

P.G. #79-48

3rd Quarter 19th C.

Erasmus Gantt House

5600 Valley Lane, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Priv/Occ/Res/Good

The Erasmus Gantt house is a two-story, frame, gable-roofed house. The original house was three-bays wide, with entrance in the central bay, and an interior chimney at the (right) gable end. This small tenant house was moved (1884) to its present location, and later expanded by the construction of a two-bay addition to the north, enclosing the chimney.

In 1884, Erasmus Gantt and his wife Jane purchased from Frederick Sasscer a $1\frac{1}{4}$ acre lot in a small Black community on the southwest edge of Upper Marlboro, in which already stood a Black Methodist Church (Union Chapel) and elementary school. Jupiter Lee, a friend of Gantt's had acquired a frame tenant house from the nearby Clagett farm, and moved it to the community developing near the Chapel. Gantt was able to do the same, transporting in 1884 a somewhat smaller frame tenant house onto his new lot, which adjoined that of the church and schoolhouse. He soon built an addition, nearly doubling its size; for 100 years this house has been the home of the family of "Raz" Gantt. It is significant because it is the most important element of the small Black community of a century ago. The church is gone, although the graveyard is still used, and the schoolhouse has recently been demolished; the Lee house is probably beyond salvaging, but the Gantt house stands reflecting 100 years of a small early semi-rural Black community.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Erasmus Gantt House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5600 Valley Lane _____ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Maryland _____ county P.G.

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 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 Ada Hawkins

street & number 5600 Valley Lane _____ telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro _____ state and zip code Md., 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse _____ liber J.W.B. #3

street & number _____ folio 176

city, town _____ state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #79-48

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move 1884

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

The Erasmus Gantt House is a two-story, frame, gable roofed house. The original house was three bays wide, with entrance in the central bay, and an interior chimney at the (right) gable end. This small tenant house was moved (ca. 1884) to its present location. Some years later the house was expanded by building a two-bay addition to the north, thus enclosing the chimney. A small one-story shed-roof kitchen was attached on the west.

8. Significance

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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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates 3rd qtr 19th cent. Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

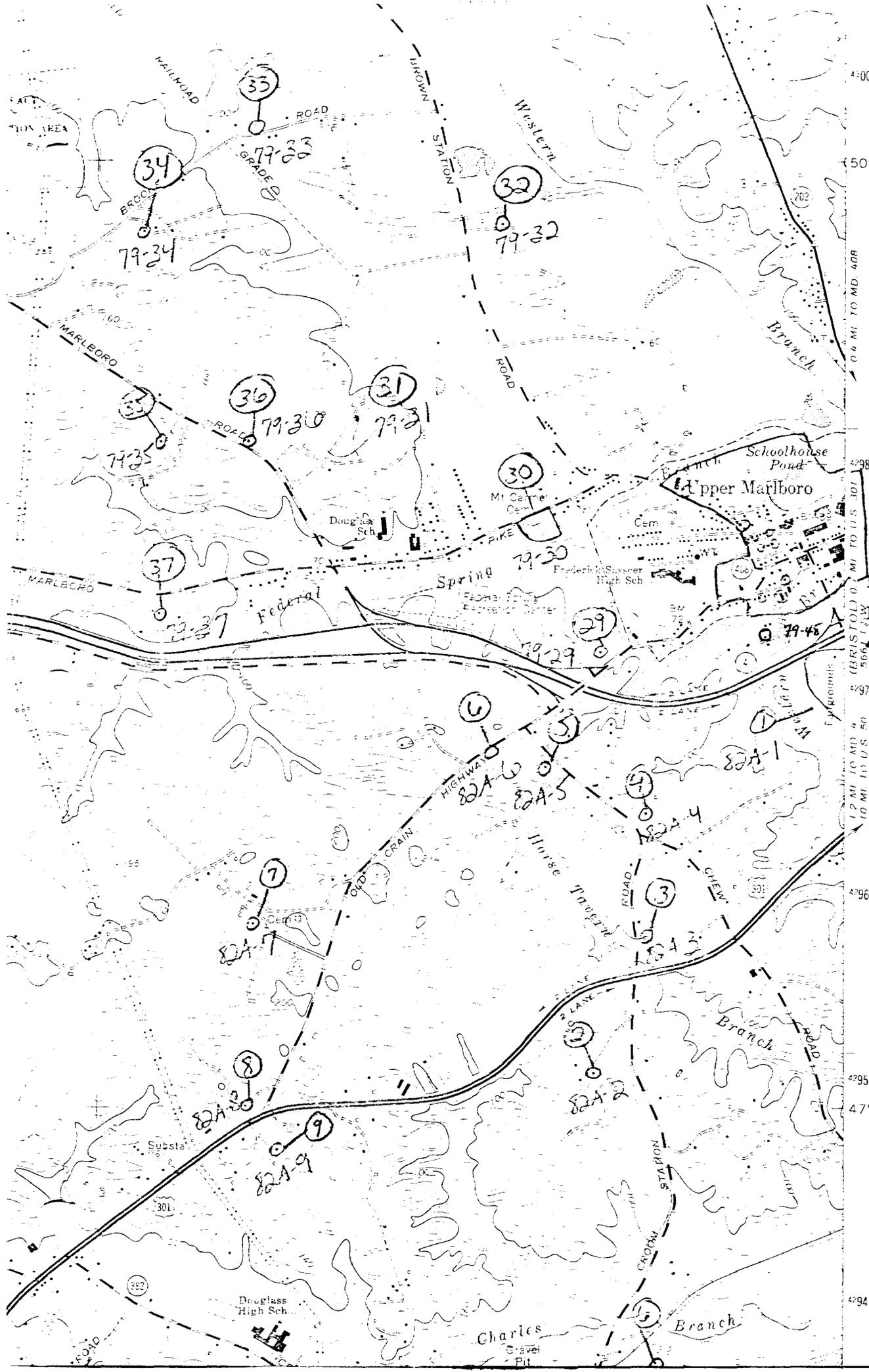
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

In 1884, Erasmus Gantt and his wife Jane, purchased a 1 1/4 acre lot of land from Frederick Sasscer of Upper Marlboro. The lot was in a small Black community which was developing between Trinity Church and the Western Branch, on the southwest edge of the town of Upper Marlboro. In this community there already stood a "colored" Methodist Church (Union Chapel) and an elementary school for colored children. According to Gantt's granddaughter, Jupiter Lee, a member of Union Chapel and friend of Gantt, had acquired a frame tenant house from the nearby Clagett farm, and moved it to property in this Union Chapel Community. (This house still stands, vacant and in deteriorated condition, at the edge of this small community.) Erasmus Gantt was able to do the same, transporting in 1884 a somewhat smaller frame tenant house onto the lot which he had bought and which adjoined the church and schoolhouse. An addition was soon built onto the north gable end of the house, nearly doubling its size, and it has been the home for 100 years of the family of "Raz" Gantt. His granddaughter lives in the house today.

The house is significant because, together with the house of Jupiter Lee, it was the nucleus of the small Black community which grew up around the Marlboro church and school. The church is now gone, although the graveyard is still used; and the schoolhouse has very recently been destroyed. The Lee house is probably beyond salvaging, but the Gantt house stands, reflecting 100 years of a small early semi-rural Black community.



#5 79-
(13-28)

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ERASMUS GANTT
HOUSE

4300
450'
0.4 MI TO MD 408
4298
0.1 MI TO U.S. 301
5661
4297
1.2 MI TO MD 4
10 MI TO U.S. 50
4296
4295
47'30"
4294



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Erasmus Gantt House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.