

PH0672394

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 23 1977

DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

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 <sup>K\*</sup> James Wardrop House

AND/OR COMMON

Buck House (Preferred) *House*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *off of* North side of Main Street, about 1,000 feet from the street, just east of Schoolhouse Pond

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro VICINITY OF Fifth

STATE Maryland COUNTY Prince George's CODE 24 CODE 033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: to be

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. W. C. Dutton, jr.  
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

STREET & NUMBER 6600 Kenilworth Avenue

CITY, TOWN Riverdale VICINITY OF STATE Maryland 20840

restored

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

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey *(1 photo)*

DATE 1939  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Buck-Wardrop House is a two-story stuccoed brick house five bays in length, facing south; extending from its east end is a slightly lower two-story stuccoed brick service wing two bays in length. Appearing to date from the mid-19th century, the house is virtually a mid-19th century reconstruction within and above four one-story brick walls which, together with the cellar, remained from a mid-18th century house, apparently with a gambrel roof. Today the house is unoccupied, boarded up, deteriorated, becoming ruinous.

The main house measures approximately 34' by 56 1/2'; the wing approximately 18' by 25'.

### THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY HOUSE

In style, the mid-19th century house is Italianate, although certain details are of the Greek Revival style.

The buff stucco which covers the brick walls is scored in imitation of ashlar; the joints were painted gray and the stucco fields may have been painted a purplish-brown in imitation of brownstone. All stucco was whitewashed frequently, obliterating much of the scoring and most of the original coloring.

A watertable of undetermined profile delineates the top of the foundation.

The principal entrance is centered in the south front, sheltered by a three-bay, one-story porch of the Greek Doric order, its full entablure masking a nearly flat roof; the four columns are fluted and the two pilasters against the wall are plain. Wide plain pilasters, scored to suggest pairs of pilasters, flank the entrance feature and support an architrave and frieze which extends around the porch ceiling. The double doors are glazed "French doors" dating from the second quarter of the 20th century. The sidelights and transoms are glazed with glass frosted in a grapevine motif. The transom bar is dentiled.

Windows, generally, are 9/6 in the first story, 6/6 in the second. First story windows extend to the first floor line, those flanking the porch opening into small wrought and cast iron balconies. Louvered blinds flank the windows, those of the first story having a panel in the lower area.

Above the double central window of the second story is a pediment supported on scrolled brackets.

The low hipped roof is covered with standing-seam tin. The wide cornice with concealed gutter is supported by paired scrolled brackets at the corners and above each masonry pier between openings. In

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE merchants	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		local history

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Buck House, probably the single most important historic structure left standing in Upper Marlboro, county seat of Prince George's, is the oldest example of brick architecture still remaining in the town. While its present appearance suggests that the building was constructed between 1855 and 1875, recent historical and architectural research has revealed a construction date before 1753. In its original form the Buck House (named for its last private owner, Harry Buck, Sr.) was one of the earliest mansion houses in 18th century Maryland. The following excerpt from the August 2, 1787 Maryland Gazette describes the property:

The improvements are very good, and perhaps constructed on as convenient a plan as any building in the state-The dwelling house is of brick, 55 front and 35 feet wide, with a passage of 15 feet, four rooms on the first floor, with fire places in each, and a number of conveniences-Four rooms above, a passage and several very convenient closets-a kitchen under the dwelling-house, with a large cellar, vault, and other conveniences; a wash house 16 feet by 14-a dry-well, 40 feet deep;-a milk house 12 feet square; an office or study 17 feet by 14, all brick and well finished; a well built wood stable and carriage house, 30 feet by 18, with several other very necessary out-houses;-a garden and yards well enclosed, and a very good well of water;-a small orchard of apple trees, and a variety of other fruit trees.

