

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Dennis Griffin House (AA-1133)
204 King George Street

The main building at 204 King George Street was originally constructed in 1890 for Dennis Griffin. The two-and-a-half-story building was the first freestanding dwelling erected in this block on the northeast side of King George Street following its subdivision by Griffin. The substantial parcel was historically owned and improved by the Carroll family in the 18th century, and purchased by Jeremiah Chase in the 19th century. Owned by the Griffin family until the 1950s, the dwelling has been enlarged to encompass a brick hypocaust, composed of three tunnels and a massive chimney, at the rear of the property. The hypocaust, used in Ancient Roman times to conduct hot gases from a furnace into the rooms above through a hollow floor and tile flues within the walls, appears to have been originally constructed as a kitchen or garden structure in the early to middle part of the 18th century.

Historically two independent domestic resources, the two-story Italianate-style residence and the early to mid-18th-century, two-room brick structure have been connected by a contemporary hyphen. The Italianate-style building is a two-and-a-half-story wood frame building, clad with German weatherboard siding. Measuring three bays wide, it is set upon a low brick foundation and is covered by a gable roof with jerkin head side clips. The roof, clad with asphalt shingles, features parged and corbelled chimneys, one of which is located on center at the ridgeline, the other in the ell.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. AA-1133

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Dennis Griffin House

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 204 King George Street not for publication _____

city or town Annapolis vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD

county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21401

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	_____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing Annapolis Historic District

No

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC Kitchen/Garden Structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Side Gable: Asphalt Shingles
walls Wood Frame: German Siding
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1890-1948

circa 1725

Significant Dates 1890

circa 1725

1985

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anne Arundel County Land and Will Records. Anne Arundel County Courthouse and Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Archives of Maryland, XXXVIII, "Act for Keeping Good Rules and Orders," 1696.

Papenfuse, Edward and Jane McWilliams. "Southern Urban Society After the Revolution: Annapolis, Maryland, 1782-1786." Final Report for NEH Grant #H69-0-178, Historic Annapolis Foundation, 1969.

Record Group 29, "Records of the Bureau of the Census." 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 Census; Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Warren, Marion E. and Mame Warren. The Train's Done Been and Gone, Annapolis, MD: M.E. Warren, 1976.

Wright, Henry. "204 King George Street, Annapolis, MD: Excavation of Hypocaust," circa 1957. Archived in the vertical files of the Historic Annapolis Foundation.

Maps and Drawings

Magnus, Charles. Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, 1864, Reproduced 1967.

Sachse, Edward. Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, circa 1858. Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 1213-349.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, and 1954 updated.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 3650 Square Feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property designated as 204 King George Street is located on Parcel 1391 as shown on Grid 11, Map 4Z in the City of Annapolis.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building has been historically associated with this property since the construction of the hypocaust in circa 1725.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title L. Trieschmann & K. Williams, Architectural Historians
organization Traceries date February 2, 1998
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815
=====

12. Property Owner
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name John J. and Laura O. Pinto
street & number 204 King George Street telephone _____
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401
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The property at 204 King George Street includes two independent domestic resources connected by a contemporary hyphen: a two-story Italianate-style residence (built 1890) that fronts King George Street, and an early to mid-18th-century, two-room brick structure located toward the rear of the lot. The front room of the two-room structure has been connected to the Italianate-style dwelling by a one-story hyphen and serves as a family room, while the other room, accessible only via an exterior door, is used for storage. The front room of this 18th-century building is notable for its underground, brick hypocaust and for its distinctive Jacobean-style chimney breast. The building is noted as being a single dwelling on the 1885 and 1891 Sanborn maps and as kitchen on the 1897 map. The original use of the building is not known and may have been a residence, a kitchen, or other associated domestic structure. Its location within a cultivated garden, however, and the existence of the hypocaust, suggest it may have been a heated garden structure.

Main House

The Italianate-style front building is a two-and-a-half-story wood frame building, clad with German weatherboard siding. Three bays wide, the house is set upon a low brick foundation and is covered by a gable roof with jerkin-head side clips. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and features two parged and corbeled chimneys, one of which is located on center at the ridgeline, while the other is found in the rear ell. A mid-20th-century full-width, front hipped porch was enclosed across two of the three bays in 1985.¹ The facade of the dwelling is characterized by its bracketed cornice, incised frieze board, and by its scroll-sawn Victorian window surrounds. A rear ell, originally constructed as a single story, was raised to two stories between 1897 and 1903, according to the Sanborn maps. A wrought-iron gate opens onto a brick-laid passage that separates 202 and 204 King George Street, leading to the rear of the lot.

The facade (southwest elevation) is divided into three bays and consists, on the first story, of a side-passage entry door and a two-bay-wide enclosed porch, and on the second story, of three single windows. The entry door is a contemporary, single-paned glazed door topped by a single-light transom and surrounded by the original wood architrave with scroll-sawn detailing. A

¹ From Historic District Commission files at Annapolis Planning and Zoning.

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contemporary wrought-iron stair and landing rail form the edge of the entry porch. The enclosed section of the porch, added in 1985, is set upon a new brick foundation. It is clad with German siding that matches the siding on the main house and features a 48-light fixed window with molded trim that is not in keeping with the style of the house. The porch is covered with a standing seam metal hipped roof.

The second story has three single 9/9 replacement windows with wood trim having the same scroll-sawn detailing found around the door. The windows, which abut the cornice frieze board, have no lintels. The cornice consists of four heavy, scroll-sawn brackets dividing the facade into its three bays and by a cavetto-shaped frieze board with scroll-sawn vegetal incisions. The cornice turns the corner of the dwelling with cornice returns, supported by a single bracket on each side wall. A series of heavy dentils span the brackets beneath the frieze board, and although match the robust quality of the brackets, they contrast greatly with the intricacy of the incised frieze, thus raising questions about the originality of the dentils. Two gable dormers with 9/9 windows and scroll-sawn trim are located on the front slope of the gable roof.

