

**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 Traband, John H., House

and/or common Traband, John H., House

2. Location

street & number 14204 Marlboro Pike n/a not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro n/a vicinity of congressional district 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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Adelaide Traband Binger

street & number 14204 Marlboro Pike

city, town Upper Marlboro n/a vicinity of state Maryland 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20870

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974/1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> buildings	Original and historic functions and uses: residential
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Built between 1895 and 1897, the John H. Traband House is an assymmetrically shaped Queen Anne influenced frame structure of modest size and detailing, two and a half stories high with an asbestos shingled hip roof with a central chimney, projecting two-story bays on the south and east elevations, and a two story porch with turned columns and balusters on the facade or south elevation. Set back some distance from the street, the house has German siding, shingles in the gables and scroll brackets on projecting bays; the bays are tripartite on the first floor and rectangular on the second. A one story shed-roofed frame addition was constructed in 1974 along the back or north elevation. The interior of the house has an assymetrical floor plan with period corner-blocked symmetrical trim and an oak staircase balustrade with turned balusters, square newel post, and scroll step-end decoration. Also located on the property are a frame two story gable-roofed carriage house and the site of an ice pit, both contemporary to the house and contributing to the significance, as well as two mid-twentieth century buildings, a frame garage which is attached to the house by an enclosed walkway and a masonry dairy building, both of which do not contribute to the significance. The carriage house which originally stood over the ice pit was moved to the back of the property in the mid-twentieth century for construction of the present driveway.

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 1895-1897 **Builder/Architect** see below

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architect: Arthur F. Nicholson
Laurel, Maryland

Builder: B. Wesley Cranford
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Applicable Criterion: C
 Criteria Exceptions: none
 Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The John H. Traband House is significant historically and architecturally to Upper Marlboro, the seat of Prince George's County. The house was constructed as the residence of a prominent citizen, John H. Traband (1857-1938) who was a successful businessman and land holder in Upper Marlboro. It was designed by a builder-architect named Arthur F. Nicholson who was located in Laurel in northern Prince George's County and erected under the supervision of B. Wesley Cranford, an Upper Marlboro carpenter. As the only turn of the century Queen Anne style house remaining in Upper Marlboro, a town which underwent extensive alteration in the mid twentieth century, and as a documentable resource as to designer, builder, and occupant, the John H. Traband House is an important resource for understanding the growth and development and architectural character of the town at the close of the nineteenth century and in the early decades of the twentieth. Traband occupied the house until his death in 1938.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .7736 acre

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 1 8	3 4 1 7	3 1 0 1 0	4 1 2	9 1 7	9 1 4 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

C						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

D						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

E						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

F						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

G						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

H						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization _____ date November 1983

street & number 6701 McDonough Terrace telephone 301-262-3367

city or town Bowie state Maryland 20715

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 [Signature] 2-14-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date _____

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/22/84</u>
Attest:	date _____
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

P.G. 79-21

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Traband, John H. House

Continuation sheet Prince George's County, MD

Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The John H. Traband house is located on the north side of Marlboro Pike, the old road from Upper Marlboro to Washington, just inside the northwest boundary of the town of Upper Marlboro. It is a two-and-one-half-story frame house built in modest Queen Anne style, the only example of this type surviving in Upper Marlboro, the county seat of Prince George's County. Approximately 40' (NS) by 28' (EW), the house has a hip roof (with asbestos shingles) which slope to three gables on the south, east and west, and has a central brick chimney (with corbeled cap) which rises from the highest point of the hip. The south (main) facade is three bays wide, with entrance in the central bay. The first two bays are covered by a two-story porch (now glassed in); original trim of this porch includes the second-story balustrade, brackets and turned posts. Set diagonally in the southeast corner of the house is a recessed window with elaborately carved lintel; this treatment is repeated in the projecting bay of the east gable. The exterior wall finish is German siding. The gable ends at third level are decorated with shingles, and two courses of shingles under the eaves form a decorative cornice around the rest of the house. The house rests on a concrete block foundation. Originally the house had no basement, but in the 1920's a half-basement was dug out under the west portion of the house.

The interior plan of the house is as follows: the principal entrance leads into a stairhall in the southeast quadrant of the house, with two larger parlors (living room and dining room) on the east side. The kitchen, located in the northwest quadrant, once led east into a long pantry just north of the dining room; this pantry was eliminated soon after the house was built, adding more space to the dining room. (Another alteration on the first floor was the addition of a small bathroom between kitchen and stairhall.) A small kitchen porch, later enlarged, was enclosed in 1974, making a one-story family room across the north facade of the house. This 12-foot addition is sheathed with aluminum siding.

