

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-54

Building Date: early and late
19th century

Building Name: Bunnell-Anderson House

Location: 14509 Church Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Bunnell-Anderson House is a two-story frame gable-roof house, constructed in three sections, and much altered in recent years. All original board siding is covered with white aluminum siding; most windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain aluminum surrounds and green louvered aluminum shutters. The cornices (aluminum) are boxed and have ornamental returns at the gable ends. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. Most of the building rests on a brick foundation, parged in some places with concrete. The original house (probably built in the early nineteenth century) was the three-by-one-bay side-gabled section which faces east towards Trinity Church; it has a sidehall and parlor plan. It is the only part of the house which has a basement beneath it, excavated in 1926; from this basement, one can observe the hand-hewn joists, joined by mortise and tenon. Two other sections have been added to the house, both at right angles to the original east section. There are three outbuildings on the lot, south of the house.

Significance

The Bunnell-Anderson House is a three-section dwelling which stands on the lot immediately west of Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro. It has been much-renovated and modernized, but the lines of its original section can still be distinguished, and it represents one of the older town dwellings in the village of Upper Marlboro. There was a house in this lot as early as 1817, the home of John Duckett; it is possible that Duckett's house still stands, in the original (easterly) section of the present house. Early records describe the house as being opposite the Episcopal Church; it is clear that the original house faced east, fronting on a lane which ran south beside the Church. The house and lot were sold in 1822 to Alexius and Martha Wood, who sold the house and lot in 1843 to Reuben Bunnell, a carpenter, who subsequently built another house on the west section of the lot. Bunnell also may have built the westerly addition to the Duckett house; in any case, the older section of this house was the home of Reuben Bunnell's family for the second half of the nineteenth century. It has been the home of the present owners since 1947. The original section of the house, with its sidehall and parlor plan, must have been a common type of dwelling in mid-nineteenth century Upper Marlboro, but very few of this type remain. The Bunnell-Anderson House has been significantly renovated, but it remains a visible landmark in a very historic section of the County seat.

Acreage: 33,366 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bunnell House

and/or common Anderson House

2. Location

street & number 14509 Church Street not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. 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 Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson

street & number 14509 Church Street 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 #967

street & number Main Street folio 41

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

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

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

The Bunnell-Anderson House is a two-story frame gable-roof house, constructed in three sections, and much altered in recent years. All original board siding is covered with white aluminum siding, most windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain aluminum surrounds and green louvered aluminum shutters. The cornices (aluminum) are boxed and have ornamental returns at the gable ends. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. Most of the building rests on a brick foundation, parged in some places with concrete.

The original house (probably early nineteenth century) was the three-by-one-bay side-gabled section which faces east towards Trinity Church. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay east facade of this section, and leads into a stairhall; there is a single parlor south of the stairhall, with a plain wooden mantel in the south exterior wall. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the south gable end. Sheltering this east facade is a one-story shed-roof porch supported by square panelled posts; the porch is screen enclosed.

This east-facing section is the only part of the house which has a basement beneath it. This basement was excavated in 1926; this date is incised in its concrete foundation wall. From this excavated basement, one can observe the hand-hewn joists, joined by mortise and tenon. Access to the basement is by a bulkhead, sheltered by a small gable-roof entry shed, in the south gable end.

Two other sections have been added to the house, both at right angles to the original east section. Sequence of construction is very difficult to determine because so much of the original fabric has been covered. The present front section (and main block) facades north, and is side gabled, three-bays-by-one-bay. Entrance is in the first bay of the three-bay north facade, and leads into a stairhall; the stair rises along the exterior east wall, turns 90 degrees at a landing, and turns again for a second flight. To the west is a single parlor. The first story windows on the north facade are full-length 2/2 double hung sash. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the west gable end. This section was probably built at the end of the nineteenth century. A one-story hip-roof porch, supported by square panelled posts, shelters the north facade. The porch is now screen enclosed and ornamented by "stick-style" framing.

A third section extends to the west, parallel to the northerly section, but set back to the south, and at right angles to the (original) easterly section. This westerly section is two-bays-by-two-bays, and has a porch set into its north facade. Like the north porch of the main block,

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 early and late 19th C **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 Bunnell-Anderson House is a three-section dwelling which stands on the lot immediately west of Trinity Church in Upper Marlboro. It has been much-renovated and modernized, but the lines of its original section can still be distinguished, and it represents one of the older town dwellings in the village of Upper Marlboro.

