On this 25th day of November 1865 before the subscriber a justice of the peace of the State of Maryland in and for Prince George's County personally appears Robert Bowie of Walter who being duly sworn deposes and says that he lives near the residence of the late John Contee, and is well acquainted with his home place known as Pleasant Prospect recently sold by Mess. Thomas G. Pratt and Daniel Clarke Trustees, to a certain Thomas R. Wilson and that the said land in his opinion is worth eighty dollars per acre - the soil is very fertile and he has seen as fine crops grow on it as on any land in that section of the County - It is abundantly supplied with buildings The dwelling is a first rate one - of brick, is large and comfortable, and in good order - The farm generally was in good order during the summer - The witness was here cross examined by Daniel Clarke one of the said trustees - and says he is not willing himself to become the purchaser at eighty dollars per acre - Nor is the witness willing to be returned as a purchaser at even forty five dollars - If the sale is set aside and the land offered again at this time witness thinks it would bring over forty five dollars in the market witness does not know of any one but has heard that Jonathan T. Walker would pay fifty dollars cash for it (last clause of last answer objected to by Mr. Clarke) witness does not know whether Jonathan T. Walker would give fifty dollars for the land

Sworn to before P. H. Hodgkin J.P.

On twenty seventh day of November 1865 before the subscriber a justice of the peace for Prince Georges County in the State of Maryland personally appeared James Mullikin who being duly sworn says he is well acquainted with the home place of the late John Contee called Pleasant Prospect recently sold by Mess. Clarke & Pratt trustees who says that he is well acquainted with said land and that in his opinion it is worth seventy dollars per acre and if divided the witness believes the said land would sell better

Cross examined - He is not willing to be returned as the purchaser at forty five dollars - witness does not know of any purchaser at a sum exceeding forty five dollars - If the sale is not ratified and the land divided and offered for sale witness does not know of any purchasers for the property so divided at a price over forty five dollars -

Sworn to before P. H. Hodgkin J.P.

Witness does not want to buy it. Witness does not think if this sale is not ratified & the land is again offered for sale does not know that it would bring over forty five dollars



On the twenty seventh day of November 1865 personally appeared Oden Bowie and made oath - That he attended on both auctions on the premises when John Contee's home place was offered for sale. On the last occasion he conversed before the sale with Mr. Moore who brought Mr. Wilson the purchaser to the sale in his Buggy from Washington, that is to say - they came there together - when the farm was about to be knocked down to Wilsons bid I said to Mr. Moore (who had made several bids on the property) that the bid was against him & urged him to make an advance. He expressed to me in the presence of Mr. Charles G. Hill great confidence that he would get the place, although Wilson should be returned the purchaser, that Wilson had no money & would not be able to pay for it. I told him I had known many instances of persons being disappointed or mistaken at sales in getting purchasers under such circumstances, but he said to show his confidence that he would get the land he would give me the best saddle horse in Kentucky if he did not get it. I am confident that had Moore not been under this impression he would have made a higher offer. Being cross-examined by Mr. Clarke he says he lives on the farm adjoining this property & knows it better than any land in the County except one or two. The place is in about as bad condition as it can well be in as regards fencing - I don't think there is enough fencing on the place to enclose one field the outside lines are all very bad. There is very little wood on the place & scarcely any rail stuff - not more than twenty or twenty five acres in wood - The Tobacco houses that are standing, four in number, all in very good order - One is in very bad condition, perhaps it blew down or was injured by the storm. The stabling is in very bad condition, scarcely fit for horses. There is one very excellent quarter recently built. The other quarters are bad. The dwelling house is in fair condition. The witness made one or two bids for the property, and did not consider it worth to the witness more than forty five dollars, and that was his reason for ceasing to bid. If the sale is set aside and the property offered in market witness does not think it will bring over forty five dollars - Witness does not know any one that would give more than forty five dollars for it. If the property was divided the witness does not think it would bring as much as if sold in a body - witness would not give as much for any part of it as for the whole. Witness attended both sales - at the second sale there