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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 20 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 21 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

XX

Kingston

(Craufurd - Sasser House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5415 Old Crain Highway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Prince George's

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Felicita B. Powers (Mrs. Jerrold V.) Telephone: 301-627-3483

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 666

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20870

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber#: 2509
Folio#: 174

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kingston is located on the hill in the northwest sector of the curve where the west end of Main Street joins Old Crain Highway in Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland. This one-and-one-half-story, five-bay house faces east, with the roof extended to create a porch across the entire length. The west (rear) facade is similar. There are three evenly spaced dormers on each slope of the roof. The south gable end has two tall exterior chimneys. The north gable end has similar but unmatched chimneys with a one-story brick pent between them. The passageway through the pent connects the house to the one-story kitchen wing which extends to the north. The gable ends and east side of the kitchen wing are faced with vertical board and batten siding. The east and west facades are covered with horizontal, wide, flush boards. The main part of the house is 47 feet by 34 feet plus the east and west porches which are each about nine feet wide. The kitchen wing is 41 feet long and 16 feet wide. The foundation is of brick.

The east facade has a centered entrance with two evenly spaced windows on each side of the doorway. These have six-over-six light sash with exterior shutters. The doorway has a transom of five rectangular lights and side lights of three panes each. Beneath the transom is a row of dentil molding. The double doors each have two oval, molded panels. The porch is four steps above ground level and has square posts or pedestals connected at the top by shallow arches on the east facade. The doorway on the west has a transom of three rectangular lights, no side lights and a single six-panelled door. Although the roof held up by thin posts extends across the whole facade, there is only a small porch at the doorway with steps to the ground on either side. The floor of the main porch is brick.

At the gable ends, the eaves of the roof are adorned with wooden lace in a scroll pattern. The dormers are decorated in the same manner. On the south gable end at first floor level there is one six-over-six light window between the chimneys and a narrower, four-over-four light window to the west of the west chimney. At both gable ends there are two smaller six-over-six windows between the chimneys at the second floor level. At the north gable end at attic level is one four-over-two light window placed off-center. The north gable end has a wide, one-story brick pent with one very small four-over-two light window.

The kitchen wing is four steps below the level of the main house. The north gable end of the wing has two tiny windows of four lights each near the peak of the roof spaced so a chimney passed between them. The old chimney has been replaced by a narrow modern one, but the original location is clearly visible from inside the building and from the foundation on the exterior. The west side of the kitchen wing has a door near the north end which is six steps above the outside ground level. Three windows are south of the door, unevenly spaced. A window, a door and two more windows are symmetrically spaced on the east facade of the kitchen wing.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kingston is generally believed to be the oldest building remaining in the town of Upper Marlboro, county seat of Prince George's County. It may have been built, at least in part, before 1730, the date usually attributed to its origin. The house has always been occupied by persons prominent in the community who were well able to alter it to serve their needs.

The house is also of interest for the alterations and additions made to it in the Victorian era. The board and batten siding and "gingerbread" details typical of this later date are purely decorative and do not alter the 18th-century lines of the house. The combination of two unrelated styles in which the features of both remain distinct rather than the later one obscuring the earlier is unusual.

Kingston is located on part of the land patented as "The Meadows" by Col. Ninian Beall in 1694. A 1729 deed states that at some earlier date not given, Beall had sold part of this land to John Miller and Arnold Livers. When they sold to David Craufurd in 1728 and 1729, the deeds make it clear that Livers' part of the lot had "... houses, edifices, buildings, orchards, gardens..."¹ A 1735 mortgage provided for payments to be made to Craufurd "... at the new dwelling house of the said Craufurd in Upper Marlborough Town..."² David Craufurd died intestate in March 1749. In the inventory of his personal estate made on 25 July 1749, considerable possessions were listed room by room in his house, in "... In the Hall,... the porch,... Hall Closet,... Passage,... Small Room below,... Great Room below,... room above,... outhouse,... kitchen..."³

The dwelling house and approximately 700 adjoining acres passed to Craufurd's son David. In 1774 this David Craufurd had all the land resurveyed and patented as "Kingston Park," hence the dwelling house became known as Kingston. The name is derived from one of the parcels of land included in the resurvey.⁴