The Buck House today is exemplary of the period of its 19th century alterations. Possible restoration plans are, however, to return the structure to its 18th century appearance. Evidence of enough features of that time remains for this to be done with accuracy, including the following interesting ones. Quoins were rarely found on 18th century Maryland structures. Known examples are All Hallows' Church, Anne Arundel (circa 1729); the Dulaney House, Annapolis, now destroyed (circa 1730); St. Thomas Manor, Charles County (1741); Bladen's Folly, now McDowell Hall, St. John's College, Annapolis (1743); and St. Andrew's Church, Leonardtown (1746); all built during the same time as the Buck House. The latter is, the only one-story house in Maryland to have quoins. The projecting central bay here is also unique on a one-story 18th century Maryland, and possibly American, house. The gambrel roof previously on the Buck House is

see continuation sheet #7

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet #10

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.044  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 8 | 34, 80, 9, 0 | 42, 9, 7, 97, 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 James T. Wollon, jr., AIA  
John M. Walton, jr., Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission DATE 1/77

STREET & NUMBER 600 Craigs' Corner Road TELEPHONE 879-6748  
9110 Brandywine Road (301) 868-1121

CITY OR TOWN Havre de Grace STATE 21078  
Clinton Maryland 20735

## 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 DATE 6/18/77  
 TITLE SHPO

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>Walter D. Cole</u>	DATE <u>4/20/78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>4-12-78</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED

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

Buck House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

height they coincide with the height of a wide plain wooden frieze. A single dormer is in the east and west slopes. Four brick chimneys rise above the roof, flanking the central bay.

The roof cornice turns upward above the center bay of the south facade to form a pediment. Pairs of brackets support the cornice flanking the pediment and a pair flanks the peak.

A frame semi-octagonal bay window, one story in height, projects from the center of the west end and a pair of closely spaced windows are above it in the second story. The three windows of the bay are 6/6, their overall height matching other typical 9/6 first story windows.

The north facade is generally plainer than the south. A small, plain porch, one bay in width, with a hipped roof, shelters the door in the central bay. Square wooden columns have simple jig-sawn brackets. Windows are of typical height and design, with typical blinds; none have balconies.

The east wing is similar but much simpler. The cornices have no brackets; all windows are 6/6; a single chimney rises through the middle of the roof; a simple hipped roof porch, one story in height, extends across part of its north facade, sheltering a door.

Within the main house, with its ceiling height of twelve feet, a wide central hall extends through the middle bay; at its north end the principal staircase rises to the second floor in a continuous semi-circular curve, the plastered walls being furred to follow that shape. The molded walnut hand rail is supported by a very massive round walnut newel at the bottom and two turned walnut balusters at each end. Step ends and the second floor fascia are ornamented by an applied jig-sawn scroll. Large holes on top of the newel indicate that it was once topped with something, possibly a piece of sculpture and possibly one including a lamp. Space beneath the staircase is open.

A molded plaster cornice surrounds the hall ceiling and a richly-molded floral medallion surrounds a former chandelier location. A high wooden baseboard with molded cap and a heavy architrave with bold

See continuation sheet #2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Buck House

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 23 1977

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

backband surrounding the doors complete the decoration of the hall.

Typical doors throughout the main house have six partially raised panels with loose cyma-reversa moldings: two small panels are immediately above the wide lock rail, with two taller ones above and below. Throughout the house, mortised locks are signed CLARK BALTO, a manufacturer who traded from 1842 to at least 1870.

A pair of parlors is west of the hall, divided by two Corinthian columns supporting a beam entablature. The plaster cornice at the ceiling of each parlor is pierced with a foliated vine motif. Most of the plaster foliage from the column capitals is missing. The bay window in the west end is centered on the colonnade screen; the wall opening into the bay is supported by foliated plaster brackets. Chimneys in the two spaces rise against the hall partition; the south fireplace is in ruins, its mantel missing but most of the black marble north mantel is in place, its semi-elliptical arch designed to receive a Latrobe stove, now missing. On the ceiling of the north parlor is a chandelier medallion consisting of alternating petals of grapevine and acanthus leaf motif. A similar medallion was in the south parlor, now missing.

Windows extend to the floor; fitted into their splayed jambs are folding shutters, the exposed leaf of which, when closed, is paneled; other leaves are fitted with movable louvers. A wide two-plain architrave with a bold applied backband surrounds the window, matching those elements of the doors. A high baseboard with a molded cap is at the base of the plain plastered walls which are furred out about six inches from the masonry to accommodate the interior shutters.

A semi-elliptical arch connects the two spaces east of the hall, the southerly space being larger than the northerly. The arch, doors and windows are trimmed like their counterparts previously described and the doors and windows are, likewise, similar. Chimneys rise against the hall partition, like their counterparts to the west. Fragments of a pilastered mantel of black marble remain in the southerly room but the mantel of the northerly room is missing. The easterly rooms have no cornice or ceiling medallions. A glazed chain closet built into the alcove north of the north chimney is of the 20th century.

