

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James Marr House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 2506 Ritchie-Marlboro Road  not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro  vicinity of congressional district 5

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 checked="" 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 Roland Darcey

street &amp; number 2506 Ritchie-Marlboro Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD. 20772

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2075

street &amp; number Main Street folio 83

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town 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 checked="" 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.

The James Marr House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable house of the Italianate style. It stands on a prominent hill, surrounded by tall oaks and maples, overlooking the old road between Ritchie and Marlboro. The house is a variation of the gable-front-and-wing plan, and is distinguished by fine Italianate detail in its brackets, lintels and bays.

The house is set back circa 800 feet from the road, and is approached by a long paved driveway from the south. The principal west facade of the house consists of a one-bay front-gabled section on the north, and a recessed three-bay wing extending southward at right angles. Entrance is in the first bay of the three-bay west facade of the wing, through a double door with plain board surround. Each leaf of the door is glazed between two upper and two lower molded panels. The door is now partly enclosed by a two-story corner addition, a round-arched entry porch which supports a small second story flat-roof cubicle with full bracketed cornice. The rest of the (southwest) corner formed by gable front and wing is filled with a one-story hip-roof porch with boxed cornice and crown molding. The porch is supported by turned bracketed posts and lacework spandrels.

The building is covered with white horizontal aluminum siding over German siding. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash with fine molded lintels with applied jigsaw ornament, carefully protected during the application of the aluminum siding. The windows have green louvered aluminum shutters. There are two projecting one-story semi-octagonal bays, one in the west gable front, and another in the first bay of the three-bay south gable end. Each of these hip-roof projecting bays has boxed cornice and deeply overhanging eaves, ornamented with large stencilled Eastlake brackets. The same large brackets embellish the boxed cornice of the rest of the house; the cornices are returned at all gable ends. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingle. A large corbelled brick chimney rises at the ridge of the south wing. The house rests on a brick foundation which encloses a basement.

In the southeast corner of the house, a flat roof has been extended to cover a two-story porch, now enclosed on first story and screened on second story. There is an entrance into its south facade. A molded concrete block corner post, with egg-and-dart molding, supports this porch structure.

A modern one-story flat-roof brick addition has been constructed to the east of the northerly front-gabled section. It ends in a carport with a flat balustraded roof.

# 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 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 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** ca. 1880 **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 James Marr House is an important example of late Victorian vernacular architecture, distinguished by fine Italianate detail. It was built circa 1880 by William H. Marr, a farmer from Pennsylvania, and remained in the Marr family until the 1950's.

The Marr House differs from other Marlboro area houses of its period in its asymmetrical cross-gable plan. It is distinguished also by particularly fine molded lintels with applied jigsaw ornament.

The house was built on part of a tract called Vale of Benjamin which had belonged to Zachariah B. Beall. This land, as well as a larger portion of the adjoining tract Westphalia, was sold in 1871 to three land speculators from Pennsylvania, one of whom was Dr. William H. Marr. The three owners divided the land among themselves and Marr took title to 237 acres of the Vale of Benjamin.<sup>1</sup>

Circa 1880, Dr. Marr built the subject house, for his kinsman (son?) James C. Marr, who had moved from Pennsylvania to the Marlboro area. The house stood on a prominent hill overlooking the Ritchie-Marlboro Road. This was a period during which several other Victorian Italianate dwellings were being built along this old road; members of the Clagett family contracted with John C. Wyvill to build Ingleside (#78-14b) and Navajo (#79-35). The Marr House at Vale of Benjamin, different in plan and detail, was almost certainly constructed by a different builder; located on a prominent hill above the road, it must have been the most conspicuous of the group.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Marr sold the house and 237 acres to James Marr in 1880. James Marr farmed the land, and operated a small store directly across the Marlboro road from his dwelling. In 1891 a post office was established in Marr's store and designated "Westphalia Post Office"; James Marr was appointed the first postmaster of Westphalia Post Office, a position he held until 1896.<sup>3</sup>



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #78-20 Building Date: ca. 1880

