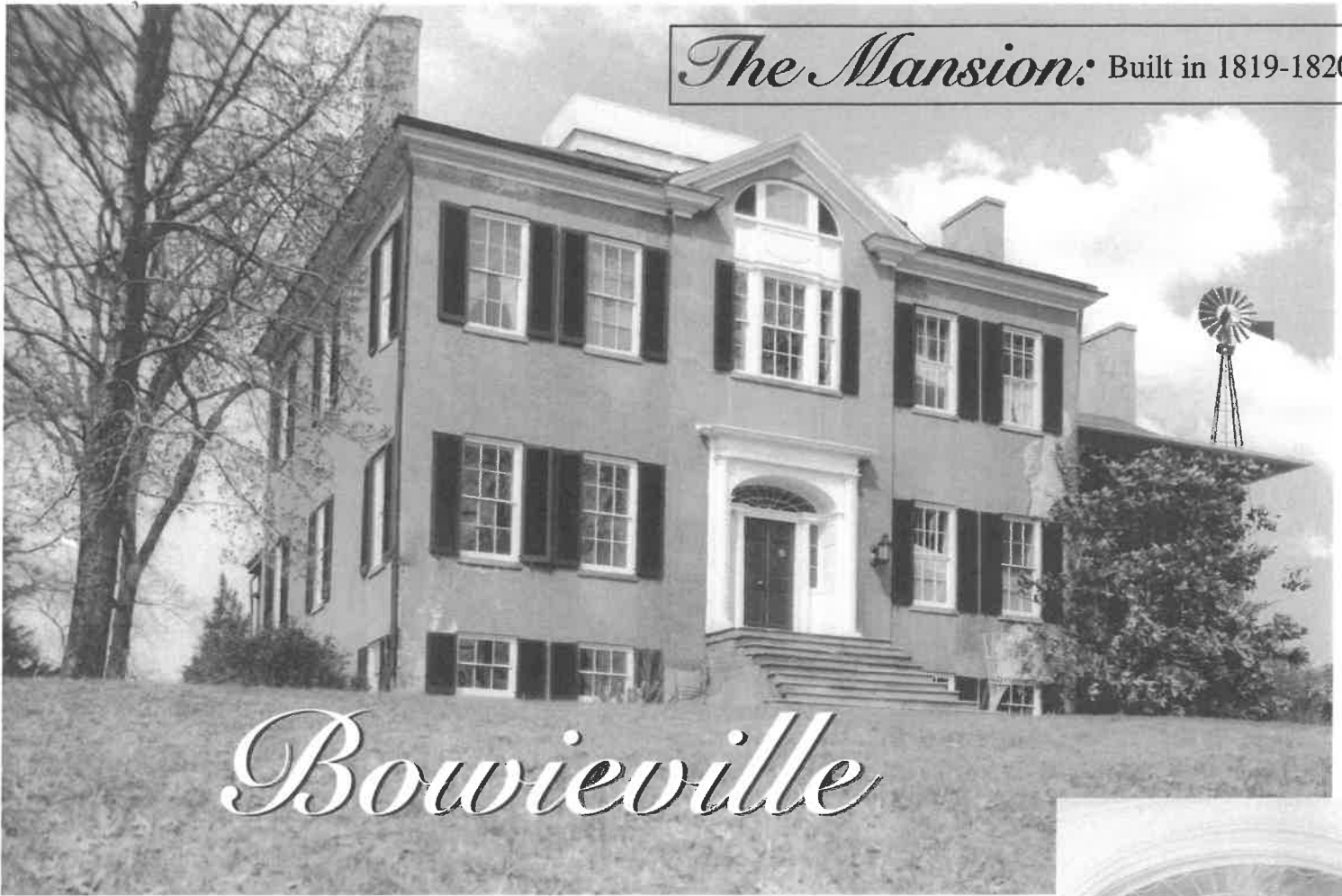




*Bowieville*  
*The Mansion*



*The Mansion:* Built in 1819-1820



# Bowieville

## *Setting:*

*Located on a prominent site east of Church Road, Bowieville sits at the crest of a hill, which affords it a view of rolling fields in every direction.*



## *Bowieville:*

*Bowieville reflects the prosperity of the tobacco economy of Prince George's County, as well as the prominence of the Bowie family. Bowieville was a center of county society, the scene of many well-publicized balls, receptions, and other social events. With land inherited from her father and land bought from her son, Mary Bowie built an extravagant mansion around 1820. A generation later the 750-acre plantation became the home of the William J. Berry family. It was worked by a large African-American labor force that numbered approximately 30 during Mary Bowie's residence, and more than 60 during that of William J. Berry. A unique example of its type, unrivaled in its elegant detail, Bowieville was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Restoration of the Bowieville mansion will begin in the fall of 2004, in conjunction with development of the Oak Creek community.*

Mary Bowie on property inherited from her father, Maryland Governor Robert Bowie.

