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The Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC)

For

The Town Of Upper Marlboro
14211 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Founded in November 2012, the mission of the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) is to research, compile and promote the history of the town, its people and its government.

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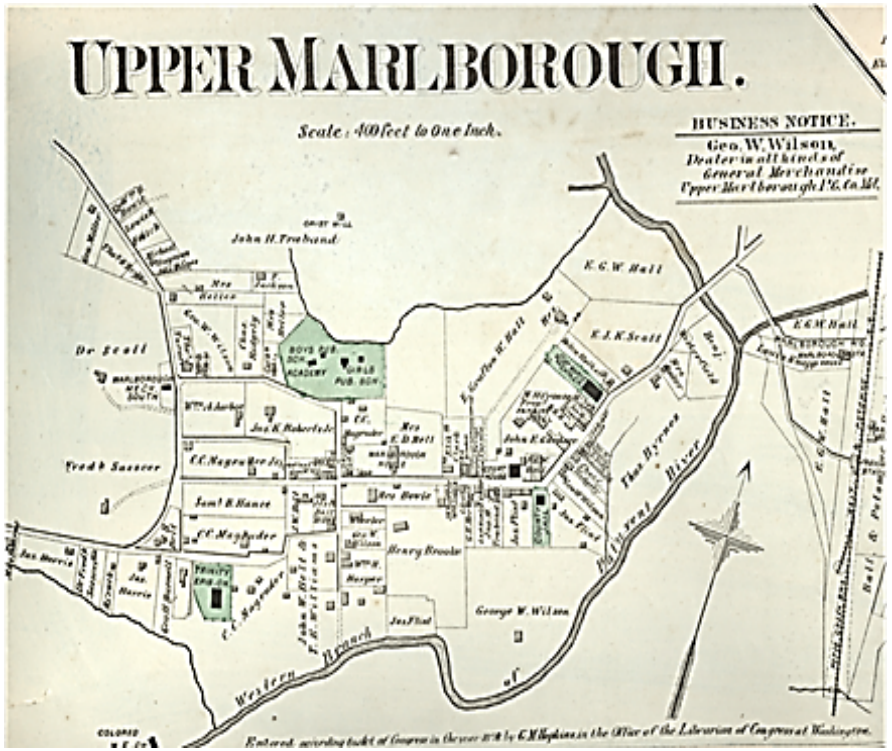
Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee



Walking/Driving Tour Of The Historic Town of Upper Marlboro Maryland

History of Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Settled around 1695 and named after the first Duke of Marlborough, the Town of Upper Marlboro is among the oldest of the surviving Southern Maryland towns dating back to colonial times. It was established as a port town for tobacco shipments in 1706, when the Western Branch of the Patuxent River was still navigable. It has been the county seat of Prince George's County since 1721.

It is the birthplace of John Carroll, the first Catholic Archbishop in the United States and founder of Georgetown College. His brother Daniel was a signer of the U.S. Constitution. Thomas John Claggett was the First Episcopal Bishop consecrated in the United States, the first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and organized the Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro in 1810.

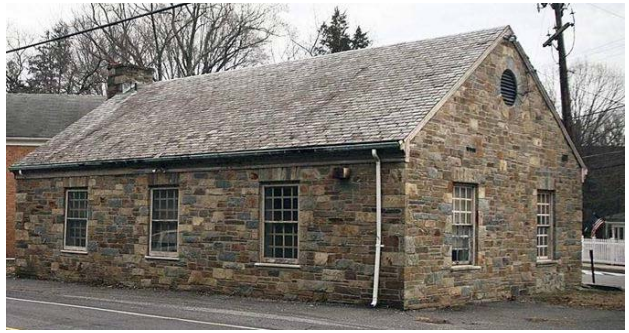
Town resident John Rogers was one of three Maryland delegates to the Second Continental Congress, held in 1776. Daniel Carroll, a native of Upper Marlborough, participated in the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention.