Building Name: James Marr House

Location: 2506 Ritchie-Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The James Marr House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable house; it is a variation of the gable-front-and-wing plan, and is distinguished by fine Italianate detail in its brackets, lintels and bays. The principal west facade consists of a one-bay front-gabled section on the north, and a recessed three-bay wing extending southward at right angles. Entrance is in the first bay of the three-bay west facade of the wing, through a double door with plain board surround. The door is now partly enclosed by a two-story corner addition, a round-arched entry porch which supports a small second story flat-roof cubicle with full bracketed cornice. The rest of the (southwest) corner is filled with a one-story hip-roof porch with boxed cornice and crown molding. The porch is supported by turned bracketed posts and lacework spandrels. There are two projecting one-story semi-octagonal bays. Each of these hip-roof projecting bays has boxed cornice and deeply overhanging eaves, ornamented with large stencilled Eastlake brackets. The same large brackets embellish the boxed cornice of the rest of the house; the cornices are returned at all gable ends. At a lower level to the northeast is a complex of farm buildings.

Significance:

The James Marr House is an important example of late Victorian vernacular architecture, distinguished by fine Italianate detail. It was built circa 1880 on part of a tract of land called Vale of Benjamin by William H. Marr, a farmer from Pennsylvania, and remained in the Marr family until the 1950's. The Marr House differs from other Marlboro area houses of its period in its asymmetrical cross-gable plan. It is distinguished also by particularly fine molded lintels with applied jigsaw ornament. There were several other Victorian Italianate dwellings built along this old road by John C. Wyvill in the 1880's. The Marr House, different in plan and detail, was almost certainly constructed by a different builder. Located on a prominent hill above the Marlboro Road, it must have been the most conspicuous of the group. Dr. Marr sold the house and 237 acres to James Marr in 1880. James Marr was appointed the first postmaster of the Westphalia Post Office, a position he held until 1896. He sold 150 acres of his farm, including the house, to his son, William, in 1916, and it remained in the family for another 40 years. During this period, several alterations and additions were undertaken, including the addition of the southeast porch, now enclosed. The Marr house has undergone considerable alteration, the most prominent of which is the brick wing and carport. Although partly hidden from view by large trees, the house and barn complex is a noticeable landmark along the Marlboro road.

Acreage: 153.25 acres

R-E

M. 75-P. 13

ANNA G.  
RAUCH  
4569/614  
5.27A.  
P. 3

2.44  
A.  
P. 67

R-A

ROLAND E. DARCEY  
2075-83  
153.25A.  
P. 32

EDWIN L.  
STAUBUS  
4260/713  
3.84A P. 6

WILLIAM H. WIGTON  
4163/336  
5.13 A.  
P. 36

1.00A  
P. 59

RATTIE  
8624  
2

ALFRED L. CATOR  
2766-117  
5.03 A.  
P. 57

PG: 78-20

R-A

TURKEY

ROAD

MARLBORO

RITCHIE

R-E

R-E

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #78-20

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James Marr sold 150 acres of his farm, including the house, to his son, William, in 1916, and it remained in the family for another 40 years. During this period, several alterations and additions were undertaken, including the southeast porch, now enclosed. The house and farm have been the home of the Darcey family since 1956.<sup>4</sup>

The Marr house has undergone considerable alteration, the most prominent of which is the brick wing and carport. Although partly hidden from view by large trees, the house and barn complex is a noticeable landmark along the Marlboro road. It is located in a unique rural district northwest of Upper Marlboro, which retains much of its nineteenth century agricultural setting, and is dotted with historic homes of considerable importance.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> Prince George's County HB #5:262, WAJ #2:737. Census for Prince George's County 1870, 1880.

<sup>2</sup> cf. MHT forms #78-5a and b, #78-14a and b, #79-35, Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1895.

<sup>3</sup> Prince George's County Deed WAJ #2:739; Census for Prince George's County, 1880, 1900; United States Official List of Post Offices. G.M. Hopkins map of the vicinity of Washington, D.C., 1894.

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Deeds #108:423; #2009:216, #2075:83.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

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Immediately south of the house is a pyramidal-roof summer house on a concrete foundation; it is sided with white horizontal board with green lattice above.

At the bottom of the hill to the northeast is a complex of farm buildings, dominated by a large gable-roof barn with vertical board siding and louvered windows. Its roof is covered with standing seam tin. There are two tobacco barns at right angles to it, and several small sheds.



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
West elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Summer house from east  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Barns, view to northeast  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Southeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Northeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
North elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#78-20

James Marr House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
South elevation  
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD