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Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area

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The Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area is located in central Prince George's County, approximately eighteen miles southeast of Washington, D.C. The residential area encompasses the western area of the 0.4 square miles that comprises the incorporated Town of Upper Marlboro, which is the county seat for Prince George's County. The residential area, which includes approximately 99.14 acres, is bounded by Old Marlboro Pike to the north, the Western Branch of the Patuxent River to the south, and the incorporated boundary to the west, and the properties at 14519 Elm Street and 14508 Main Street to the east. The commercial and civic section of town borders the residential area to the east, and late-twentieth and early-twenty-first-century residential development borders the area to the north. Woodland largely comprises the areas to the west and south of the residential area. The topography of Upper Marlboro is predominantly flat except at the western and southern ends of the residential area, which is characterized by rolling hills. The main thoroughfares include Old Marlboro Pike, which runs northeast to southwest, and Old Crain Highway, which runs east to west and becomes Main Street in the commercial part of town.

The Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area consists of approximately seventy-five contributing buildings, objects, and structures, including sixty-eight dwellings, two churches, three cemeteries, one utility building, and one historical marker, which date from ca. 1730 to 1960. The residential area also includes fifteen non-contributing buildings that post-date the period of significance (1721-1960) or lack integrity from the period of significance.

Most properties consist of individual town lots, with the dwellings set back from the roads on grass-covered lawns dotted with deciduous and evergreen trees, accessed by paved-asphalt or gravel driveways. The lots range in size from 0.13 acres to three acres. A group of approximately thirty-five contributing dwellings and one contributing cemetery dating from 1929 to 1960 front Rectory Lane, which runs east to west from Old Marlboro Pike to a cul-de-sac at the western edge of the residential area. This grouping is associated with the planned subdivision of Marlboro Heights, the only subdivision within the residential area. Eleven contributing properties, dating from ca. 1730 through 1950, are located along Old Crain Highway. This includes one sandstone monument erected in 1922 to mark the beginning of construction of the Robert Crain Highway, located in an oval-shaped grass island between the two lanes of the Old Crain Highway. Eight contributing properties dating from 1873 to 1945 are located along Old Marlboro Pike, and seven contributing properties dating from ca. 1787 to 1948 are located along Church Street. Elm Street and Main Street each include five contributing properties ranging from 1843 to 1941. Two contributing properties, including a cemetery that dates to 1865 and a dwelling that dates to 1950, are located along Valley Lane at the southern end of the residential area. One contributing property, built in 1950, is located along Wilson Lane, which runs south from the center of Rectory Lane.

The collection of contributing properties represent the evolution of Upper Marlboro from a rural village, with eighteenth- and early- to mid-nineteenth-century dwellings, to a thriving small town and county seat as reflected by the large number of early- to mid-twentieth-century dwellings that exhibit suburban forms, such as American Foursquare, side-gable cottages, and Minimal Traditional. Upper Marlboro retains examples of a wide array of popular architectural styles that include both high-style and vernacular interpretations of Georgian, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor, and Craftsman styles. Building forms include I-houses, L-shaped plans, American Foursquares, Cape Cods, side-gable and front-gable cottages,

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and ranch dwellings. The majority of dwellings are frame, with the exterior walls clad in replacement siding, such as vinyl, aluminum, or asbestos shingles. A few properties retain their original clapboard siding. Several brick and stone buildings that date from the early to mid-twentieth century are located within the residential area as well.

A more detailed description of the notable and/or representative properties within the Upper Marlboro Residential Area follows. The descriptions are presented alphabetically by street name and in ascending numerical order.

14204 Old Marlboro Pike (Old Mill Place; John H. Traband House, PG: 79-019-21)²

The John H. Traband House is an asymmetrical, two-and-one-half-story, Queen Anne-style dwelling constructed between 1895 and 1897 as the residence of John H. Traband, a prominent businessman and miller in Upper Marlboro. The dwelling was designed by Arthur F. Nicholson, a Prince George's County builder and architect located in Laurel. B. Wesley Cranford, an Upper Marlboro carpenter, oversaw the construction of the dwelling. John H. Traband occupied the property upon its completion in 1897, until his death in 1938.

The Queen Anne-style dwelling rests on a brick foundation, and clapboard siding covers the exterior walls. The gables are sheathed in fish scale asbestos shingles. The pyramidal roof features lower integral gables on the west and south elevations and cross gables on the east and north elevations. The roof is sheathed in scalloped-shaped asbestos shingles. Interior brick chimneys extend from the center of the pyramidal roof and the ridge of the north cross gable. One-over-one light, double-hung, wood-sash windows flanked by operable, louvered, wood shutters light the interior of the dwelling. A small rectangular window featuring a large, diamond-shaped glass pane bounded by smaller square-shaped panes is situated between the first and second story in the west elevation.

A two-story porch with turned columns, decorative brackets, and balustrades is located on the south elevation. The porch has been enclosed with glass. The main entry, accessed by a brick sidewalk and stoop, is situated in the center bay in the south elevation of the two-story porch. The entry consists of a replacement, one-light, metal storm door. The dwelling features projecting two-story bays on the south and east elevations. The projecting bays are polygonal in the first story and rectangular in the second story, with sawn work brackets in the cutaway corners.

A one-story, frame, shed-roof addition was constructed in 1974 along the north elevation of the dwelling. A covered walkway connects the addition to a two-bay garage constructed in 1961 at the southeast corner of the dwelling.

A paved-asphalt driveway is located to the east of the dwelling. A two-story frame carriage house constructed ca. 1897 and a masonry milk house built ca. 1945 are situated to the southeast of the dwelling.

²The John H. Traband House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 1984, as the only extant late-nineteenth-century Queen Anne-style dwelling in Upper Marlboro, a town which underwent extensive alteration in the mid-twentieth century. The dwelling is an important resource for understanding the growth and development, and the architectural character of the town at the close of the nineteenth century, and in the early decades of the twentieth century.

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14407 Old Marlboro Pike (O'Bryan-Fisher House, PG: 79-019-056)

The O'Bryan-Fisher House, situated adjacent to the west side of Old Marlboro Pike, is a two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling with a rear ell. The dwelling was erected in 1873 by Thomas A. O'Bryan, a miller. A two-story projecting bay was added ca. 1910 to the north (side) elevation, and a two-story side-gabled addition was added to the southeast corner ca. 1940 in addition to a rear porch and garage.

The dwelling rests on a brick foundation, and asbestos shingles cover the exterior walls. The side-gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles and features a central cross gable accentuated by a four-light diamond-shaped window. A plain, boxed, wood cornice with returns accentuates the eaves. Two corbelled brick chimneys protrude from the center of the roof ridge. Fenestration consists of two-over-two-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows in the first story and a combination of two-over-two light and six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows in the second story.

A one-story, hipped-roof porch shelters the three bays of the facade (west elevation). Brick piers support the wood floor. The turned and chamfered porch posts feature fan brackets with turned spindles. The porch shelters the main entry situated in the center bay. A single-leaf, multi-light wood door, surmounted by a transom and protected by a screen door, provides access to the interior.

A hipped roof caps the three-sided projecting bay attached to the north elevation. A window lights each side of the bay. A single bay consisting of a window in the first and second story is located to the south of the projecting bay. A one-story, shed-roof, screened porch is attached to the east (rear) elevation and access via a central single-leaf screen door. Two windows are situated in the second story, to the east of the first-story porch.

The east elevation consists of two evenly spaced bays in the first and second stories.

A paved-asphalt driveway stretches south from Upper Marlboro Pike to a ca. 1940 one-story, one-bay, frame garage.

14418 Old Marlboro Pike (Union Memorial United Methodist Church, PG: 79-019-20)

The Union Memorial Methodist Church is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, frame, simple Gothic Revival-style building. The building has a gable-front roof, a three-story square bell tower appended to the front (west) elevation, and a ca. 1995 five-story, four-bay, side-gable addition extending from the north elevation. The church was erected in 1916 to replace the old Union Chapel (located on Valley Lane), which was organized in 1863 and has since served as an important focal point for the African-American community in Upper Marlboro.

The church rests on a molded concrete block foundation clad in decorative stone facing. Aluminum siding covers the exterior walls of the church and addition, and asphalt shingles clad the roof. The side-gable roof features a central cross gable accentuated by a four-light diamond-shaped window. A brick chimney extends from the southeast corner of the roof. The church and addition are lit by one-over-one light, double-hung, aluminum-sash windows. Shallow pointed-arch transoms surmount the first story windows in the church. The windows in the north and south elevations that light the nave and the west elevation windows that flank the entry are filled with modern stained glass memorial panes.

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The three-story bell tower dominates the facade of the church. Four poured-concrete steps flanked by an iron railing lead to a double-leaf, wood-paneled entry door, which is surmounted by a shallow pointed-arch transom featuring stained glass. The entry is capped by a steeply pitched gable-front roof. The second story of the tower features a set of paired windows. The belfry is situated atop a hipped roof that caps the second story of the tower. The belfry is sheltered by a pyramidal roof supported by four posts.

A poured-concrete ramp leads to an integral porch that connects the 1916 church to the ca. 1995 addition situated to the north. The addition measures one-story in height and four bays in width. The addition rests on a molded concrete foundation clad in decorative stone meant to duplicate the appearance of the main block of the church.

Parking lots line the building to the west and north. A grass yard, dotted with deciduous trees, border the east and south sides of the building.

14422 Old Marlboro Pike

The dwelling located at 14422 Old Marlboro Pike, constructed in 1945, is a representative example of a Minimal Traditional dwelling found in Upper Marlboro. The dwelling is located on the east side of Upper Marlboro, adjacent to the south side of the Union Memorial Methodist Church, and serves as the rectory for the church.

The dwelling rests on a brick foundation, and brick laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers comprises the exterior walls. The side-gable roof, featuring a cross gable at the southern end, is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A brick exterior chimney extends from the northern gable.

The west elevation, which faces Old Marlboro Pike, is three bays wide. Fenestration primarily consists of six-over-six light, double-hung, aluminum-sash replacement windows, some of which are flanked by inoperable, aluminum, louvered shutters.

A one-story, two-bay, integral porch has been enclosed so that the main entry into the dwelling occupies the center bay of the west elevation. The entry consists of a single-leaf wood door, which is sheltered by a one-light storm door, flanked by one-light sidelights, and topped by a one-light transom. Three nine-over-one light, double-hung, aluminum-sash windows are situated to the south of the entry, filling in the once open porch.

A paved-asphalt driveway stretches east from Old Marlboro Pike to the north of the dwelling. A grass lawn with mature evergreen and deciduous trees surrounds the dwelling, which features foundation plantings at the west, south, and east elevations.

14103 Rectory Lane

The dwelling located at 14103 Rectory Lane was constructed in 1939 as part of the planned Marlboro Heights subdivision. The dwelling represents a typical one-and-one-half-story Cape Cod form found in Upper Marlboro. The dwelling faces north towards Rectory Lane and sits atop a brick foundation. Brick laid in a bond of continuous running stretchers covers the exterior walls. The side-gable roof is sheathed in asphalt

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shingles. A brick exterior chimney is located on the east elevation. Two gable dormers, clad in vinyl siding and inset with a six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash window, pierce the north roof slope.