These first two Davids were termed "merchants" in land records, and advertisements in the Maryland Gazette show each of them to have owned a store in Marlboro.⁵ The elder David's name first appeared in County land records in 1728. In 1732 he became a Justice of the County Court and served for seven years.⁶ The Vestry minutes for St. Paul's Parish state that he was a Vestryman in 1733. His wife's account of his estate in 1751 indicates that 2000 pounds of tobacco were paid to Daniel Page for rebuilding the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro.⁷ Horse races were advertised

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Land Records - M:284, 451, 586; T:297; JRM#15:261; FS#1:306 and 32

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.21 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>3475610</u>	<u>42974510</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Margaret W. Cook, Member

ORGANIZATION

Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust 4/1977

STREET & NUMBER

5621 Delaware Drive

DATE

TELEPHONE

(301) 839-3638

CITY OR TOWN

Oxon Hill,

STATE

Maryland 20021

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearce 3/15/78

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles H. ...

DATE

7-21-78

ATTEST:

Esther ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Upper Marlboro
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION

The house is of framed construction over a brick basement. There are four short windows in both the north and south walls at ground level. The kitchen has a brick foundation, but no cellar. The brickwork was laid in a variety of bonds, including the chimneys which are in English bond approximately up to the roof line.

The floor plan consists of a narrow entrance hall with two rooms on either side, the east or front rooms being larger than the west rooms. The winding stairway begins at the southwest corner of the hall begins turning to the east at the fourth step and continues straight in its ascent. The cellar stair is beneath it. The handrail is unadorned and ends in a plain square post. The spindles are about one inch square and three per tread. The step ends are plain. The area beneath the steps is panelled above and below the chair rail in a pattern of large rectangles bordered by a wide, flat molding with a simple curved edge. The area within the rectangles is made up of two very wide horizontal boards. The chair rail continues around the walls of the hallway. The ceiling molding is a wider version of the chair rail. There is a cross-arch just west of the center point of the hallway. The pilasters are plain, and their capitals repeat the curves of the ceiling molding. The keystone is patterned in a similar manner.

The interior doorways have wide molded surrounds and six-panel door with the two smaller panels in the center. The door hardware appears to be of the mid-1800's. The floors in the hallway and the two east rooms are of wide pine boards. The two west rooms have narrow boards laid on top of the older floors. The southeast room has ceiling molding but no chair rail; the fireplace on the south wall is faced with black marble. The outstanding feature of the northeast room, the dining room, is the cupboard on the east side of the fireplace. This cupboard or closet has four panelled doors; the upper two each have two panels and are curved to fit the arched top of the cupboard while the two doors below the chair rail have one panel each. The molding around the cupboard is plain, broken by a keystone at the top of the round arch. The hardware has been replaced. The southwest room is entered through a doorway under the stairs. The northwest room appears to have been built earlier than adjoining parts of the house. Its walls are nearly twice as thick as the other interior walls. The fireplace here has been covered because this part of the room has been made into a bathroom. On the outside of the house this chimney is shaped differently from the other three.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION

The kitchen wing contains two rooms. The modern kitchen is entered through the chimney pent and down four steps. North of this room is the old kitchen and its attic. The attic floor of the old kitchen is reached by a narrow twisting staircase located in the northeast corner of the room. Through the south wall of the attic room, the earlier, narrower roof which joined this structure with the main house is visible. On the north wall in the attic, two tiny windows flank the space formerly occupied by a wide chimney. Evidence of the base of this chimney is obvious on the exterior foundation and on the ground below.

The floor plan of the cellar is similar to the first floor. With the exception of the southwest room which has a concrete floor, all other rooms have earthen floors. The brick walls vary in thickness from 12 to 15 inches and show some changes in bonding and brick size and color. Most of the floor joists are hewn. Their pattern in the northwest room indicates there have been alterations. The wall between the southeast and southwest rooms is not bonded to the east-west walls. The north-south wall between the northeast and northwest rooms has one short window which has a frame with fittings for square horizontal bars. Along the top of this window, in the northeast room, is a wood shelf or canopy about six inches wide. The north wall of this room has a large arch to support the northeast chimney. Its facing has wood blocks symmetrically incorporated into the bonding. The northwest room now houses the furnace which utilizes the flue in the large fireplace on the north wall. On the north wall, east of the fireplace, a door-sized opening in the wall passes through a brick archway to an area that formerly housed the old cellar stairs to the east exterior of the house. On the west side of this passage area a brick wall extends to the crawl space beneath the kitchen wing. The door frames are all made of solid timbers, pegged at the corners. Some of the old doors with HL hinges are still in place.

