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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A)*. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name FASSITT HOUSE

other names/site number WO-13

2. Location

street & number 12025 Fassitt Lane N/A  not for publication

city or town Berlin  vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21811

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fassitt House  
Name of Property

Worcester Co., MD WO-13  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Wood shingle

other Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c.1730-c.1850

**Significant Dates**

c.1730

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 7

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Worcester County Library  
Snow Hill, Maryland

Fassitt House  
Name of Property

Worcester Co., MD WO-13  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** approximately one-half acre

USGS quad: Berlin, MD

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	8
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4	8	7	2	0	0
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4	2	3	7	3	3	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

2 

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3 

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Zone

Easting

Northing

4 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 12  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 12  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 19 January 1994

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Margaret L. Carey

street & number 12025 Fassitt Land telephone (410) 641-1200

city or town Berlin state MD zip code 21811

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**FASSITT HOUSE  
Worcester County  
MarylandSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

The Fassitt House is a 1½-story Flemish bond brick dwelling erected around 1730 on property bordering Sinepuxent Bay in the vicinity of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The three-bay, single-pile brick house displays unusual examples of early eighteenth century glazed brick decoration with repeating chevrons that highlight the south facade. Other glazed brick decoration is found on the west gable end and the north wall. The house follows a center passage floor plan with an ell-shaped hall separating a parlor or living room on the west side and a dining room on the east. Fine examples of Georgian raised-panel woodwork finish the first-floor rooms. A Federal-style stair is fixed in the northeast corner of the hall, the result of a modification to the house that probably occurred between 1790 and 1810. Between 1950 and 1952 a restoration by the current owner saved the house from deterioration and demolition. At that time a single-story brick and concrete block service wing was attached to the east side, replacing a smaller kitchen wing. Also on the property are two historic outbuildings, a shingled frame smokehouse and a log corncrib, and a modern one-story guest house.

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FASSITT HOUSE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Fassitt House stands at the end of Fassitt Lane, which intersects MD Route 611 at Lewis Corner in the vicinity of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The 1½-story brick dwelling faces south, with the ridge of the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1730, the 1½-story, three-bay Flemish bond brick house is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof clad in wood shingles. The brick foundation is defined by a stepped watertable. Attached to the east gable end of the house is a single-story brick and concrete block service wing erected in 1950-52. Also on the property are two mid-nineteenth century outbuildings, a frame smokehouse and a log corn crib. A modern single-story frame guest house stands next to the smokehouse.

The south (main) elevation is a three-bay facade highlighted by a repeating chevron design in glazed headers. A centrally located front entrance is flanked by twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The raised-panel front door is topped by a four-light transom. Stretching across the base of the roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with period bed and crown moldings. A pair of late nineteenth century gable dormers with extended eaves mark the south slope of the steeply-pitched roof; these dormers have six-over-six sash windows and are sided with wood shingles.

The west gable end is decorated with glazed brick patterns to each side of an exterior brick chimney stack reconstructed around 1950. The 1950s restoration also included reopening two bricked-up windows in the gable end, which are filled with twelve-over-twelve sash windows. A two-course beltcourse visually divides the wall, and the gable end is finished with a molded bargeboard.

The north (rear) wall is a well-preserved Flemish bond brick elevation highlighted with a carefully executed glazed header checkerboard pattern. An off-center, raised-panel door is topped by a four-light transom, and the entrance is flanked by twelve-over-twelve sash windows. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings. The roof is marked by a pair of gabled dormers with six-over-six sash windows.

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FASSITT HOUSE  
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The east gable end is partially covered by a single-story concrete block and brick service wing attached during the early 1950s. An exterior brick stove flue rises against the gable end.

Inside, the first floor is divided by an ell-shaped center passage with a staircase fixed in the northeast corner. The passage is finished with raised-panel wainscoting. The staircase, dating to the late year eighteenth century or the first decade of the nineteenth, is distinguished by Federal-style features including a scroll decorated stringer, a shallow raised-panel soffit, a molded handrail, and unusual "question-mark" shaped newel post heads. (The same type of newel post profile is found at Henry's Grove, WO-9, dated 1792.)

The living room is distinguished by a raised-panel end wall, and raised-panel wainscoting finishes the other three walls. The overmantel is marked by four vertical panels atop three horizontal panels, and the whole composition is flanked by narrow fluted pilasters that rise to a cornice enriched with Wall-of-Troy bed molding. Raised panels mark the wall to each side of the fireplace, along with a wide bolection molding at the chair rail height. Crossetted surrounds frame the gable end window openings. The ceiling consists of wide beaded edge boards.