Three poured-concrete steps, flanked by a metal railing, lead to the centrally located main entry located in the north elevation. The entry consists of a single-leaf, four-light, wood-paneled door, sheltered by an aluminum storm door. A Greek Revival-style wood door surround consisting of Doric pilasters and topped by a simple entablature accentuates the entry. Two evenly spaced, six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows flank the entry. A secondary entry, sheltered by a one-story, one-bay, shed-roof entry porch, is located in the southernmost bay of the west elevation. A set of paired windows light the west gable. A one-story, one-bay addition, featuring a ribbon of three six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows is attached to the east elevation of the dwelling.

A paved-asphalt driveway leads south from Rectory Lane, to the southwest side of the dwelling. A wood fence extends from the southeast and southwest corners of the dwelling to enclose a grass lawn dotted with mature deciduous and evergreen trees.

14200 Rectory Lane (Trinity Episcopal Cemetery)

The Trinity Episcopal Cemetery encompasses approximately 2.2 acres on the north side of Rectory Lane. The cemetery dates to the early twentieth century and contains the graves of many prominent Upper Marlboro citizens including Frederick Sasser, editor of the Prince George's *Enquirer* and *Enquirer Gazette* and superintendent of the Prince George's County Schools.

A gravel driveway provides access into the cemetery from Rectory Lane. A formal set of iron gates set into brick piers mark the vehicular access from the west side of Old Marlboro Pike. The grave markers utilize a variety of styles and materials including stone tablets, bronze and granite ground-level plaques, as well as family burial tombs. The cemetery grounds are relatively level and dotted with mature evergreen and deciduous trees. A small tool shed, erected ca. 1940, is located near the southern end of the cemetery, to the east of the gravel driveway. This one-story, one-bay shed is comprised of rusticated concrete block. A steeply pitched gable-front roof clad in asphalt shingles caps the building. A wood cross extends from the roof ridge near the front of the building. Wood siding covers the gable ends. A solid, single-leaf, wood door provides access into the west elevation of the building. A boarded-over window is located in the eastern corner of the north elevation. A tall wooden fence encircles a small area to the south and east of the building.

14211 Rectory Lane

The dwelling located at 14211 Rectory Lane, constructed in 1929, is the oldest extant residence fronting Rectory Lane. The dwelling represents a typical American Foursquare-style residence found in Upper Marlboro. The dwelling faces south towards Rectory Lane and sits atop a rusticated concrete block foundation. Clapboard siding covers the exterior walls, and the hipped roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A brick exterior chimney pierces the apex. A hipped-roof dormer, clad in clapboard siding and featuring a set of paired, three-light, awning-sash windows, extends from the southern roof slope.

Five poured-concrete steps lead to a one-story, full-width porch that shelters the south elevation. The porch features a wood floor supported by rusticated concrete block piers that extend above the wood balustrade.

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Simple wood posts are set into each pier to support the asphalt shingle-clad hipped roof. The main entry, situated in the easternmost bay of the elevation, consists of a multi-light, single-leaf, wood door. Fenestration consists of six-over-one light, double-hung, wood-sash windows hung singly or in pairs. The majority of windows feature inoperable, aluminum, louvered shutters.

A paved-asphalt driveway leads north from Rectory Lane to the northwest side of the dwelling. A poured-concrete sidewalk stretches from Rectory Lane to the south elevation porch. Large foundation plantings conceal the southwest and west elevations of the dwelling.

14308 Rectory Lane

The dwelling located at 14308 Rectory Lane was constructed in 1937 as part of the Marlboro Heights subdivision. The dwelling is one of only two Tudor-style dwellings identified within the Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area; the second Tudor-style dwelling, located at 14112 Rectory Lane, was constructed in 1939.

The dwelling located at 14308 Rectory Lane faces south towards Rectory Lane and sits atop a rusticated concrete block foundation. Asbestos shingles cover the exterior walls, and the steeply pitched side-gable roof, featuring a cross gable in the eastern end of the south elevation, is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A brick interior chimney pierces the roof ridge at the western end.

The south elevation measures three-bays wide with a one-story, one-bay addition appended to the west elevation. Fenestration consists of six-over-one-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows hung singly, in pairs, or in threes.

Five poured-concrete steps, framed by rusticated concrete walls and posts, lead to a one-bay, poured-concrete landing, flanked by an iron railing that provides access to the main entry. The entry, situated in the westernmost bay of the main block, consists of a rounded-arch wood door with a small four-light circular window near the top. A small rounded door hood, integral with the main roof of the dwelling, shelters the entry, which is flanked by two original metal light fixtures.

A paved-asphalt driveway leads north from Rectory Lane, to the east side of the dwelling. The remnants of a poured-concrete sidewalk are visible from Rectory Lane to the main entry. The grass lawn that surrounds the dwelling is dotted with mature cedar and evergreen trees. Small foundation plantings surround the dwelling.

Crain Highway Monument (Old Crain Highway at Main Street, PG: 79-019-64)

The Crain Highway Monument, constructed in 1922, is a bottle-shaped monument comprised of roughly cut local sandstone with concrete trim. The thirty-foot tall monument was erected in a grass island between two lanes of the Old Crain Highway, at the west end of Main Street. Howard Sill, a Baltimore architect, designed the monument to commemorate the groundbreaking for construction of the Baltimore-Southern Maryland Trunk Line (later Robert Crain Highway) on September 30, 1922. The construction of the concrete-paved roadway provided for efficient overland travel for farmers transporting goods to Baltimore and for passengers traveling to southern Maryland.

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The monument rests on a base approximately sixteen-foot square and is comprised of two steps built of cut stone. The eleven-foot square body consists of iron-bearing coursed sandstone in various shades of gray, brown, and red, set into concrete. A concrete plaque accentuates each side of the monument. The southwest and northeast plaques feature incised lettering, which reads:

BALTIMORE & SOUTHERN
MARYLAND TRUNK LINE

ROBERT CRAIN HIGHWAY

The northwestern plaque reads:

AT THIS POINT
CONSTRUCTION WAS STARTED
SEPTEMBER 30, 1922

The southeast concrete plaque is devoid of lettering.

An additional wide course of molded concrete forms a lintel for the plaques as well as a base for the tapering neck of the monument. The body curves inward and narrows as it ascends, but remains square. A crown molding of concrete accentuated by an acorn-shaped finial surmounts the monument.

*5415 Old Crain Highway (Kingston, PG: 79-019-013)*³

Kingston, believed to be the oldest extant building in Upper Marlboro, is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gable southern Tidewater vernacular dwelling constructed ca. 1730. The dwelling features Gothic Revival-style detailing that dates to 1859. Kingston was erected as the plantation home of David Craufurd, a planter, merchant, and Justice of the County Court. The property remained in the Craufurd family until the property was purchased by Dr. Frederick Sasscer in 1859.

Kingston faces east, situated on a steep hill that overlooks the western edge of the commercial center of Upper Marlboro, on the north side of Old Crain Highway. The dwelling consists of a five-bay wide section, with a one-story kitchen addition appended to the north elevation. The dwelling sits atop a brick foundation, and wide, flush, horizontal board siding sheaths the exterior walls. The gable ends are clad in board-and-batten siding; and the siding was recently removed from the kitchen addition, which is undergoing rehabilitation. The side-gable roof, clad in slate shingles, extends on the east and west elevations to create full-width porches at the first story. Three evenly spaced gabled dormers, each lit by a six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash window and accentuated by simple scrolled vergeboards on the gables. The north and south gable ends of the dwelling feature the same vergeboard detailing. Two exterior brick chimneys are situated at the north and south ends of the dwelling. A brick pent situated between the two chimneys on the north end connects to the dwelling to the one-story kitchen wing.

³ Kingston was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 21, 1978, as a notable example of an early eighteenth-century vernacular dwelling of the southern Tidewater region featuring later Gothic Revival detailing.

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Fenestration consists of a variety of double-hung, wood-sash window types, including six-over-six-light, four-over-four-light, four-over-two-light, and three-over-three-light.

The main entry to the dwelling is centered in the east elevation. The double-leaf doors contain two oval-shaped model panels. Three-light sidelights and a five-light transom accentuate the entry. The porch that shelters the east elevation is supported by six square posts set atop wooden piers. An additional entry is located in the west elevation and consists of a single-leaf door topped by a three-light transom.

Kingston is situated at the end of a long, gravel, tree-lined lane that curves northeast from Old Crain Highway. The grass lawn is dotted with mature evergreen and deciduous trees and bushes. A small one-story, one-bay smokehouse, topped by a pyramidal roof and located to the northwest of the kitchen wing, is the only extant outbuilding historically associated with the property. A one-story one-bay, ca.-1990 garage is located to the south of the dwelling. The Forrest/Craufurd Family Cemetery is located in the woods northwest of the house.

5600 Old Crain Highway (Brooke-Herring House, PG: 79-019-45)

The Brooke-Herring House is a two-part frame dwelling consisting of a traditional I-house with Greek Revival detailing constructed ca. 1870 and a cross-gable addition constructed in 1893. The property occupies a wedge that forms from the intersection of Old Crain Highway to the north and the old road to Croom (now closed) to the south.

The two-story, three-bay main block sits atop a brick foundation. The exterior walls are clad in clapboard siding, and slate covers the side-gable roof, which features an interior brick chimney at each gable end. The main block is lit by six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows flanked by operable louvered wood shutters.

A brick stoop leads to the main entry that occupies the center bay in the east elevation of the main block. A single-leaf, wood-paneled door is flanked by three-light-over-one-panel sidelights and topped by a four-light transom.

The two-story, two-bay cross-gabled addition, constructed in 1893, is attached to the south elevation of the main block. The addition sits atop a brick foundation, and the exterior walls are clad in clapboard siding slightly narrower than the main block siding. Slate shingles cover the side-gable roof, which features a brick exterior chimney on the south gable end. A three-sided projecting bay, capped by a hipped roof and surmounted by the cross-gable accentuates the northern bay of the east elevation of the addition. The addition is fenestrated by two-over-two-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, the majority of which are flanked by operable louvered, wood shutters. One-over-one-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows are located in the south elevation.

An enclosed rear porch extends across the southwest corner of the main block and the entire first story of the west elevation of the addition. The enclosure is clad in board-and-batten siding and capped by a shed roof. Six-over-six-light, double-hung, aluminum sash windows light the addition.

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A paved-asphalt driveway extends from the intersection of the Old Crain Highway and the old road to Croom (no longer in use) and forms a circle at the east side of the dwelling. The driveway and dwelling are bordered by boxwood and other foundation plantings. The larger lot is characterized by large deciduous trees.

14508 Main Street (Owens-Dyer House, PG: 79-019-55)

The Owens-Dyer House is a two-and-one-half-story, Queen Anne-style dwelling constructed in 1915 by Claude Owens on the site of an older brick dwelling. Owens worked for the Bank of Southern Maryland and lived in the house until it was sold in 1935.

The dwelling is situated on a slight rise overlooking the north side of Main Street, near the eastern boundary of the residential area. The dwelling rests on a concrete foundation, scored to imitate individual blocks. The exterior walls are clad in clapboard siding, and a hipped roof, clad in asphalt shingles, caps the dwelling. Two, interior, brick chimney pierce the roofline near the apex. A small hipped-roof dormer inset with a single-light window is centered on the eastern, western, and southern roof slopes. The dwelling is primarily lit by one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, the majority of which are flanked by operable, louvered, wood shutters.