In the early years of the eighteenth century, a tobacco port town known as Colonel Belt's Landing developed on the Western Branch of the Patuxent river. Area planters would roll their hogsheads of tobacco down the rolling road and load them onto barges to be poled down to the deep water ocean vessels anchored at Jug Bay on the Patuxent. By 1706, the Maryland Assembly officially chose this site for a new town in Prince George's County. Marlborough (named in honor of the hero of the Battle of Blenheim, the Duke of Marlborough,) was formed from 100 acres taken from the patented properties of several local planters.

To Save and Repair:

TOMB OF DR. BEANES BEFORE RESTORATION.

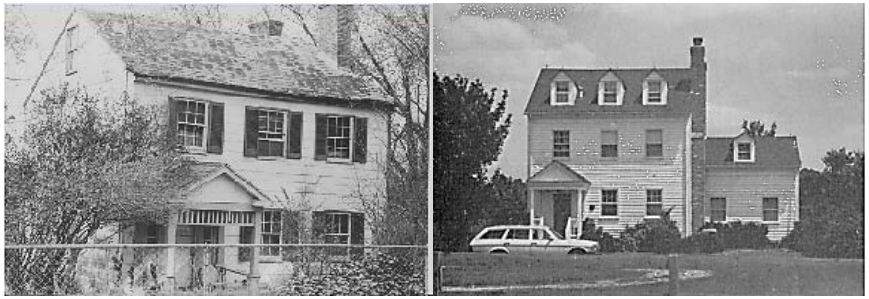
TOMB OF DR. BEANES AFTER RESTORATION.



TELEPHONE SWITCH STATION

Wilson-Diggs House, Water Street Upper Marlboro – Moved to Lower Marlboro

This house was built in 1704 on Water Street in Upper Marlboro, and operated as a tavern or ordinary. It resided next to where the wharf used to be. From 1820 to 1870, the house was operated as a store, and then became a residence.



Ridgely House, Elm Street, Upper Marlboro – Moved to Lower Marlboro

Another former historic house in Upper Marlboro (the Ridgely House, c1790) was located on Elm Street, near the location of the round house today. The house was the residence of George W. Wilson, editor and publisher of the Marlborough Gazette.

These houses were moved to Lower Marlboro (Calvert County) in the 1970s by Perry Van Vleck.

In 1718, the population of this town and adjacent areas had grown at the expense of the County's first town and County Seat Charles Town. The General Assembly decided to move the court proceedings to Marlborough in 1721 and since then this town has served as the County Seat of Prince George's County. It soon became known as "Upper" Marlborough to distinguish it from "Lower" Marlborough down river on the Calvert side of the Patuxent. The spelling of Marlborough was gradually changed to Upper Marlboro without the "ugh", possibly due to the actions of a postal clerk who consolidated the letters to fit on contemporary rubber stamps. In 1893 the U.S. Post Office began referring to the town as Upper Marlboro.

In the eighteenth century, Marlboro was the geographic and population center of the county. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Marlboro retained its prominence as a political and cultural center. Disastrous fires over 3 centuries, as well as demolitions and relocations over the past 60 years, have robbed Upper Marlboro of a portion of its 18th and 19th century streetscapes and its some of its handsome architectural treasures. However, several notable historic structures remain and are the subject of this Tour.

Numbers represent the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Historic Property Identification.
NR indicates National Register of Historic Places

79-19-022 Dr. William Beanes Tomb
24 January 1749 – 12 October 1828

Established in 1822, the cemetery consists of the two box tombs (marble slabs on stretcher brick bases) of William and Sarah Beanes.

William Beanes was a prominent town physician and Revolutionary War veteran. He is best remembered for his passive role in Francis Scott Key's penning of the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814.

During the War of 1812, British officers used Dr. Beanes' home as their headquarters on the night of August 22, 1814, when the British Army bivouacked in Upper Marlboro on its way to attack Washington D.C.

