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Obligation is located on the west side of Route Maryland 2; 0.2 miles south of the junction of Mill Swamp Road and Route Maryland 2.

A building appears to have been standing in 1706, built on a tract of 664 acres patented in 1669 by Thomas Stockett. Francis H. Stockett, in his <u>The Stockett Family</u> (see: Bibliography #9), says the present brick house was erected in 1743 by Thomas Stockett III, a grandson of the first Thomas Stockett who immigrated to Maryland from Kent County, England.

In 1827 Joseph Noble Stockett, grandson of Joseph Stockett, made improvements to the house.

Construction details appear to belong to a manner of building predating 1743, and it may be conjectured that an earlier dwelling was over-built, possibly by raising a oneand-a-half-story structure to make the two-and-a-half-story house as indicated by changes apparent in the exterior brick walls. The color and texture of the early, one-story structure with brick laid in English bond can be easily distinguished from the later second-story brick work.

The square first-floor plan is divided into four rooms, the southwest one having a boxed staircase rising from the outer corner.) There is a wooden lock of large size on the front door, and many pieces of early hardware throughout the house. The guillotine window sash are very early examples. There is a corner fireplace in the back parlor. / The south facade has a center door sheltered by a canopy of recent date, and three windows irregularly placed, having nine over nine sash, topped with segmental arches. A different color range of brick appears in walls of the second story, and here the four windows of this south facade are symmetrically spaced, and covered by flat lintels and having six over six sash. /The gabled roof has a chimney at each end.

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In 1658 three brother, Thomas, Henry and Dr. Francis Stockett, emigrated to Maryland and established themselves on a tract of the west side of the Susquehanna River. The site became the present town of Havre de Grace, Maryland. These Stockett brothers removed to southern Anne Arundel County where, in 1668-69, each gained a patent for 664 acres of contiguous lands bounded by a stream called Stocketts' Run.

Thomas, appointed High Sheriff of the county in 1668, was styled "Captain." He died in 1671; willed Obligation to a son, Thomas (1667-1732), who was active in county political affairs and was called upon to survey and settle cases involving land disputes. He expanded Obligation to 2,000 acres. Thomas Stockett III went to England, was robbed of all his possessions, and was befriended by a merchant who taught him about business. Thomas returned to Maryland and established a prosperous neighborhood store. His son, Dr. Thomas Noble Stockett (1747-1802) was well educated, scholarly; he joined the "Sons of Freedom" movement, was commissioned Surgeon with the Maryland Line and served at Valley Forge where hardships impaired his health. Returning to Obligation to recruit soldiers locally, he later resumed his medical practice and raised blooded horses.

His son, Joseph Noble Stockett (1779-1858), inherited Obligation, studied medicine but did not practice, raised horses and hunted foxes. He was a member of the South River Club. A staunch Federalist, he later became a Whig of the Henry Clay persuasion. Joseph Noble Stockett was married four times and had eight children.

MHT AA-VII-155

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES						
Recorder: Mrs. E. W. Brid Road, Harwood, Marylan		, Jr., Cedar Park, Cumberstone 776				
Stockett, Francis H., <u>Ger</u> Printed by William H.	nealo Boyl	gy of the Stockett Family, 1892, e & Son, Baltimore, Md.				
Forman, Henry C., <u>Early Maryland</u> , 1934, Privat		and Plantation Houses of printed, Easton, Md.				
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Mrs. Preston Parish, Keep	per of	f the Maryland Register				
Maryland Historical Trust	t	May 9, 1969				
STREET AND NUMBER:						
P. 0. Box 1704		STATE CODE				
Annapolis		Maryland 21404				
STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION				
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Publ 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for in- in the National Register and certify that it has evaluated according to the criteria and proced forth by the National Park Service. The recom level of significance of this nomination is: National State Z Local	ic Law clusion s been ures set nmended	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.				
Name <u>Orlands Rido</u> Orlando Ridout IV Title <u>State Liaison Offic</u> for Maryland	ut 10	Date <u>May 15, 1969</u> ATTEST: Vellinin (1. Mittilan 5				
Date <u>May 9, 1969</u>		Keeper of The National Register Date May 15, 1969				



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