The east elevation (façade) measures four-bays wide and faces a service alley that runs north from Main Street. A one-story porch, a portion of which is screened, extends across the width of the east elevation and wraps around to the north and south. The wood porch floor rests on brick piers and features a turned balustrade and tapered Doric porch posts that support a slightly pitched shed roof. A set of wood steps, flanked by a wood railing, provide access to the porch and the main entry into the dwelling, which occupies the center bay of the east elevation. The entry consists of a paneled wood door, protected by a one-light, wood storm door. Simple one-light over one-panel sidelights flank the entry, which is surmounted by a three-light transom. The southeast bay of the façade features a projecting, two-story, three-sided bay capped by a pyramidal roof.

The Owens-Dyer House is situated on a grass lot heavily populated by deciduous and evergreen trees. A white picket fence surrounds the property.

14504 Elm Street (Jarboe-Bowie House, PG: 79-019-02)

The Jarboe-Bowie House is a two-story, side-gabled dwelling built ca. 1852 by Rueben W. Bunnell, a local carpenter. Bunnell acquired two, 0.5-acre lots on the northeast corner of Elm Street and Ritchie-Marlboro Road (Old Marlboro Pike) in 1850. He subsequently erected a two-and-one-half-story, side-gable, vernacular dwelling on the corner lot (14500 Elm Street, Bunnell-Sparrough House, PG: 79-019-01), and sold the second lot, which included the two-story dwelling, to William Jarboe in 1852. Jarboe served as the Register of Wills for Prince George's County from 1854 until 1873 and Clerk of Courts for Prince George's County from 1879 to 1892.

The dwelling consists of a two-story dwelling situated on a steep lot that slopes downward from south to north so that the dwelling appears to be one-and-one-half-stories in height on the south elevation and two stories on the north elevation. The foundation consists of brick on the southern end and cement block at the northern end. The exterior walls of the south elevation are sheathed in clapboard siding, while aluminum siding covers the

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remaining elevations. Wood shakes cover the side-gable roof, which features two brick interior chimneys on the northern and southern slopes, at the east gable.

The façade (south elevation) is sheltered by a one-story, full-width porch consisting of a brick foundation, wood floor, and four simple Doric posts that support a shed roof. The porch provides access to the main entry, which occupies the westernmost bay. The entry consists of a six-panel, wood door, topped by a seven-light transom and flanked by four-light sidelights atop a wood panel. An additional entry occupies the westernmost bay of the north elevation.

The first story of the dwelling is predominantly lit by six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows in each elevation. The second story of the south elevation features small three-over-three-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

The Jarboe-Bowie House, which is currently vacant, occupies a partially wooded town lot.

14519 Elm Street (Trelawn, PG: 79-019-017)

Trelawn is a three-part, two-and-one-half-story, frame dwelling erected ca. 1850; it was most likely erected by John Brown Brooke, a prominent attorney and Clerk of the County Court. Brooke purportedly erected the dwelling to serve as his town residence.

Trelawn is situated on a large lot on the south side of Elm Street and faces east. The dwelling consists of a two-and-one-half story gable-roof main block, appended by two smaller gable-roof additions. The main block rests on a stone foundation, and the exterior walls are clad in plain, horizontal siding. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof, which is accentuated by a boxed cornice featuring a bracketed vergeboard and gable-end returns. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the roof ridge.

The main block is primarily lit by six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, flanked by operable, wood, louvered shutters. A rounded-arch window is located in the uppermost story of the north elevation. Two three-over-three-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows light the south gable.

The main block measures three-bays wide, with the main entry situated in the westernmost bay of the two-bay northern gable end. The entry consists of double-leaf doors, framed by a plain wood door surround and topped by a four-light transom and flanked by three-light over one-panel sidelights. A one-story, hipped-roof porch, set atop brick piers and supported by chamfered posts with molded capitals, shelters the north elevation. The secondary entry, which most likely served as the original entry, is located near the northern end of the east elevation. The entry consists of a single-leaf, wood-paneled door, accentuated by a plain wood surround, three-light over one-light sidelights, and topped by a three-light transom. This entry is sheltered by a one-story, hipped-roof porch similar in detailing to the north porch.

The west elevation features a two-story sleeping porch in the two northernmost bays. The porch rests on concrete block piers. The first story is lit by six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, and banks of twelve-light, single-light windows fenestrate the second story.

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A lower two-story, three-bay, gable-roof wing, added ca. 1870, extends from the south elevation of the main block. The addition, inset from the main block on the east and west elevations, rests on a brick foundation. A replacement single-leaf, full-paneled door provides interior access through the center bay of the east elevation. The addition is fenestrated by six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, smaller than those of the main block. A one-story, one-bay, ca.-1940 kitchen wing extends from the south elevation of the two-story wing and rests on a concrete foundation. The main entry, consisting of a one-light, full-paneled, single-leaf door, is located in the south elevation. The windows are six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash types.

A circular gravel driveway leads south from Elm Street to the north side of Trelawn. Large evergreen and deciduous trees frame the driveway and dot the grass lawn that surrounds the dwelling.

14518 Church Street (Content, PG: 79-019-016)⁴

Content is a two-story, two-part, frame dwelling erected in 1787, with a stair hall and porch added ca. 1800, and a two-story wing appended to the north elevation before 1844. Since its construction, the dwelling, which faces east towards the county courthouse, has been owned by families prominent in the civic, economic, and social affairs of Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, and the State of Maryland, including the Craufurd, Magruder, Beanes, Lee, and Bowling families.

The dwelling consists of a four-bay block at the southern end (main block) and a three-bay block at the northern end. The southern block of the dwelling's foundation is comprised of stone, while the remaining sections are brick. The exterior walls are sheathed in clapboard siding, and the side-gable roof is clad in slate shingles. A brick, exterior chimney is located on the north elevation and two freestanding, brick chimneys connected by a one-story pent-roof brick section is located on the south elevation. The pent section contains a small four-over-four-light, double-hung, wood-sash window.

Brick piers connected by wood latticework support a two-story porch that extends across the southern three bays of the east elevation. The porch features a plain wood balustrade and wood posts. An entry is situated in the northernmost bays of the southern block at both the first and second stories. The first-story entry features a paneled wood door surmounted by an elliptical fanlight and flanked by simple sidelights. The first story windows of the southern block consists of nine-over-nine light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, and the second story features nine-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows in the east elevation. The windows in the south and west elevations, as well as the windows in the northern block consist of six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash types. The majority of windows feature operable, louvered, wood shutters. An entry, accessed by a brick stoop, is located in the northernmost bay of the west elevation of the south block. In addition, a door situated to the east of the south chimney provides access to the basement level of the dwelling.

The northern block appends the northern gable end of the south block. Slightly shorter than the south block, the north block measures one-room deep. The east elevation measures three-bays wide, with an entry situated in the southernmost bay. The entry has been boarded over to accommodate a window air conditioning unit; however, the simple transom remains. An additional entry is situated in the northernmost bay of the west elevation.

⁴ Content was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1978 as a representative example of a late eighteenth-century dwelling erected in Upper Marlboro.

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A paved driveway leads north from Church Street to a one-and-one-half-story, four-bay, asymmetrical, gable-roof garage, erected ca. 1980, situated to the west of the dwelling. A spacious green lawn, dotted by mature evergreen and deciduous trees, curves downward from west to east at the north, east, and south sides of the property.

14519 Church Street (Trinity Episcopal Church and Cemetery, PG: 79-019-15)

Trinity Episcopal Church is a one-and-one-half-story brick, Gothic Revival-style church constructed in 1846 on the site of a ca. 1810 frame church building. The church was designed by a prominent Baltimore architect, Robert Carey Long, Jr. In 1896, a four-story bell tower was added to the north (front) elevation of the church to commemorate the building's fiftieth anniversary.

The church is situated on a slight rise overlooking the south side of Church Street. The building sits atop a brick foundation, and brick, laid in common bond, comprises the exterior walls. The brickwork of the 1896 bell tower is darker than that of the rest of the building. The north elevation of the bell tower is laid in a bond of continuously running headers, with alternative bricks projecting in a checkerboard pattern above the centrally located entry. The steeply pitched gable roof of the church is clad in asbestos shingles and accentuated by a modillioned wood cornice. The church is fenestrated by single-light, gothic-arch windows, inset with stained-glass panes.

The main entry, which consists of a set of six-paneled double-leaf doors, is centrally located in the bell tower. A wood molding leads to a seven-light fanlight that surmounts the entry. A double-brick segmental arch frames the fanlight and entry. A white stone plaque is located above the door frame and reads:

Trinity Church
Built in 1846
Refurbished in 1896

Two gothic-arch windows, accentuated by a segmental brick arch surround, are located above the plaque. A pair of inset plain brick panels, consisting of three courses of corbelling above the lintel of each panel, is situated at the third level of the bell tower. Three gothic-arch openings are located at the fourth level and denote the belfry. A triple course of corbelling surmounted by ornamental brick moldings defines a crenellated parapet. A double-corbelled string course separates each of the four levels of the tower. The east and west elevations of the tower, which measures one-bay wide, contains the same level of ornamentation at each level as the north elevation.

The east and west elevations of the church are five-bays wide. A corbelled brick water table accentuates each side. A small one-story, hipped-roof addition is attached to the southwest corner of the church. A small replacement window lights the addition, which features two single-leaf entries in the west elevation. The east elevation features an additional entry in the northernmost bay. A covered walkway, flanked by an iron railing, connects the church to the Clagett Memorial Building, a two-story, gable-roof building.

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An associated cemetery, which dates to the eighteenth century when the site was used by a Presbyterian congregation, occupies the northeast corner of the property, which is enclosed by an iron fence. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees and bushes surround the building. A brick parish hall, constructed in 1926, is located to the east of the church (14519 Church Street).

Valley Lane (Union Methodist Episcopal Chapel Site and Cemetery, PG: 79-46)

Valley Lane extends south from Church Street through woodland, to parallel the north side of Western Branch. The site of the first Methodist Church and cemetery for the African American community of Upper Marlboro occupies a 3.07-acre lot, approximately 350-feet south of Church Street, on the east side of Valley Lane. The cemetery, which dates to the late 1860s, is the only physical evidence of the 1865 church building that served as the location of the first classroom for African American students. The church was replaced in 1916 by the frame Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church on Old Marlboro Pike. The 1865 church building served as a community gathering place and after its demolition, the property was the site of camp meetings. The cemetery continues to be used and maintained by the Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal congregation.

Alterations

The Upper Marlboro Residential Area contains few modern intrusions including buildings, structures, and landscape features, such as roadways. Those buildings erected after 1960 are small secondary buildings that do not infringe upon or detract from the significance of the buildings, sites, and structures that contribute to the district. In addition, the extant buildings that contribute to the district retain their original location and setting as well as massing, design, workmanship, and overall materials. The removal of secondary domestic and agricultural outbuildings associated with each contributing property does not detract from the ability of the extant dwellings to convey their significance as residential property types. The lack of significant alterations and intrusions supports the residential area's cohesion and ability to convey its historical associations as the residential area of Upper Marlboro.

