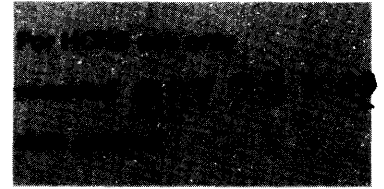


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Bowling Heights

and/or common Bowling Heights

**2. Location**

street & number 3610 Old Crain Highway<sup>Hwy.</sup> N/A not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro vic.  vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Maryland code 24 county Prince George's code 033

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. John M. Myers

street & number 3610 Old Crain Highway

city, town Upper Marlboro  vicinity of state Maryland 20870

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20870

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1969  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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**

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Bowling Heights, located near Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland, is a large 2½ story frame house constructed in 1877 in the High Victorian Gothic style. The principal (west) facade is five bays wide, spanned by a one-story porch. The entrance, with paneled double doors, is located in the central bay; floor-to-ceiling 2/4 windows are found in each of the flanking bays. Shuttered 2/2 windows define the five bays of the second floor. The central bay is recessed on both levels. The steep mansard roof is clad in polychrome slates and given complex form by multiple dormers and cross-gables. Two tall paneled chimneys with corbeled caps rise at either end of the main block. A 1½ story T-shaped wing extends to the north, consisting of a two-bay, gable-roofed hyphen terminating in a deeper, one-bay section which features a high, steep hipped roof with decorative ridge cresting and a corbeled chimney rising above its east slope. A one-story, one-bay semioctagonal wing projects to the north; the eaves of its steep hipped roof are broken by gothic-arched stained glass transoms on three sides. The building is clad in narrow German siding, with applied stickwork defining panels in the window areas of the facade, and vertical board and batten siding in the frieze and gable peaks. A wealth of High Victorian Gothic detailing characterizes both exterior and interior. On the exterior, elaborate sawn and carved bracketing enhances the many gables, dormers, and porches; applied stickwork segments the facade; the chimneys are richly paneled and corbeled and polychrome slates form a pattern on the roof. The interior retains a similar abundance of period decoration, including a triple-run stair with Eastlake newel and balusters, inlaid floors, marble fireplace surrounds, and plaster ceiling medallions. The property also contains a meat house and dairy which are probably contemporaneous with the house, and several 20th-century outbuildings supporting its continuing association with dairy and horse farming.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

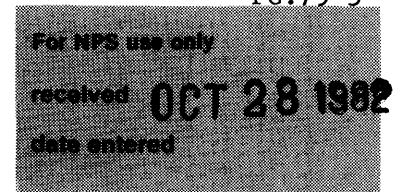
Bowling Heights is located on the east side of Old Crain Highway, southeast of its junction with U. S. 301, and about two miles north of the intersection of Maryland 4 and U. S. 301, near Upper Marlboro. A sloping lane approaches the house which is sited amid large old trees on a ridge above the road.

The house is of frame construction, a tripartite composition which incorporates a wealth of design features characteristic of the High Victorian Gothic style of architecture of the late 19th century. The main block is 2½ stories high, five bays wide by two rooms deep, and faces west. The roof, clad in polychrome slates, is complex in form: on the west facade a steep front-facing gable holding a double 2/2 sash surmounts the two northernmost bays, while the remaining three bays are crowned with a mansard punctuated by two gabled dormers. The facing gable features stickwork ornament resembling a stylized king-post truss; the dormers have similar decoration, combining rectilinear and scroll-sawn elements. The central dormer holds a single 2/2 sash, while the southerly one is larger and contains a pair of such windows. The roof is patterned in bands of colored fishscale slates, and has a slight kick at the eaves.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Bowling Heights Prince George's County, MD Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The entrance is located in the central bay, which is recessed on both the first and second floor levels. A one-story porch spans the facade, sheltering the double-paneled doors and the two floor-to-ceiling 2/4 windows which flank them on either side. The porch features chamfered posts decorated with perforations and gouge-work, arched brackets, and an unusual scroll-sawn balustrade which echoes the ornamentation of the dormers.

The five bays of the second story are defined by shuttered 2/2 windows: a recess, decorated with curved brackets and a balustrade, frames the central window.

The east facade is virtually a mirror image of the west, except that the central bay is not recessed.

The entire building is clad in German siding, with applied horizontal boards at sill and lintel defining the window areas, and with vertical board-and-batten siding in the frieze and gable peaks.

Ornate dormers pierce the north and south slopes of the roof. Both the north and south elevations have two exterior brick chimneys; those on the south, and one on the northeast, are elaborately paneled, chamfered, and corbeled. A pent connects the south chimneys, just below the frieze. The northeast chimney is adorned at the attic level with flanking quarter-round windows and an extension of the main roof which forms a bracketed gable around the stack.

A 1½ story T-shaped wing extends to the south, consisting of a two bay wide gabled hyphen terminating in a deeper, one-bay section featuring a high, steep hip roof with decorative ridge cresting. Gabled dormers break the slightly-flaring eaves, two on the east and three on the west facade; a single such dormer appears on the south. All dormers feature ornament identical to that found on the single-window dormers of the main block. On the east and west facades, shuttered 2/2 windows are aligned below the dormers at first-floor level; a pair of 2/2 windows appears on the south end.