The room east of the passage is the dining room, which is finished with raised-panel wainscoting, a board ceiling, and a later cornice molding.

The second floor is divided into three bedrooms, but the partitions, door surrounds and doors date from the mid twentieth century.

Near the house on the southeast side is a single-story frame smokehouse sheathed with wood shingles. The west side is pierced by a board door. Inside the framing is exposed, and two tiers of collar beams are fixed to the rafter pairs with mature cut nails. The interior is blackened from years of smoking meat. This building appears to have been erected during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Located on the west side of the yard is a mid-nineteenth

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century rectangular log corn crib, partially sheathed with wood shingles and covered by a steeply pitched gable roof. The logs are exposed on each side, whereas the front and rear gable elevations are covered with wood shingles.

The guest house is a single-story building sheathed with vinyl siding and covered by a low pitched gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. This building is of recent date and does not contribute to the significance of the resource.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

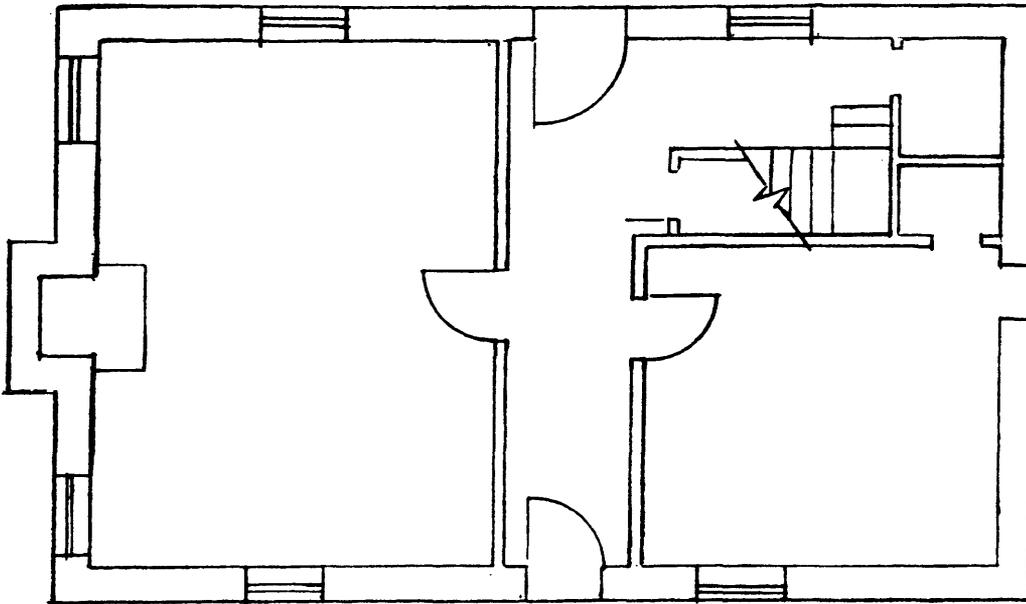
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FASSITT HOUSE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

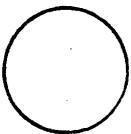
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Fassitt House, WO-13  
BERLIN VICINITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

1/8" = 1'0" PBT



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Worcester County  
Maryland

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

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**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

The Fassitt House is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of a type of early eighteenth century dwelling which characterized the lower Eastern Shore region in the first half of the eighteenth century. It exemplifies a regional decorative tradition in its patterned brickwork. Repeating chevrons highlight the south facade, the north side features a carefully laid checkerboard pattern, and the west gable end also features glazed brick decoration. Erected ca. 1730, the Fassitt House is one of the oldest buildings to remain standing in Worcester County, and the best preserved example of the decorative brick in the county.

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FASSITT HOUSE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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**RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

The Fassitt House is one of a small group of early eighteenth century glazed brick decorated buildings on the lower Eastern Shore, and is the best preserved example of this decorative brick tradition surviving in Worcester County. Nearby Genesar, WO-3, dating from the same period, has a glazed brick diaper pattern obscured by a coat of stucco. In neighboring Somerset County, similar glazed brick decoration is found at Makepeace, S-81, and at the Beauchamp House, S-62 (both properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places).