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Historical Narrative:

Upper Marlboro, established in 1706 and designated the county seat in 1721, retains a collection of distinctive residential property types constructed between the early eighteenth century and the mid-twentieth century. Commercial development largely occurred around the government buildings located in the center of town, and the majority of residential development occurred outside the town center, to the west and north. The residential development that occurred in Upper Marlboro directly resulted from the town's designation as a county seat in the eighteenth century and its continuance in that role to the present day. Furthermore, Upper Marlboro's importance as a political, economic, social, and cultural center during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries influenced the construction of residential dwellings by citizens who desired to be within close proximity of the bustling town. The history of the Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area is directly related to the history of Upper Marlboro as the center of political, commercial, and social life for Prince George's County.

Establishment of Prince George's County and the "Town of Marlborough," 1695-1721

The first recorded European visit to what would become Prince George's County was in 1608, when Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac River. Captain Smith prepared a map that illustrated numerous Native American settlements of the Piscataways and the Susquehannocks. After Captain Smith's exploratory expedition, European traders began to frequent the native settlements along the Potomac River. In 1634, the first Maryland colonists landed at the mouth of the Potomac River, and shortly thereafter, Governor Leonard Calvert established St. Mary's City, Maryland's first settlement.⁴

The settlement at St. Mary's City flourished, and counties were subsequently created as settlers traveled beyond the confines of the original settlement. Within thirty years, farms and plantations lined the Patuxent River, which belonged to Calvert County (established 1654) and the Potomac River in Charles County (established 1658). By 1695 approximately 1,700 colonists inhabited the area, warranting the right of self-government. On April 23, 1696, the General Assembly established Prince George's County out of portions of Calvert and Charles counties.⁵ The county served as Maryland's western frontier, extending from the Charles County line at the south northward to the Pennsylvania border.⁶ Charles Town, a port town on the Patuxent River established by the General Assembly in 1683, served as the first county seat.

Gradual settlement continued throughout the early eighteenth century. Nearly all of the settlers in Maryland cultivated tobacco, including those of Prince George's County, where the fertile soil was particularly adaptable. Tobacco served as the foundation upon which the settlement and growth of Prince George's County relied. Most of the settlers came as small farmers and worked in the tobacco fields with their families; however,

⁴ Daniel M. Greene, *A Brief History of Prince George's County in the Perspective of Three Centuries Commemorating Its 250th Anniversary* (Avondale, Maryland, Daniel M. Greene, 1946), 9-10.

⁵ Maryland State Archives, "Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1696/7; 1698, Volume 23, Page 23," <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000023/html/am23--23.html> (accessed February 4, 2010). Prince George's County was named for Prince George of Denmark, husband of Princess Anne, heir to the throne of England.

⁶ Prince George's County remained Maryland's frontier until 1748, when Frederick County was formed.

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tobacco demanded daily attention, and the most a farmer could tend himself was two or three acres, which merely provided a subsistence living. To increase production, the farmer needed extra labor, and throughout the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, those who could afford extra help took on indentured servants. As farmers and planters became more numerous and prosperous, the number of indentured servants became limited, particularly since their terms of service were limited. As a result, large numbers of Africans were brought to the county to provide slave labor beginning in the early decades of the eighteenth century. By the early eighteenth century, approximately a quarter of the households in Prince George's County owned slaves. By the 1750s, as many as one half of the households may have owned slaves because slaveholding was no longer limited to a small upper class.⁷

The increased number of trade and plantations throughout the Maryland colony prompted the 1706 passage of an Act for the Advancement of Trade, which re-established Charles Town and established five new port towns: Queen Anne, Nottingham, and Mill Town on the Patuxent River; Aire at Broad Creek on the Potomac; and Marlborough on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River. The establishment of only one port town on the Potomac River indicated that the concentration of population and commerce at this time was located in the eastern part of the county, along the Patuxent River.⁸

The "Town of Marlborough" (known today as Upper Marlboro) was established in 1706 by the Act for the Advancement of Trade.⁹ Prior to this establishment, Marlborough was already a gathering place for merchants, with a tavern built in 1703 on Water Street. In 1695, a group of Scottish Presbyterians, led by Reverend Nathaniel Taylor, settled in Marlborough and subsequently erected a Presbyterian meeting house in 1704 on the present site of Trinity Church.¹⁰ In addition, a 1695 post route that extended from Port Tobacco on the Potomac River to Annapolis passed through Marlborough, connecting it to the surrounding settlements and towns.¹¹

The 1706 Act specified the location of the Town of Marlborough at the upper landing on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River, commonly called Captain Belt's Landing. That year, county surveyor Thomas Truman Greenfield conducted a survey of one-hundred acres of the three estates from which the new town would be created: "Grove Landing" (established 1668), "The Meadows" (established 1694), and "Darnell's Chance" (established 1704). The town took up nearly half of "The Meadows" tract, owned by Colonel Ninian Beall.¹²

Eleven commissioners were appointed to select the one-hundred acres of land that would become Marlborough, laid out in streets, lanes, and alleys, with open spaces left for erecting public buildings, such as the church and

⁷ Alan Virta, "The Tobacco County," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/tobacounty.html> (accessed February 4, 2010).

⁸ Alan Virta, "Prince George's County: Over 300 Years of History," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/history.html> (accessed February 4, 2010); As part of a supplementary act passed the following year, a town (later known as the Village of Piscataway) was to be located on the Piscataway Creek on the Potomac.

⁹ According to tradition, the town was named for John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough. At the time of the town's establishment, Churchill was England's most popular hero, having won an important victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704 during the War of Spanish Succession.

¹⁰ *Journal of Presbyterian History, Volume 7* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, University of Michigan Press, 1914), 63.

¹¹ James Shreve, *A History of Upper Marlboro*, (Upper Marlboro, Maryland: NP, 1971), 6-7; George D. Denny, *Proud Past, Promising Future*, (Brentwood, Maryland, G.D. Denny, Jr., 1997), 342. The 1703 tavern was erected by Edward Digges for use by John Dacora and was believed to be the oldest building in Upper Marlboro. The dwelling was moved to Lower Marlboro, Calvert County, in the late-twentieth century.

¹² Shreve, *A History of Upper Marlboro*, 10.

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market house, and the remaining acreage divided into one-hundred lots of equal size. During the first four months after the passage of the Act, the lots were only available to county inhabitants, with the former owner of the land having first choice. After four months, the general public was able to purchase any unsold lots. Within a year of purchase, the owner was required to build a house consisting of at least twenty square feet in order to maintain ownership of the lot. Otherwise, the commissioners could resell the lot for the benefit of the town. After seven years, if none of the one-hundred-acre lots were sold, then the lot reverted back to the former owner. The commissioners appointed a clerk to keep record and set the price of each lot in the amount of 350 pounds of tobacco. In those instances where the lot reverted back to the former owner, the owner was able to set his own price.¹³

Marlborough quickly became a thriving center for trade, most likely due to its central location compared to any other town in the county. Mercantile stores and inns soon opened. In 1717, the county standard of weights and measures was moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlborough, prompting county residents to start petitioning for Marlborough to serve as the county seat. The growth of Marlborough as a trading center coupled with its advantageous location in the center of the county induced citizens to petition in 1718 for the relocation of the courthouse from Charles Town to Marlborough, located three miles northwest and upstream on the Western Branch. The General Assembly approved the move and authorized the justices of the county court to select two acres in Marlborough upon which to erect the new courthouse. A levy of five pounds of tobacco per poll was also authorized in order to pay for the lots and building. Consequently, with the approval of the relocation of the county courthouse, Marlborough officially became the government seat for Prince George's County.¹⁴

Upper Marlborough in the Eighteenth Century, Including the Construction of Kingston and Content, 1721-1800

On March 28, 1721, the justices of the Prince George's County Court met for the first time in the uncompleted courthouse, located near the eastern edge of the town. In August of that year, the General Assembly authorized an additional twelve pounds of tobacco per poll in order to finish the courthouse and build a jail. Also during this time, Marlborough became "Upper Marlborough," in order to distinguish it from "Lower" Marlborough, a port town established in the same year located on the opposite side of the Patuxent River in Calvert County.¹⁵

In 1717, Colonial Beall, owners of "The Meadows" died, and the tract passed to his son, Charles Beall. In 1729, Charles Beall, sold the tract, which included many of the town's undeveloped lots, to David Craufurd.¹⁶ Craufurd was an Upper Marlborough merchant rapidly rising to prominence in community affairs. Shortly after acquiring "The Meadows," Craufurd erected Kingston, a one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling (PG: 79-019-13, 5415 Old Crain Highway) on the west side of town.¹⁷ Upon David Craufurd's death in 1749, he was buried just northwest of the dwelling in the family plot, and the house and adjoining seven-hundred acres passed to his son, also named David. In 1774, the land was resurveyed and David Craufurd patented it as "Kingston Park,"

¹³ Louise Joyner Heinton, *Prince George's Heritage* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1972), 121-122.

¹⁴ Susan Pearl, "Happy Birthday Upper Marlboro," *News and Notes*, XXXV, Number 4, July-August 2006, 1, 4.

¹⁵ Heinton, *Prince George's Heritage*, 122-124; Pearl, "Happy Birthday Upper Marlboro," 1, 4.

¹⁶ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed M: 503-504 (1729).

¹⁷ Ca. 1730 is commonly used as the construction date for the house, although some argue that the dwelling was not built until after Craufurd's death in 1749; however, as ca. 1730 is used in the property's National Register Nomination, this is the date that is usually attributed to the property; Susan Pearl, "Kingston: Background History based on Archival Sources," (Unpublished Manuscript) July 2007.

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after which the dwelling became known as “Kingston.” In 1801, David Craufurd died, willing his estate to his son, David Craufurd III, who maintained ownership of the property in 1859, when it was sold out of the Craufurd family to Dr. Frederick Sasscer. The conveyance included the dwelling and ten acres. Dr. Sasscer added the Gothic Revival-style detailing to the dwelling, and the dwelling has undergone few exterior alterations since his occupation.¹⁸ Kingston remains the oldest extant dwelling within the residential area.

Upper Marlborough continued to grow and expand as a center for trade and commerce during the eighteenth century. Ships navigated up the Western Branch to unload goods for sale in stores run by town merchants, including David Craufurd. As a port of entry, Upper Marlborough hosted ships arriving from European ports to purchase locally grown tobacco. The old shipping wharf was located at the end of Water Street, to the southeast of the residential area.¹⁹

In 1747, in response to years of poor prices for Maryland tobacco and numerous complaints from merchants concerning its quality, the General Assembly established a formal system of tobacco inspection and quality control through the passage of the Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco. Consequently, planters could no longer sell their tobacco directly to tobacco merchants. Instead, planters brought their crop first to a public tobacco warehouse for inspection and grading, after which the hogsheads (a very large barrel used to store and transport tobacco) could be stored and the planters would receive certificates stating the quantity deposited. Tobacco marketing thus moved away from all the small local landings and became concentrated at the sites of the warehouses. The 1747 Act named Upper Marlborough as the location of one of the county's seven inspection warehouses. During the eighteenth century, shallow draft boats carried hogsheads of tobacco from the town down Western Branch to the Patuxent River, where ocean-going vessels anchored. From 1748 until about 1818, all locally grown tobacco was inspected in Upper Marlborough at a public warehouse before shipment overseas. The shipping area was located to the north of Western Branch, stretching from both sides of present-day Water Street, just east of the residential area.²⁰

This system of tobacco inspection seemed to work, and the planters themselves sought its renewal in subsequent assembly sessions. The towns also profited from the increased activity that the warehouses brought them. Upper Marlborough's success was demonstrated by growth and development in the 1750s to 1960s. Beginning in January 1757, Upper Marlborough was included as one of the scheduled stops on the post rider's route, to carry the *Maryland Gazette* and mail from Annapolis to Charles County. By 1760s, a post office was officially established in the town. Starting in 1750, horseracing drew many people from the surrounding area, and the several taverns in Upper Marlborough served as the gathering places for travelers as well as the exchange of news and ideas among the local residents. Merchants, tradesmen, and artisans took up residence in Upper Marlboro and included a plasterer, saddler, tanner, coach maker, weaver, tailor, and blacksmith.²¹ By 1752, the

¹⁸ Margaret W. Cook, “Kingston National Register of Historic Places Nomination,” Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust, April 1977.