The southeast side elevation of the main block is characterized by the jerkin-head side clips of the roof. The frame walls are clad with asbestos shingles and lit on both the first and second stories by two single 2/2 windows located in the rear bay of the main block. The windows have molded trim and wood sills, but lack the scroll-sawn detail of the trimwork on the building's facade. The northwest side wall, similarly clad with asbestos shingles and featuring jerkin-head side clips, has no openings.

The rear elevation of the main block is unexposed, save for the roof that features a parged and corbelled masonry chimney on center of the rear roof slope. The rear of the dwelling includes several disparate parts joined together: 1) the two-story ell; 2) the one-story hyphen connecting the ell of the house to the former 18th-century kitchen; and 3) the two rooms of the former 18th-century kitchen.

The two-story ell, originally built as a single story, but raised to two stories between 1897 and 1903, has a shed roof sloping from the northwest to the southeast. The southeast side wall of the ell has a pair of 6/6 windows, while the rear elevation has two 2/2 windows on the second story. A parged brick chimney projects from the roof of the ell.

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The one-story hyphen, built between 1930 and 1954 to connect the separate buildings, was extended towards the southeast in 1985. This wood frame connector is clad in German siding, and is covered with a low gable roof. A single 6/6 window is located on the exposed southeast side wall. A single contemporary six-paneled door is located on the southwest wall of the hyphen, where it projects beyond the two-story ell as of the 1985 extension.

18th-century building

The rear building is a one-story, two-room brick structure with a T-shaped plan covering a system of three underground tunnels that travel northwest to southeast and back again. The structure connects to the main house through an opening in the original exterior wall. The front room of the building measures on the exterior approximately 24' x 14' and the rear room measures approximately 15' 6" x 14'. The walls are laid in English bond, though they have been parged recently with a concrete/stucco finish in places for stabilization purposes. It is covered with a shed roof that meets at the ridgeline in a gable form, culminating with a massive, central brick chimney with corbelling.² The roof is clad with standing seam metal and features a boxed cornice. The building, which spans the present-day lot lines between 204 and 206 King George Street, has been divided on the interior by concrete partition walls. The portion of the building on this property was renovated in 1985. Based upon its brickwork, unique Jacobean chimney breast and the underground hypocaust, the building probably dates to the first half of the 18th century.

The southwest elevation of the building is only exposed on the interior, revealing the original brick walls, laid in random English bond. The southeast side wall of the front room retains its original English bond brick walls, but was significantly altered during the 1985 renovation by two window openings. One of the openings is original, but has been filled with a contemporary aluminum sash with 6/6 snap-in muntins. The trim is unfinished, rough-sawn wood and bears clear traces of circular saw marks. The other window is in the location of a former window that had been filled in with bricks at the time of the 1985 renovation, but is wider and longer than the original. It is fitted with an aluminum

² Oddly, no chimney appears on the 1858 Sachse Birds' Eye View of the City of Annapolis.

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window with 8/8 snap-in muntins. A soldier-course brick lintel is located above the window opening.

The southeast side wall of the rear room is actually of wood frame construction, clad with brick over German siding. A wood plank door with cross bracing and metal strap hinges, set under a large wood lintel, is recessed into the bricks of the southeast wall. It is not clear if this side wall was always frame, or if the brick wall deteriorated and was replaced with frame at a certain point. The visible studs (at the entry door) are not 18th century, nor is the German siding.

The northeast end wall of the building is brick with a single, contemporary 6/6 window. The wall is parged with a plaster/stucco finish. The northwest side wall is brick, laid in English bond. It is located on the adjacent property and was not examined in detail.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

Main Block

The main block of the house has a side-passage, two-room deep plan with much of its interior detailing intact, including window and door casings, quarter-turn stair, and dining room mantel. The house has undergone some changes, namely the partial enclosing of the full-width porch in 1985 and the original exterior wall of the facade (between the porch and parlor) was removed to enlarge the front parlor. At the same time, changes were made in the hyphen between the house and the 18th-century structure, and the front room of the 18th-century building was renovated/restored.

The main entry door opens directly into a side passage that leads directly into the rear dining room and opens off the side into the front parlor. The front parlor retains the least amount of architectural integrity in that the front exterior wall of the room was removed and the porch enclosed to give the room its present L-shaped plan. New wood floors were laid, a chair rail was added around the whole room in an effort to unify the fused spaces, and a Colonial Revival-style mantel was placed before a false chimney. The casing around the door leading from the hall to the front parlor is original and consists of a molded profile with a large interior bead. The windows in the enclosed porch were made to match the original casing profile. The parlor leads directly into

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the dining room via contemporary double doors in a single-wide opening.

The dining room is the most ornate room of the house and features the original quarter-turn stair against the northwest side wall and the original fireplace and mantel on center of the southwest front wall. The stair consists of turned balusters having square bases and a large central knob. The principal newel has a square base, a shaft decorated with a central panel of reeding, and a cap with beveled and rounded edges. A fascia board with saw-tooth dentils separates the shaft from the cap of the newel. A closet is located under the stairs. It has an original four-paneled door with molded and beaded casing.

The fireplace opening is arched and has a slate mantel painted to look like marble. The side panels and frieze of the mantel are delicately inscribed with late Victorian, hieroglyphic-type markings. The northeast wall of the room has a single 2/2 window with original molded and beaded trim (as found around the door in the side passage). The wood floors have been recently laid.

Behind the dining room is the kitchen/laundry, renovated in 1985. These two rooms occupy both the original ell and the hyphen connecting the main block of the house to the back building. These rooms have contemporary furnishings and materials.

18th-century building

T-shaped in plan, this 18th-century structure is divided on the interior into two separate and unconnected rooms. The front room is the larger room, while the narrower rear room forms the shaft of the "T" shape. The interior of the front room was heavily rehabilitated in 1985, but does retain its most distinctive feature: an underground brick hypocaust. The room is entered either directly from the exterior through a single replacement door located on the southwest elevation at the intersection of the "T," or from the interior of the present kitchen through an opening made in the original exterior brick wall. The exterior door, set within the brick, has a massive wooden lintel post.

