

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 22 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1976

**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

Sprigg's Request

AND/OR COMMON

PLEASANT PROSPECT (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

12806 Woodmore Road

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mitchellyille

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20716

CODE

24

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Estate of Edward S. Walker

STREET & NUMBER

12806 Woodmore Road

CITY, TOWN

Mitchellyille

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

20716

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse, Prince George's County

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland 20870

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory of Prince George's County (#20)

DATE

March 1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle - Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

Pleasant Prospect is located in Queen Anne's Election District (No. 7) of Prince George's County, between the John Hanson Highway to the north, Woodmore Road to the south, and midway between Enterprise Road to the west and Church Road to the east. Originally built by Isaac Duckett in 1798, the interior was altered by the Contee and Walker families. A large (56 x 35 foot), two and one-half story, five bay structure, the house has Flemish-bond brickwork with interior chimneys at either end. A hyphen and kitchen wing on the south end of the structure are typical of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century ancillary architecture in Southern Maryland. There is a cellar with a fireplace under the main block of the house with sandstone foundations.

The window openings on the facade have rubbed brick arches over them. The kitchen walls appear to be of a different type of brick than the main house and hyphen. The water table around the house and hyphen does not appear on the kitchen walls. The name "John Clarke" is cut into two bricks located on the south side of the door on the west elevation. According to an unsubstantiated family tradition, he is identified as the builder of the house.

Each gable end has an interior chimney. At the attic story level, the chimney stacks are exposed on both the north and south sides of the house and are joined at the center of the ridge to form a single chimney stack. On the interior walls of the north elevation, the chimney runs diagonally across the wall. On the south elevation, the chimneys join above the attic story window and form an ogee arch. There is a chimney on the north wall of the two-story kitchen which accommodates fireplaces on each floor.

Double doors with fanlights are centered on both the west facade and east elevation. These appear to be the original doorways. The peaked dormer, located at the center of the roof on the east elevation with its Victorianized Palladian window, is a late nineteenth century addition. The present roof structure is covered with a standing seam metal roof. The kitchen wing has a hipped roof of the same material. The windows of Pleasant Prospect have both interior and exterior shutters. The second story windows no longer possess interior folding shutters. The Walker family added both the porch on the east facade and the rear addition, consisting of a bath on the second floor over a screened entrance porch on the first floor, after 1868.

The interior of the house utilizes a floor plan with two rooms on each side of a central hallway dominated by a staircase of unusual height and depth. This staircase was added by the Walker family in the third quarter of the nineteenth century and replaced an original enclosed stairway which was in the northwest corner room of the first floor.

The interior plasterwork decorations demonstrate a strong Adam influence, featuring elaborate swags, urns and other Adamesque motifs. The plaster

(See Continuation Sheet No. 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Pleasant Prospect," a home of the Duckett, Contee and Walker families in the Mitchellville area of Prince George's County, was one of three homes built by members of the Duckett family in that vicinity. Originally built by Isaac Duckett in 1798, it was also the home of Captain John Contee, the commander of the "Planter's Guard," a local cavalry company which was presented the handsome banner in a ceremony at Upper Marlboro on April 19, 1861. Since 1868 members of the Walker family have owned the property.

"Pleasant Prospect," originally patented as "Sprigg's Request" by Thomas Sprigg on August 1, 1698, consisted of some five hundred acres. The Sprigg family owned the property until about 1788 when Dr. Isaac Duckett, who had married Sprigg's granddaughter, acquired it and built the handsome brick house. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment for Collington and Western Branch Hundreds of Prince George's County described Isaac Duckett as the owner and occupant of "Sprigg's Request." In this list, the property is described as "a new Two story Brick dwelling, very elegantly furnished with passage 20 by 16, kitchen 19 by 14, all of Brick, a Frame Meat House, 14 feet square Milk House 14 feet square Lumber House 20 by 16, Stable 20 by 16, all new and very well furnished." The property was valued at \$2,250.

Isaac Duckett repatented his property as "Pleasant Prospect" in 1809. In addition to the 500 acres of "Sprigg's Request," the new patent also included "Elizabeth's Purchase" of 244 acres, "Duckett's Addition" for 26 3/4 acres, part of "Pye Anne's Grove" for 12 acres, part of "Young's Addition" for 26 3/4 acres, part of "Young 's Purchase" for 208 1/2 acres, and a part of "Hall's Purchase" for 81 1/2 acres. The new patent contained a total of eight hundred and twenty five acres.

The National Intelligencer for October 11, 1820, carried the following advertisement:

"For sale, Pleasant Prospect, 1,095 acres in the forest of Prince George's County, about 7 miles from Queen Anne where there is a tobacco warehouse on navigable water; ten miles from Upper Marlboro. A large brick dwelling 56 feet in length, 34 feet wide, two stories high; 3 large rooms below; 3 above; wing at one end, milk house, smoke house, meat house, ice house, corn houses and stables; two or three hundred acres in clover; 11 tobacco houses on this land, sufficient to cure 100,000 pounds of tobacco. Land well enclosed, fencing

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Effie Gwynn Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County (Richmond, 1947).
 H, Chandlee Forman, Old Buildings Gardens and Furniture in Tiedwater, Maryland
 (Cambridge, 1967).
 Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro.
 Patent Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
 The Walkers of Tooping Castle, Maryland, by Samuel H. Walker. (1883)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,4,5	5,5,0	4,3	1,0	9,7,0	B	1,8	3,4,5	5,9,0	4,3	1,0	7,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,8	3,4,5	2,9,0	4,3	1,0	6,7,0	D	1,8	3,4,5	2,6,0	4,3	1,0	9,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Acreege Justification: The ten acres immediately surrounding "Pleasant Prospect" was nominated to preserve the house, the sunken garden and east front drive with proper easements.