¹⁹ John M. Walton, Jr., “A Brief Guide to Historic Upper Marlboro,” (Unpublished manuscript, 1976), 6; Denny, *Proud Past, Promising Future*, 343.

²⁰ Alan Virta, “The Tobacco County,” n.p.

²¹ Pearl, “Happy Birthday Upper Marlboro,” 4.

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town also hosted a new theatre, referred to as the Assembly Room, Ball Room, or Theatre, located on present-day Elm Street. The venue hosted balls, concerts, and plays for the town's white middle and upper classes.²²

On the eve of the Revolutionary War, Upper Marlboro continued to thrive and prosper due in large part to tobacco cultivation and the associated tobacco warehouses. Records at Annapolis were moved to the storehouse of David Craufurd in Upper Marlboro for safety during the war. However, this effort proved unnecessary, as the British did not come near Annapolis or Upper Marlborough during the war.²³ Prince George's leadership in state and national affairs began shortly after the war ended, in the first years of the Union. Town resident John Rogers was one of three Maryland delegates to the Second Continental Congress, held in 1776.²⁴ Daniel Carroll, a native of Upper Marlborough, participated in the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention and became a signer of that document. His brother, John Carroll, founded Georgetown University and became the first Roman Catholic bishop (and later archbishop) in the United States. Dr. William Beanes, an Upper Marlborough resident, served as a leading patriot and surgeon prior to and during the Revolutionary War.²⁵

For a short time, William Bradley Beanes, half-brother of Dr. Beanes, owned "Content," a two-story, frame dwelling erected ca. 1787. The dwelling was constructed after David Craufurd, living at Kingston, deeded the lot to his granddaughter, Sarah Contee, on April 9, 1787. The deed reads:

Lot lying and being in the Town of Upper Marlborough and known and distinguished upon a plat of said Town by the number 36, which moiety is half part of said lot, thus given or intended to be given, lyeth toward the creek of said Town and the Town spring, and on which a dwelling house is now erecting or about to be erected.²⁶

The property was located on the north side of what is now Church Street, just west of the county courthouse. Sarah Contee only lived in the dwelling a short time. In 1799, her father, James Richard Alexander Contee, conveyed the property to his nephew, James Alexander Magruder, who also acquired the adjoining lot.²⁷ Almost immediately, Magruder sold both lots to his brother-in-law, William Bradley Beanes, for three hundred

²² Advertisements for plays, comedies, operas, concerts, and balls appear in numerous editions of the *Maryland Gazette*, particularly August 13, 1752; June 14, 1753; and May 22, 1760

²³ On August 31, 1774, George Washington lodged in the town on his way to the First Continental Congress prior to the Declaration of Independence. He visited the town in 1756 as colonel of the Virginia Militia and returned there in 1793 as President of the United States.

²⁴ Denny, *Proud Past, Promising Future*, 345. When it was time to sign the Declaration of Independence, Rogers was ill and was replaced by Charles Carroll of Frederick County; therefore, Rogers was the only member of the congress to vote for the declaration but whose name does not appear on the document.

²⁵ Walton, Jr., "A Brief Guide to Historic Upper Marlboro," 11-14. Dr. Beanes is often credited for his passive role in the penning of the "Star-Spangled Banner." Dr. Beanes was captured during the War of 1812 following the burning of Washington because he and several other Prince Georgians had imprisoned British stragglers in the Upper Marlborough jail. Francis Scott Key boarded the British flagship in the Chesapeake Bay in 1814 in an effort to negotiate the release of Dr. Beanes. Key was forced to stay on the ship as the British were about to attack Fort McHenry. The siege that Key witnessed inspired him to write the "Star-Spangled Banner." Dr. William Beanes died in Upper Marlborough on October 12, 1828, and his grave is located adjacent to Elm Street, outside the eastern edge of the survey area.

²⁶ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed HH: 480 (1787).

²⁷ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed JRM 4: 357; JRM 7: 202 (1799).

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pounds currency. Beanes most likely added the stairhall and two-story porch, for he sold the property two years later to Thomas Contee for 548 pounds currency.²⁸ Contee continued to occupy the property until Dr. Benjamin Lee purchased the property in 1821, and subsequently added the two-story north block. The dwelling exhibits few alterations since Dr. Lee's ownership and remains one of only two extant eighteenth-century dwellings within the residential area.

Upper Marlborough in the Antebellum Period, Including Construction of Trinity Episcopal Church, 1800-1861

By the early decades of the nineteenth century, the Western Branch became so silted and polluted with debris that it was no longer used for the shipping of tobacco; however, a system of roads was well established by this point, and Upper Marlborough continued its wave of growth and prosperity.

In 1810, Thomas John Claggett, Bishop of Maryland and the first Episcopal Bishop to be consecrated in the United States (1792), formed the Trinity Episcopal Congregation. The new congregation moved into the small 1704 Presbyterian meeting house, which had been abandoned ca. 1800 for a larger church in Bladensburg. By 1812, the Trinity congregation erected a new frame church building, which was dedicated by Bishop Claggett on July of 1812. Bishop Claggett served as Rector of Trinity Church until his death in 1816.²⁹

The new Trinity Church figured prominently into the Upper Marlborough's experience during the War of 1812. On August 22, 1814, a large company of British troops, led by General Robert Ross, camped overnight at the edge of Upper Marlborough on their way from the Patuxent River towards Washington. One British soldier described the beauty of Upper Marlborough at this time:

It was one o'clock, when the neat houses and pretty gardens of [Upper] Marlborough presented themselves to our view...at that moment I imagined that I had never looked upon a landscape more pleasing, or more beautiful. The gentle green hills which on either hand inclosed [sic] the village, tufted here and there with magnificent trees, - the village itself, straggling and wide, each cottage being far apart from its neighbours [sic], and each ornamented with flower-beds and shrubberies; these, with a lovely stream that wound through the valley, formed...one of the exquisite panoramas on which it has ever been my good fortune to gaze.³⁰

The soldiers entered Trinity Episcopal Church, and their unwelcomed visit is recorded in the margins of the Vestry Minutes:

No meeting from 21st May 1814 to 27 March 1815 owing to the situation into which the country was thrown by the invasion of the British army in August...Several leaves here and some in other parts of the book were torn out by

²⁸ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed JRM 8: 376 (1801).

²⁹ Susan Pearl, "Trinity Episcopal Church Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," Prince George's County Planning Commission, September 1987.

³⁰ As quoted in Pearl, "Happy Birthday Upper Marlboro," 5.

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Ross's soldiers who found the book in the Church where it was put for safekeeping....to their eternal disgrace be it recorded.³¹

Upper Marlborough recovered from the British invasion, and as the nineteenth century progressed the town continued as the government and commercial center of the county. Two-story frame residences of the working classes developed along Church Street, to the east and west of Trinity Episcopal Church. The Talbott House (PG: 79-019-14, 14514 Church Street) was erected in the 1840s by carpenter Reuben Bunnell, and served for many decades as the home of the town blacksmith, William Talbott. Bunnell also erected two other dwellings during this time. The first was the Thomas J. Turner House (PG: 79-019-01, 14500 Elm Street), a two-and-one-half-story, side-gable, frame dwelling. This dwelling served as the residence of Thomas J. Turner, publisher of the local newspaper, *The Planters' Advocate*. The second dwelling constructed by Bunnell was the Jarboe-Bowie House (PG: 79-019-02, 14504 Elm Street), a two-story, side-gable, frame dwelling that occupied the lot adjacent to the east side of the Turner House. Bunnell erected the dwelling for William A. Jarboe, Clerk of the County Court and Register of Wills.³²

By 1846, construction commenced on a new brick church for the Trinity Episcopal Congregation. The Vestry selected a proposed plan by William R. McNeal of Alexandria, Virginia, which included a design by architect Robert Carey Long, Jr. of Baltimore. The frame church building was in decay, so the new brick building was erected in its stead, on the south side of Church Street, adjacent to the existing small cemetery lot that dated to the same period as the Presbyterian meetinghouse. With modifications to Long, Jr.'s original plan, the new brick, Gothic-style church was completed by December 1846. In 1896, in honor of its fiftieth anniversary, a large bell tower was added to the north gable of the church, completing the exterior appearance as seen today. In addition, the church continues to maintain a late-nineteenth-century cemetery situated on the west side of Marlboro Pike (present-day Old Marlboro Pike), just north of present-day Rectory Lane.³³

By the mid-nineteenth century, Elm Street served as the northwesternmost boundary for Upper Marlborough. A line of modest frame houses, including the Turner and Jarboe-Bowie dwellings, lined the north side of Elm Street. An additional frame dwelling was also located to the north, in addition to two smaller, more modest frame houses.³⁴

As the nineteenth century passed its midpoint, the plantation economy of Prince George's County was at the height of its development. By 1860, the county was producing more than thirteen-million pounds of tobacco annually, more than twice as much as Calvert or Anne Arundel counties. In addition, farmers produced more than 300,000 bushels of wheat and over 700,000 bushels of corn, and owned 5,000 horses, 4,000 milk cows, and 25,000 swine. The majority of work was done by slave labor. Approximately 850 of the 2,000 white families owned approximately 12,500 slaves. Half of the slave owners owned fewer than ten slaves; however, fifty of the slave-holding families owned more than fifty slaves. Prince George's County also hosted a free

³¹ Ibid.

³² Susan Pearl, *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2006), 130-131.

³³ Pearl, "Trinity Episcopal Church Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form."

³⁴ Susan Pearl, "The Historic Residential Area on the West Side of Upper Marlboro," (Unpublished manuscript). In the early 1970s, the easternmost of the 1850s dwelling was transported and reassembled in the community of Lower Marlborough in Calvert County. The two smaller dwellings were demolished in the 1990s.