Only one old outbuilding remains. It is the 10' x 16' meat house located near the west door of the kitchen wing. It has a pyramid roof and wide boards on the sides.

The Craufurd family cemetery is in the woods northwest of the house. It has been vandalized in recent years and is in poor condition.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION

There are many beautiful old trees in the front yard of Kingston. One in particular, the cucumber tree (*magnolia acuminata*), deserves comment. It has a circumference of nearly 15 feet, a spread of 80 feet, and is about 85 feet tall. It is believed to be the second largest of its variety in the State.

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Kingston
Upper Marlboro
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

SIGNIFICANCE

in the Maryland Gazette of 30 April 1753, to be held at Mrs. Craufurd's Old Fields near Marlboro. ⁸ She had several hundred acres but the only level land in her possession was located a short distance west of Kingston. The younger David Craufurd served as a Justice of the County Court from 1761 to 1779. In April 1774 he was a member of the Convention of Maryland and was elected again for the next year. He was a Delegate to the General Assembly in 1780. ¹⁰ During the Revolutionary War years there are many entries in the Maryland State Papers stating his activities in supplying the troops. ¹¹ His warehouse in Marlboro was one of the places used during the War to store official State records. ¹² This David died in 1801 and willed his Marlboro property to his son David. ¹³ His will also stated that he wished to be buried in the family cemetery.

The third David Craufurd was recorded as Colonel David Craufurd, presumably because of his militia service in the War of 1812. ¹⁴ It was this David who gave the land in Marlboro to the Vestry of Trinity Church. ¹⁵ The County tax assessments for many years show that he had nine acres in the town as well as about 900 adjoining acres in Marlboro Hundred. In the 1828 assessment the nine acres were valued at \$2,138.67, the highest evaluation in Upper Marlboro. ¹⁶

The Kingston property was sold, 9 April 1859, by Craufurd's heirs to Dr. Frederick Sasscer. It was described as the dwelling house and ten acres in Upper Marlboro, "... where said Sasscer now resides..." ¹⁷ Kingston had belonged to the Craufurds for 130 years, and since 1859 to Frederick Sasscer and members of his family. He served for many years as the Clerk of the Court in Prince George's County. His son, Frederick Sasscer, Jr., was a lawyer, publisher of the Prince George's Enquirer and County Supervisor of the Public Schools. ¹⁸ By the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Judge Thomas Vervan Clagett, Kingston has been associated with the Clagett family name in recent years.

¹Deeds Liber M, folios 284, 451 and 586, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Patent Liber B#23, folio 133, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

²Deed Liber T, folio 297, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

³Prince George's County Inventory, Liber DD#2, folio 125, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

SIGNIFICANCE

- ⁴Prince George's County Patented Certificate #1247, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- ⁵Louise Joyner Hienton, Prince George's Heritage, Baltimore, 1972, p. 126.
- ⁶R. Lee Van Horn, Out of the Past, Riverdale, Maryland, 1976, p.75.
- ⁷Prince George's County Accounts, Liber 31, folio 126.
- ⁸Allen Eustis Begnaud, "Hoofbeats in Colonial Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine, v. 65, #3 (Fall, 1970), p. 223.
- ⁹Van Horn, pp. 112 and 175.
- ¹⁰ibid., p. 186.
- ¹¹Calendar of Maryland State Papers #4, Part 2, The Red Books, State of Maryland, 1953, Items #86, 1388-90, 1457-8, 1480 and 1603-05.
- ¹²Archives of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1883- , Vol. XI, p. 142.
- ¹³Will Liber T#1, folio 483, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- ¹⁴William M. Marine, The British Invasion of Maryland, 1812-1815, Baltimore, 1913, pp. 196 and 256.
- ¹⁵Deed Liber JRM#15, folio 261, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- ¹⁶Prince George's County Tax Assessment for Real Property, 1828, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, p. 3.
- ¹⁷Deeds Liber FS#1, folios 306 and 323, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Md.
- ¹⁸Effie Gwynn Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County, Richmond, 1947, pp. 716-717.