The interior of the room features a brick chimney breast and mantel against the northeast wall. The chimney breast includes a brick fireplace opening and stepped side walls that have been topped by concrete Jacobean-style side corbels. The corbels were restored in

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1985 when the room was entirely rehabilitated, but according to a history prepared by the past owners who conducted the work, "the fireplace has its original lines where the curves are present, but the firebox itself is a new creation of old bricks which were there but not functional." The floor of the room is paved in brick laid in a herring bone pattern.

The Hypocaust: A wood trap door leads to the hypocaust beneath the brick paving. The hypocaust is a barrel-vaulted underground system of three connecting tunnels that travel northwest to southeast, and back. Although accessible, the tunnel is presently filled with dirt about half-way across the room, thus the full plan of the tunnel is not readily apparent. At the southeastern end of the trap door, the vault has been filled with brick, interrupting the connection between the tunnels. From this same entry opening, the vault extends eastward, running northwest to southeast and back to terminate under the back room of the structure. The vault measures 24" high and 18" wide and is constructed of bricks measuring 4-1/2" x 8." Archaeological investigations of the tunnel from circa 1957 determined that the tunnel extends in depth 17'3-1/2," being filled in various locations with sand, dirt, and brick. While this circa 1957 report indicates that the high flue in the chimney fed warm air to the underground tunnels, no connection between the hypocaust and the fireplace in the front room was found during this survey.

The back room of the two-room structure features a large cooking fireplace occupying the southwest wall of the building. This fireplace, which shares the central chimney, has a large segmental-arched fireplace opening and a smaller bake oven, both located under a segmental relieving arch. The flue from the bake oven leads into the main flue at a right angle. A wood mantel shelf, now petrified, is thought to be hickory.

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The building at 204 King George Street was originally constructed in 1890 for Dennis Griffin and remained in Griffin family hands until the 1950s. The two-and-a-half-story building was the first freestanding dwelling erected in this block on the northeast side of King George Street following its subdivision by Griffin. The substantial parcel was historically owned and improved in the 18th century by Charles Carroll and eventually purchased by Jeremiah Chase in the 19th century.

The property includes part of an 18th-century, two-room brick structure (original use not known) featuring an underground brick hypocaust--an underground system of flues that conducts hot air from a furnace into interior spaces to warm the rooms.³ Based upon the brickwork, underground hypocaust, and the distinctive Jacobean-style chimney breast, the building probably dates to the first half of the 18th century.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The property on which the building at 204 King George Street stands was historically associated with Margaret Dulany, the wife of Dr. Alexander Hamilton of Scotland. Stretching along the northeast side of King George Street, the property was purchased from Charles Carroll the Chirurgeon (doctor) in 1747 for 450 pounds by Daniel Dulany the Elder as a wedding gift for his daughter Margaret. Prior to its ownership by Dulany, the property had been improved by the construction of numerous dwellings that fronted Hanover Street to the east and landscaped gardens stretching west to King George Street. Based upon this historical documentation and physical evidence, it seems likely that the hypocaust survives from that early to mid-18th-century period.

Following the death of Hamilton in May 1756, Dulany married William Murdock, the son of John and Katherine Murdock. William Murdock was the sheriff of Prince George's County in 1740 and a member of the House of Burgesses from 1749 to 1769. With the death of her second husband in 1769, Margaret Dulany sold the property to Richard Sprigg in 1772. As the original purchaser of the land, Daniel Dulany the Elder simultaneously devised a confirmatory deed to Richard Sprigg.

³ Several hypocausts have been found in Maryland, including one in Annapolis at the Calvert House on State Circle, one at Wye House and one at Mount Clare.

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The property was conveyed by Richard and Margaret Sprigg to their son-in-law John Francis Mercer in 1790. Within the next five years, the property stretching along King George Street had been conveyed twice, eventually purchased by Judge Jeremiah Townley Chase. One-time mayor of Annapolis, Chase resided in the Hammond-Harwood House (1774-1776, William Buckland) at 19 Maryland Avenue.

Items uncovered in an circa 1957 excavation of the hypocaust include bones, brick chips, charcoal, plaster, and even fishscales. Intermixed with this were numerous artifacts, such as iron nails, sheets, keys, hooks, knife handles, blades, and an iron belt buckle. Additional metal items recovered were bullets, brass drawer handles, buttons (both naval and civilian), and spoons (pewter and brass). Items of bone and shell include the top of a mother of pearl box and buttons. Dozens of fragments of broken china, porcelain and crockery including two pieces of children's china and doll heads. Discovered in an area measuring 20" x 18" x 24," the artifacts date from the first half of the 19th century and indicate a family with children and naval connections occupied the site in circa 1830.⁴ With Chase and his family living in the Hammond-Harwood House, it is believed the property along King George Street was used as rental during his lifetime.

Upon the death of Chase in 1828, his numerous lots were devised among his five children. The Hammond-Harwood House was conveyed to Frances Townley Chase Loockerman, while the property along the northeast side of King George Street south of Maryland Avenue was bequeathed to Hester Anne Chase. Chase, born in July 1791, was the youngest of Judge Chase's children. Unmarried, Chase purchased the Chase-Lloyd House at 22 Maryland Avenue (1769-1774, William Buckland) following the circa 1847 fire that destroyed the dwelling on her King George Street property. Subsequently, the site was improved by the construction of a one-and-a-half-story wood frame dwelling with a large wood frame stable that Chase utilized as rental property.

⁴ Henry Wright, "204 King George Street, Annapolis, MD: Excavation of Hypocaust," circa 1957. The discovery of early 19th century artifacts could suggest that the hypocaust was constructed between 1800-1825, rather than circa 1825 as insinuated by historical documentation; yet, additional documentation and physical investigations must be conducted to more fully understand this structure and its history.