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African-American population, with 1,198 freemen in 1860.³⁵ Several years before start of the Civil War, the majority of Prince George's County white residents remained firm in their defense of the slave system. Thomas J. Turner, publisher of Upper Marlborough's *The Planters' Advocate*, wrote in its 1851 inaugural issue, "We believe domestic slavery, as it exists among us, to be a truly conservative and beneficial institution—right in view of God and man, and as such, we will ever maintain it"; however, within fifteen years, the system and society that Turner vowed to maintain forever would be overturned.³⁶

Upper Marlborough in the Civil War and the Construction of the Union United Methodist Church, 1861-1916

The Civil War began in Maryland on April 19, 1861, one week after the firing on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. As volunteers from the Northern states responded to President Lincoln's call for troops, they passed through Baltimore on their way to the nation's capital. The citizens of Baltimore turned to violence in support of the Southern cause. When soldiers of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment tried to march from one Baltimore railroad station to the other, rioting broke out, shortly followed by fighting between the troops and the mob.³⁷

The violence in Baltimore subsided after several days, but federal officials in Washington worried over Maryland, for if Maryland seceded, Washington would be surrounded by Confederate states. The citizenry of Maryland were divided between the pro-Southern planters of the southern counties and the pro-Union farmers of Western Maryland and the business community in Baltimore. Although Maryland made no move to secede from the Union, sympathies existed for those states that did, particularly in Prince George's County. Prince George's County depended upon its plantation economy supported by slaves, which comprised over half of the county's population in 1860. The prominent county families were slaveholders, and a significant number of their sons went south to fight for the Confederacy even though Maryland stayed in the Union throughout the war.³⁸

Throughout the Civil War, Upper Marlborough remained loyal to the Confederacy as evidenced by the local paper. Upper Marlborough's *Planters' Advocate* ran the following article, directing or requesting the town to refuse provisions to the growing Union army:

An embargo on Provisions. We hardly need to remind our people of the vast importance, at this crisis, of refusing to send corn or other provisions out of the County, either for love or money, particularly to the District of Columbia. In a few days after the Legislature acts, this will be enforced by the proper military authorities. Already a practical embargo exists in Baltimore, Alexandria and Washington, and our sources of supplies being cut off, we shall need all our supplies for home consumption. Besides, to allow them to go to Washington would be giving practical aid and comfort to the enemy.³⁹

³⁵ Alan Virta, "Antebellum Prince George's County," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/antebel.html> (accessed February 4, 2010).

³⁶ Alan Virta, "Antebellum Prince George's County," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/antebel.html> (accessed February 4, 2010).

³⁷ Virta, "Civil War," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/civilwar.html> (accessed February 5, 2010).

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ *The Planters Advocate*, 24 April 1862; as cited in Shreve, "History of Upper Marlboro," 42.

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As the war dragged on and became increasingly bloody, the citizenry continued to swing in favor of the South. The Emancipation Proclamation fueled this support. Prince George's County Unionist argued, "as Union men, we are not only opposed to emancipation in this state, but even to all agitation of question, [despite] our devotion to the Union increases with its perils."⁴⁰ Even though the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation specifically omitted Maryland as well as other bordering states, a new state constitution abolished slavery on January 1, 1865. The constitution was rejected in Prince George's County, but passed narrowly by the Maryland voters. Its passage ended the plantation system that had supported its economy for over a century. Consequently, Prince George's County and Upper Marlborough underwent significant changes when the Civil War ended three months later.⁴¹

In addition to some of the county's most prominent white planters, politicians, merchants, and lawyers, Upper Marlborough's citizenry included a substantial African-American population who had not been plantation slaves. During the early nineteenth century, African-Americans were part of the Methodist congregation who worshipped at a church on the western edge of town and of the Roman Catholic congregation on the eastern end of town. In the early nineteenth century, William Thorton and his wife visited the Craufurd family at Kingston, and Mrs. Thorton remarked in her diary, "We went to two or three shops--...the best belonged to a free negro man, who is going very well; he owns the house and lot in which he lives, maintains a large family decently and is generally respected."⁴²

Immediately following the Civil War, the Washington Conference of the Methodist Church appointed three freemen, Henson Greenleaf, Nicholas Greenleaf, and George Bowling, as trustees to purchase land upon which to build a church. In October 1865, Dr. Frederick Sasscer (living at Kingston), deeded five acres of land to be used for the establishment of a church and cemetery for the local African-American Methodist community.⁴³ The land was located away from the center of Upper Marlborough, to the south near the Western Branch. Access was provided via a dirt road, called Valley Lane, which was located just west of Trinity Episcopal Church. Shortly after the acquisition, the congregation erected a Methodist meetinghouse, known as Union Chapel.

From its establishment, the Union Methodist congregation was active in the African-American education movement. The three trustees became the president, secretary, and treasury of the Colored Free School Society and began to raise money for the establishment of a school on land adjoining the chapel. The chapel housed classes during construction of the Freedmen Bureau's school, which opened in April 1868. This enclave, centered on the chapel and school, served as a focal point for the African-American community in Upper Marlborough following the Civil War. Several families also acquired and moved frame tenant houses to this community from the nearby large farms of their former masters.⁴⁴ These included the Erasmus Gantt House (PG: 79-019-048, demolished) and the Jupiter Lee House (PG: 79-019-049, demolished). In 1884, Erasmus Gantt and his wife, Jane, purchased a 1.25-acre lot near the chapel upon which to relocate a small frame tenant

⁴⁰ *Baltimore American*, 3 September 1863.

⁴¹ Virta, "Civil War," n.p.

⁴² As quoted in Pearl, "Happy Birthday Upper Marlboro," 5.

⁴³ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed FS3: 189.

⁴⁴ Susan Pearl, *African-American Heritage Survey*, (Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1996), 86-89.

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house that he acquired from the nearby Claggett farm. That same year, Jupiter Lee acquired a larger tenant house from the Claggett farm and relocated it to land situated near the chapel. Although neither of these dwellings remains, they served as the nucleus around which the small African-American community grew throughout their one-hundred-year history, around the Union Chapel and school.⁴⁵

The small community around the Union Chapel continued to grow throughout the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This spawned a movement to replace the deteriorating chapel with a new building at a location closer to the center of Upper Marlboro and farther from the swampland near Western Branch. In 1913, Ida M. Bowie deeded approximately 0.5-acres of land that fronted Old Washington-Marlborough Turnpike (present-day Old Marlboro Pike) to nine trustees of Union Chapel.⁴⁶ Joseph Wyvill, a carpenter who lived in Upper Marlborough, oversaw the construction of the new church, the majority of which was carried out by the congregation. The new church opened in 1916 and its high bell tower quickly became a visual landmark by the African-American community. The church was used for high school graduations and other special events until the construction of the Frederick Douglass High School in the mid 1930s.⁴⁷

After the completion of the new Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church in 1916, the old Union Chapel was torn down. The congregation used the site for camp meetings. The cemetery remained and is still in use today. When a new high school was erected for white students in 1921, the building that it replaced was moved to the community near Western Branch, reassembled, and opened as Prince George's County first secondary school for African-American students. The Freedmen Bureau's School was replaced by a Rosenwald School in 1922; however, no vestiges of the former school buildings near Western Branch remain. The continued use of the cemetery and the prominence of the 1916 church building convey the almost 150-year tradition of the African-American Methodist community in Upper Marlborough.

Industrialization, Transportation, and Suburbanization in Upper Marlborough, Including Construction of the John H. Traband House, the Crain Highway, and Marlboro Heights, 1870-1960

The repercussions of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery also brought changes to the economy of Prince George's County. Agriculture retained its prominence, tobacco continued as the most prominent crop, and large plantations remained. However, in the last decades of the nineteenth century, small farms cultivating tobacco and other crops played a larger role in the county's economy. Between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the twentieth century, the number of farms in Prince George's County doubled, with many of the new smaller farms operated by freemen or newcomers into the county. Commerce increased along with the agricultural population. In 1873, the Pope's Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad (later Pennsylvania Railroad) opened in Upper Marlborough, connecting the markets of Baltimore with southern Maryland. The

⁴⁵ Susan Pearl, "Erasmus Gantt House, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, March 1983; Susan Pearl, "Jupiter Lee House Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, May 1983.

⁴⁶ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed 90: 245 (1913).

⁴⁷ Susan Pearl, "Union Memorial United Methodist Church Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, October 1982/September 1988. Through Conference policy, the name of the church was changed to Union United Methodist Church in 1968.

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advent of the railroad through Upper Marlborough in the 1870s sparked a new period of development in Upper Marlboro, as granaries and tobacco warehouses were erected around the depot site.⁴⁸

On April 4, 1870, the Maryland General Assembly passed an Act “to incorporate the Town of Upper Marlborough in Prince George’s County.”⁴⁹ The town adopted a charter with a commission form of government that it retains to the present day. Upper Marlborough contained a thriving commercial and political center. Martenet’s Map of 1861 illustrates a well-developed small town, mostly centered on Main Street. The residential buildings occupied the western portion of town. Commercial development occupied the east, with the largest concentration of buildings situated around the courthouse.⁵⁰ Several hotels, law offices, and other stores served the town, including a barbershop, carriage factory, tailor, cabinetmaker, doctor’s office, and two newspapers, *Planters’ Advocate* and the *Marlboro Gazette*. In addition, Martenet’s map illustrates that Upper Marlborough was connected to many other sections of the county by rural roads that evolved from old port-connecting roads. By 1878, Hopkins’ Atlas shows considerable new development in the town, including many new residences and stores, two public schools (one for boys and one for girls), and the addition of the Pope Creek line of the Pennsylvania Railroad (Baltimore and Potomac Railroad) on the eastern side of town, with both a passenger and freight station.⁵¹

Martenet’s 1861 Map and Hopkin’s 1878 Atlas also illustrate a gristmill located at the northern end of the study area, on Federal Spring Branch. The mill was constructed in 1800 by the family of Dr. William Beanes. John H. Traband, a local hardware merchant and carriage maker, purchased the mill property in 1871, which included forty-six acres.⁵² By the time of his death in 1885, Traband owned close to one-thousand acres in and around Upper Marlboro, which consisted of several farms and eight properties, including his dwelling, carriage shop, gristmill, hotel, and law office.⁵³

John H. Traband, Jr. inherited his father’s properties in 1885, including the mill property, which was reduced to 38.68 acres. Traband lived in the dwelling next to his carriage house, south of the courthouse. Due to the constant threat of fire spreading through the shops and offices on Main Street, Traband desired to move out of town. He subsequently ordered plans from architect Arthur F. Nicholson of Laurel, Maryland, and hired a local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford, to construction a new dwelling near his gristmill. The two-story, Queen Anne-style dwelling, the only dwelling of its type in Upper Marlboro, was completed in 1898. Traband continued to live in the property until his death in 1938. The property remained in the Traband family until 2003, when the 0.5-acre lot, including the dwelling, was sold. The gristmill was demolished by 1938; however, its presence is memorialized through “Old Mill Road,” located just outside the northeastern boundary of the study area.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ William Bender Wilson, *History of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company*, (Philadelphia, Henry T. Coates & Company, 1895), 334-336. The line, now owned and operated by the CSX Transportation, Inc., still runs through Upper Marlboro, transporting only freight.

⁴⁹ Laws of Maryland of 1870, Chapter 368, 640-644.

⁵⁰ Simon J. Martenet, *Atlas of Prince George’s County, Maryland* (Baltimore, Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1861).

⁵¹ G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland*, (Philadelphia, G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

⁵² Prince George’s County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George’s County Deed HB5: 1 (1871). Also of note, by this time, *Upper Marlborough* was shorted to *Upper Marlboro* in the deed; therefore, it is written henceforth as such.

⁵³ Susan Pearl, “*John H. Traband House National Register of Historic Places Nomination*,” Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, November 1983.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George’s County GIS, 1938 aerial imagery.