There was a house in this lot as early as 1817 when it was the home of John and Sarah Duckett; it is possible that Duckett's house still stands, in the original (easterly) section of the present house.¹ Early records describe the house as being opposite the Episcopal Church; it is clear that the original house faced east, fronting on a lane which ran south beside the Church. The house and lot were sold in 1822 to Alexius and Martha Wood; the Woods apparently did not live in the house but leased it to Joseph Fowler. Alexius Wood sold the house and lot in 1843 to Reuben Bunnell, a carpenter, who subsequently built the house on the west section of the lot (cf. PG #79-14).² Bunnell also may have built the westerly addition to the Duckett house; in any case, the older section of this house was the home of Reuben Bunnell's family for the second half of the nineteenth century.³

Reuben Bunnell died in 1860, and the house passed to his son, George H. Bunnell, who operated a general store on the north side of Main Street near the old Courthouse.⁴ It was probably in the 1880's that the front (north) section of the house was built. It remained the Bunnell family home until the death of Bunnell's widow in 1895.

The executor of Mrs. Bunnell's will was authorized to sell the house and lot, and he did so in 1907. It was the home of the Redmiles and Binger families, and was sold in 1926 to Arthur and Ida Wells. It was Arthur Wells who excavated the cellar under the oldest section of the house in 1926. Since 1947 it has been the home of the present owners, and has undergone significant renovation since that time.⁵

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. #PG-79-54

Cf. notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 33,366 square feet

Tax Map 101, parcel 208

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Section F

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date September, 1986

street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC

telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Md. 20772

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

this inset porch is also screen enclosed and has ornamental "stick style" framing. Windows in this westerly section are 6/6. A one-story shed-roof porch across the south facade has been enclosed and converted into a kitchen. There is an exterior stove chimney between the bays of the south facade of this westerly section, enclosed by the kitchen space.

There are three outbuildings on the lot, south of the house. Eastmost is a small gable-roof stable building with board-and-batten siding. Directly behind the house is a modern two car garage building with salt box profile roof. It is sided with German siding painted white, and its roof is covered with corrugated metal. Immediately west of the garage is a small gable-roof shed; it is sided with vertical boards painted white, has a corrugated metal roof, and rests on concrete blocks.

Behind, to the south of these outbuildings, are remnants of several concrete foundations. Behind them, the yard slopes southward to the small stream which empties into the Western Branch.

The Bunnell-Anderson house was, until 1980, part of a nineteenth century streetscape on the old road past the Episcopal Church. The original section of the house, with its sidehall and parlor plan, must have been a common type of dwelling in mid-nineteenth century Upper Marlboro, but very few of this type remain. The dwelling which adjoins this house on the west (#79-14) is an example of this type, as was the Harris-Hall House one lot farther to the west (it was demolished in 1981). Two other houses in Upper Marlboro (#79-19a and #79-27) have been expanded so that the original sidehall and parlor plan can no longer be distinguished. The Bunnell-Anderson House has been significantly renovated, but it remains a visible landmark in a very historic section of the County seat.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deed AB #2:337; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1817-1850.

2 Prince George's County JBB #2:431; Prince George's County Equity #462.

3 Census of Prince George's County, 1850, 1860;

4 Census for Prince George's County, 1860, 1870, 1880; G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878. Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1895.

5 Prince George's county Will JBP #1:263; Deeds #31:269; #41:55; #134:424; #278:243; #967:41.

STATE OF MARYLAND
5156/83
6.39 A
P. 250

MARLBOROUGH TOWNE APTS.
PARCEL 'A'

SCHOOL HOUSE POND

R-T 6201

O-S

R80

P. G. CO.
4411/183
11.00A.
P. 258

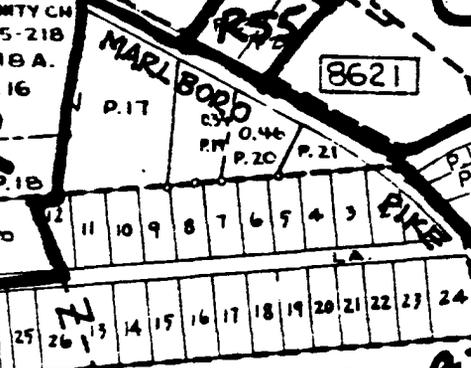
M.N.C.P. & P.C.
4413/241
805
P. 74

C-O

R55 8621 6639

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CLARA SMITH
4731/2919

725

R-80

ELIZABETH
CLAGETT
COM. 1512
5.00A.
P. 55

T. VAN CLAGETT
2509 - 174
3.21 A
P. 56

79-14

79-54

TRINITY
CHURCH

P. G. CO.
COMM.
3190/520
5.48 A
P. 266

FLOOD CONTROL
2125/414
5.
P. 245

R-R

HENRY P. COVELLI
54/531
27.04A.
P/O P. 197

MD. RTE. 4

I-3

PG: 79-54

R-A

WESTER



PG#79-54

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



PG#79-54

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



PG#79-54

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



PG#79-54

Reuben Bunnell House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
South elevation, shed & garage
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#79-54

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