F-8-35

Beatty-Kramer House (Beatty-Cramer House)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 11-21-2003
The Cramer House, a two and a half story log and frame structure covered with asbestos shingles, was built in two separate sections. The west wing, a saltbox style structure, was built in the 1790's by Sebastian Graff, a German immigrant to Frederick County. The east wing was built by J. Henry Cramer in the 1860's.

The principal facade is seven bays wide on the first floor and six bays wide on the second floor. Occupying the first, fourth, and fifth bays are wooden panelled doors set in recessed doorways with three light transoms. Occupying the remaining bays are 6/6 original windows framed by wooden louvered shutters.

Two entrance porches are found on the facade, a one bay entrance porch on the west wing and a three bay entrance porch on the east wing. The west wing rests on a stone rubble foundation. The east wing rests on a brick foundation. The entire structure is covered by a standing seam tin roof. An original stone springhouse stands to the west of the house constructed of stone and covered by wooden shingles partially covered by a standing seam tin roof.

The Cramer House is significant architecturally as an example of a saltbox style structure joined to a later nineteenth century structure in such a way to create a homogeneous structure. The land on which the house sits was part of the original Dulaney lot purchased by Susannah Beatty in 1732. As such the land has been in continual agricultural use for over two hundred and fifty years.
Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name  (indicate preferred name)

historic Beatty-Kramer House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number  Route 26  ___ not for publication

city, town  Ceresville  X vicinity of congressional district

state  Maryland  county  Frederick

3. Classification

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
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<td>no</td>
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4. Owner of Property  (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name  
street & number  telephone no.:

city, town  state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  liber

street & number  folio

city, town  state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  ___ federal  ___ state  ___ county  ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town  state
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Beatty-Kramer house and spring house sit approximately 100 yards north of Route 26, east of Israel Creek. The house consists of a five-bay, two-story, brick-nogged timber frame main block and a two-bay, two-story, V-notched log kitchen wing. The main block originally contained two sections, built on different levels, with the first floor of the east end approximately three feet above the west end. The first floor of the west end was later raised to the height of the east end. The wall separating the two sections of the main block is nogged with mud and straw.

The east end has a cellar with a bulkhead entry on the south wall, while the west end originally stood on grade. Evidence of a winding stair remains in the southwest corner of the west end. A nineteenth-century enclosed winding stair is located in the northeast corner of the west end. Fireplaces were centered on the east and west ends of the house.

As on the first floor, the floor of the west section was raised to the same height as the east end. The east end of the house originally contained two rooms on the second floor; no evidence remained which could indicate the original floor plan of the west end.

During the nineteenth century (after the log wing was added) the roof of the entire house was rebuilt, and the exterior of the house re-sided. Preserved behind the new exterior walls was the original molded cornice carved from the timbers that form the front and rear plates. Traces of the original red paint remain on the cornice.

Built above a cellar, the log kitchen wing retains its cooking fireplace on the east wall, winding stairs to the second floor in the northwest corner, and a diagonally-sheathed door with ornate strap hinges on the south wall. The second-floor plan contains two rooms.

West of the house stands a two-story, stone springhouse. The east gable end of the springhouse is banked into a hill. The basement of the springhouse was once partitioned. The west end contained a water trough, which remains intact. Evidence suggests that a jambless fireplace may once have existed at the east end. The original basement openings--vertical wood bars with exterior shutters--are partially intact.

Access to the first floor was at the east end, up a flight of stairs which no longer exists. The first floor contained a fireplace on the east wall and a ladder stair, also not extant, to the attic in the northeast corner. The room was fully finished with plaster walls and a chair rail. Windows (sash no longer intact) were located in the south and west walls.
8. Significance

Survey No. F-8-35

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Specific dates

check: Applicable Criteria: __A__ __B__ __C__ __D__

and/or

Applicable Exception: __A__ __B__ __C__ __D__ __E__ __F__ __G__

Level of Significance: __national__ __state__ __local__

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Beatty-Kramer house, a two-story, bi-level nogged timber framed house, is a rare first period dwelling in Frederick County that utilizes H-bent construction methods characteristic of the Hudson Valley of New York. H-bent construction is a framing method consisting of a series of transverse, H-shaped structural units formed of upper story floor joists tenoned directly into principal posts. Other unusual features include exposed and decorated framing members that were designed to be seen from the inside (beaded joists) as well as the outside (beaded corner posts and a molded cornice), and sills joined with toothed lap joints. The adjacent springhouse, which was furnished with an interior water trough, retains evidence of a jambless fireplace. The springhouse was fully plastered on the first floor and retains much of its original finish, including the jambs and vertical wooden bars in the basement openings.