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As one of three nieces to inherit property from Chase in 1875, Hester Anne Chase Ridout became the sole owner of the King George Street property. The 1880 census records indicate the dwelling was leased to United States Naval Academy gardener Martin Stein. An immigrant from Germany, Stein lived in the dwelling with his wife and seven children until his death by drowning in Baltimore in 1885.

In December 1888, the estate of Hester Anne Chase Ridout, deceased, was bequeathed to her niece Sallie Hammond Marriott Chase (1834-1911). Unmarried, Sallie Chase retained ownership until 1890, when it was conveyed to Dennis and Anna A. Griffin for \$3,000. Griffin, originally from County Limerick, Ireland, was the superintendent's coachman at the United States Naval Academy and caretaker of government farms.

BUILDING HISTORY

Within months of purchasing the parcel, Griffin began to subdivide the King George Street property into six lots. Conveying the surrounding lots, Griffin retained 204 King George Street as the site of his own residence. The wood frame dwelling, constructed in 1890, was set to the southwest of the 18th-century structure that housed the hypocaust.

Between 1901 and 1903, over half of the block on which 204 King George Street was constructed had been purchased by the United States Naval Academy for future expansions. All of the wood frame and brick dwellings, the majority of which had been erected between 1844 and 1891, were razed. The wood frame dwelling utilized as rental housing by the Chase/Ridout family was also demolished to allow for the construction of officers' housing.⁵ By 1913, a security fence was constructed directly to the southeast of 198 King George Street and 195 Hanover Street to separate the town from the school, thereby obscuring the circa 1908 dwellings erected by the Naval Academy.

Dennis Griffin died in 1910, bequeathing the dwelling to his son, John M.P. Griffin. Although the property was retained by the Griffin family, it was utilized as rental property. The 1910 census shows a Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, whose

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1903.

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name is unreadable, occupied the dwelling. In 1920, May H. Curtin and her son, Neale Roland, leased the building while providing rooms for lodgers. May H. Curtin (1890-1957) was the daughter of New York publisher Louis Randolph Hamersly, who died in Annapolis on December 31, 1910. Her first husband, Roland Irvin Curtin was the grandson of Andrew Gregg Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania from 1861 to 1867. Roland Curtin was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy, thus transporting his family to Annapolis where he died in 1914.

With the death of Mary Grant Griffin in 1948, the property was devised to renter May H. Curtin. As no kinship has been found to tie the Griffins and the Curtins, it is believed that the dwelling was conveyed out the Griffin family for the first time since its construction in 1890. The Curtin family retained ownership of the building until 1953, when they relocated to Virginia Beach.

Throughout the latter part of the 1950s and the 1960s, the property was conveyed numerous times until it was purchased in 1964 by Harold D. and Ramona Gleitz. The Gleitz family occupied the dwelling until 1985, when it was sold to Michael J. and Nancy C. Langrehr. Under the ownership of the Langrehrs, the full-width front porch was partially enclosed to create a larger living room and the brick structure at the rear was connected by the hyphen. In 1995, present owners/occupants John J. and Laura O. Pinto purchased the dwelling.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification (1680-1815)
Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and
Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC/Kitchen/Garden Structure

Known Design Source: Unknown

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Chain of Title for 204 King George Street:

- 1772: Margaret Dulany Hamilton Murdock to
Richard Sprigg
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber DD 5 Folio 421
- 1772: Daniel Dulany to Richard Sprigg
Confirmatory Deed
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber DD 5 Folio 422
- 1790: Richard and Margaret Sprigg to John
Francis Mercer, son-in-law
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber JG 1 Folio 502
- 1793: John Francis Mercer to Colonel John
Hoskins Stone
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber JG 3 Folio 318
- 1795: Colonel John Hoskins Stone to Jeremiah
Townley Chase
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber JG 3 Folio 604
- 1853: Jeremiah Townley Chase to daughter Hester
Anne Chase
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber SH 5 Folio 277
- March 15, 1875: Hester Anne Chase devised to niece Hester
Anne Chase Ridout
- December 18, 1888: Hester Anne Chase Ridout, wife of Samuel
Ridout, bequeathed to Sallie Hammond
Marriott Chase
- April 3, 1890: Sallie H.M. Chase to Dennis Griffin
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber SH 36 Folio 584

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Annapolis, Maryland
county and state

=====

December 12, 1910: Last Will and Testament of Dennis Griffin to John M.P. Griffin

October 23, 1941: Last Will and Testament of John M.P. Griffin to wife Mary Grant Griffin
Will Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber RJP 1 Folio 187

August 1, 1948: Last Will and Testament of Mary Grant Griffin to May H. Curtin

October 15, 1953: May H. Curtin, son Neale Roland Curtin, and daughter-in-law Cynthia W. Curtin of Virginia Beach, Virginia to Joseph Edward and Nellie Lewis Snyder
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber JHH 793 Folio 559