On August 27, 1814, as the British withdrew from the nation's capital, they passed again through Upper Marlboro. Several townspeople, including Dr. William Beanes,

Gone but Not forgotten:

Marlboro Station on the Chesapeake Beach Railroad, Old Crain Highway

Marlborough House, Main Street Upper Marlboro

79-019-45 A.T. Brooke House
5600 Old Crain Highway

Built circa 1870 and enlarged in 1893, the A.T. Brooke House is a two-part frame dwelling; the main block was built circa 1870 for Augustine T. Brooke, clerk of the Prince George's County Court, and followed the traditional I-house plan. It was enlarged in 1893 by a cross-gabled addition with a two-story projecting bay, and served until 1903 as the rectory for Trinity Episcopal Church. A rear wing was added in the 1990s.

imprisoned a group of British stragglers who were pillaging local farms. Upon learning of the incident, the British took three Americans hostage (including Beanes) and threatened to destroy the town unless their men were freed. Eventually, the British soldiers were returned and two of the American hostages were released, except Dr. Beanes, who was taken to the Chesapeake Bay and confined aboard the British flagship *HMS Tonnant*.

Francis Scott Key, a prominent Georgetown lawyer, and Colonel John Stuart Skinner, the U.S. Agent for the Exchange of Prisoners, were sent by President Madison to negotiate Beanes' release. Ultimately, the Americans were successful in securing the doctor's freedom; however, the British insisted that the three Americans, who were privy to their battle plans, stay in their custody until after the attack on Baltimore. On the evening of September 13th, the three men were relocated to a truce ship. That night, they witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry. The next morning, after the bombing had subsided, Key saw that the tattered American flag still waved proudly over the fortification. Key was so moved by the American victory that he wrote lyrics that he set to the tune "To Anacreon in Heaven" which eventually became our national anthem in 1931.

79-019-51 Old Marlboro Primary School
14554 Elm Street

Built in 1896 as a school, this one-story wood frame structure with central gabled entrance bay was constructed by Benjamin Cranford and originally included a cupola or bell tower and triangular eyebrow windows on either side of the main gable. It was a replacement for an earlier public school for girls built in 1867. This building was converted to a residence for the Old Marlboro Elementary School Principal in 1921 but has been vacant for many years.

79-019-21 John H. Traband House
(Old Mill Place) (NR)
14204 Old Marlboro Pike

Built in 1894-1897, the Traband House is a two-and-one-half-story, cross-gabled frame house with decorative fish scale shingles, scroll brackets on the projecting bays and elegant Queen Anne style detail. It was designed by architect Arthur Nicholson of Laurel and built for John H. Traband, Jr., adjoining his family's grist mill. The Traband House is Upper Marlboro's best example of late Victorian domestic architecture. The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

79-019-56 O'Bryan-Fisher House
14407 Old Marlboro Pike

Built circa 1873 when the approximately one-acre property was transferred to Thomas A. O'Bryan, a miller. The property was improved in 1908, probably adding the two-story west bay. In 1927, the two-story southeast addition containing a dining room and a second level bedroom as well the rear porch and garage, were added.

The O'Bryan-Fisher House is significant for its vernacular architecture. It is notable for its center front cross gable with its diamond-shaped window, its entrance porch with decorative posts and brackets, and its two-story semi-octagonal bay, added to the dwelling around the turn of the 20th century.

79-019-52 Old Marlboro Elementary School
14524 Elm Street

Originally constructed as a High School in 1921 and designed by architect Thomas H. Marsden, it resides on the site of Dr. William and Sarah Beanes' residence (See Historic Site 79-19-022). The original building still exists behind the 1934 neoclassical auditorium and classrooms added to the front by Hollyday and Stahl. The Old Marlboro High School operated until 1948, when classes were moved to the Frederick Sasscer High School to address overcrowding. The building continued to house primary school classes and the school administration until 1974. It subsequently was used as offices for the Sheriff's Department, but has remained vacant for more than a decade.

