

ZOAR

Resource History

Jacob Blackall

October 2023

Zoar sits on a 5.5 acre parcel of land granted to Thomas Hart in May 1790 from Lord Fairfax.

1801 – Baptist congregants purchased Zoar as a meeting house, which they used as such until 1856 when the church moved to Charles Town. These congregants comprised the first Baptist church in Jefferson County, having been formed in 1792

1877 – Howard E. Tavenner purchased from the trustees of Zoar Baptist Church. According to Howard's obituary he had remodeled the Zoar church building into "a substantial residence" after purchasing the property. (Martinsburg Journal, Sept. 25, 1918)

February 1920 – Jennie Tavenner, daughter of Howard E. Tavenner, sued for the title of the Zoar property. Howard E. Tavenner's deed had been "lost or misplaced prior to being recorded," and so upon his death in 1918 Charles Town Baptist Church claimed rights to the property. Jennie won the suit, and the trustees of Charles Town Baptist ceded their claim along with all rights to the property to her, her mother Ada L. Tavenner (Howard's widow), and her surviving siblings Clara B. Chapman and Nelson C. Tavenner. (JCDB 118/286)

March 1920 – C.W. Jones and A. P. Thompson purchased from Jennie Tavenner, Ada L. Tavenner, Clara B. Chapman, and Nelson C. Tavenner for \$1,800. (JCDB 118/288)

August 1959 – Betty Jackson inherited the Zoar property from her uncle C. W. Jones after his passing. (JCWB K/189)

September 1960 – David E. & Florence B. McMillan purchased from Betty Jackson. (JCDB 241/239)

November 1986 – A. Dean & Wilma Ann Hockensmith purchased from Florence B. McMillan for \$70,000. (JCDB 566/740) Florence McMillan received full ownership after her husband David passed in 1977.

October 1995 – John W. Grove Jr. and Sarah A. Grove purchased from A. Dean & Wilma Ann Hockensmith for \$159,000. (JCDB 818/1)