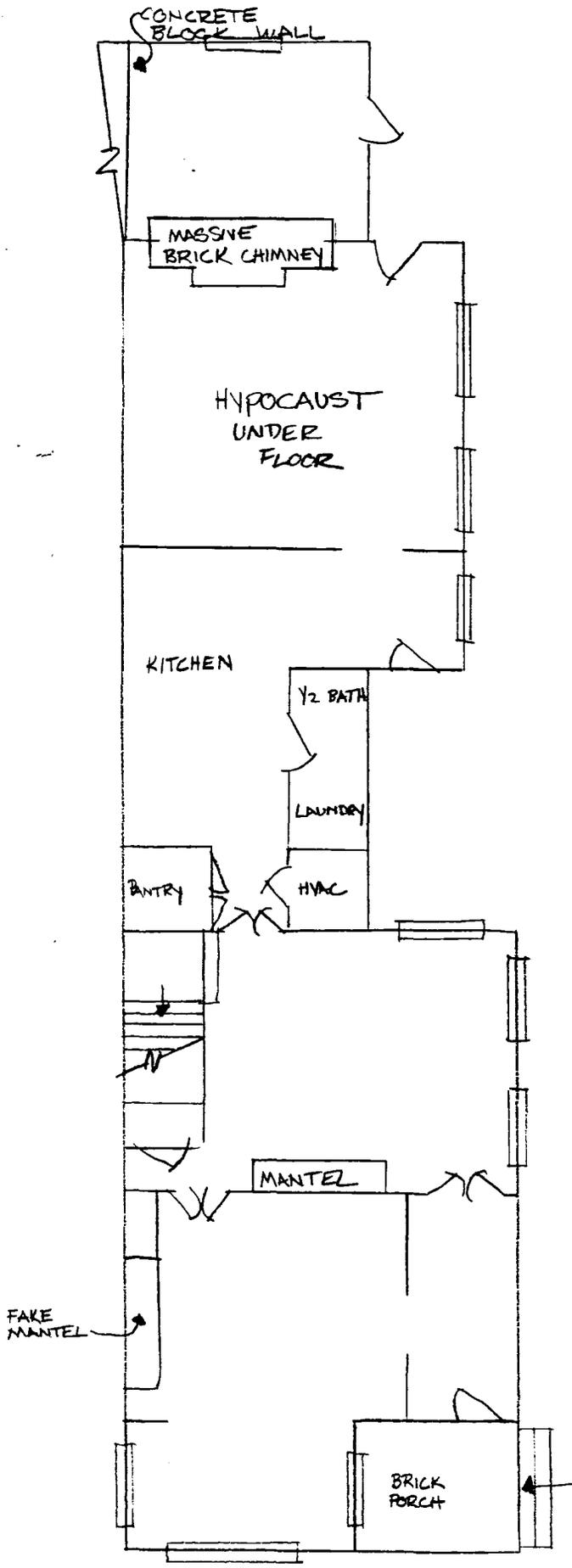
September 12, 1957: Joseph Edward and Nellie Lewis Snyder to Francis M. and Mary E. Gambacorta
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GTC 1151 Folio 386

June 21, 1961: Francis M. and Mary E. Gambacorta to Alan M. and Virginia W. Nibbs
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GTC 1486 Folio 596

November 13, 1964: Alan M. and Virginia W. Nibbs to Harold D. and Ramona Gleitz
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber LNP 1813 Folio 369

July 19, 1985: Harold D. and Ramona Gleitz to Michael J. and Nancy C. Langrehr
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber 3924 Folio 448

December 6, 1995: Michael J. and Nancy C. Langrehr to John J. and Laura O. Pinto
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber 7244 Folio 508



204 KING GEORGE ST
FIRST FLOOR



NOT TO SCALE

204 KING GEORGE STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

Excavation of Hypocaust - Henry Wright c. 1957

Commentary and Conclusions

Archaeologically, this structure is unique since the tunnels have been sealed for around a hundred years and the dryness of the refuse has preserved many things, among them are fish, pig, turkey, etc. bones in profusion, brick chips, charcoal, plaster, even fishscales. Intermixed with this were found numerous artifacts. These were taken to C. Malcom Watkins and Carroll Lindsay, Associate Curator of Cultural History in the United States National Museum. Among the collection were iron nails, sheets, keys, hooks, knife handles and blades, and even an iron belt buckle. Other metal objects include bullets, brass drawer handles, metal buttons, both naval and civilian and two spoons, one of pewter and one of brass or silver. Items of bone and shell include the top of a mother of pearl box and bone buttons. Glass fragments and the neck of a square gin bottle were found. Dozens of pieces of broken china, porcelain and crockery include 2 pieces of toy children's china and a figurine head. This material was found in an area 20" x 18" x 24". Every bit of it dates from the first half of the 18th century. All this indicates that a family with children and some naval connections lived here around 1830. Considering the quality of the goods they were rather poor. They might have added the small shed in back of the structure.