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

Frank White, Chairman

(cs)

ORGANIZATION

Prince George's County Historical & Cultural Trust

DATE

March 31, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

6211-60th Place

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Riverdale

STATE

Maryland 20840

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 M. Pearce

9/15/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/24/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-22-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 22 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1976

Pleasant Prospect
Sprigg's Request

CONTINUATION SHEET Mitchellville, Md. ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION, ITEM #7 CONTINUED

ceiling mouldings are handsomely designed with different patterns utilized in each room. The mantels are equally elaborate. The floors in the house are originals, except where the opening of the original staircase has been closed on the second floor.

The west elevation was originally graced by a sunken garden, evidences of which still remain. The grounds to the north of the house are planted with box-wood. Originally there was a circular drive on the east side of the house, but this has now become overgrown. The gate posts and gateway still remain. Still operated as a working farm, a smoke house and corn crib, both of frame construction can be found on the property, as can a large brick stable.

Surrounded by a five hundred acre tract, many large trees of many species are found immediately adjacent to the main house. It is more than one-half mile to Woodmore Road, the nearest public way.

ITEM #8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - Continuation Sheet No. 1

in good repair. Isaac Duckett."

Dr. Duckett died in 1823, and in his will he devised "Pleasant Prospect" to his son-in-law, Lt. John Contee, a naval officer who owned the property until 1839. The property then passed to his son, Captain John Contee. The latter altered "Pleasant Prospect" during the period of his ownership which lasted until 1863. Previous to his death, Captain Contee seems to have experienced some financial difficulties, for in September of 1862, he conveyed "Pleasant Prospect" to William B. Bowie as security for a mortgage of \$10,000. As his estate had insufficient funds to pay his debts, the Prince George's County Circuit Court appointed former Governor Thomas G. Pratt and Daniel Clarke to sell Contee's lands at a trustee's sale.

On February 19, 1868, Pratt and Clarke sold "Pleasant Prospect," now containing only five hundred and sixty two acres, to Jonathan T. Walker for \$3,625. The Walker family originally lived at "Toaping Castle" near present-day Greenbelt, but at an early age Jonathan Walker had moved to Washington where he entered the lumber business. He returned to "Toaping Castle" after the outbreak of the Civil War, but still continued to conduct his business in the city. Following

(See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 4 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1976

"Pleasant Prospect"
Sprigg's Request

CONTINUATION SHEET Mitchellville, Md. ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Significance, Item No. 8 Continued

his purchase of "Pleasant Prospect," he retired from business and made his home there until his death on November 15, 1885.

The property then passed to Jonathan Walker's youngest son, Edward Spedden Walker. After his death on November 14, 1940, his widow continued to live at "Pleasant Prospect," although the title to the property became vested jointly in the several heirs to Edward Walker's estate.

At the present time, only the kitchen wing of the house is occupied. Two Walker families still continue to reside on the estate, each of whom has their own home.

Since "Pleasant Prospect" was built slightly over one hundred and seventy-five years ago, only three families have occupied it; the Ducketts, the Contees and the Walkers. The Duckett who occupied the house practiced medicine in this rural community. The Contee family became prominent in the militia of Prince George's County. The Walkers were well known because a member of this family gained fame as an officer in the Texas Rangers. The family is also remembered as farmers and for outstanding participation in the Prince George's County business community.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 19 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1976

Pleasant Prospect
Prince George's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

ADDENDUM TO THE DESCRIPTION

The outbuildings within the nominated area at Pleasant Prospect are:

- a modern dairy, built about 1915, in good condition
- four large wood-framed barns, metal roofs, built about 1912, in good condition
- one wood-framed tool shed, gable roof covered with metal which replaced wooden shingles, some wide weatherboarding, shed on east side, age undetermined, in fair condition
- one meat house, 14' X 14', log wall construction sheathed with wide weatherboarding which is a foot wide at ground level and diminishes to about four inches width at the roof line, new metal roof replaced wood shingles, door opening on north side has been enlarged. About 1950 the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of a pilot project on refrigeration, installed a freezer room in this building. Mr. Walker stated there were only three participants selected in each state for this project.
- one brick stable, 24' X 40', one story with loft, five windows on south wall, two windows and a centered door on the north wall, three doors on west wall which are evenly spaced, one centered door on east wall, metal roof replaced wooden shingles about 1915, at which time flooring was attached to the old 4" X 8" overhead beams creating a loft. Walls show where the building has been enlarged and wide doors were bricked up in the north and south walls. The owner stated that this building was used for horses and carriages until about 1915 when his father began dairy farming. The alterations were necessary to make the building usable for cattle. The brick in the stable walls is similar in appearance to that in the house walls.

Part of the garden on the west side of the house is sunken about one foot below the surrounding lawn. This area is about 50' X 100'. There is evidence of many old plantings and numerous large trees. In poor condition.

Mrs. Margaret Cook, 3/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 19 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1976

Pleasant Prospect
Prince George's County 6,
Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE

Pleasant Prospect is a simple, Federal-style building typical in its original appearance of the five-bay, two-story houses constructed circa 1800 in Tidewater Maryland. The hyphen and wing are also of this Federal style, built somewhat later than the house. The interior woodwork, executed in an Adamesque style, is elaborate but very sparse. The large, peaked dormer and five-bay, one-story porch across the front, added circa 1900, are the changes most commonly made to older houses in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland, at that time.

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936 (federal)

Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.