

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-19 Building Date: ca. 1890's

Building Name: Cator - Jenkins house

Location: 4212 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Cator-Jenkins house is a two-story L-shaped frame house with gable roof. It is located on the northeast side of Suitland Road, in an open space between the commercial center of Suitland and the Whitehall Square Apartment Complex to the northwest. There are four irregular bays in the south (main) facade; the entrance is in the second bay. There is a peaked gable in the center of this south facade, over the second and third bays. Across the south facade is a one-story shed-roofed porch with bracketed posts. The foundation is concrete, the roof is tin, and the frame siding has been covered with white asbestos shingles. The south (main) section of the house consists of two parlors; extending north from the west parlor is the ell which forms the kitchen. This kitchen has a molded tin patterned ceiling.

Significance:

The 5 1/2 acre tract on which this house stands was farmed in the post-Civil War period by Thomas Cator, and after his death by his son of the same name. In 1901, Cator sold the property to C.L. Jenkins who operated a truck farm and nursery on the adjoining land. The Jenkins family lived in the house, although there is uncertainty among the Jenkins descendants as to whether it was standing when they arrived or whether it was built at that time (ca. 1902). Its construction is typical of modest farm houses between 1890 and 1910, but a significant increase in the assessed value of improvements before 1897 suggests this earlier period. C.L. Jenkins and Sons operated the Nursery until 1963 when the Nursery was moved to Mitchellville. The house lot and property in Suitland were sold to the Company which now operates the Whitehall Square Apartments, and the house is now the residence of one of the Company employees. The Cator-Jenkins house is located within a mile of the District of Columbia line, and is the only farmhouse of its type and age in a rapidly developing area.

Acreage: .268 acre

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Cator house

and/or common Cator-Jenkins house

### 2. Location

street & number 4212 Suitland Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Suitland \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Prince George's

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jack Kay

street & number 4110 Suitland Road telephone no.: 589-8045

city, town Suitland state and zip code MD 20746

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's Co. Courthouse liber #3736

street & number Main Street folio 514

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, MD 20737 state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

This is a two-story L-shaped frame house with gable roof. It is situated on the northeast side of Suitland Road across from the Naval Oceanographic Center, in an open space area between the commercial center of Suitland and the Whitehall Square Apartment complex to the northwest.

There are four irregular bays in the south (main) facade; the entrance is in the second bay. There is a peaked gable in the center of this south facade, over the second and third bays. Across the south facade is a one-story shed-roofed porch with bracketed posts.

The house rests on a concrete foundation; the roof is of standing seam tin, and the frame siding has been covered by white asbestos shingles.

In plan, the house consists of two adjoining parlors in the south (main) section of the house. Extending north from the west parlor is the ell which forms the kitchen. The kitchen has a molded tin patterned ceiling. Throughout the house the doors and windows have bulls-eye corner block moldings.

# 8. Significance

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 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"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) x local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1890's **Builder/Architect**

---

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 5½-acre tract on which this house stands was farmed from the post-Civil War period by Thomas Cator, and after his death by his son of the same name. Tax assessments indicate a substantial building project between 1890 and 1897, possibly this house, although this is not certain.<sup>1</sup> In 1901, the 5½-acre property was sold to C. L. Jenkins, who within a few years began to operate a truck farm and nursery on the adjoining land. The Jenkins family lived in the subject house, although there is uncertainty among the Jenkins descendants as to whether the house was already standing when they arrived or whether it was built at that time, ca. 1902.<sup>2</sup> Its construction is typical of modest farmhouses between 1890 and 1910, but the increase in the tax assessments would support the period before 1897.

C.L. Jenkins and Son operated the nursery until the 1960's; in 1963 the Jenkins Nursery moved to a new location in Mitchellville, and the house lot and nursery property in Suitland were sold to the company which now operates the Whitehall Square Apartments. The house is now the residence of one of the company's employees.

Although the Cator/Jenkins house stands in an open space backing up to a large tract of undeveloped land, it is located within a mile of the District of Columbia line, and is the only farmhouse of its type and age in a rapidly developing area.

