

Pf 01 79230

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	AUG 19 1975

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

BOSTWICK

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3901 48th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bladensburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Prince George's

CODE

033

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Cristofane

STREET & NUMBER

3901 48th Street

CITY, TOWN

Bladensburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20710

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland 20870

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

10 First Street, S. E.

STATE

Washington, D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two and one half story, brick structure laid up in Flemish bond. A basement and ground level is under the entire house. The "A" roof, with dormer windows, is slightly belled at the eaves. The main (west) facade is five bays with a central doorway. A one story porch extends across the front; the pedimented central bay of the porch projects forward. "C.L. 1746" in wrought lead painted black is embedded high in the south chimney. A three-course belt of brick marks the second floor level. The front doorway has a fanlight and side-lights, added early in the twentieth century. Originally, the hall was lighted only by a window at the staircase landing. The rear facade was once five bays; the north bay was enlarged in the early twentieth century and the present Palladian window was added to give more light to the northeast room. As with the other changes in fenestration, the signs of the earlier pattern are clearly visible in the brickwork. A frieze carries brackets in an alternating large and small pattern; at the roofline, the boxed cornice has a crown moulding. The cornice returns into the gable ends, with a brick course carrying the cornice line across the gable ends.

On the south end, windows flank the flush-gable, T-shape chimney, which is articulated with recessed arch panels in the stack. The chimney itself is buttressed by a large, triangular buttress with two small chambers in the base. This buttress was added in 1793 by Benjamin Stoddert, at the same time as the attached kitchen was added at the north end. Stoddert wanted the chambers in the base of the buttress to use as a "jail" for unruly slaves.

The kitchen wing is 1-1/2 stories with two bays on the east and west facades. At the north end is a flush gable chimney. The high base is bantered.

In plan, Bostwick has a central stairhall with two rooms on the north and one large room on the south. The northeast room has an Adamesque mantle in the northwest corner with a window on the adjacent north wall. The northwest room has a Victorian fireplace in the center of the north side and a corner cupboard in the northwest corner. The room is paneled fifty-two inches high with thirty-six inch black walnut. A large, square-headed opening now connects these two

(See continuation sheet #1)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bostwick, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Christofane, was built by Christopher Lowndes, a prominent citizen of colonial Bladensburg. The town of Bladensburg had its origins in the Act of 1742 which authorized the town commissioners to purchase sixty acres of land to be laid out in one acre lots. The act required that a house covering at least 400 sq. ft. of ground with a brick or stone chimney be constructed within eighteen months after the sale of the lot. As of 6 June 1746, only eighteen of the lots had been improved according to the stipulations of the act. Lowndes' house and those built by David Ross and William Hilleary were among them.

Christopher Lowndes came to Maryland in 1738 as a factor for Henry and Edward Trafford of Liverpool. He soon established his own company, importing spices, building supplies, and dry goods. Lowndes and Benjamin Tasker imported Negro slaves and sold them at Bladensburg and at the Severn River. Near Bostwick, Lowndes constructed a rope-walk to manufacture cordage; at that time, ocean vessels navigated the Eastern Branch (Anacostia River) and landed at Bladensburg. During the Revolutionary War, much of the cordage needed for newly built Maryland ships was supplied by Lowndes' ropewalk. Lowndes built several other houses in Bladensburg and owned a shipyard where he built oceangoing ships. He soon became one of the leading merchants of the town.

On May 14, 1747, Lowndes married Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Benjamin Tasker, President of the Council, and niece of Governor Thomas Bladen. In 1745, Lowndes was named Commissioner of the town of Bladensburg, and in 1753 he was appointed one of the justices of Prince George's County. He held both offices until his death in 1785.

Christopher Lowndes willed Bostwick to his daughter, Rebecca Stoddert, who in 1781 had married Benjamin Stoddert. Stoddert was

(See continuation sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 10

UTM CHECK

UTM REFERENCES

A | 18 | | 332 | 310 | | 4311 | 430 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

PAGE NO. 0013

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

also see continuation sheet

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

Sept. 16, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

John N Pearce

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7/9/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Montross

DATE

8/18/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

William G. ...