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 6

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

Wills - T#1:483

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Patents - B#23:133

Prince George's County Inventories - DD#2:125

Prince George's County Patented Certificate #1247

Prince George's County Accounts - 31:126

Prince George's County Tax Assessment for Real Property, 1828

SECONDARY SOURCES

Begnaud, Allen Eustis. "Hoofbeats in Colonial Maryland." Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 65 #3 (Fall, 1970), p. 223.

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Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1947.

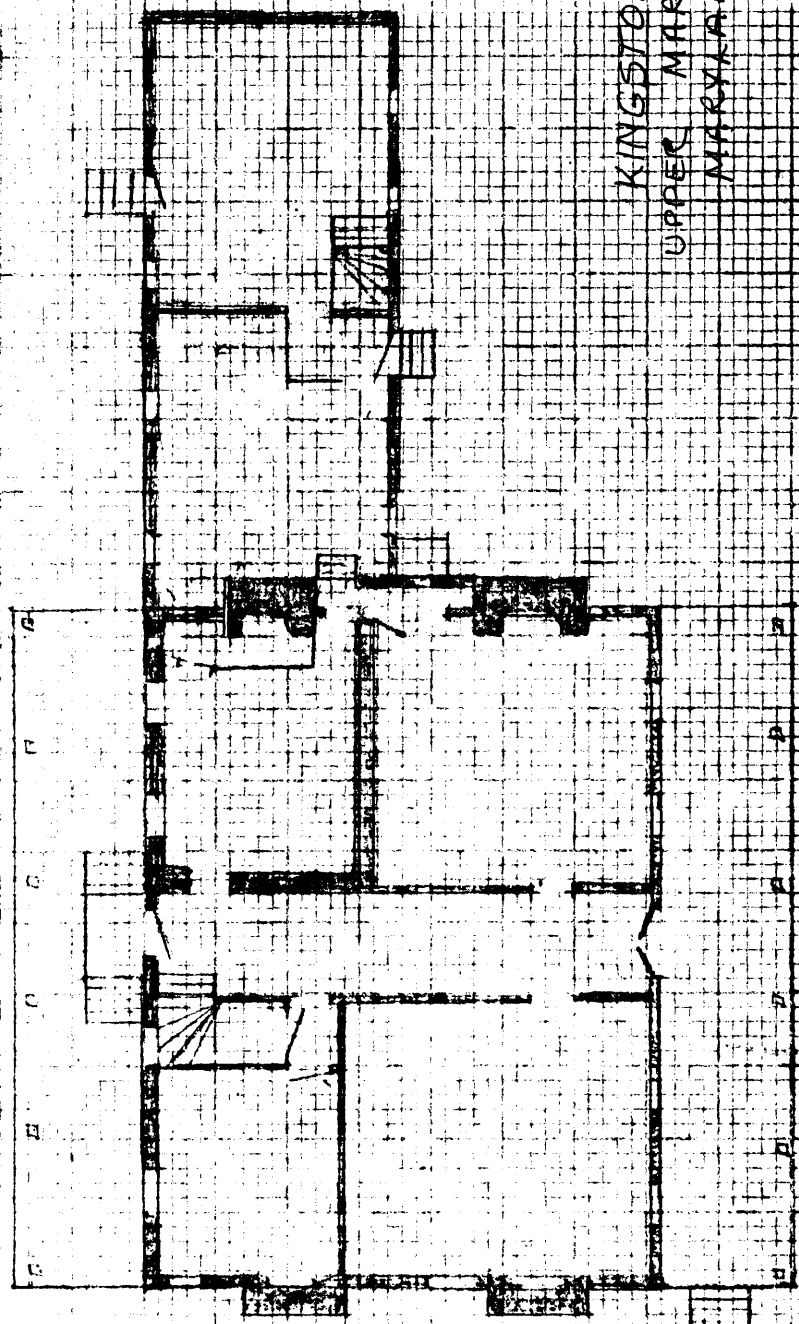
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Maryland Historical Society, 1972.

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Baltimore: The Society of the War of 1812 of Maryland, 1913.

Van Horn, R. Lee. Out of the Past. Riverdale, Maryland: Prince
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KINGSTON
UPPER MARLBORO
MARYLAND

11/20/57

NOT TO SCALE

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