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The Layton House, built by the family from whom the town takes its name, is in a part of Montgomery County that was sparsely settled by holders of large tracts of land until the Revolutionery War era and that was never to see many houses built in a formal Federal or Greek Revival style. It is remarkable, therefore, that the first house built in the present town and the focal point around which Laytonsville developed, is a self-consciously Federal-style house of a plan and form that was very popular in early nineteenth-century Montgomery County. Lying at the intersection of the Old Baltimore Road and the road from Washington and Mechanicsville (now Olney) to Damascus and Frederick, the house stood on a natural site for a small commercial and trade center. Since it lay in Cracklin District, the earliest name for the town was Cracklintown: as late as 1878, the Hopkins Atlas refers to it as "Cracklintown or Laytonville P. O.," the first name reflecting the geographical location and the second the name of the postmaster. Both names are found in the 1850 census, but in the list of principal villages, only the nomenclature "Latonsville" appears. Thus, by 1850, the Layton family were prominent enough to have imprinted their name on the town although the older usage persisted.

The first reference to the Layton family in the land records of Montgomery County is to Elias Layton, a Virginia farmer who moved to Montgomery County after the Revolutionary War. In 1787, he deeded to his son Uriah Layton, seventy-four acres of land. In 1835, Asher Layton deeded to his son, John R. Layton, the real estate he had purchased from Uriah Layton's heirs; it is in this transaction that the first reference is made to habitation on the Layton family's land, although the house appears to predate the mid-1830's. In the 1850 census, the head of the household is John R. Layton, a saddler worth \$8,000; his father, Asher, also lives in the household, as do the unrelated Mobley family. (The Mobleys will later purchase land across the road from the Layton house and open a store there; George Mobley became postmaster in the 1870's.)

With a value of \$8,000, John Layton was the wealthiest man in Laytonsville. On the 1868 "Martinet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County," he is shown owning his house and the saddle shop across the Baltimore Road from it. On the 1878 <u>Hopkins Atlas</u> map, his heirs own his house, the shop and three adjacent houses, and several lots on the northeast corner of the

Montgomery County Land Records. Census of the United States, 1850. "Martinet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland," 1865. <u>Montgomery County Story (Montgomery County Historical Society pub.),</u> August 1962 and November 1962. Ite CECORAPHICAL DATA Extitude And Extension of the Component County Historical Society pub.), August 1962 and November 1962. Ite Control and Extension of the Component County Historical Society pub.), August 1962 and November 1962. Ite Control and Extension of the Component County Historical Society pub.), August 1962 and November 1962. Ite CecoreAphical Data Ite Control and Extension of the Component County Historical Coorestates Definited Second Dages Munutes Second Data Minutes Second Data Minutes Second Data Minutes Second Data Minutes From Property Less than One acre State Ite County	9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGR	APHICAL I	REFERI	ENCES											
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Z525 Riva Road STATE CITY OR TOWN: Data Annapolis Natyland 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: Name Local Name Local Name Local Name Local State Historic Preservation ATTEST Title Offlicer		For	the Mont	gomery	Count	y Comm	ittee,	Ma	arylan	d Hist	orical/		Oct. 24	<u>, 1973</u>			
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⁺ US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 2 5 1975	

(Number all entries)

Layton House

Number 8. Significance continued.

intersection. (In an 1872 deed of trust, the property was conveyed to John Layton's sons, Charles, Robert, and Lycurgus, who were to hold the land for the use of his widow, Eliza, during her lifetime and were to sell it upon her death, the proceeds to be divided among themselves and their sisters; John Layton died sometime between 1872 and 1876, the exact date being uncertain, and his unmarked grave is in a field behind the house.)

Thus, the significance of the house lies in its being the earliest consciously-styled house in the area, in the role of the owner in the community as postmaster and prominent merchant and landlord, and in the town's serving as the center of settlement in northern Montgomery County and the house's serving as the center of settlement in the town.

The slave quarters came from the Nellie Griffith farm north of Laytonsville near Etchison. It was in deteriorating comdition and the former owners of the Layton House, Augustus Lee, purchased it and moved it.

