

Easton Property Lots

No. 50, 51, 52

During the life time of Perry Sprouse, Talbot Street was the southern boundary of the town of Easton.

These parcels are bounded by South Street, by Hanson Street (aka Academy Street), by Thoroughgood Lane (aka Loockerman Lane) and on the south by The Marginal Lane (aka Talbot or Front Street).

The lots as they are described in the land records of Talbot County with their original metes and bounds.

The Hill Community
of

Easton, Maryland

**The People of
Hanson Street**

Perry Sprouse

Free Black

Bethel A.M.E. Trustee

1785-1866



Peregrine Sprouse

Landowner

Legacy

Perry ~ Pere
alias Perry Stewart
Laborer

Perry Sprouse resided and owned land within the Hanson St. community in its early years. He was born in 1785 or 1786 and died in 1866. He married Sophia Williams on 31 July 1826, Rev. Bayne officiating. Sophia was born in 1799 and died between 1844 and 1850.

According to Certificates of Freedom filed in the Talbot County Court, a “dark mulatto man,” named Perry, then age twenty-two and raised in the county, was freed by James Beatie on October 27, 1808. This may have been Perry Sprouse.

Using the census records we find nine children in the household of Perry and Sophia.

- Anthony Jr. born 1823,
- William born 1826,
- Elizabeth born 1827,
- Thomas born 1828,
- Rachel born 1829 and
- Frisby and Sharlotte, twins born in 1830
- Henry born 1831
- Nancy born 1844.

Lot No. 52 was originally sold in 1820 by Henry Catrup to the trustees of the Bethel A.M.E. Church. In 1827, a deed was filed conveying Lot No. 52 to Perry Sprouse by Joseph Chain, a trustee of the church. Perry was also a member and trustee of Bethel A.M.E.

It is not known if Perry and his family lived on this lot prior to purchase, but it is probable that they did. In the 1826 Tax Assessment of Easton, Perry is taxed as an owner of “a lot near Bethel Church.”

Perry and Sophia Sprouse made Lot No. 52 their life long home. After Sophia’s death, Perry continued to reside there with Nancy. He would not marry again.

Perry was an industrious, fiscally responsible man. In 1851, concerned about his standing in the community, he advertised in the newspaper that he would not be responsible for his grown children’s debts. As a dedicated parent, he made sure his sons were all tradesman.

Perry and Sophia’s son Frisby served in Company B. of the 1st Regiment Eastern Shore Colored Militia.

Perry Sprouse wrote his will in July of 1865 stating he was “being old and infirm of body” and it was probated in August of 1866.

Children Elizabeth, William, Frisby and Henry were to divide his “house and lot at the extreme southern end of the town of Easton where he presently resided”.

Sprouse family descendants would reside on parts of Lot No. 52 until 1902.

In the 1832 Tax Assessment for Talbot County, Perry’s property is assessed as only having one dwelling house.