The wood trim throughout the house is a simple eight-band symmetrical molding, with bulls-eye corner blocks at all door and window architraves. The right-angle staircase features oak balusters and newelpost, and is lighted by a stained glass window at one-and-one-half-story-level on the west facade.

There are three outbuildings standing on the lot: a double garage with German siding built (1961) on the site of the original summer kitchen and since 1974 connected to the dwelling house by a covered passage; an (original) frame carriage house moved a short distance to the north from its original location over the ice-pit and now covered with aluminum siding; and a small masonry dairy house.

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Traband, John H., House
Continuation sheet Prince George's County, MD Item number 8 Page 2

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The house was built for John H. Traband, Jr., whose father emigrated from Germany in 1855, and came to settle in Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County, Maryland. The senior Traband established a carriage-making business in the town, and within a few years operated a successful shop on the south side of Main Street across from the (old) Courthouse. He began to purchase land, and by the time of his death in 1885, owned close to 1000 acres: several substantial farms, and eight properties in the town of Upper Marlboro including his dwelling and carriage shop, an operating grist mill, a hotel, and law office.¹ In 1871 he purchased a 46-acre tract of farmland on which already stood a grist mill on the Federal Spring Branch; this property was known as the Mill Lot or Mill Farm, and it is on a part of this property that the subject dwelling was subsequently built.²

In 1856, Traband married Emily Pumphrey of a long-standing Marlboro family; their son, John H. Traband, Jr., was born in the following year. The younger Traband established himself with his father in the saddle/harness-making business; upon the death of his father in 1885, he acquired through division by the Court of Equity a large share of his father's real estate, including the harness shop and the Mill Lot, the latter by then reduced (through sale of small lots) to 38.68 acres.³

Traband continued to run the harness shop, and lived in the house adjoining until ca. 1894 when a fire destroyed his nearby hotel. Because of the ever-present threat of fire spreading through the shops and offices on Main Street, he decided to move out of the center of town. He ordered plans from architect Arthur F. Nicholson of Laurel, Maryland, and hired a local carpenter, B. Wesley Cranford, to supervise the construction of the new dwelling on the Mill Lot. While construction was underway, 1895-1897, he moved his family to another of his properties, the Brooke Farm, just northwest of Marlboro; they moved into the new house on the Mill Lot in 1898.⁴

Nicholson's drawings show a "Six Room Cottage:" "For Mr. Traband To be erected at Marlboro, Md."⁵ The plans called for a full basement under the house, but this was not carried out originally. Heating was accomplished by stoves set in two centrally located flues, and it was not until the 1920's that a half-basement (under the west portion of the house) was excavated, for the installation of a coal furnace.

The original outbuildings included a summer kitchen, a carriage house (built over an ice house pit), chicken house, stables and dairy house.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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Prince George's County, MD

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

After moving into the subject house, John Traband continued to operate his harness shop on Main Street, while operating the grist mill, and farming as well. He was the vice-president of the County Trust Bank, was a Town Commissioner, and served as a member of the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church for over 50 years. After his death in 1938, the dwelling house property passed to his widow, and in 1954 to his daughter, who resides there now.⁶

Although only approximately 3/4 acre remains of the original Mill Lot, the house which stands on it is unique to the town of Upper Marlboro. It is the only surviving local example of its style, its original architectural drawings survive, and it represents the upward mobility of a working-class immigrant family, who prospered and made a significant contribution to the community.

Footnotes

¹P. G. Equity #1573

²P. G. Deed HB#5:1

³P. G. Equity #1573

⁴Interview with Adelaide Traband Binger, November 1983.

⁵Architectural drawings, A. F. Nicholson, Architect, Laurel, Md., in possession of Mrs. Binger.

⁶Interview with Mrs. A. T. Binger, November 1983; P.G. Wills WTD#5:350, WCH#2:513; P.G. Deeds #3237:17, 19; Trinity Church Vestry Minutes (M1210); Memorial Resolution, Trinity Church, 1939.

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Continuation sheet Traband, John H., House Item number 9 and 10 Page 4
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

P.G. Co. Deeds. HB#5:1, #3237:17,19.

P.G. Co. Wills WTD#5:350, WCH#2:513.

P.G. Co. Equity #1573.

Architectural drawings, ca. 1894, by A. F. Nicholson, Architect, Laurel, MD.

P.G. Census, Marlboro District, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900.

Directory of Residents in Laurel, Md., August 1894.