79-019-28 Darnall's Chance House Museum and Burial Vault (NR)

14800 Governor Oden Bowie (M-NCPPC)

Darnall's Chance was built between 1741 and 1742 for James Wardrop, a wealthy Scottish immigrant. It is a 1 ½ story, hip-on-gambrel roof brick dwelling house. The structure was remodeled in 1858, and produced such a drastic change that the home's 18th century heritage was forgotten. In 1986, the history of the house was rediscovered and the house was saved from demolition. The mid-19th century architectural elements added to the structure were carefully and systemically removed and the house was partially reconstructed and restored to its original 1742 appearance. It is now open to the public as a house museum. On the grounds is an unusual 18th century underground brick burial vault. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trail and The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

79-019-20 Union (Memorial) Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike

Built in 1917 Union (Memorial) Methodist Church is a front-gabled frame church with pointed-arch windows and an entry tower, surmounted by a pyramidal-roof open belfry. It was built to replace the Union Chapel which was built at the end of the Civil War on the south side of town, to serve the black Methodist population. A fellowship hall addition was completed in 1993. Prominently sited on the main road into the County Seat, Union (Memorial) Methodist Church continues to represent the tradition of the post-Civil War Upper Marlboro African American community. The Union congregation cherishes its rich history, while also embracing a vital future of deep spirituality and community service.

79-019-64 **Crain Highway Monument**
Old Crain Highway at Main Street
(State Highway Administration)

Erected in 1922, the approximately 30-foot-high bottle-shaped monument was crafted of cut sandstone and concrete rusticated stone. It was designed by architect Howard Sill and built to commemorate the start of construction on the Robert Crain Highway between Baltimore and Southern Maryland. The monument was named after Robert S. Crain who dreamed of building a road between Baltimore and Southern Maryland. He led the fight to secure a state appropriation for the road, and was instrumental in planning of the highway. The monument was unveiled in September 1922, and the Highway was officially opened in October 1927.

79-019-44 **Saint Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church**
14908 Main Street

St. Mary of the Assumption Church was built in 1899 to serve the Catholic population of the Upper Marlboro area. It is a large brick structure, with a three-story crenellated, turreted tower, and prominent Gothic-arch stained-glass windows. St. Mary's Church was preceded by the smaller stuccoed brick church which had been built on this site early in the 19th century. In 1898, the original church was demolished, and construction of the present church was begun on the same site. Designed by architect Hugh A. Campbell, the new church was constructed by the Wyville brothers, well-known builders of Upper Marlboro. It was dedicated in May 1899 by Cardinal James Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore. St. Mary's is a prominent landmark in Upper Marlboro – part of the evolution of a Catholic worship center in Prince George's County, and an important example of grand scale church architecture by local builders.

79-019-27 Crandell-Rothstein House
14920 Main Street

Originally built in the 1840s, the Crandell-Rothstein House is a two-story, frame saltbox-and-gable-roof dwelling built in several stages. A shed-roof side wing included the old bakery shop (at left) and in the rear yard are the ruins of the brick ovens. The main part of the house was built by James Crandell in the 1840s. From 1858 to 1916 this building served as the bakery shop and dwelling of the Rothstein, and later the Michel families. It is a rare surviving example of a multi-section building that served both residential and commercial purposes.

79-019-13 Kingston (NR)
5415 Old Crain Highway

Built circa 1730, remodeled in 1859, Kingston is a one-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame dwelling with four exterior chimneys and kitchen wing. It is remarkable for its Gothic Revival trim, which includes board-and-batten siding and highly decorated verge boards. The original house was built by the Craufurd family and renovated by Dr. Frederick Sasscer in the Gothic cottage style in 1859. An important example of architectural evolution, Kingston was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The house has recently been restored.

79-019-14 Church Street House (Talbott House)
14505 Church Street

Built in the 1840s and enlarged after the Civil War, the Talbott House is a two-story, side-gabled frame dwelling of stairhall-and-single-parlor plan, with a later cross-gabled wing. This simple vernacular dwelling was built in the 1840s by carpenter and neighbor Reuben Bunnell. For many years it was the home of the town blacksmith, William Talbott.

79-019-25 St. Mary's Beneficial Society Hall (NR)
14825 Pratt Street

Built in the 1892, St. Mary's Hall is a one-story front-gabled frame structure with a porch and small box office at the gable front. It was built as a meeting place for the St. Mary's Beneficial Society, an African-American benevolent society associated with St. Mary's Catholic Church. The hall was restored as a law office in the late 1980s. An important symbol of the black social and cultural heritage of Prince George's County, the hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Prince George's County Courthouse
14735 Main Street

On or near this site, once stood the birthplace of John Carroll (1735-1815), the first Catholic Archbishop in the United States and founder of Georgetown College.