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In 1891, Baltimore lawyer Edwin Warfield and others organized the Washington & Chesapeake Beach Railway to connect Washington, D.C., with a proposed three-thousand-acre gambling resort, named Chesapeake Beach, on the Chesapeake Bay; however, nothing transpired in the next five years, and in 1896, the enterprise was reorganized as the Chesapeake Beach Railway. The line stretched thirty miles in a nearly straight line across sparsely populated fields, woods, and swamps of Prince George's and Calvert counties to Chesapeake Beach. Notably, Upper Marlboro was the only intermediate town along the route. Railroad construction began in 1897, with the first train arriving at Chesapeake Beach in 1900. The one-track railroad line left Washington, D.C., utilizing the abandoned right-of-way of the Southern Maryland Railroad. It exited the city limits at Seat Pleasant, traveling east to Upper Marlboro, where it crossed over the Pope Creek line and continued on to Chesapeake Beach. A frame, one-story, Stick-style train station with a two-story octagonal tower was erected ca. 1898 in Upper Marlboro, just south of present-day Rectory Lane, near the town hall and the Board of Education buildings.⁵⁵ A September 16, 1898 article in the *Marlboro Gazette* noted the construction of the station as well as John H. Traband's House:

This town is apparently enjoying a building boom. The large and beautiful St. Mary's Church [outside survey area to the east] which in course of erection, several other buildings are underway and others about to be started...Mr. John Traband is building a handsome residence nearly opposite D. Griffith's home, Mr. Benjamin Cranford being the contractor. The Chesapeake Beach Railroad Company is erecting its station.⁵⁶

The line was ill-fated; however, as its use by Washington, D.C., residents traveling to the Chesapeake Bay was surpassed by the automobile. The construction of highways, beginning in 1921, caused revenues to decrease. The Great Depression of the 1930s provided the final blow, and the railway was converted to a bus line. The last train left the station on April 15, 1935, and the line was subsequently abandoned. The rail station was demolished in the 1970s.⁵⁷

As the Chesapeake Beach Railroad was declining, the use of the automobile was rising. The advent of the automobile in the early twentieth century necessitated the improvement of old roadways, which were narrow, largely unpaved, and generally inadequate and dangerous for automobile use. Robert Crain of Charles County campaigned for an improved automobile route between Baltimore and the counties of southern Maryland. By 1922, his efforts were rewarded when the state legislature appropriated one-million dollars for construction of a new highway that would run through approximately twenty-five miles of Prince George's County. The surveyed and planned route traversed the county from Priests' Bridge near White Marsh, in a southwesterly direction through Upper Marlboro, to the boundary of Charles County where it connected with an existing direct road to St. Mary's County.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ "Old Railroad To Beach Due To Be Junked," *The Washington Post*, 16 March 1935.

⁵⁶ "A Building Boom," *Marlboro Gazette* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland), 16 September 1898.

⁵⁷ Herbert H. Harwood, Jr., "Chesapeake Beach Railway," http://www.mdoe.org/ches_beach_rr.html (accessed February 5, 2010).

⁵⁸ Susan Pearl, "Crain Highway Monument Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, March 1993.

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Construction on the new highway began in Upper Marlboro in September 1922. The right-of-way proceeded westward on Main Street, turned left, and proceeded southwest across vacant lots to connect with the road leading southwest to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Station. The plans for the new roadway stipulated the erection of a monument to mark the location of the beginning of construction. The Merchants and Manufacturers Association together with the Southern Maryland Society sponsored the monument's construction and commissioned Howard Sill, a Baltimore architect, to design it. Sill's design included a bottle-shaped monument constructed of sandstone and measuring approximately thirty-feet high and sixteen-feet wide at the base. An oval site oriented diagonally across a vacant lot was chosen for the monument's location. Workers from the Maryland State Roads Commission began extracting stone from the stone bank behind Trinity Episcopal Church in order to start construction of the monument.⁵⁹

On September 30, 1922, a ceremony was held in Upper Marlboro to mark beginning of the new highway's construction. More than four-thousand people attended the event, with parades, floats, and a picnic lunch held at the nearby fairgrounds. Mrs. Robert Crain unveiled the newly completed monument, and Mr. Robert Crain, after whom the new highway was named, served as a principal speaker for the event. The monument still stands as an attestation to one of the most momentous events in the history of Upper Marlboro.⁶⁰

The Crain Highway was constructed over the next five years, and the highway officially opened on October 22, 1927. Its opening ushered in a wave of increased development and prosperity in Upper Marlboro, despite its occurrence on the eve of the Great Depression and a 1924 fire that forced many of Upper Marlboro's merchants and residents to rebuild to the east of the residential area. The thriving economy of the early twentieth century and ease of access influenced new construction that included stores, hotels, a movie theatre, community meeting halls, separate primary and secondary schools for white and African-American children (until 1954), and an array of retail and personal services such as restaurants, candy stores, gas stations, and a bowling alley.⁶¹ A 1927 article in the *Enquirer Gazette* noted "Improvements in Upper Marlboro":

Among the attractive residences here, built in recent years, are the following: Those of Wm F. McCormick, Miss Maude Gibbs, County Agent Posey, T.R. Henault, Joseph A. Rinehart, R. Ernest Smith, G.P. Mullikin, W.E. Seipp, Plummer Smith...with the Crain highway and the Washington-Annapolis Boulevard passing through the center of Upper Marlboro, our state road advantages are second to none.⁶²

In addition to the completion of the Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro also included Marlboro Pike (MD 4), one of the oldest state roads in the county that traversed town from east-west linking Washington D.C., with Solomons Island Road (MD 2) in Lothian.

⁵⁹ Ibid; Paul Weishar, "Crain Highway Monument Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form." Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc., for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, February 2008.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, "Upper Marlboro," July 1949.

⁶² "Improvements in Upper Marlboro," *Enquirer Gazette* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland), 25 November 1927.

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The growth of the federal government, particularly in Washington, D.C., coincided with improved roadway and transportation networks throughout the county. Until the late nineteenth century, the nation's capital included more farmland than civic infrastructure within the city limits; however, Washington, D.C., grew exponentially by 1900, and towns developed along its shared border with Prince George's County. As Washington, D.C., continued to grow and transportation routes improved, Prince George's County became a bedroom community for those working in the nation's capital. The county also hosted extensions of the city, as large government installations, including Andrews Air Force Base, the Census Bureau complex in Suitland, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, among others, were located in Prince George's County. As the twentieth century progressed and the automobile freed suburban commuters from rail, trolley, and bus lines, federal government employees could live farther from their work, and consequently, towns accessible by roadways grew throughout the county. The county grew from a population of 30,000 in 1900 to 60,000 in 1930.⁶³

The growth of Washington, D.C., influenced the growth of Upper Marlboro. By 1930, the roads in town were paved. In 1937, the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative began supplying electricity to the rural areas of Maryland, including Upper Marlboro. Also during this time, the town shifted back towards activities focused on the buying and selling of tobacco sparked by the increased demand for cigarette tobacco and the uniformity and high quality of the tobacco leaves. In 1938, the loose-leaf tobacco auctioning system began in Maryland, and some of the first sales took place in Upper Marlboro in 1939. In 1947, an office of the Maryland State Tobacco Authority was established in the eastern side of town with the major roles of licensing buyers and regulating the tobacco auction process.⁶⁴

Coinciding with this growth and modernization of the town was the subdivision of an area located to the west of the abandoned Chesapeake Beach Railroad, north of Crain Highway. In 1934, James G. Sasscer provided a plat for a twenty-six residential lot subdivision called "Marlboro Heights." At the time of its design, the subdivision was related to the path of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad. The subdivision extended along the existing Rectory Avenue (present-day Rectory Lane) from the abandoned rail line east, ending at an extension of Trinity Cemetery and an existing American Foursquare dwelling erected by the Vestry of Trinity Church in 1929 (14211 Rectory Lane) most likely to serve as the rectory from which Rectory Lane was derived.⁶⁵ Since rail service was discontinued by 1935, many of the homes date to the late 1930s and 1940s. Additional lots were added to the original plans by Helen Wilson, who acquired the additional acreage in 1939 and for whom Wilson Lane was named.⁶⁶ The subdivision included rectangular-shaped lots ranging in size from 0.16 to 0.3 acres. The dwellings constructed on the lots included simple, one-and-one-half to two-story forms of the mid-twentieth-century, including gable-front, side-gable, and Cape Cod, with minimal detailing. In addition, by the

⁶³ Virta, "Prince George's County: Over 300 Years of History" (n.p.)

⁶⁴ Prince George's County Maryland, *The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County, Community Renewal Program* (Prince George's County, Maryland, 1974), 370-371.

⁶⁵ Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed 519: 238 (1936); "Northwest Marlboro, May 28, 1928," Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Plat Book RNR2: 70.

⁶⁶ "James G. Sasscers Subdivision of Marlboro Heights, June 2, 1936," Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Plat Book SDH 4: 58. Helen Wilson became the town's first president of the town's commission.

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late 1940s, a one-story, side-gable, stone-clad telephone and telegraph building was erected on the south side of Crain Highway, indicating the continued growth of Upper Marlboro.⁶⁷

Following World War II, Upper Marlboro's traditional role as the center of commercial activity for Prince George's County declined. The town's role as the seat of county government emerged as the dominant force in the local economy. New commercial and service activities emerged to meet new market needs of an expanding daytime work force, and residential subdivisions were developed on the outskirts of town. The end of the 1950s signaled the shift of residential development even further from the town center, outside of the historic concentration of dwellings located to the west of the town center.

Brief Overview of Upper Marlboro, 1960 – Present

While the impact of new growth of Upper Marlboro as a government center was felt, the town did not experience any significant population growth or new construction during the 1960s and 1970s. By 1970, the population numbered 646 residents, a number that only increased by two (to 648) by 2000.⁶⁸ The town still serves as the governing center of Prince George's County, accommodating the Prince George's County Courthouse, County Administration Building, and the Board of Education. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to relocate the county seat to a more developed area close to Washington, D.C.

Of the six towns established as part of the 1706 Act, Upper Marlboro is the only one to survive as a town. The residential development that occurred in Upper Marlboro directly resulted from the town's designation as a county seat in the eighteenth century. Upper Marlboro's importance as a political, economic, social, and cultural center during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries influenced the construction of residential dwellings by citizens who desired to be within proximity of the bustling town. Despite over three-hundred years of history and various fires that destroyed a larger part of the commercial area along Main Street, Upper Marlboro retains a significant collection of buildings that date from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. These dwellings represent the evolution of Upper Marlboro from a rural village established in 1705 to a thriving small town and county seat, a designation it retains to the present day.

Extant Residential Architecture in Upper Marlboro

The scale and degree of stylistic detailing of Upper Marlboro's existing residential architecture is reflective of ownership and occupation by members of the middle- to upper-middle classes. The larger town lots are occupied by relatively large and well-built dwellings exhibiting stylistic detailing of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles. These houses are mainly two- to two-and-one-half stories in height, with the exception of Kingston (ca. 1730), which stands one-and-one-half stories tall. The Tudor style and the American Foursquare form, dressed in Colonial Revival stylistic detail, is also represented, as are front-gable and side-gable cottage forms. Structural systems and exterior materials include clapboard, replacement aluminum, or vinyl siding over wood frame, as well as brick and concrete block masonry.

⁶⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

⁶⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000, for Upper Marlboro, Maryland" <http://censtats.census.gov/data/MD/1602479875.pdf> (accessed February 6, 2010).

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The dwellings located along Rectory Lane reflect the wide range of early to mid-twentieth-century styles and forms, including Colonial Revival, Tudor, American Foursquare, Minimal Traditional, and cottage.

Brief descriptions of the plans, styles, and forms represented in the residential architecture of Upper Marlboro follow.