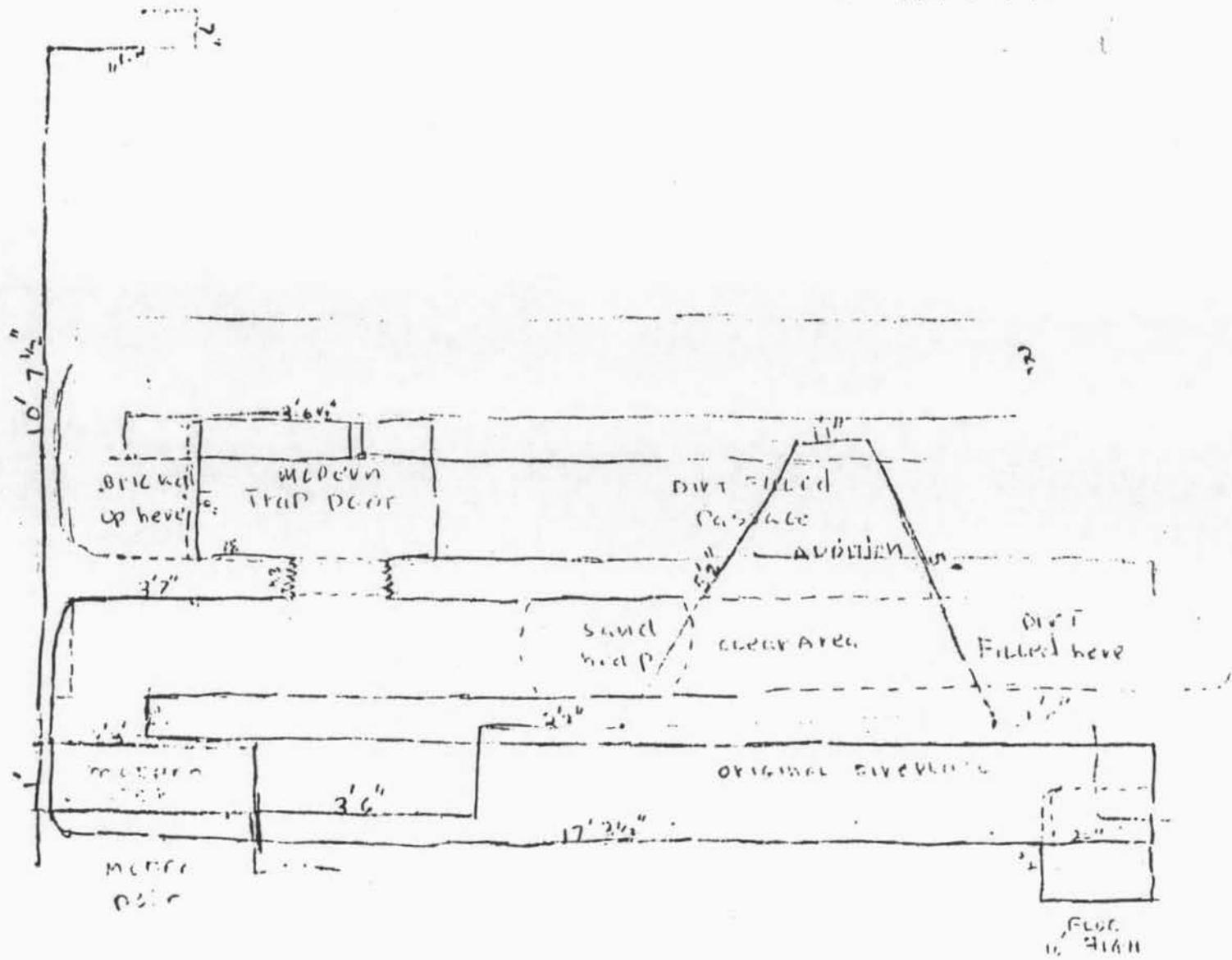
Architecturally, this structure is also very unique. Mr. Lindsay believes it to be the only known hypercost in Colonial America. He thinks that the tunnels were used to circulate warm air under the floor. The air was heated in the high flue which comes from the inside of the chimney thus keeping the room warm and dry. This is the most plausible explanation of their use. The tunnels are too small for anyone but a small boy to crawl in and they originally had no opening. The use of the building itself is unknown. It has been suggested that the building was a kitchen, and nothing refutes this. It has also been suggested the building was a dairy. I do not believe that it was built as such although it could have been used as that later. The manner of brick work, the type mortar, the layout and as Mrs. Snyder pointed out, the chimney are all very similiar to early houses in England and in Jamestown.

Historical Research indicates that the lot on which the structure stands was surveyed for and bought by William Emerson in 1718. In 1720 he sold the lot to Charles Carroll, chyrurgeon, at 2 pounds, 8 shillings. The cheap price and lack of mention of any improvements indicate there was no structure. Emerson died in 1721. In 1747 Daniel Dulany the Elder bought part of Lot D and Lot C in the name of Alexander Hamilton and his wife who was Dulany's daughter. Not only does the deed include the usual legal words about improvements, it specifically says houses and gardens. When the price, 150 pounds is

considered and compared with the original price it seems fairly certain that large improvements had taken place. It is highly probable that Snyder's tunnels are all that remain of them. Thus logically they were built between 1720 and 1747. Obviously this is not total proof and new evidence could completely change the date. The dates above tie in well with architectural evidence and for the present the structure could be considered as a brick building with one room, a large fire place and a heating system possibly a workshop or kitchen or even a one room home, built in the early part of the 18th Century.

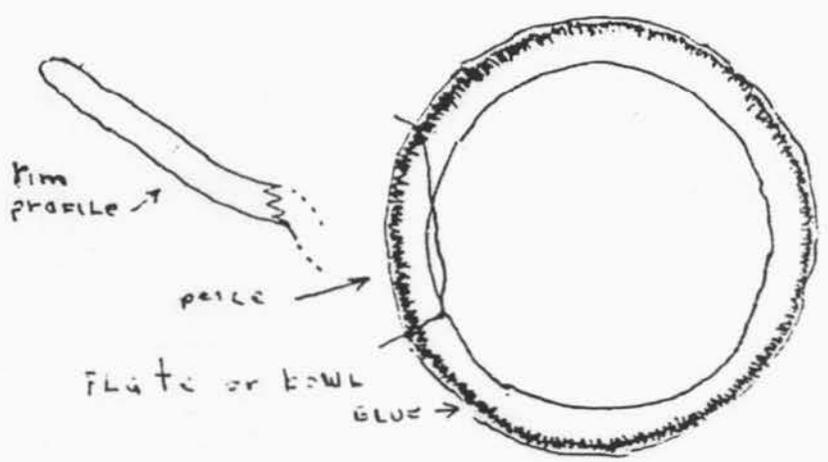
AN ACCURATE MAP OF SKY PERS TUNNELS AND THE FLOOR ABOVE THEM

- THIS INK REPRESENTS FEATURES WITHIN TUNNEL
- THIS COLOR WOULD BE USED TO SHOW THE FLOOR
- THIS DOTTED LINE INDICATE THOSE AREAS UNACCESSIBLE OR UNMEASURED





pewter spoon



rim profile

piece

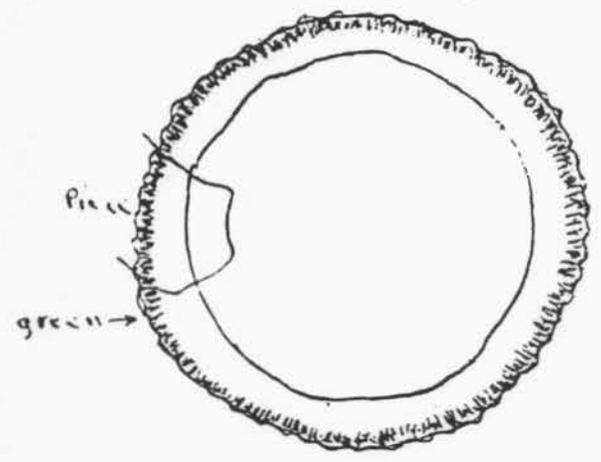
Plate or bowl

GLUE



rim profile

bowl

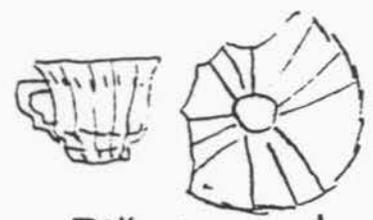


piece

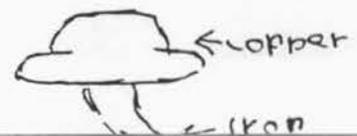
green



clay pipe



Toy cup and saucers (white no other)

