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Main Street

Upper Marlboro,

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6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Library of Congress	
CITY, TOWN	<u> </u>	STATE
	Washington,	D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CO	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	NE
EXCELLENT X_GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED XALTERED	XORIGINAL MOVED	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Stone House or the William Hilleary house at Bladensburg, Prince George's County, Maryland is located within the State Highway right-of-way on the west side of Maryland Route 201 where it passes over Maryland Route 450. The south-bound access road onto Route 201 passes to the west and south of the house. The house faces north and is one-and-one-half stories high on this side. The south or rear is two-and-one-half stories high. The land slopes from north to south.

The stone walls of the house, built circa 1742-1746 were at sometime stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry. Some of the stucco is now coming loose, exposing the broken sandstone construction. The north and south slopes of the gambrel roof are each pierced by three evenly spaced gable dormers with six-over-six-light windows. A foot square solid timber which appears to be the wall plate/cornice is exposed beneath the eaves. It is decorated with curved molding on the projecting underside where it joins the walls. The north wall conceals one interior chimney, while at the opposite end of the house is an exterior chimney. There are very small windows on each side of both chimneys at the peak of the roof.

The main entrance is centered on the five-bay north facade. On either side of it are two evenly spaced nine-over-nine-light sash windows. Four small basement windows are beneath these at ground level. The walls of the house, at the doorway, are curved inward, toward the doorway, decreasing their thickness. The wide door has six panels--two tall panels at the top and bottom and two square ones in the center. A modern doorway has been placed in the southeast corner of the house for outside access to the first floor kitchen. It has a small stoop and stairway leading to The windows at the first floor level on the south the rear ground level, side of the house are unevenly spaced as are the doors and windows on the ground level. All the openings at ground level have vaulted lintels of brick. Near the west end there is a door with a six-over-six window on each side of it. At the opposite end of the rear wall is a doublewidth door and one window of four lights.

All the windows on the first floor have or have had inside shutters. Some of the window glass is old. All the ceilings on the first floor are twelve feet high. The floors are pine. They appear to be sturdy. The interior walls are of masonry. The wood framing in the attic and under the floor where visible appears to be oak.

The floor plan is similar on all three floors being that of a center hallway, with a room on either side of it at the front of the house. The hall terminates in the southwest room at the rear of the house on the first floor and in the cellar. The main entrance door (north facade) is panelled both inside and outside. It is extremely wide and has HL hinges. It is set in a conventional frame on the top and west side. The east side has no trim on the frame, being set flush with the east wall of the hallway. The door and window casings are about six inches wide. Only one

See Continuation Sheet #1



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699		EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
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SPECIFIC DATES 1742-1746

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the historic Bladensburg-Annapolis Road and within two blocks of the old road to Baltimore (now U.S. #1), this house is the only 18th century stone, gambrel-roofed house in Prince George's County. The central location of this property apparently made it very popular with the medical profession. Five doctors have lived here.

In 1742 William Hilleary purchased Lot #32 from the Bladensburg Town Commissioners, The Town Record Book in 1746 states that Hilleary had complied with the law in building his house with a minimum of 400 square feet and a masonry chimney.¹ In 1764 Hilleary sold the property to Richard Henderson.² Henderson termed this building his"...mansion house.. with Lots 32, 33 and 34, when he sold it to Dr. David Ross in 1793.³ Henderson was a prominent merchant and land speculator, had served as a County Justice and was well-known for his "paper wars" in the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser with Levi Gantt and Alexander Clagett.4 George Washington's diary, May 9, 1787, states that he dined at Richard Henderson's in Bladensburgh.⁵ Henderson and Ross were not only business partners in the Frederick Forge on Antietam Creek and neighbors in Bladensburg, but had married sisters, the daughters of John Brice who was Chief Justice of the Province.⁶ Dr. David Ross, a surgeon and merchant, was the "Agent Victualer" for the Maryland troops during the French and Indian War. He was an original inhabitant of Bladensburg, had served as a Town Commissioner, and from 1750 to 1759 had been a Justice of the County Court.7

Owners or occupants during the 19th century include names which also have been prominent in Prince George's County: Dr. Alexander Mitchell, Leonard M. Deakins, Dr. William Draine, Dr. Benjamin Day and Dr. Archibald Magruder.⁸

In August, 1814 the invading British troops would necessarily have passed this house. Unproven stories, yet very probably because of the proximity of the house to the battlefield, relate that the only American civilian resistance offered at Bladensburg came from this house. Later that day, after the battle, the house was used for a hospital.

The house had always been used as a residence and kept in good repair until it was taken by the State Highway Administration in 1954. Since that time, it has been used as an antique shop.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA



LIST ALL STATES A	ND COUNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPI	NG STATE OR COUN	TY BOUNDARIES	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE	
FORM PREPARE	D BY			n	
NAME / TITLE					
Margaret W. Co	ook and Ruth Loc	kard. Membe	ers		
ORGANIZATION Prince (George's County	Committee d	of DATE		
the Maryland H	listorical Trust		April	1977	
STREET & NUMBER 5621 Delaware	Dritto				
CITY OR TOWN	DTTAF		(301) 839-3638 STATE		
Oxon Hill,			Maryland		
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



William Hilleary House Prince George's County, CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

old interior door is in place on the first floor but hinge marks show on all the door casings. There is no ceiling molding in the hallway. Some old chair rail, about nine inches wide, remains. There is plaster below the railing. The stair is partly enclosed, the bottom and top are open. The steps twist. There is balustrade at the bottom of the stairs, across the hallway window at first floor level and at the landing area on the second floor. The newel post and the spindles are turned.