DATE

AUG 18 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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rooms. The hallway has a staircase rising in two runs to the second floor. The south room is the drawing room and runs through the depth of the house. An exceptionally large fireplace with mantle seven feet high and ten feet wide projects into the room. The opening has a crossetted surround. Flanking to the surround are columns supporting a frieze course and shelf. The wall treatment is a series of rails and raised plaster panels. At the ceiling is a large coved cornice. A chairrail about one foot wide runs around the room; against its plain board field is a deep moulding.

A detached kitchen stands northeast of the house; it is laid on common bond and has an "A" roof. Southeast of the house are several outbuildings and a barn dating to the nineteenth century.

While the basic structure and plan are eighteenth century, many of the details have been added. The present porch is of nineteenth century design and bracketing was added to the cornice at a later date. The present windows are 4/4 double hung sash, although in the gable ends at the attic level, there are still 6/6 double hung sash. There are four bays of windows on the main house, west side, first floor, with windows 8 1/2 feet high, 3 1/2 feet wide, double hung sash, small glass 25/20. The rear porch is shed-roofed, with square posts. A bronze plaque honoring Benjamin Stoddert was placed on the east facade several years ago by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

*Doc 1116
ADDED
LE HOUWER
7-24-75*

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

born in Charles County in 1751. He served as a captain in the Revolutionary War and as a member of the Board of War. By 1783, he had become a partner in the firm of Forrest and Stoddert which made rapid progress in the postwar tobacco trade.

His house in Georgetown, Halycon House, was built on a tract of land called Pretty Prospect. Excerpts from the letters of Rebecca Lowndes Stoddert reveal her concern with family matters and the interests of their many children, while Benjamin Stoddert was occupied with the strengthening of a fledgling navy and commercial matters. Stoddert was appointed the first Secretary of the Navy by President John Adams in 1798 and organized the Navy in the "undeclared war" with France. He also established six Navy yards, reorganized the Marine Corps, and built vessels which achieved

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renown in the Barbary War. During 1800 and 1801, he served as Secretary of War, and continued as Secretary of the Navy until the end of the Adams Administration in March of 1801.

Rebecca and Benjamin Stoddert moved from Georgetown to Bostwick, after which they made several changes to the building. According to the Cristofanes, Bostwick was seriously considered as a residence for the Commandant of the Marine Corps Stoddert, who moved to Bostwick after he went bankrupt, was responsible for adding the buttress with two chambers in its base on the south end, and the kitchen, with two rooms on the second floor on the north end.

Rebecca Stoddert died at Bostwick in 1802, while her husband died there in 1813. The Stodderts, as well as Christopher Lowndes and his wife, were buried in the cemetery at Addison Chapel, where they had attended services.

During much of the 19th century, the house was owned by the Stephen family. Judge John Stephen, lawyer, member of the Governor's Council, and Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals between 1822 and 1844, and son-in-law of Col. James Brice of Annapolis, bought Bostwick in 1822.

Tradition maintains that Judge Stephen entertained Lafayette at Bostwick during his farewell trip to the United States. However, Lafayette's Secretary does not mention such a celebration in his remarkably inclusive diary, and to date, no other documentation substantiating Lafayette's attendance at Bostwick has been uncovered, except newspaper clippings and mention in Washington, City and Capital (p. 827). Following Judge Stephen's death in 1844, the property passed to his son, Nicholas Carroll Stephen, also a lawyer. At his death in 1881, his daughter Julianna, and her husband, Jules Dieudonne, acquired the property. Jules Dieudonne was a minor artist who is responsible for the painted panels in the drawing room of Bostwick. The two now remaining (the others being covered) are romantic landscapes typical of the period. Dieudonne was a spendthrift and in 1891, they defaulted on a mortgage and lost the property.

In 1904, Bostwick was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Kyner. Mr. Kyner was a Civil War veteran and railroad builder. The property now belongs to their daughter Susanna and her husband Felix E. Cristofane.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Chancery Paper No. 4967, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

U.S. Navy Department Archives.

11. Form Prepared By

Frank White, Chairman
Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust
6211 60th Place
Riverdale, Maryland 20840