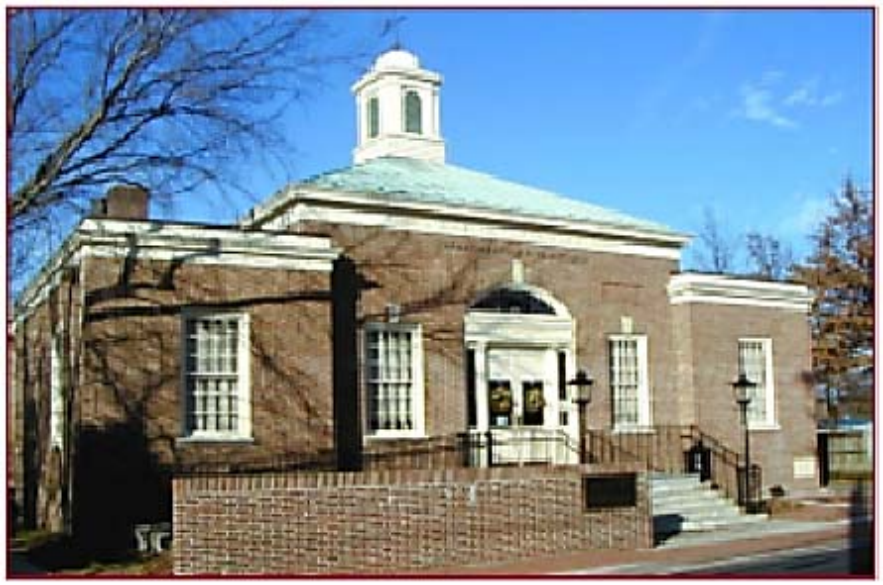
When the government of Prince George's County moved to Upper Marlborough in 1721, a small Courthouse was erected on the east edge of town. By the end of the 18th century, this original building was replaced on the same site by a new and larger wood frame Courthouse, designed by William Lovering and opened in 1801. By 1880 a new site on the south side of Main Street was chosen, and a high-style Victorian brick Courthouse, designed by Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis, opened in 1881. This fine brick building became the focal point, both politically and physically, of the town. In less than 60 years, however, officials decided to almost completely rebuild the Courthouse. Designed by the Washington firm of Upman and Adams, the Queen Anne Victorian façade was changed to a neo-classical temple front with massive Ionic columns and a pedimented portico. It is this 1940 building, with several subsequent additions that was so seriously damaged by the fire in November 2004. Recently restored, it dominates the Town of Upper Marlboro today.

79-019-46 Union Methodist Episcopal Chapel Site and Cemetery
Valley Lane

In 1865, Frederick Sasscer and his wife sold five acres "near the village of Upper Marlborough" to three trustees of the Colored Methodist Church to be used for a church and burying ground; the chapel was abandoned in 1916 and disappeared around 1983. (See Historic Site 79-019-20). Approximately 38 grave markers dating from 1865 stand close to the road; 71 marked graves and an unknown number of unmarked graves are located in a largely open, grassy area. With few exceptions, the grave markers are small and bear minimal inscription and most appear to be handmade.

79-019-54 Bunnell-Anderson House
14509 Church Street

Built in 1830, this vernacular single-family dwelling was enlarged in three phases spanning 160 years. A dwelling, owned by John Duckett, was sited on this lot as early as 1817; and may have been incorporated into the home's main block. In 1843, the property was transferred to Reuben Bunnell. Bunnell was a carpenter who built several other houses nearby. The house reflects four different periods of building construction and is significant as an example of the architectural progression of a rural nineteenth-century house. Later in the twentieth century it was owned by the Anderson family for many years.