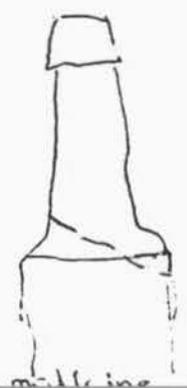


← copper

← iron

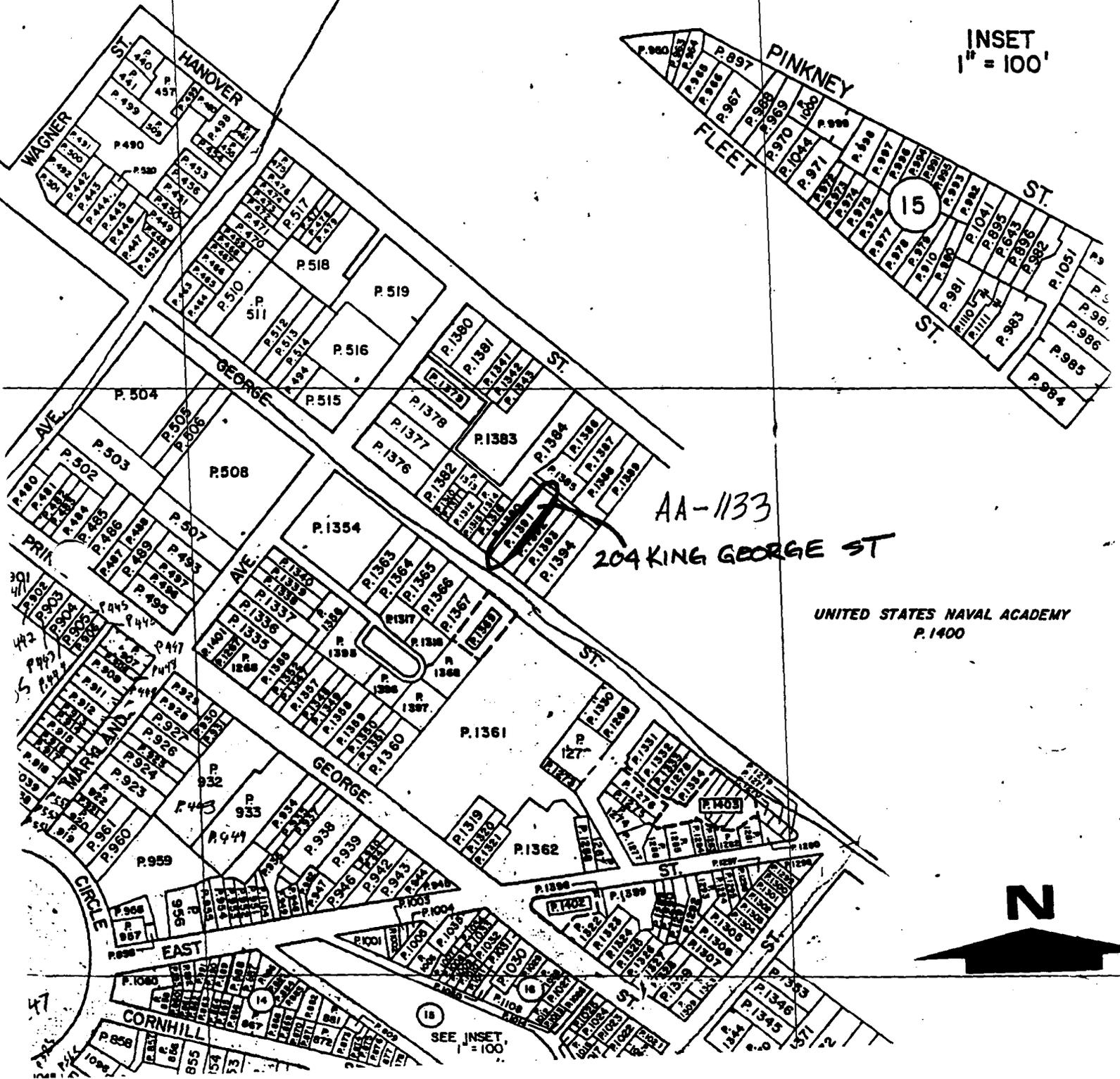


green wine



milk line

INSET
1" = 100'



AA-1133
204 KING GEORGE ST

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
P.1400



MAP OF ANNAPOLIS, No. 4-6
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
1967; Revised 1991
Scale 1" = 200'



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE ST

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

FEB 1998

MD SHPO

LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 7



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE ST

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

FEB 1998

MD SHPO

LOOKING NE

2 OF 7



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE ST

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

FEB 1998

MD SHPD

LOOKING SW

3 OF 7



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

MARCH 1998

MD SHPD

FRONT PARLOR

4 OF 7



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE ST

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

MARCH 1998

MD SHPO

DINING ROOM AND STAIR

5 OF 7



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

MARCH 1998

MD SHPO

HYPOCAUST UNDER FLOOR OF FRONT ROOM OF

18TH C. BUILDING AT BACK OF HOUSE

6 OF 7



AA-1133

204 KING GEORGE ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

MARCH 1998

MD SHPO

FIREPLACE IN REAR ROOM OF 18TH C.