Eighteenth-Century Dwellings: Center-Passage and Side-Passage Plan

The earliest extant dwellings in Upper Marlboro date to the eighteenth century. Kingston (5415 Old Crain Highway), constructed ca. 1730, reflects the center-passage plan in which a centrally placed doorway at the exterior leads into a stair passage connecting all of the rooms in the main block of the dwelling. Large chimneys flank the side-gable roof. In eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century examples of the center-passage plan, the first-floor rooms on either side of the central passage were typically the parlor and dining room. The neatly balanced five-bay façade, as seen in Kingston, was represented from the Pennsylvania Piedmont to Virginia's Eastern Shore throughout the mid- to late-eighteenth and into the early decades of the nineteenth century.⁶⁹

Content (14518 Church Street), erected ca. 1787 and enlarged in the early nineteenth century, reflects a side-passage plan in which a stair passage runs along one side of the structure, usually for its full depth, flanked on one side by two nearly equal-sized rooms. In town settings, such as Upper Marlboro, the first floor typically housed a downstairs parlor or commercial room, while the back room was set aside as a dining room. The upper floors were typically used as sleeping rooms.⁷⁰

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style (ca. 1825-1860) did not take hold in Upper Marlboro with the same vigor one would find in other nearby places, such as Annapolis and Washington, D.C. Instead, “[local] builders tended to use Greek Revival motifs without resort to the total image.”⁷¹ The resulting style included a symmetrical façade, low-pitched gable roofs, pedimented gables, classical proportions, and heavy cornices with unadorned friezes.

One dwelling within the residential area, the Brooke-Herring House (5600 Old Crain Highway), exhibits notable features of the Greek Revival style. Although constructed of two parts, the original ca. 1870 wing retains Greek Revival-style detailing. The dwelling retains a symmetrical facade capped by a low-pitched, side-gable roof. The multi-light wings are double-sash types, and the centrally located entry features a narrow line of transom and sidelights. The original one-story, one-bay porch, one of the most widely repeated Greek Revival stylistic features, has been removed from the dwelling's façade.

Gothic Revival

Similar to the application of Greek Revival-style motifs, high-style examples of the Gothic style (ca. 1840-1880) are not represented in Upper Marlboro's residential buildings. Instead, builders applied motifs to existing dwellings, such as the decorated vergeboard and smoothly arched porch supports on Kingston. In addition, the

⁶⁹ Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, (Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 28-32.

⁷⁰ Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 32-38.

⁷¹ Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 138.

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pointed-arch windows and steeply pitched roofs that characterize Trinity Episcopal Church (14515 Church Street) and Union United Methodist Church (14414/14418 Old Marlboro Pike) are stylistic motifs of the Gothic Revival style.⁷²

Queen Anne

Upper Marlboro retains two dwellings that exemplify the Queen Anne architectural style, popularized from 1880 until 1910. The National Register-listed John H. Traband House (14204 Old Marlboro Pike) was constructed in 1897 and retains excellent integrity as Upper Marlboro's best example of a dwelling reflecting a high architectural style. Although altered, the Owens-Dyer House (14508 Main Street), constructed in 1900, also illustrates the Queen Anne style. Identifying features of the Queen Anne style included a steeply pitched, irregularly shaped roof that typically includes a dominant front-facing gable, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, projecting bays, and other materials and features used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance. An asymmetrical façade with a partial- or full-width porch typically extends along one or both side walls.⁷³

Folk Victorian

Upper Marlboro includes one dwelling that exhibits characteristics of the Folk Victorian style (1870-1910). The O'Bryan-Fisher House (14407 Old Marlboro Pike) was constructed in 1873. The dwelling features a one-story, full-width front porch with spindlework detailing, a shallow cross gable, and a symmetrical façade, all identifying features of the Folk Victorian style.

Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style had its origins in the Centennial and, like many of the other national styles, was not widely constructed in the residential area. Colonial Revival-style dwellings within Upper Marlboro date to the late-1930s and early 1940s, with the majority located along Rectory Lane. The dwelling located at 14107 Rectory Lane best represents the Colonial Revival style. Identifying features include a symmetrical façade with a centrally located front door accentuated by a decorative pediment supported by pilasters. The dwelling also retains a rectangular-shaped footprint and brick exterior wall cladding meant to imitate historic building materials.⁷⁴ Notably, the Colonial Revival style continued to influence dwellings throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century; the persistence of the Colonial Revival style is most visible in the modern residential subdivisions constructed on the landscape just outside the residential area's boundaries.

Tudor

Upper Marlboro contains two dwellings on Rectory Lane that exhibit elements of the Tudor style of architecture, popularized from 1890 until 1940. The dwellings located at 14112 and 14308 are capped by steeply pitched side-gabled roofs dominated by at least one cross gable. Multi-light, narrow windows, hung in pairs, are present. The dwelling at 14108 Rectory Lane represents an earlier side-gable roof accentuated with Tudor-style detailing, including a prominent cross gable and paired windows. The main entries into 14108 and 14308 Rectory Lane feature a single-leaf, rounded-arch door.⁷⁵

⁷² Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 197.

⁷³ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 263.

⁷⁴ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 320-323.

⁷⁵ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 355-356.

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American Foursquare

The American Foursquare was a common early twentieth-century suburban house form. Several examples are located within the residential area, including the dwellings at 14211 Rectory Lane (ca. 1929) and 14310 Rectory Lane. Essentially a subtype of the Prairie style of building, American Foursquare dwellings commonly include hipped or pyramidal roofs and symmetrical facades, although entrances may be off center.⁷⁶

Vernacular Architecture

Vernacular architecture by far characterizes the majority of extant dwellings within the residential area. The term refers to buildings and structures that were built in a functional manner, sometimes using indigenous materials, with little to no stylistic embellishment. Vernacular buildings are those that were erected without the benefit of architects' plans. Vernacular dwellings typically appear as common house forms or plans. Occasionally, minimal stylistic detailing is included on these forms and plans, often representing a greatly simplified interpretation of a higher style example. As noted above in the discussion of stylized architecture, most of the dwellings in the residential area can be stylistic as vernacular interpretations of higher styles or as local forms with applied stylistic detailing.

Vernacular dwellings within the residential area are identified through their forms. There are a number of mid- to late-nineteenth and early- to mid-twentieth-century vernacular housing forms present within Upper Marlboro, including the I-House, gable-front cottage, side-gable cottage, and bungalow.

From approximately 1870 through 1925, the I-house was one of the most common residential building types constructed throughout Maryland and was characterized by a two-story dwelling measuring one-room deep, with a rear ell. The symmetrical façade featured a front entry and often a cross gable. Examples dating to the 1920s are found along Old Crain Highway (5517, 5519, and 5521) and earlier examples exist at 14505 (ca. 1840) and 14509 Church Street (ca. 1870).

The gable-front cottage was extremely simple and inexpensive to build, typically measuring one-and-one-half-story in height, sometimes two and featuring a full- or partial-width porch. Examples of the gable-front cottage within Upper Marlboro include the dwelling at 14500 Main Street (1925) and 14307 Old Marlboro Pike (1930). Like the gable-front cottage, the side-gable cottage was extremely simple and inexpensive to build. The shape of the roof was the only feature that differentiated the gable-front from the side-gable cottage. The dwellings located at 5431 Old Crain Highway (1939), 14205 Old Marlboro Pike (1924), and 5507 Valley Lane (1950).

Only two dwellings reflecting the bungalow type (also referred to as Craftsman) are present in Upper Marlboro despite that the low cost, versatility, and ease of construction contributed to the proliferation of the bungalow type throughout Maryland in the early twentieth century. 14306 Rectory Lane (1936) and 14503 Main Street (1929) measure one-and-one-half-stories in height with a low-pitched gable roof and wide, overhanging eaves. An integral porch, supported by massive battered square columns, extends through to the ground level without breaking the level of the porch floor. Both dwellings included an exterior chimney and varied window openings.

⁷⁶ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 439.

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Mid-Twentieth-Century Architecture

Most of the post-1940 dwellings in the residential area are examples of the Cape Cod style from the 1940s, Minimal Traditional style from the late 1930s to mid 1950s, and Ranch form from the 1950s to 1960.

14212 Rectory Lane (1940) and 14302 Rectory Lane (1942) feature symmetrical facades, side-gable roofs with evenly spaced dormers, and flush central entries, all characteristics of the Cape Cod style. The dwellings located at 14422 Old Marlboro Pike (1945), 14104 Rectory Lane (1946), and 14301 Rectory Lane (1938) all exhibit elements of the Minimal Traditional style. These features include one-story height, with side-gable roofs dominated by a gable-front projection and one substantial chimney located in the gable end. As suggested by their label, these Minimal Traditional houses incorporate a minimal amount of traditional detailing.

The Ranch form originated in the late 1930s but did not reach the height of its popularity until the 1950s and 1960s, the period to which most examples within the Upper Marlboro residential area date. One late-1930s example is located at 14006 Rectory Lane (1939). The Ranch form, rectilinear or elongated in shape, measures one story tall with a low-pitched or flat roof. The façade is typically broad and asymmetrical. Often, Ranch houses have large picture windows and low chimneys. Front porches as well as ornamentation are minimal. Examples are located at 14010 Rectory Lane (1960) and 14207 Rectory Lane (1960).

Statement of Significance:

The Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area is significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development. The residential area is a notable collection of buildings that reflect development over time, from the eighteenth century through the twentieth century. As the center of governments and politics in Prince George's County since 1721, Upper Marlboro includes a distinctly separate residential community that developed on the outskirts of the town center in direct response to the growth of the political and commercial importance of the town. The residential buildings reflect the continual growth and stability of the community from its designation as the county seat in 1721 through the mid twentieth century. The residential area is also significant under the *African-American Historic Resources in Prince George's County Multiple Property Theme Study*.⁷⁷ The residential area includes the site of a significant African-American population in the post-Civil War era and demonstrates their transition from slavery to freedom through their relocated tenant farm dwellings and construction of a church and cemetery near the Western Branch. The residential area is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a notable collection of buildings, sites, and objects that reflects distinct styles, types, forms and periods of construction from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. Styles and forms present within the Upper Marlboro Residential Area include center-passage and side-passage plans, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor, I-house, and bungalow types, among others.

The period of significance begins in 1721, with the designation of Upper Marlboro as the county seat for Prince George's County, and ends in 1960. The town's status as the county seat has contributed to continued residential development to the present day; therefore, the period of significance extends to the fifty-year age criteria consideration.

⁷⁷ Betty Bird, *African-American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland*, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, October 2003.

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Integrity

The Town of Upper Marlboro Residential Area is comprised of a historically related collection of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century buildings, sites, and objects. The area retains its location on the northwest, west, and southwest sides of the commercial center of Upper Marlboro. Large swaths of woodland still border the area to the east and south, with the government and commercial center to the east, thereby supporting integrity of setting. The residential area is cohesively linked by its shared history, which developed as a direct result of Upper Marlboro's continuation as Prince George's County seat since 1721. The limited modern intrusions and overall continued use of the residential area as Upper Marlboro's residential area convey integrity of feeling, setting, and association. The residential area retains its small-town setting, as intrusions that post-date the period of significance (1742-1960) mostly consist of smaller ancillary buildings and a small number of interspersed modern dwellings that do not detract from the cohesion and integrity of the residential area in its entirety.

For a list of contributing and non-contributing properties within the district, see the attached Building Inventory.

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