79-019-61 Old Upper Marlboro Post Office
14730 Main Street

Built in the 1936, the Upper Marlboro Post Office is a three-part brick building in the Colonial Revival style. Its recessed central block has a metal-covered hip roof surmounted by a rectangular frame cupola. It is one of the more than 1000 post offices built by the U. S. Treasury Department as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program. An interior mural, "The Tobacco Cutters" by Works Progress Administration artist Mitchell Jamieson (1915-1976), was preserved during the conversion of the post office building to its present use as the Upper Marlboro branch of Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

79-019-55 The Owens-Dyer House
14508 Main Street

This house was built in 1915 by Claude H. Owens on two contiguous lots on the north side of Main Street which he bought from C. C. Magruder in 1913. It is built in a simplified version of the Queen Anne style. The house is distinguished by a porch which wraps around three sides of the building, and two semi-octagonal two story bays on opposite corners of the building.

The Owens-Dyer house is an important contributing building as a reminder of Upper Marlboro's nineteenth century appearance.

79-019-15 Trinity Episcopal Church and Cemetery
14519 Church Street

A new Episcopal church was established in Upper Marlborough by Bishop Thomas John Claggett, and opened its doors in 1810. This original Trinity Church, of wood construction, stood on the site of a much older Presbyterian church, abandoned for nearly a century. The present Trinity Church, of brick construction, was designed by Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long, Jr., and consecrated in 1846. In 1896, the bell tower was built onto the front of the church. Trinity Church played a role in the British Invasion of 1814. During the conflict, British soldiers destroyed parts of the church papers. Tradition holds that they stabled their horses in the wood frame church building, nearly new at the time, and reportedly kneaded bread on tombstones in the churchyard.

The graveyard that wraps around the front and side of the church dates from the earliest years of Trinity's history; one of the earliest burials is the Revolutionary War gravesite of Private John Moore, who died in 1793. Trinity's newer graveyard, established in 1885, is located on Rectory Lane.

79-019-16 Content (NR)
14518 Church Street

Built circa 1787 and in the early nineteenth century, Content is a large, two-story, side-gabled frame dwelling in two sections; the main block is distinguished by its two-story veranda and its asymmetrical freestanding chimneys connected by a brick pent. The oldest section was begun in the 1780s, and the north section was added by Dr. Benjamin Lee in the early nineteenth century. Content is an important example of an early town dwelling associated with many prominent local families. One of the oldest buildings in Upper Marlboro, it was the home of the Craufurd, Beanes, Lee, Magruder, and Bowling families and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

79-019-01 Thomas J. Turner House
14500 Elm Street

Built in the 1850s, the Turner House is a two-and-one-half-story side-gabled frame house that has been enlarged in several stages. The house was built by local carpenter Reuben W. Bunnell, and was the home of Thomas J. Turner, who published the local newspaper, *The Planters' Advocate* between 1851 and 1861. Located at the corner of the Old Marlboro Pike and Elm Street, this vernacular dwelling contributes to one of the few surviving nineteenth-century streetscapes in Upper Marlboro.

79-019-02 Jarboe-Bowie House
14504 Elm Street

Built circa 1852, the Jarboe-Bowie House is a two-story, side-gabled frame dwelling with small second-story windows, wood-shingle roof, and interior gable-end chimneys. It was built by local carpenter Reuben Bunnell, and was the home of William A. Jarboe during his tenure as Clerk of the County Court and Register of Wills. The house was later owned by the Bowie family from 1882-1961. The house is important as one of the few surviving nineteenth-century streetscapes in Upper Marlboro.