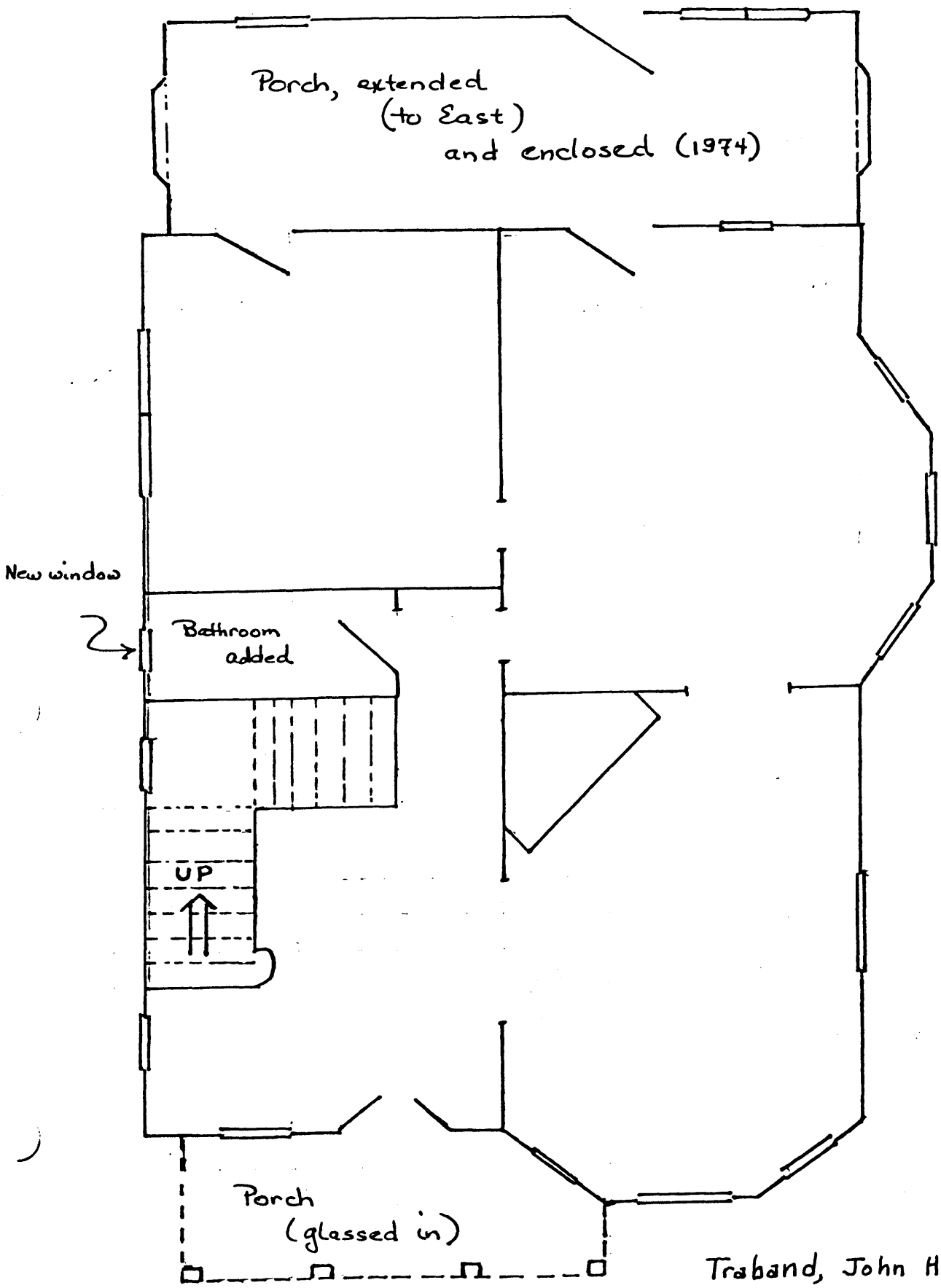
Memorial Resolution, Trinity Church, 1939.

Conversation with Mayor Helen Wilson, Town of Upper Marlboro, November 1983.

Interview with Mrs. Adelaide Traband Binger, November 1983.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Indicated as Parcel No. 257 on the attached map, the nominated property consists of the town lot on which the resource stands. This lot contains .7736 acre or 33,699 square feet. The lot is the only remaining portion still in Traband ownership of the 46 acre Mill Farm acquired by the family in 1871.



Porch, extended
(to East)
and enclosed (1974)



New window

Bathroom
added

UP

Porch
(glassed in)

Traband, John H., House
Prince George's County
Maryland

1st floor plan 1983
not to scale S.G. Pearl

E

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO. TAX MAP #101

P.G.#79-21, John H. Traband House

Parcel #257