BUILDING AT REAR OF HOUSE

7 OF 7

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 21 STATE CIRCLE
 SHAW HOUSE
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: AA 1133	
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing	
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:	
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:	
PRESENT USE: SF Res	
ORIGINAL USE: SF Res	
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent (x) Good () Fair () Poor: ()	
THEME:	
STYLE: Vernacular	
DATE BUILT: 1897-1903	

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: 204 King George
COMMON NAME:
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: RES Map 34 Par 131
OWNER: Gleitz Harold D & Ramona ADDRESS: 204 King George Annapolis, MD 21401
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (x) No () Restricted ()
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (✓) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone () Brick (x) Concrete () Concrete Block ()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon (x)
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap ()
 Novelty (x) Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()
 Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer () Asbestos Shingle (x) side
 Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood (x) Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()
 Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers (x) Chimneys (x) Sheds () Ells (x)
 Wings (x) Other: Porch partially infilled

Roof Style: Gable (x) Hip () Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
 Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet () With False Front ()
 Other:

Number of Stories: 2½

Number of Bays: 3 x 2

Entrance Location: Right

Approximate Dimensions: 20 x 45 (Rear=20 x 35)

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
 No Threat (x) Zoning () Roads ()
 Development () Deterioration ()
 Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
 Positive () Negative ()
 Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Two pedimented dormers appear as later alteration; good corbeled chimney; exceptional dentiled cornice with end consoles and intermediate brackets; upper level windows and transom lit door framed with heavy ancon trim; full width porch with hip roof, the center and left bay infilled; later brick platform replaces original porch floor.

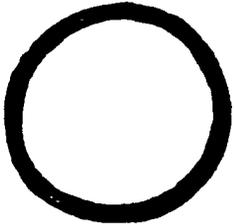
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Annapolis Federal Vernacular of interest because of fine cornice and ancon trim. Altered at first floor, which detracts from overall appearance. Significant to streetscape.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
Moderately Built Up(x) Densely-Built Up()
Residential(x) Commercial()
Agricultural() Industrial()
Roadside Strip Development()
Other:

RECORDED BY:

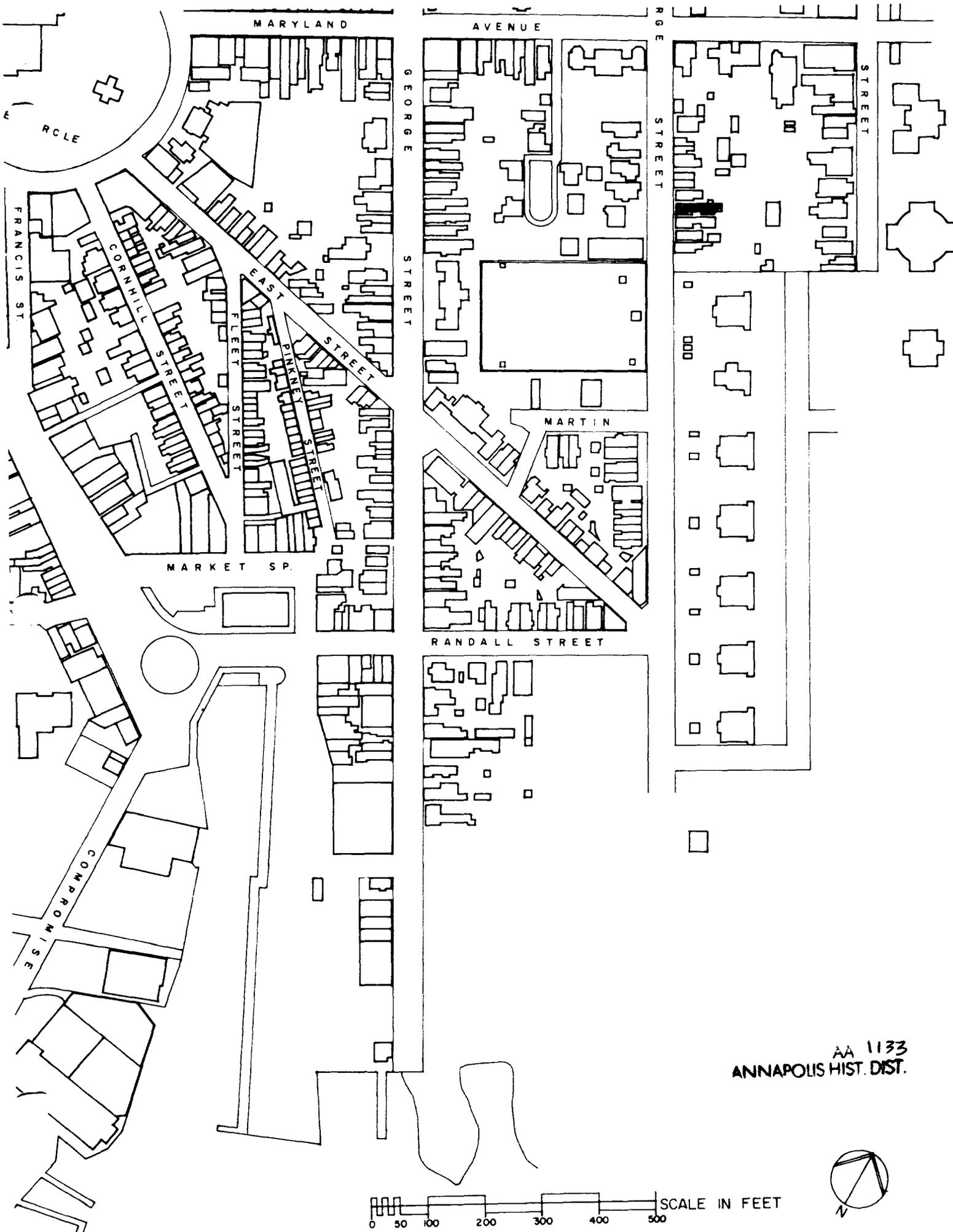
Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

Aug. 1983



MARYLAND

AVENUE

GEORGE STREET

FRANCIS STREET

STREET

MARKET ST.

MARTIN

RANDALL STREET

AA 1133
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.

SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 300 400 500





204 King George

AA 1133

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SW Elevation/camera facing NE