See continuation sheet #3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Buck House

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The second story plan is similar to the first but the space above the front hall is partitioned into two small rooms, the modern dividing partition being at the mullion of the double window. The four principal rooms of this story are separated by partitions. Finishes are similar to those below but much simpler and plainer. Four wooden pilasters mantels remain at the fireplaces. Windows have no shutters. An extremely steep enclosed stair rises north of the northeast chimney (from the northeast room) to the attic, a single space with little head-room, walls and ceilings finished with plaster. Second story ceiling height is about 10 feet.

Spaces in the east wing are very plain and simple. A partition at the centered chimney divides the wing into two principal spaces; the westerly space is further subdivided into a narrow passage with enclosed service stairs along the north wall, and a small room south of the passage. Windows and the unmolded four-panel doors are surrounded by plain beaded architraves. There are no fireplaces.

The cellar is beneath the main house only. It is accessible by the service stair in the wing which descends to the east wall of the cellar. Foundation walls are of brick and brick partitions are beneath all the principal partitions above, dividing the cellar into a central hall and four rooms. Most of these walls date from the mid-18th century, the major mid-19th century cellar change being the addition of chimney foundations flanking the central hall. The northeast chimney appears to accommodate a large fireplace, now obscured by a boiler and its appurtenances. The two easterly rooms have plaster ceilings on circular-sawn lathe, now much decayed. Many pieces of brass hardware from a mid-19th century pull-bell system remain on the ceiling and some pulls remain on the sides of chimney breasts above. Brackets for former bells remain in the northeast room of the cellar. The cellar is more fully described in "The Mid-18th Century House" below.

THE MID-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY HOUSE

The advance state of decay exposes much evidence of the earlier house. No reason is apparent for the dramatic rebuilding, other than a conjectured desire to restyle the house.

Areas of stucco are off all facades, both stories. The foundation is of English bond. A watertable is of indeterminable profile, probably an unmolded ledge. First story walls are of typically large bricks laid in Flemish bond with queen closers at corners and masonry openings,

See continuation sheet #4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	2/23/77

Buck House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

DESCRIPTION (continued)

and grapevine joists. They are heavily covered with a cream wash, apparently before the stucco. Second story walls are of smaller bricks laid in common bond, unpainted. The second story walls are laid directly on a wooden member which appears to be the top wall plate of the original construction.

Segmental arches support the brick masonry above the first story windows; the tops of the voussoir bricks are ground to coincide with a horizontal course, slightly higher than one bricklength above the crown of the arch.

The southeast and southwest corners of the house were embellished with brick quoins, apparently on the south facade only. Each quoin was three courses in height. The longer quoin exposure was two full bricks in length, the shorter exposure one. Queen closers were used to work the pattern in full stretchers and full headers. Before the stucco was applied, and after the cream wash was applied, the quoins were chipped off to make a smooth wall surface. The quoins are comparable to those of St. Andrew's Church near Leonardtown, Maryland, designed by Richard Boulton, 1746.

Beneath the south front porch the brickwork of the middle bay projects about 4 1/2"; the width of this projection is about 14 1/2'. Not apparent above the porch, the projecting brickwork was chipped away, like the quoins at the corners, to provide a smooth surface, a procedure apparent where the stucco is missing.

The cream wash defines the height of the original eave-cornice and some wooden blocks remain in the wall, installed originally as nailing blocks.

The outline of the gambrel roof's lower slope is visible, because of missing stucco, on the east end of the house at the northeast corner. The width of the former barge board is outlined by the cream wash. The same approximate pitch is suggested by a slight difference in the stucco's color at the southeast corner. East end wall brickwork visible from the attic of the wing appears to be of the mid-19th century; the upper portions of the original gable may have been removed when the house was heightened or the upper slopes of the roof

See continuation sheet #5



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Buck House

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

DESCRIPTION (continued)

may have been hipped; both forms are typical and either may be expected.

Patches of stucco are missing at most windows; apparently they are in their original locations and are of their original widths, although all have had their sills dropped to the floor. The north door appears to have been slightly east of its existing centered location, probably due to the location of the original staircase within. Beneath the north door was an arched doorway to the cellar, now filled with brick masonry.