Documentary evidence suggests that the earliest section of the Beatty-Kramer house was built for Susanna Beatty between 1732 and 1739. Frederick County land records indicate that the land on which the house now stands was purchased from James Beatty in 1797; by 1807, the Varle map shows a house owned by Sebastian Graff standing on the site. Graff was a German who arrived in Frederick County in the 1790s. The Kramer (Cramer) family bought the property in 1855 and added a second wing to the house at this time. J. Henry Kramer (Cramer) owned the property until his death in 1899, when ownership passed to his heirs. The property remained in the family until 1918.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.F-8-35

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __________

Quadrangle name ________________________

Quadrangle scale _______________________

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gabrielle M. Lanier/Research Assistant, Threatened Buildings

organization Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, Univ. of Delaware

date 7/31/92; revised 9/23/92

street & number

Newark

state Delaware 19716

telephone (302) 831-8097

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
(301) 777-7500

PS-2746
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

BEATTY-KRAMER HOUSE (WITH SPRINGHOUSE AND SMOKEHOUSE)
CERESVILLE VICINITY
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

Photographer: David Ames
October, 1991- May 1992

HOUSE

MD-1060-1A ENVIRONMENTAL VIEW OF WEST AND SOUTH SIDES OF HOUSE AND SPRINGHOUSE LOOKING NORTHEAST.
MD-1060-2A ELEVATION OF SOUTH FACADE LOOKING NORTH.
MD-1060-3A PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF SOUTH FACADE LOOKING NORTH.
MD-1060-4A ENVIRONMENTAL VIEW OF NORTH SIDE OF HOUSE, SPRINGHOUSE, AND SMOKEHOUSE LOOKING SOUTH.
MD-1060-5A DETAIL OF EAST SIDE LOOKING WEST SHOWING EXPOSED FRAMING.
MD-1060-6A DETAIL OF FRAMING AT NORTHEAST CORNER LOOKING SOUTHWEST SHOWING SILLS, CORNER POST, AND BRICK NOGGING.
MD-1060-7A BASEMENT: VIEW OF HEARTH IN EAST WALL OF WEST ROOM LOOKING EAST.
MD-1060-8A FIRST FLOOR: NORTH WALL IN EAST ROOM LOOKING NORTH.
MD-1060-9A FIRST FLOOR: SOUTH WALL IN EAST ROOM LOOKING SOUTHWEST.
MD-1060-10A FIRST FLOOR: EAST SIDE OF PARTITION WALL BETWEEN EAST AND CENTRAL ROOMS LOOKING WEST SHOWING FIREPLACE ON WEST WALL OF CENTRAL ROOM.
MD-1060-11A SECOND FLOOR: EAST AND SOUTH WALLS OF EAST ROOM LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
MD-1060-12A SECOND FLOOR: NORTH AND WEST WALLS OF EAST ROOM LOOKING NORTHWEST SHOWING ORIGINAL WALL PLATE AND NOGGED INFILL.
MD-1060-13A  SECOND FLOOR: DETAIL OF CORNER OF WEST ROOM LOOKING SOUTHEAST SHOWING ORIGINAL WALL PLATE AND NOGGED BRICK AND MUD INFILL.

SPRINGHOUSE

MD-1060-1B  PERSPECTIVE OF SOUTH AND WEST SIDES LOOKING NORTHEAST.

MD-1060-2B  DETAIL OF SOUTH WALL LOOKING NORTH SHOWING DOOR AND WINDOW.

MD-1060-3B  BASEMENT: VIEW OF NORTH AND WEST WALLS SHOWING SPRING TROUGH LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST.

MD-1060-4B  BASEMENT: VIEW OF EAST, NORTH, AND SOUTH WALLS LOOKING EAST SHOWING JOISTS.