## *The Families of Bowieville:*

*Mary Mackall Bowie Wootton Bowie, daughter of Maryland Governor Robert Bowie, was married and widowed twice. She was first married to Turner Wootton from 1794 until his death in 1796. Together they had one son, William Turner Wootton. She then married her third cousin, Thomas Contee Bowie, in 1801; they had nine children. He died suddenly in 1813. Mary Bowie is "described as a woman of masculine business capacity and energy, who managed her large plantation with skill and success," wrote Effie Gwynn Bowie in "Across the Years in Prince George's County". Mary Bowie died in 1825, and the Bowieville plantation was managed by her son, Robert Bowie, for the next 20 years. In 1846 Bowieville became home to the family of William J. Berry and remained in the Berry family for nearly a century. During the Berry family's residence, Bowieville became the social center of County society. Upon the death of William J. Berry in 1867, the Bowieville estate was willed to his son, Jeremiah Berry, and remained the home of members of the Berry family until 1933. Two years later it was sold to Harold and Mary Knapp, who remained in residence until 1968.*



## *Architectural Characteristics:*

*Bowieville is the most sophisticated late Federal style plantation house; its outstanding classical detail exemplifies the transition from the Federal style into the Greek Revival style that would follow.*



## *Decorative Features and Trim:*

*Bowieville's outstanding decorative elements begin with the classical entrance, which is framed by two sets of engaged Doric columns and crowned by semi-elliptical leaded fanlight; some of these elements are repeated in the formal parlors inside. Above left is an interior view of Bowieville, taken in the 1930's. There are many who say that there is no other home in Prince George's County as handsome inside as this one. The home is also noted for its beautiful ceiling medallions and mantels of gray marble. The two adjoining parlors (northeast and north-west rooms) have handsome marble mantels with colonnades and fluted friezes.*



### *Reference Sources:*

Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress)  
Virta, Alan: Prince George's County: A Pictorial History 1998  
M-NCP&PC: Landmarks of Prince George's County 1993  
Prince George's County Slave Statistics  
Hill, Phillip J., et al: Phase I Archeological Survey of Oak Creek Club, April, 2004  
Pearl, S.G., Bowieville National Register Form, 1992.



# In Recognition of...

*Prince George's County was the greatest tobacco-producing county in Maryland.*

*More slaves worked here than in any other county in the state.*

*In memory of the men, women and children born into a time of slavery, who lived at and worked the land of Bowieville, we thank them for their contributions to the wealth of the county – culturally and agriculturally.*



## Mary Bowie's Slaves

*Nace (last name unknown)*  
*Sam Adams*  
*John Adams*  
*Rachel Adams*  
*Poll (last name unknown)*  
*Betty (last name unknown)*  
*Harriett (last name unknown)*  
*Elisa (last name unknown)*  
*William (last name unknown)*  
*Rachel (last name unknown)*  
*Elisa (last name unknown)*  
*Joe (last name unknown)*  
*Molly (last name unknown)*  
*Billy (last name unknown)*  
*Aaron (last name unknown)*  
*Flora (last name unknown)*  
*Chaney (last name unknown)*  
*Beck (last name unknown)*  
*Kitty of Beck*  
*Nell of Beck*  
*Misty of Nell of Beck*  
*Rachel of Beck*  
*Dinah (last name unknown)*  
*(first name unknown) of Beck*  
*Polly (last name unknown)*  
*Mary (last name unknown)*  
*Kitty (last name unknown)*  
*Sally (last name unknown)*  
*John (last name unknown)*

## William J. Berry's Slaves

*Jack Smith*  
*Daniel Smith*  
*Betsy Smith*  
*Enoch Smith*  
*Celia Brown*  
*Louisa Brown*  
*Jerry Brown*  
*Mary Brown*  
*Jerry Green*  
*Bob Green*  
*David Green*  
*Dennis Green*  
*Mick Green*  
*Dilbert Green*  
*Lemuel Green*  
*Patsy Green*  
*Isabella Green*  
*Henry Green*  
*Chas Green*  
*Martha Green*  
*Joe Green*  
*Matilda Green*  
*Polly Green*  
*Patsy Digges*  
*Dennis Digges*  
*Children of Daniel Digges*  
*Easter Marlow*  
*Henry Green*  
*Deborah Green*  
*Maria Green*  
*Wesley Green*

*Fanny Dodson*  
*Oliver Dodson*  
*Joseph Dodson*  
*Cassy Jasper*  
*Rose Dodson*  
*Eliza Dodson*  
*Robert Jasper*  
*Lee Sprigg*  
*Henry Brown, Jr.*  
*Jane Brown*  
*Emily Tasher*  
*Lizzie Brown*  
*Henry Brown, Jr.*  
*Arthur Brown*  
*Thomas Sheppard*  
*Priscilla Green*  
*Harry Green*  
*William Brent*  
*Lolly Brent*  
*Moses Brent*  
*Jerry Slater*  
*Betty Bowie*  
*John Digges*  
*Phillip Digges*  
*William Woodward*  
*Otho Hammonds*  
*Fruman Carter*  
*Nace Smallwood*  
*Dolly Sheppard*  
*Frank Brown*  
*Child of Lizzie Brown*