

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Easement*

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Melwood Park

AND/OR COMMON

Melwood Park

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Maryland Route 408, 1/2 mile east of  
intersection with Mellwood Road (10908 Old Marlboro Pike)

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Prince George's

CODE

033

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert W. Amman, Henry and Margaret Nicowski, John P and

Kathryn  
D'Angelo

STREET & NUMBER

5829 Auth Road

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

VICINITY OF

STATE

20023

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Prince George's Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1935

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# DESCRIPTION

PG:78-15

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Melwood Park, located on the north side of Maryland Route 408 (Marlboro Pike), approximately one-half mile east of its intersection with Mellwood Road, was built circa 1729. There have been later additions. This house, built of brick laid in Flemish bond, is approximately 64' by 20'. The front (south facade) and gable ends have been covered with stucco scored to resemble stone. The south facade of seven bays is 2 1/2 storys. However, the roof ridge is not centered and the steep rear roof pitch makes the north (rear) elevation 1 1/2 storys.

On the north, there was a large rear wing which has been removed. When this was done, the central portion of the wall was finished with clapboards. The remainder of the wall is of Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers and has not been stuccoed. Now, there is a one-story frame addition with small central chimney.

At each gable end is an external shouldered chimney. Melwood Park has a water table with a rectangular profile and a belt course three courses wide at the second floor level.

The central main entrance has paneled reveals and a narrow transom. The double hung windows have twelve over twelve lights on the first floor, and those of the second, which are not vertically in line with the first, have nine over nine lights.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Melwood Park is significant because of its early owners, some of the most prominent men in all phases of the life of colonial Maryland. The building is also interesting because of the asymmetry of the windows on the main facade which may indicate that the building was at one time a 1 1/2-story structure later enlarged to a full two stories on the main facade.

Melwood Park was patented in 1672 to Robert Carville for 1050 acres. Carville sold it in 1684 to John Darnall who died the same year, leaving the land to his widow and his nephew, Henry Darnall, Jr. The latter's father was Colonel Henry Darnall, Lord Baltimore's agent in the province. The younger Darnall sold his share of 550 acres to William Digges in 1729. It is generally believed that Digges, a merchant and a gentleman, built the house soon after he purchased the land. Digges and his descendants lived in the house for nearly one hundred years.

William Digges was the second son of Colonel William Digges of Warburton Manor on the Potomac and the grandson of Governor Edward Digges of Virginia. His mother, a stepdaughter of Lord Baltimore, was Elizabeth Sewell. William Digges of Melwood Park married Eleanor Brooke, daughter of Major Thomas Brooke and Eleanor Hatton Brooke, and the widow of Philip Darnall, son of Colonel Henry Darnall. Digges' will was proved in Prince George's County on August 28, 1740, and in it he devised to his wife Eleanor, ". . . my dwelling plantation . . .," and to his son Ignatius Digges at the death of Eleanor, "all that tract . . . whereon I live, Melwood Park . . . ."

Ignatius Digges married twice, first Mrs. Elizabeth (Parnham) Craycroft, and second Mary Carroll, daughter of Daniel Carroll of Duddington. There were no children by the second marriage and by the first only one child, Mary, who married Thomas Sim Lee, later Governor of Maryland (see below). In his 1785 will, Digges devised Melwood Park to his widow Mary during her lifetime and then to his grandson, Ignatius Digges Lee. The will also mentioned the private Roman Catholic Chapel at his home. Mary Carroll Digges survived her husband by forty years, dying in 1825. It was she who entertained General Ross in 1814 when he was leading his troops to Bladensburg and on to burn the public buildings in Washington.

Ignatius Digges Lee predeceased his grandmother, Mary Digges, as did both of his parents. The real estate of Mary Carroll Digges was disposed of by appointees of the Court and Melwood Park was sold to William Pumphrey.

see continuation sheet

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Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8,9 PAGE 1

## Significance, continued

Pumphrey died intestate in 1877, and his son Robert H. Pumphrey, sold the house, barn and stable (on lots #1 and #5 of Melwood) to John Traband in November 1883. Traband's descendants owned the old mansion until 1963, although they had not lived there for many years. A deed dated September 18, 1963, transferred this location with other adjoining land to Robert W. Amman, Henry Nicowski and his wife Margaret, and John P. D'Angelo and his wife Kathryn H. The house has been occupied by a tenant for many years.

Thomas Sim Lee was born in Prince George's County, 29 October 1745, the son of Thomas Lee and Christian Sim (daughter of Dr. Patrick Sim of Sim's Delight, now Bellefields, National Register). Thomas Sim Lee was the Clerk of the County Court at Upper Marlboro before the Revolutionary War. He married Mary Digges at Melwood Park on October 27, 1771. He was the second Governor of the State of Maryland from 1779 to 1782, and served in this office again from 1792 to 1794. He died at his home, Needwood, in Frederick County, in October 1819. He was buried at Melwood Park but his remains were moved to Mount Carmel Cemetery near Upper Marlboro in 1888. During the Revolutionary War, while her husband was Governor, Mrs. Mary Lee enlisted the aid of the women of Maryland to furnish clothing for men in the army. She received a letter of thanks for this aid from General Washington. She was well known to him for Washington had visited her father's home, Melwood Park, many times. In 1932 the Washington Bicentennial Commission placed a marker where the lane from Melwood Park meets the Old Marlborough-Washington Turnpike (now Maryland Route 408). It lists some of George Washington's visits here between 1771 and 1773.