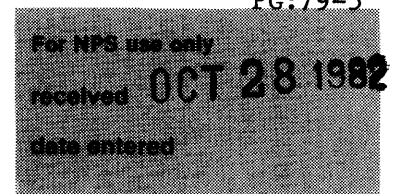
A one-story, semi-octagonal wing projects to the north, one bay in width. Gothid-arched stained-glass transoms break the eaves of the steep hipped roof on the north, east, and west sides, sheltered by bracketed gables like those above the dormers on the south wing, already described. Doorways pierce the east and west facades of the wing, and 2/2 windows appear in the northeast and northwest facets.

In the interior, the main block is arranged in a center-hall plan, the hall running west to east with two rooms on either side. The north wing is accessible through the northeast room and the south wing through the southwest room.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

PG: 79-5

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Bowling Heights  
Prince George's Co., MD Item number 7 & 10 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The main (west) entrance leads into the hallway, which has been bisected by a temporary north-south partition. The stair rises in a triple run at the east end of the hall; the newel and balusters are of dark stained wood in the East-lake style. The newel post is square in section, with an incised design on each side, and is capped with an octagonal cone with a round finial. The heavy molded handrail is carried on chamfered balusters joined by half-height cutouts, each supporting three turned balusters. Alternating wide walnut and ash boards form a striped pattern on the hall floor. The hall and first-floor rooms have 11½ foot ceilings with heavy Italianate cornices and deeply molded door and window trim.

The pairs of rooms on each side of the hall are very similar to one another in configuration and decorative detailing. The east and west rooms are joined by large double sliding doors. Centered in each ceiling is a large plaster medallion of elaborate foliated design; those in the two north rooms also have rings of female heads in full relief. Each room has a marble fireplace surround, composed of pilasters supporting a frieze with a low arch profile on the lower side, and a broad marble mantel. The southwest room has a striped ash and walnut floor; its ceiling medallion features fruits and vegetables, appropriate to its use as a dining room.

The north wing has been divided with a temporary partition for use as kitchen and laundry. The twenty-foot arched vault has been enclosed with a conventional flat ceiling above the cornice. The walnut and ash striped floor has been covered to protect it. According to tradition, this wing originally served as a chapel, and later as a game room.

The south wing, currently used as an office, retains much of its woodwork. A small fireplace heats the paneled southernmost room.

Alterations have been made carefully, with full consideration given to their reversibility in the event of future restoration; all modern partitions are temporary, and no trim has been disturbed by their insertion.

Outbuildings located southeast of the house include a meat house and dairy probably contemporaneous with the house, and several 20th century barns and related structures which, while not contributing directly to the significance of the site are nevertheless consistent with Bowling Heights' long-standing association with dairy and horse farming.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 15-acre parcel is defined on the north, south, and east sides by recent housing developments and on the west by Old Crain Highway. The nominated acreage preserves the integrity of Bowling Heights' dramatic hilltop setting.

# 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 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**      1877                                      **Builder/Architect**      George N. Ellis, carpenter

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The significance of Bowling Heights derives from its architecture. As a residence executed in a richly-ornamented interpretation of the High Victorian Gothic style, Bowling Heights embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of architecture that was popular in urban areas in the 1870s and was usually expressed in masonry, but is rarely found in rural Maryland, expressed in wood-frame construction. The important exterior features of Bowling Heights include its complex, asymmetrical massing; its multiple gable forms with elaborate scroll-sawn and stickwork ornamentation; its patterned polychrome slate roof; and the use of recessed bays, applied horizontal-board banding, and a variety of siding treatments to create visual interest in the facade. On the interior, the patterned flooring, Eastlake stair, heavy molds and ornate ceiling medallions are notable. Bowling Heights is the largest and most fully expressed example of this style in Prince George's County.

#### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Bowling Heights was constructed for John D. Bowling in 1877, as indicated by a penciled inscription which was revealed when brass hardware was removed from a door: "George N. Ellis, carpenter, Baltimore, 1877". This date agrees with that of John D. Bowling's purchase of the land, which had formerly belonged to his father-in-law, Mordecai Plummer.<sup>1</sup> A native of Prince George's County, Bowling had come to Upper Marlboro from his family's seat near Aquasco.

Bowling died in 1887, but his widow retained ownership of the property until 1917.<sup>2</sup> Ownership of the property has changed only once since that time.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Deed HB#12/542, Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> Deed 124/460, Prince George's County Land Records.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
 Prince George's County Marriage Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
 Prince George's County Probate Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15 acres

Quadrangle name Bristol

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

1	8	3	5	0	3	5	0	4	3	0	0	0	3	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										

B 

1	8	3	5	0	4	4	0	4	3	0	0	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	8	3	5	0	1	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	8	3	5	0	0	9	0	4	3	0	0	2	6	0
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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

**DESCRIPTION:**

As recorded in Prince George's County Courthouse Records Deed 2954/129.

For JUSTIFICATION, see Continuation Sheet No. 2

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Kurtze with research by Margaret W. Cook

organization Maryland Historical Trust

date October 1980

street & number 21 State Circle

telephone 301-269-2438

city or town Annapolis

state Maryland 21401

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*J. Little*

10-25-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 11/30/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration