

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-14 Building Date: 1840's

Building Name: Church Street House

Location: 14505 Church Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Church Street House is a two-part frame house which stands on a deep narrow lot on the south side of Church Street. It is a simple side-gabled house, to which an offset gable-roofed wing has been added. The main block is two stories high, three bays by one bay, with entrance in the third bay of the north facade. Across this facade is a one-story hip-roofed porch with turned posts. The house is now sheathed with white aluminum siding. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have black louvered shutters. There is a large brick chimney at the east gable end. Interior plan of the main block is that of side stairhall and parlor, with the stairhall to the west; the parlor has a fireplace with a plain wooden mantel on its east wall. A two-story gable-roofed wing has been built onto the east gable end of the main block, enclosing the chimney. It is two rooms deep, two bays by three bays, and has a rear cross-gable. Recent structural work on the house revealed that the heavy joists which formed the sill were laid with mortise and tenon joined by wooden pegs. The sill has been replaced by joists of treated wood.

Significance

The Church Street House is a simple ante-bellum vernacular frame dwelling, of the side-stairhall and parlor plan. It is the only one remaining from a group of three modest nineteenth century town dwellings. Although this type of dwelling must have been very common in mid-nineteenth century Prince George's County, the Church Street house is now a rare surviving example. It was built in the 1840's on the western part of the lot which adjoined Trinity Church on the west. There had been a house on this lot since the very early nineteenth century; the house and lot were sold to Reuben W. Bunnell, a carpenter, in 1843. Bunnell lived in the old dwelling, and in the mid 1840's constructed the subject house to the west of his home. The house was sold in 1894 to William Talbott, a blacksmith from Queen Anne, who built a blacksmith shop to the rear of the house. In the 1930's, the house and lot passed to the Talbotts' nephew, whose family owned it until 1979. Although the house is considerably altered in appearance, it is still a visible example, and a rare one, of an ante-bellum urban dwelling in the historic town of Upper Marlboro.

Acreage: 23,827 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic (Talbot House)

and/or common Church Street House

2. Location

street & number 14505 Church Street 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Robert C. Jett

street & number 14505 Church Street telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code Maryland 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #5475

street & number Main Street folio 571

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

repository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #79-14

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Church Street House (14505 Church Street) is a two-part frame house which stands on a deep narrow lot on the south side of Church Street, and fronts directly on the street. It is a simple side-gabled house, to which an offset gable-roofed wing has been added. The main block is two stories high and three bays by one bay, with entrance in the third bay of the north (main) facade. Across the main north facade is a one-story hip-roofed porch with turned posts. The house is now sheathed with white aluminum siding, which replaces the brick-design asphalt shingle which covered it until very recently. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash; their plain board surrounds are now covered by the new aluminum siding. The windows have black louvered shutters.

There is a large brick chimney at the east gable end of the main block, originally exterior, but now enclosed by the east addition. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle, and the plain cornices are boxed, and returned at the gable ends.

Interior plan of the main block is that of side stairhall and parlor, with the stairhall to the west; the parlor has a fireplace with a plain wooden mantel on its east wall.

A two-story gable-roofed wing has been built into the east gable end of the main block, enclosing the chimney. The wing is offset slightly to the south from the main block, so that its north facade is not flush with that of the main block; the ridge line, however, is continuous. The wing is two rooms deep, two bays by three bays, and has a rear cross-gable. A door centered in its (rear) south gable end is the only opening in that elevation of the wing. Until recently there was a door in the second bay of its two-bay main north facade, but it has been closed structurally, and the new aluminum siding conceals all evidence of its location. Like the main block, the wing is sheathed with aluminum siding, and its 6/6 windows have black louvered shutters. The entire structure rested on brick piers which have been filled in and reinforced with brick and concrete. Recent structural work on the house revealed that the heavy joists which formed the sill were laid with mortise and tenon joined by wooden pegs. The deteriorating sill has been replaced by joists of treated wood.