## Bibliography, continued

- Society, 1972.  
Land and Probate Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.  
Lord, Walter. The Dawn's Early Light. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1972.  
Peabody, Helen Lee, ed. Revolutionary Mail Bag: Gov. Thomas Sim Lee's Correspondence, 1779-1782. s  
Washington, George, Diary.  
White, Frank F., Jr. The Governors of Maryland. Annapolis, Maryland 1970.







17 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95 INTERCHANGE 38 (MD. 51 2.7 MI.)

5661 IV SW (ANACOSTIA)

PG 78-15

4730"

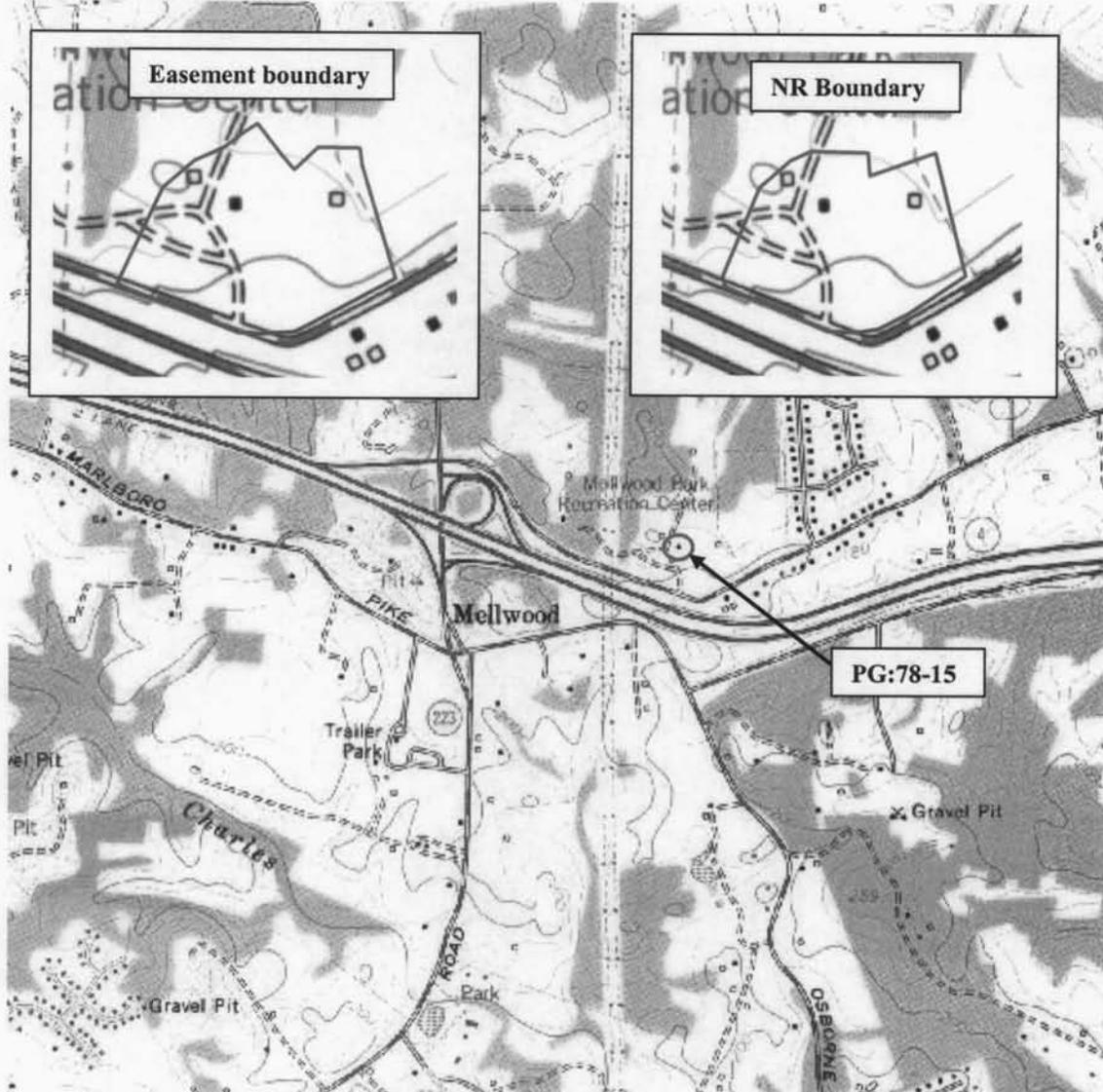
495

957

497

888

PG:78-15  
 Melwood Park  
 10908 Old Marlboro Pike  
 Upper Marlboro Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo with Tax Map 100 overlay



- Easement Boundary
- NR Boundary



NAME MELWOOD PARK  
LOCATION Rt 4-408 UPPER MARLBORO, Md  
FACADE S  
PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 MDWYER

PG: 78-15



Melwood Park

Box 20

PG. 78-15

Melwood Park





NAME MELWOOD PARK PG 7E 15

LOCATION RT 4-408 UPPER MARLBORO, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 MDWYER

FEB • 70



"Melwood Park"

PG:78-15

by Rosalind Waters Grelasky

Pr. Geo's County, Md.