MD-1060-5B  FIRST FLOOR: VIEW OF NORTH AND EAST WALLS LOOKING NORTHEAST SHOWING COLLAPSED STONE AND BRICK STACK.

SMOKEHOUSE

MD-1060-1C  PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND SOUTH SIDES LOOKING NORTHEAST.
# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**  
Cramer House  

**AND/OR COMMON**

## 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**  
North Side of Route 26  

**CITY, TOWN**  
Walkersville  

**STATE**  
Maryland  

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
Sixth  

**COUNTY**  
Frederick

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

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<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td><em>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</em></td>
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<td>X_NO_</td>
<td><em>TRANSPORTATION</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**  
Mr. Staley V. Sanner  

**STREET & NUMBER**  
1003 Rosemont Avenue  

**CITY, TOWN**  
Frederick  

**STATE, zip code**  
Maryland 21701  

**Telephone #:**  
662-3708

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**  
Frederick County Courthouse  

**LIBER #:**  
501  

**FOLIO #:**  
457

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**  
Maryland
### DESCRIPTION

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**DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Cramer House is a two and a half story log and frame structure covered with asbestos shingles. The west wing of the house, built before the east wing, is a saltbox style structure.

The principal facade is seven bays wide on the first floor and six bays wide on the second floor. Occupying the first, fourth, and fifth bays are the main entrances to the residence. All three entrances are original doors with original hardware. The first bay door is covered with an aluminum screen door. All three entrances feature wooden panelled doors with three light transoms. Occupying the remaining bays on the first and second floors are 6/6 original windows framed by wooden louvered shutters.

Two entrance porches are found on the facade. A one bay entrance porch is located on the west wing of the house. The porch is supported by four plain columns with slatted railing framing the columns. The porch rests on a stone foundation and is covered with a standing seam tin roof. Beneath the roofline is a plain boxed cornice. The second porch added in the 1860's, is the more decorative of the pair. The three bay entrance porch is supported by plain wooden columns trimmed with decorative brackets. A dentil cornice lies beneath a standing seam tin roof.

The west wing of the structure rests on a stone rubble foundation. The east wing rests on a brick foundation. The entire structure is covered by a standing seam tin roof. Three brick chimneys rise from the structure, one from the east gable end, one from the center of the structure and a corbeled chimney from the west gable. A plain boxed cornice with return was added at a later date to unite the two wings on the facade.

To the west of the house is a small stone outbuilding used as a springhouse due to its proximity to Israel's Creek. The structure is constructed of quarried stone, coursed in that section of the structure that faces the front drive. A standing seam tin roof partially covers the original wooden shingles visible on the west side of the roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
The Cramer House, a log and frame structure covered with asbestos shingles, was built in two sections. The earliest wing was built by Sebastian Graff, a settler from Germany who came to Frederick County in the 1790's. The land on which the structure was built was purchased from James Beatty in 1797 as part of the original Beatty purchase obtained from Daniel Dulaney. The 1807 Varle Map verifies the presence of a house on this spot in 1807 owned by Sebastian Graff.

The Cramer family obtained the property in 1855. A second wing was added to the house at this time by J. Henry Cramer who owned the house until his death in 1899. The property was obtained by the heirs of J. Henry Cramer and remained in the family until 1918.

The Cramer House is significant architecturally and agriculturally. As part of the Beatty purchase of land from Daniel Dulaney in 1732, the land has been in continual agricultural use for over two hundred and fifty years. Architecturally the house is significant as an example of the saltbox style structure and as an example of the joining of two diverse architectural styles in a homogenized composition.

1Frederick County Land Records, Liber W.R. 15; Folio 258.
2Frederick County Record of Wills, Liber S.D.T. 2; Folio 112.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frederick County Land Records.
Frederick County Register of Wills.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 191 acres and 27 perches

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME: Deborah Sheetenhelm, Intern
ORGANIZATION: Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation
STREET & NUMBER: 12 East Church St., Winchester Hall
CITY OR TOWN: Frederick
STATE: Maryland
DATE: 8/13/79
TELEPHONE: 694-1063

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
F-8-35
Cramer House
Porch
Detail - E/W Wing
DES 7/30/79
n/s Route 26