

Easton Property Lots

The lots as the
of Talbot County
bounds.

The block is bounded by South Street, Hanson
Street aka Academy Street, by Talbot Lane aka
Chilcutt Lane and the "Marginal Lane" aka
Talbot or Front Street.

The life of James Freeman is mostly unknown to
us. James Freeman first appeared as a free man
with the recording of his will in 1798.

James was the owner of Lot No. 31 in Easton.
There is not a deed of sale to James for this lot,
indicating he was the original purchaser of this
lot soon after the town of Easton was laid out
1787-1788.

His will tells us that he married a girl named
Henny and together they had a large family.

In 1798 his sons James, Jacob, Garrison and
Daniel were over 21 years of age. Son Thomas
was a minor. His daughter Rachel was of age,
daughters Hannah, Anne and Sophia were
minors under the age of 16-18 years in 1798.

During James lifetime he rented part of his lot
to a free person called Hercules. His lot
contained two dwelling houses and it also served
as a small farm at the edge of town.

James Freeman can be considered
one of the first free African
Americans to purchase and own a
lot of the newly laid out Town of
Easton.

Landowner

Public records reveal part of the story.

- **1798** The Tax Assessment describes the property as having 2 houses under the ownership of James Freeman's heirs and tenanted by Hercules.
 - House 1 story of wood 18 by 16 feet with 3 windows 40 by 24 inches. Value \$50
 - House 1 story of wood 20 by 14 feet with 2 windows 30 by 16 inches. Value \$50
- **1804** The Tax Assessment indicates Henny Freeman was the lot owner for the Hanson St. property as a "Dower for Life", still being ½ acre of land. At this time there was only one dwelling house now valued at £10.
- **1820** The Census lists Henny as head of Household. Her son was involved in manufacturing.
 - 1 male age 26-44 years (a son)
 - 1 female age over 45 years (Henny)
 - 1 female under 14 years (granddaughter)
- **1828** On March 4, the *Republican Star* published details of a property sale.
 - Collectors Sale – Lot No. 31 sold to raise the sum of 62 ½ cents due from Henny Freeman as Town Tax on her property for 1826. The lot was sold for the price of \$2.75.

The taxes were in arrears due to Henny's death in 1825.

In the 1826 tax assessment, her heirs were named as

The People of H

The Hill Community
Project
Easton, Maryland