The northeast room has two windows on the north wall with inside shutters in place with ring pulls and butterfly hinges. The exposed surfaces of the shutters are three-panelled, with a small square panel in the center. There is no ceiling molding in this room. The door and window trim matches that in the hallway. Beneath each window is a single-panel, about 14 inches deep, and a window seat. The wall beneath the seat is plastered. The fireplace in this room is in working condition. It has a modern facing and a mantel of cut gray stone.

The southeast room has been partitioned with a wood wall to create space at the extreme east end of the room for a modern kitchen. One window on the south wall has inside shutters and a window seat. The shutters on this window do not match the others in the house. This room is connected to the southwest room by a wide, plain, flat-topped archway. The southwest room is the largest in the house. The woodwork, which appears to be very old, has been removed, cleaned chemically and replaced A fireplace is centered on the west wall and has a closet on either side. These closets or cupboards have doors flush with the wall--no evidence of trim is readily visible. The mantel shelf is plain with a simple curved molding beneath it. The trim on the front of the fireplace is plain wood panelling. The plaster ceiling molding is multicurved, about ten inches wide. The chair rail, window and doorway trim, shutters and window seats are similar to those in the northeast room. The northwest room, known as "the doctor's office," is a very small room behind the main staircase. There is a small fireplace across the southwest corner of the room which is covered over. Some chair rail remains in place. There is one window on the north wall, with window seat, and the shutters have been covered over. The window has some old glass, with "Rosa" etched on one pane. The door is panelled, has most of an old lock and hugh HL hinges. There are two wall paintings, about 18 inches square of undetermined age.

The cellar is divided into four rooms and has a concrete floor. All the walls and the ceiling are plastered over except in the area under the

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William Hilleary House Prince George's County, CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior walls are very thick. There are two small front porch. four-light windows at ground level in each room on the north. There are three windows on the south side, the one in the southeast room is There is an outside door in smaller than the two in the west room. the southwest room and a new double one in the southeast room. This latter doorway has a hex sign made in flatheaded nails--a swastika inside The age and origin of this design are not known. All these a circle. exterior openings have arched lintels. The southwest room has a large fireplace on the west wall which still has the cooking crane in place. There is a low door between the two south rooms with door casing and fram fastened with wooden pegs. On the east wall there is a supporting arch beneath the chimney. The northeast room is connected to the southeast room by a pointed-arched doorway. There is a supporting arch on the east wall for the chimney above. The northwest room is connected to the south west room by a low doorway. The furnace is now located in front of the supporting arch for the chimney across the southwest corner. The south wall has a shallow unglazed window which opens into the southwest room. The wood in the staircase area in the northeast corner of the room is exposed and unfinished. There is a low door on the north wall which enters a room under the front porch which has stone walls and a vaulted ceiling of brick.

The stairway enters the upstairs center hall on the west side. A balustrade defines the open edges of the hall floor. The handrail and spindles are of the same pattern as on the first floor, and the corner and end posts are turned in a similar pattern to the spindles but are larger. There is one dormer window in the north end of the hall and another in the south end which has been divided off as a bathroom. The floors are wide pine boards.

The hall doors to the three bedrooms all appear to be old. The are four-panelled and have large HL hinges. There have been fireplaces in th southwest and northeast rooms which are now covered. The southwest room has a cupboard built into its north wall. The door is panelled and has HL hinges. The doorway beside this cupboard leads to a tiny hall room that gives entry to the attic staircase. The doors and walls in this hall room are wide, vertical, beaded boards. The stair twists tightly against the chimney to the attic. The attic floor is wide planks. The roof is supported by trusses consisting of pinioned rafters with collar beams and queen posts. There is no ridge pole.

The description of this house in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax list in-

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William Hilleary House Prince George's County, CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

cludes one stone dwelling house, one story and a half high, $43' \times 30'$, with seven windows $5'3'' \times 2'4''$ and six other windows; one log wash house, 26' x 20'; one frame milk house, 16' square; one stone meat house, 16' x 10'; one hen house; and one framed stable with shed, 10'x12'. None of the outbuildings remain.

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William Hilleary House Prince George's County, CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Footnotes)

1

Record Book of the Town of Bladensburgh, 1742-1836, Microfile M-265, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, pp. 4 and 7.

2

Deed Liber TT, folio 339, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

³ Deed Liber JRM#10, folio 69, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

⁴David C. Skaggs and Richard K. MacMaster, "Post Revolutionary Letters of Alexander Hamilton, Piscataway Merchant, January-June, 1784, "Maryland Historial Magazine, v. 63, p. 28.

⁵Diaries of George Washington, edited by John C. Fitzpatrick, Boston and New York 1925, v. 3, p. 215.

⁶Maryland Gazette, Annapolis, Maryland. 19 Nov. 1761 and 4 Sept. 1750.

¹Louise Joyner Hienton, <u>Prince George's Heritage</u>, Baltimore, 1972, p. 162.

Deed Liber ON#1, folio 291 and 371, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

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William Hilleary House Prince George's County, CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 5

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