

P.G. #79-49

3rd Quarter 19th C.

Jupiter Lee House

5605 Valley Lane, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Priv/Unocc/Unused/Deteriorated

The Jupiter Lee house is a two-story, gable-roofed frame house in seriously deteriorated condition. Its main (east) facade has three bays, and entrance is through the central bay. Above each of the 6/6 windows on the first level is a small single-sash window with six panes. The roof is metal.

In 1884, two Black men, Erasmus Gantt and Jupiter Lee, acquired tenant houses from a nearby farm and moved them to a small Black community which was developing on the southwest edge of Upper Marlboro near the "colored" Methodist church and school. While the smaller Gantt house was soon enlarged, the Lee house (the subject property) was sizeable and has been left in near original condition. Lee's heirs sold the house in 1934 to members of the Gantt family, who today live in a new house on the same lot. The Jupiter Lee, now deteriorated, will probably not survive much longer, but as long as it does, it reflects 100 years of a small early semi-rural Black community.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. P.G. #79-49

Magi No. 1760035504

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Jupiter Lee House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 5605 Valley Lane  not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county P.G.

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Unused

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

name Major Satawhite

street & number 5605 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 1525

street & number Main Street folio 319

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.,

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			<u>1884</u>

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

The Jupiter Lee House is a two-story, gable roofed frame house in seriously deteriorated condition. Its main (east) facade has three bays, and entrance is through the central bay. The flanking windows on the first level are 6/6. Above each of these windows, at second level, is a small single-sash window with six panes. The house has a metal roof.

This frame house was moved to this location circa 1884, according to the family most closely associated with it. It once stood on brick piers; some of the spaces between piers have been filled in with cement block.

# 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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<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, two Black men of Upper Marlboro, Erasmus Gantt and Jupiter Lee, acquired tenant houses from a nearby farm, and moved them to the small Black community which was beginning to develop between Trinity Church and the Western Branch, on the south west edge of the town of Upper Marlboro. In this community there already stood a "Colored" Methodist Church (Union Chapel), built by the Black Methodists of Marlboro at the end of the Civil War, and also a school-house built in 1877 to replace the Freedmen's Bureau school of a decade earlier. The church and school building became the social/cultural center of the Black community of Marlboro, and the Lee and Gantt houses were the nucleus of the small residential community which grew up around this center.

The Gantt house was small, and was soon enlarged, but Jupiter Lee's house was sizeable and has been left in near original condition. Jupiter Lee continued to live in the house even after he deeded it to his wife and son (retaining for himself a life estate). His heirs eventually (in 1934) sold it to members of the Erasmus Gantt family, who today live in a new house on the same lot. The Jupiter Lee house stands in seriously deteriorated condition and will probably not survive; together with the Gantt house, however, it still stands, reflecting 100 years of a small early semi-rural Black community.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. 79-49

P.G. Co. Deeds: #1525:319; #1525:317; #404:295; #332:229; #130:328  
P.G. Co. Census: 1890; 1900; 1910  
P.G. Co. Tax Assessments: 1888 - 1909  
Interview with Mrs. Ada Satawhite Hawkins

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
Zone Easting Northing

B            
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC

date May 1983

street &amp; number 4811 Riverdale Road

telephone 779-2011

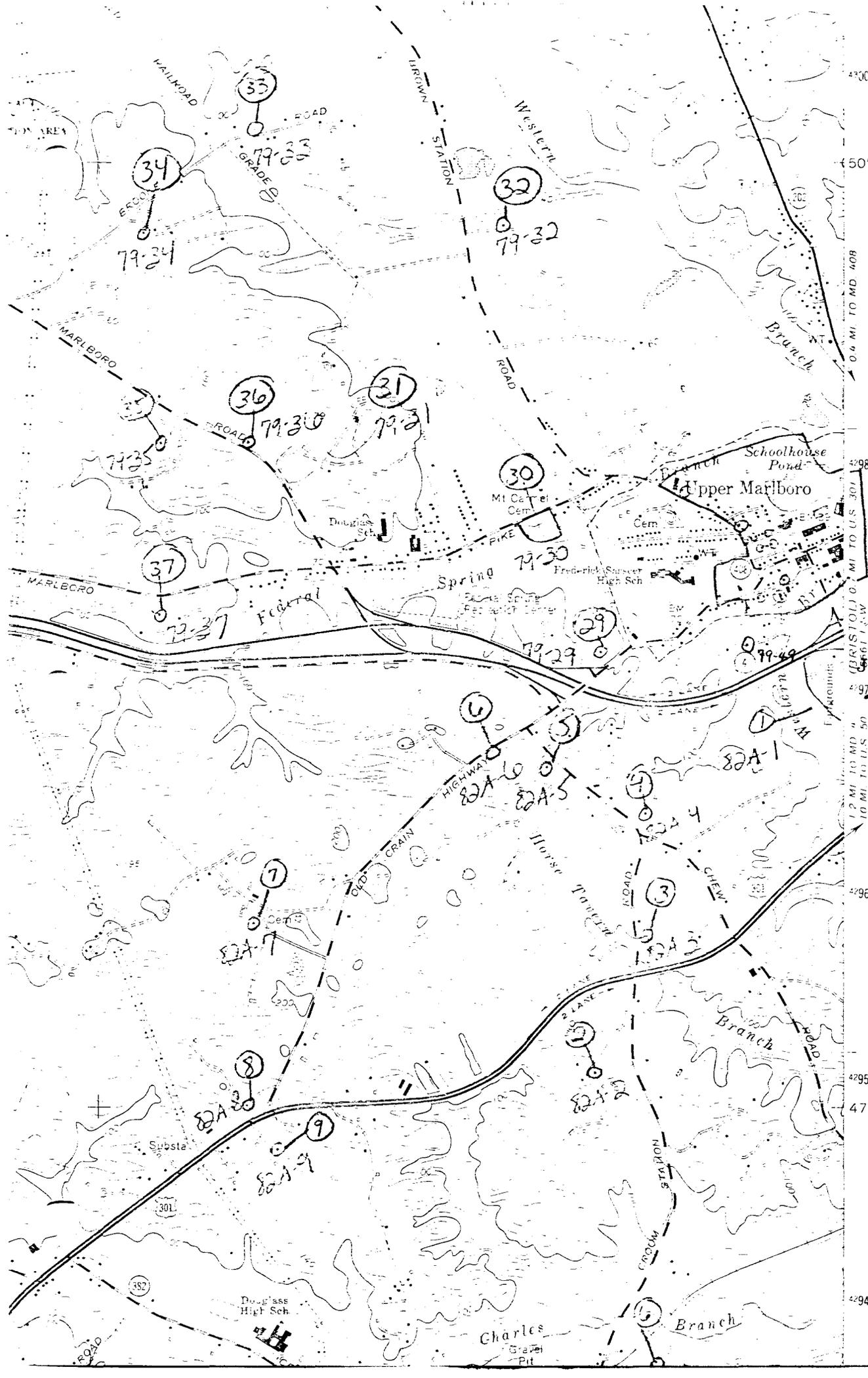
city or town Riverdale

state Md. 20737

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



#5 79-  
(13-28)

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JUPITER LEE HOUSE

4300  
450'  
0.6 MI TO MD 408  
498  
0.7 MI TO US 301  
497  
1.2 MI TO MD 4  
1.0 MI TO US 50  
496  
4295  
47'30"  
4294



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