79-019-23 Magruder's Law Office
14708 Main Street

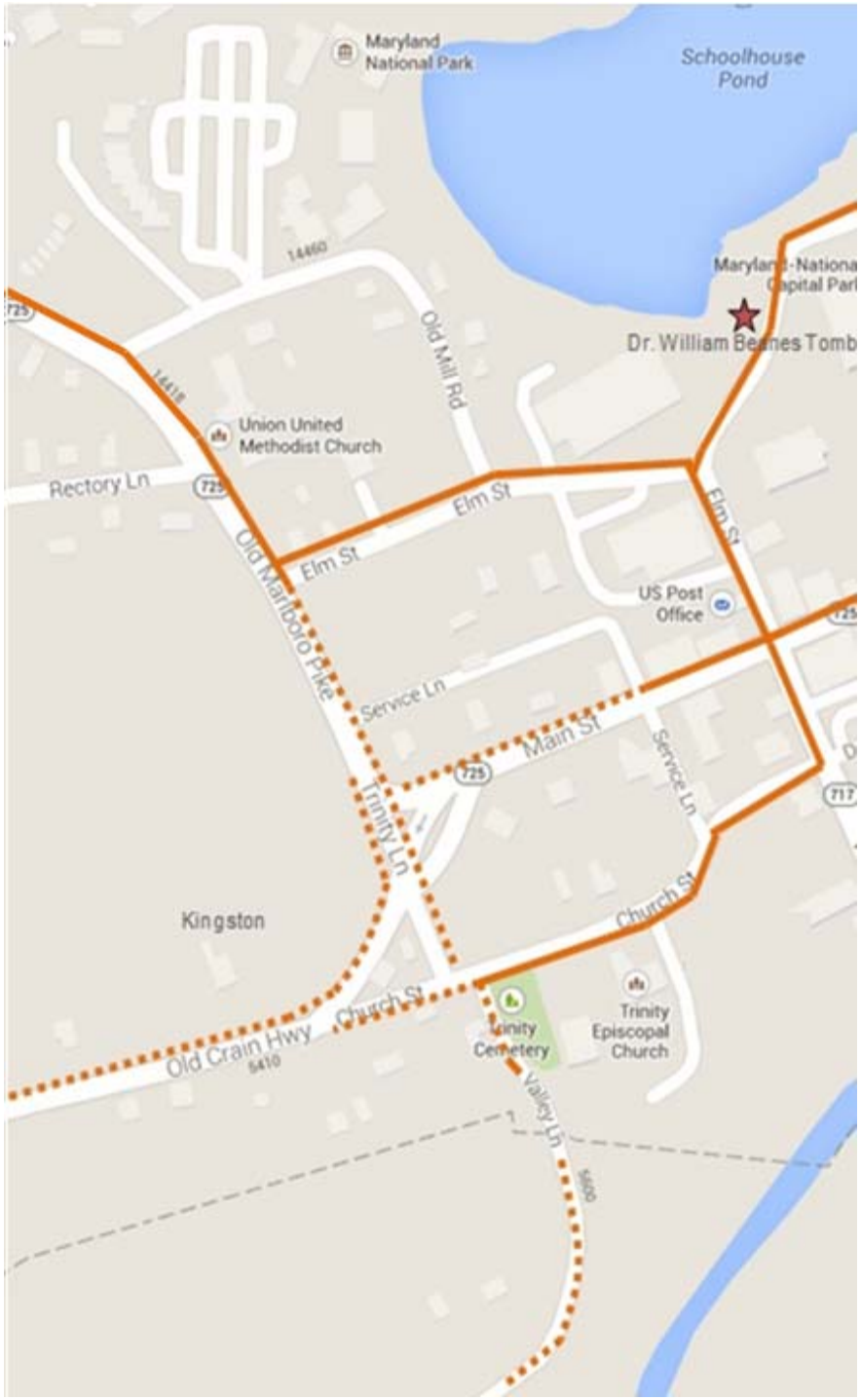
Constructed in 1860, this small Greek Revival-style frame building has a center louvered lunette. It was built as a law office for the firm of Caleb Clarke Magruder. His son C. C. Magruder, Jr., joined the practice in 1864 as did grandson C. C. Magruder III. It still serves as a law office and is one of the few examples of the Greek Revival style remaining in the county.