The house stands on a very long and narrow lot, with narrow (ca. 90') frontage on Church Street. The lot extends south to a small branch, and in the back yard is a concrete building foundation, and a small gable-roofed shed, with board-and-batten siding.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1840'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 Church Street House (at 14505 Church Street) is a simple ante-bellum vernacular frame dwelling, of the side-stairhall and parlor plan. It is the only one remaining from a group of three modest nineteenth century town dwellings.

Although this type of dwelling must have been very common in mid-nineteenth century Prince George's County, the Church Street house is now a rare surviving example. The main block of the Rothstein house, (#79-27, still standing in 1985) and the Hamilton Hall house at 14501 Church Street (demolished in 1981) were similar and closely contemporary structures within the town of Upper Marlboro.

The house at 14505 Church Street was built in the 1840's on the western part of the lot which adjoined Trinity Church on the west. There had been a house on this lot since the very early nineteenth century when it was the home of John and Sarah Ann Duckett.¹ The house and lot were sold to the family of Alexis Wood in 1822, and by Wood to Reuben W. Bunnell, a carpenter, in 1843.² Bunnell's family lived in the old Duckett dwelling, and in the mid 1840's Bunnell apparently constructed the subject house to the west of his home, possibly as a rental property, possibly for one of his children.³ In 1859, he made a verbal agreement to sell the (new) house to George Miller, a house painter; Miller began to pay in installments, and moved his family into the house.⁴ George Miller had paid nearly half of the agreed price when Bunnell died, never having executed a legal deed. The guardian of Bunnell's minor children brought suit against Miller, and, in 1869, recovered the house and lot for Bunnell's eldest son, George.⁵

From that time until 1894, the subject house was a rental property. It had been expanded by an easterly wing, as well as a rear kitchen, and was owned and managed by George Bunnell who resided in the older house to the east. During the economic depression of the 1880's, Bunnell took out a mortgage on both house lots; he defaulted on payments, and the smaller westerly lot, with the subject house, was sold in 1894 to Laura and William

#8. Continued

Talbott.⁶ William Talbott, a blacksmith from Queen Anne, operated his blacksmith shop behind one of the stores on Main Street. Some years later, he built his own blacksmith shop to the rear of his house on Church Street; foundations of the shop can still be seen in the yard. In the 1930's, the house and lot passed to the Talbotts' nephew, Joseph Purdy Wells, whose family owned it until 1979.⁷ The building was in deteriorating condition when it was purchased in 1981 by the present owners; they have accomplished substantial restoration/renovation work on the house, including replacement of the deteriorating sill joists by new joists of treated wood, and replacement of the asphalt shingle by aluminum siding.⁸ Although the house is considerably altered in appearance, it is still a visible example, and a rare one, of an ante-bellum urban dwelling in the historic town of Upper Marlboro.

Notes:

- 1 cf. Prince George's County Tax Assessment, 1815-1825.
- 2 Prince George's County Land Records AB #2:337, JBB #2:431
- 3 cf. Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1840's
- 4 Equity #462; (In the house with George Miller's family during these years, lived his brother James Miller, also a house painter. One may assume that they were in business with carpenter Bunnell, although no concrete evidence of this has yet been discovered.)
- 5 Ibid; Prince George's County Land Records HB #4:640.
- 6 Prince George's County Land Records JWB #6:25, JWB #27:698; Equity #2002.
- 7 cf. chain of title; interview with Talbott family member, August 1985.
- 8 Conversation with present owners, April 1985.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1702935304

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Church Street Houses

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
14505 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Upper Marlboro

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Prince George's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story frame Federal house with a two story wing on the east end. The original part of the house was three bays with the entrance through the west bay, and chimney (now covered by the addition) on the east end. The house sits on a brick foundation and has a boxed cornice.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PG. 77-14

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
- 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ |
|--|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Empty space for the Statement of Significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

[Empty space for Acreege Justification]

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 5/9/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Church Street House
P.G. #79-14

#5475:571
13 Nov 1981
Deed
Felicitia Powers, et al, representatives of estate of Jerrold Powers, to Robert C. and Fleur Jett; 80' by 224' lot on Church Street, same described in #5124:322, JWB #27:698 and HB #4:640.

#5124:322
13 July 1979
Deed
Anthony and James Wells, et al, to Jerrold and Felicitia Powers, lot on Church Street, 80' by 264', same described in #3126:520.