1. P.G. Co. Tax assessments, 1871-1910, 6th Election District
2. P.G.Co. Equity C-122, Deeds #2874:109; interview with Jenkins family members, April/May 1984.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**NAME**

HISTORIC  
Thomas Cator House  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
4212 Suitland Road

CITY, TOWN  
Suitland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE  
Maryland

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Prince George's

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a simple Victorian farmhouse that faces south on Suitland Road, across the street from the Naval Oceanographic Center. The main (south) facade consists of four, uneven bays. There is a peaked gable in the center of the roof, but the door is offset slightly to the west (to balance the facade.) A one-story, open Victorian porch, with bracketed posts, spans the front. Windows are 6/6, and present siding is asbestos shingle.

# SIGNIFICANCE

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 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"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS-GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the few old farmhouses remaining this close to the city of Washington.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

9/13/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

Thomas Cator House P.G. #75A-19

#3736:514  
30 Apr 1969  
Deed

Isaac & Rose Freedman to Jack Kay; All their interest in several properties including #2874:109

#2874:109  
17 Sept 1963  
Deed

H.R. Venables, trustee to Jack Kay and Harold Greenberg part of land which Thomas Cator sold to C.L. Jenkins (#2:362) being all land excepted in #97:87 (.268 acre as per Eq. C-122)

C-122  
June 1963  
Equity

C.L. Jenkins Sons, Inc., et al vs Marianne R. Jenkins et al; re property at 4212 Suitland Road formerly owned by Dora L. Jenkins. Whereas her will left real estate to: 1/2 to C.L. Jenkins Sons, and 1/2 equally to 4 Jenkins heirs;

property cannot be divided, so Plaintiff asks Court to sell and divide proceeds among 8 heirs. Court so orders, appoints H.R. Venables to sell.

WDA #9:27  
8 Dec 1961  
Will

Testator: Dora L. Jenkins, widow of Charles L. Jenkins. One half of real estate to C.L. Jenkins & Sons, Inc.; other half equally to R.L. Jenkins, C.K. Jenkins, C.H. Jenkins, and H.T. Jenkins.

#472:486  
19 Aug 1937  
Deed

Frederick A. Straining Jr. to Charles L. and Dora Jenkins, same land which grantor acquired from grantee on even date. Property on Suitland Road: 184' on line dividing lands owned by R.L. Jenkins from lands owned by C.L. Jenkins, 98' NW parallel with Suitland Road, then 180' Southwest to Suitland Road, then 35' along Suitland Road to beginning.

472:485  
19 Aug 1937  
Deed

Charles L. and Dora L. Jenkins to Frederick Straining; same property as #472:486, which Thomas Cator sold to Charles L. Jenkins by #2:362 (also mentioned in #97:87).

97:87  
15 Aug 1913  
Deed

Charles L. Jenkins et ux Mollie to C.L. Jenkins and Sons, Inc., part of land acquired from Cator (#2:362) containing 5 1/2 acres, except parcel on Suitland Road beginning on dividing line between lands of R.L. & C.L. Jenkins 184', parallel to road northwest 98', then southwest 180' to road, along road 35' to beginning).

#2:362  
15 Mar 1901  
Deed

Thomas Cator to Charles L. Jenkins, same land which grantor acquired from Martha Walker by JB #5:239, 5 1/2 acres (adjoining J.L. Cook on Washington Suitland Turnpike).

JB #5:239  
22 April 1899  
Deed

Martha Walker, widow, nee Cator to (brother) Thomas Cator, 5 1/2 acres of which their father Thomas Cator died possessed.

ANACOSTIA B

Cator-Jenkins house

PG. #75A-19

30 57'30"

331

5661 IV NW (WASHINGTON EAST)

333

55





75A-19  
C

P.G. #75A-19

Cator-Jenkins house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1984

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



75A-19  
SE

P.G. #75A-19

Cator-Jenkins house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1984

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-19

Cator-Jenkins House

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md.Hist.Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME THOMAS CATOR HOUSE ?

PG:75A-19

LOCATION 4212 SUITLAND Rd SUITLAND, Md

(OPPOSITE NAVAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC)

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74 MOWYER