Captain William Fassitt (1663-1730) is believed to have financed the construction of this 1½ story brick house towards the end of his life. Situated on part of the large "Goshen" tract that he acquired and reserved in 1725, the house was evidently built during the following ten years. He bequeathed the property to his son, John Fassitt; presumably John took possession of the land, however the house probably was occupied by Captain Fassitt's widow, Mary Rouse Harrison Fassitt (1676-1744), or perhaps rented. At Mary's death the county office of the Orphans Court was called upon to evaluate the "severall Lands and Possessions of Capt Wm Fassitt late of Sessix County upon Delaware Deceased." The first property, one of many plantations listed, was described as

The Plantation whereon [Fassitt] did live which is now in the possession of a certain Solomon Campbell, one Dwelling house all Brick New in Good Repair, one new Thirty foot kitchen with a Stack of Chimbleys in the Middle...outt houses old, Two barnes, Two Apple Orchards, Three Hundred and fifty trees....

John Fassitt (1709-1773) evidently occupied the brick house after his parent's decease, although parts of the "Goshen and Mayfields" tract were passed back and forth between various family members through the middle years of the eighteenth century. During the last quarter of the eighteenth century the property entered a confusing period, and it is not certain who occupied the brick house. It appears from a chain of title that the old brick house was owned by Rouse Fassitt at the close of the century.

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Although Rouse Fassitt had assembled a will, he decided to revoke its declarations at his death in January 1799. As a result the Sinepuxent property, comprising parts of "Goshen" and "Mayfields", as well as two other tracts known as "Washington" and "Holly Grove", was tied up in settlement. Finally in June 1818, the court partitioned the land between his daughter Zipporah P. Williamson and James and Margaret Rackliffe. Two years later, Zipporah Williamson sold the family property, which apparently contained the brick house, to Isaac Bowen for \$6,000. However, Isaac Bowen died soon after the transfer, and his son Noah applied to the Worcester County court for an equitable division of his father's property. Finally in March 1835, a group of four commissioners appointed by the court sold what was called the "Mannor farm", containing 263 acres known as "Gocion and Mayfield" to John Fassitt, Jr.

John Fassitt, Jr. (1763-1846) was probably responsible for financing the construction of the "Mayfields" plantation house on a site north of the eighteenth century dwelling. When John Fassitt, Jr. died in 1846, he left bequests for his two sons, Charles R. Fassitt and Albert J. Fassitt. To Albert he left "all the Lands purchased at Isaac Bowens' sale" which contained the older brick house. To Charles, John Fassitt left the "plantation whereon I now live . . . and in case he has no such heirs I then give and devise the aforesaid property to my son Albert J. Fassitt". In 1871, Charles Fassitt, who had relocated to Louisiana, wrote in his will the conveyance of the Sinepuxent Neck property to his brother Albert.

By the time of the publication of the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, Albert J. Fassitt (1807-1878) was residing at the plantation known as "Mayfields", instead of at the eighteenth century brick dwelling; A. J. Fassitt's residence is shown on this map at a location to the north of the brick house, which was probably used by a tenant farmer. In 1877, Albert J. Fassitt held title to around 900 acres on Sinepuxent Bay, and he is listed on the 1870 census with an estate valued at \$12,000. Since the late nineteenth century, the property has ben passed down through the related Carey family to the current owner, Mrs. Margaret L. Carey.

The period of significance, ca. 1730-ca. 1850, begins with the

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presumed construction date of the house and ends in the mid-nineteenth century, encompassing the construction of the two outbuildings. By the latter date the complex had substantially achieved its present appearance.

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Dryden, Ruth T. Cemetery Records of Worcester County, Maryland.  
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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical  
Trust, Crownsville, MD

Worcester County Land Records, various volumes, Worcester County  
Courthouse, Snow Hill.

Worcester County Register of Wills, Worcester County Courthouse,  
Snow Hill.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

Beginning at a point in the yard 15 feet due north of the northwest corner of the house, thence west 75 feet to a point near the entrance drive, thence south 100 feet to a point near a fence bordering the entrance drive, thence east 200 feet to a point on the southeasterly side of the said house, thence north 100 feet to a point, thence west 125 feet to the place of beginning, containing one-half acre more or less.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The nominated property, approximately one-half acre, comprises the domestic yard immediately surrounding the house and outbuildings. Agricultural fields lying outside this boundary have been excluded from the nominated property because they do not directly contribute to the significance of the resource.