#3126:520
7 Apr 1965
Deed
William Boehm, trustee, to Clara E. Wells, lot on Church Street which grantee has in prior deed conveyed to Boehm, with understanding that he reconvey it to her for life, with remainder to her heirs, Anthony and James Wells and Mary Ann Bobbitt.

#3126:516
7 Apr 1965
Deed
Clara Wells to William Boehm, trustee; lot on Church Street; same conveyed to Joseph P. Wells, deceased, by #431:166.

#431:166
7 Apr 1935
Deed
Bank of Brandywine to Joseph P. Wells and wife, Clara, lot on Church Street, 80' by 264'.

#250:214
2 Sept 1925
Mtge
Laura and William Talbott to Bank of Brandywine, because they are indebted \$2,000; lot on Church Street, which they acquired by JWB#27:698.

JWB#27:698
19 Feb 1894
Deed
Charles S. Rich, assignee of mortgage, to Laura Talbott; Rich is assignee of mortgage from George H. Bunnell to Marie Conrad (JWB#6:25, 1885); Rich has offered property at public sale, and sold to Laura Talbott, high bidder, same property described in HB#4:460, bounded on east by the lot of George H. Bunnell on which he now resides, and on the west by John T. Neale on which he now resides.

#2002
1893
Equity
Default in mortgage, George Bunnell to Marie Conrad. Bunnell defaulted in payments, and Charles Rich, assignee of mortgage, sells property.

JWB#6:25
31 Dec 1885
Mtge
George Bunnell to Marie Conrad, mortgages two lots in Upper Marlboro, including one fronting 80' on road running past Episcopal Church, and running back 264', bounded on east by George Bunnell residence, and on west by John T. Neale residence.

- 2 -

HB#4:640
22 Feb 1871
Deed

George W. Wilson to George H. Bunnell, two lots in Upper Marlboro with improvements: 1) until recently claimed and occupied by George Miller and now occupied by Michael Slayman, 2) now occupied by George H. Bunnell; same conveyed to Wilson by John Harrison, 4 July 1864, and by Judson Richarson, 12 April 1869.

HB#2:274
12 Apr 1869
Deed

Judson Richarson, late sheriff of Prince George's County, to George W. Wilson, part of property conveyed to Reuben Bunnell by Alexis Wood, and which Bunnell sold to George Miller; sheriff levied writ of fieri facias upon Miller, seized property, sold at public sale to Wilson, and now deeds to Wilson.

#462
1866
Equity

George W. Wilson vs. George Miller; Wilson is administrator of estate of Reuben Bunnell, who in 1859 agreed to sell lot and dwelling to Miller; Bunnell died before executing deed to Miller, who has paid less than half of agreed price. Wilson sues Miller for balance, Miller fails to pay, sheriff confiscates property (1863) and offers at public sale. Wilson is high bidder; same lot which Bunnell purchased from Alexis Wood.

FS#2:L44
4 July 1864
Deed

John Harrison to George W. Wilson, lot with improvements in Upper Marlboro, of which Reuben Bunnell died seized, part occupied by heirs of said Bunnell, part by George Miller (Harrison is heir of Alexis and Martha Wood, who previously owned said lot; he executes this deed to perfect title).

JBB #2:431
14 Jan 1843
Deed

Alexis Wood to Reuben Bunnell, house and lot in Upper Marlboro, formerly of John Duckett, contiguous to church lot.

AB#2:337
4 June 1822
Deed

John and Sarah Ann Duckett to Alexis Wood, house and lot in Upper Marlboro contiguous to church (formerly the property of Lingan B. Wilson).



P.G. #79-14

Church Street House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #79-14

Church Street House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #79-14

Church Street House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME

14505 CHURCH ST.

PG: 79-14

LOCATION

14505 CHURCH ST. UPPER MARLBORO, MD

FACADE

N.

PHOTO TAKEN

5/9/73 M. DWYER



NAME HARRIS HOUSE ?

PG: 79-14

LOCATION 14501 CHURCH ST. UPPER MARLBORO, MD.

FACADE N.

PHOTO TAKEN 5/9/73 M. DWYER