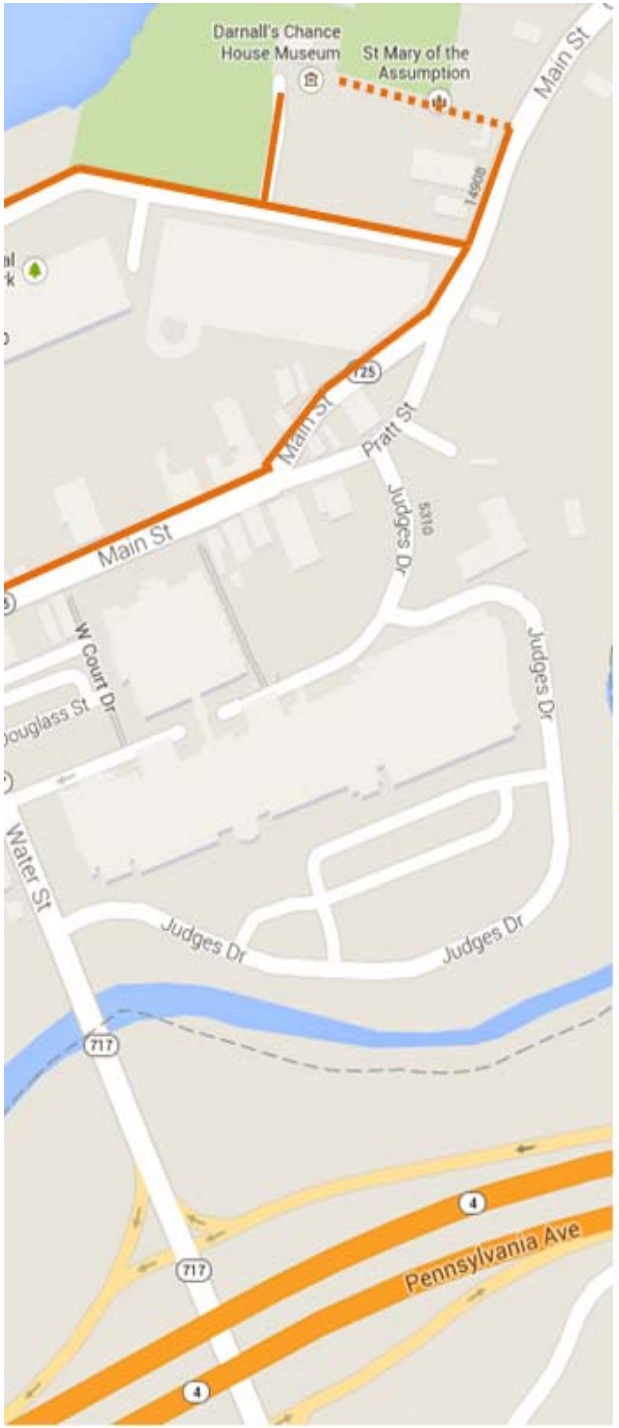
79-019-17 Trelawn (Roberts House)
14519 Elm Street

Built in the 1850s, Trelawn is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roof frame house, with bracketed cornice, interior chimneys and unusual entry hall plan. It was enlarged in the 1870s with the addition of two smaller wings in telescoping form. Trelawn was the home of prominent attorney Joseph Kent Roberts, Jr. It is an unusual example of a side-hall-and-double-parlor plan dwelling. Three outbuildings including a corncrib and a stable stood along the service lane southeast of the house. They were demolished in 1987 for the construction of the adjacent post office.

79-019-18 Digges-Sasscer House
14507 Elm Street

The two-story main block of the Digges-Sasscer House reflects two periods of construction with Greek Revival and later Victorian period trim. The main block was built in two phases, circa 1845 and 1880s and the south wing incorporates an earlier small dwelling. This handsome town dwelling has been the home of a series of prominent citizens, including Maryland Delegate Daniel C. Digges, Clerk of the Court, William A. Jarboe, newspaper publisher Frederick Sasscer, U. S. Congressman, L. G. Sasscer and his son, Maryland Delegate Landsdale G. Sasscer, Jr. (1954-1962).


Maryland
National Park
Schoolhouse
Pond
Dr. William Beanes Tomb
Union United
Methodist Church
Rectory Ln
Old Mill Rd
Elm St
Old Marlboro Pike
US Post
Office
Service Ln
Main St
Trinity Ln
Kingston
Church St
Old Crain Hwy
Trinity
Episcopal
Church
Valley Ln


Darnall's Chance
House Museum
St Mary of the
Assumption
Main St
Pratt St
Judges Dr
W Court Dr
Water St
Pennsylvania Ave
Sidewalks
No Sidewalks