The east wing appears to date from the mid-19th century in its entirety.

Internally, nothing of the original house is visible above the cellar. In two or three small holes through the furred mid-19th century plaster and lathe, earlier plaster is seen laid directly on the brick walls; the outline of a chair rail is apparent and vertical voids in the plaster suggest wooden pilasters flanking the windows.

The original chimneys are removed in their entireties, above the cellar. Missing plaster at the former northeast chimney, second story, indicates its former existence by the presence of broken bricks projecting from the wall, and soot-blackened bricks. The same gambrel shape is in evidence, as is what appears to be the original ceiling line, approximately 7' above the floor, believed to be at its original elevation.

In the cellar brick walls are beneath the partitions above, resulting in a central hall with two rooms on either side. The former north door from the cellar hall, described above, is visible. Although much decayed, the hall floor of the cellar appears to have been paved in flagstone; the southwest floor is paved in brick. The easterly rooms have wood floors. The floor level of the northwest cellar room is several feet below the floors elsewhere and this entire space is covered by a single, simple barrel vault of brick. Two shallow arches at its west end supported the hearth above.

Similar arches remain beneath the former southwest and southeast fireplaces, although the latter is nearly covered by mid-19th century lathe and plaster. The northeast chimney foundations appears to have been removed in its entirety; an exterior cellar entrance is there

See continuation sheet #6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Buck House

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 23 1977

DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 6

DESCRIPTION (continued)

and much of the brickwork above appears to have been reconstructed in the mid-19th century or later.

Most, if not all, of the first floor joists appear to be the originals, dating from the mid-18th century. Floorboards appear to date from the mid-19th century. Second floor joists are not visible to determine their age.

The low hilltop site is relatively level with a steep fall along its westerly edge down to the water or millpond. Northwest of the house is an intermediate terrace of irregular shape, some feet below the elevation of the lawn. North of the house, parallel to it, appears to be a series of two or possibly three very shallow falls, now barely perceptible; several hundred feet north of the house, at the edge of the cleared area, is a larger fall, thence impenetrable underbrush. The possibility of these falls is mentioned because the feature is so characteristic of Maryland mansion landscaping in the 18th century.

The south lawn appears to be void of falls; a driveway may have made a "teardrop" shaped loop centered on the house, circling beneath specimen evergreen trees, 19th century landscaping features.

Several small barns, sheds and other outbuildings, much decayed and much altered remain from periods following the two which saw so much careful design and construction at this site.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 23 1977

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1978

Buck House  
Prince George's County  
Maryland  
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

found on other early to mid-18th century Maryland Houses large for their day, including Doughregan Manor, Howard; the James Brice House, Annapolis; Snow Hill, Prince George's; Mount Pleasant, Prince George's; Birmingham Manor, Anne Arundel; and Newtown Manor and The Plains, St. Mary's.

The first known owner of the Buck House was James Wardrop, a prominent Upper Marlboro merchant (originally from Scotland) who purchased 4 3/4 acres of ground from Daniel Carroll of Upper Marlboro in 1741. The 1741 deed describes the acreage in terms which indicate that a dwelling house was already on the property, thus suggesting that the Buck House in its original form was already in existence by 1741. This is not yet certain, as the house indirectly referred to may have been an earlier dwelling. It is certain, however, that the Buck House was in existence in its original form by 1753, as a 1760 inventory has been located describing the furnishings in each room of the house when James Wardrop died. The inventory even lists the contents of Wardrop's brick vaulted wine cellar which can still be seen in the basement of the Buck House. The value of the total inventory, including slaves, goods in the store and materials in the outbuildings, came to about £1,000. This large an inventory was limited to less than two per cent of the population through at least 1760. This placed Wardrop among the wealthiest men in the colony, well able to afford a dwelling as large and well-appointed as the 18th century Buck House.

Following the death of merchant Wardrop, the Buck House property changed hands numerous times. Included among its later owners were at least four other prominent Upper Marlboro merchants: John Hodges of Thomas (1799-1825), Horatio C. Scott (circa 1832-1857), Edward Grafton W. Hall (1857-1887) and Harry Buck (1907-1974). Such frequent ownership by merchants, usually the wealthiest in 18th and 19th century communities, is a testimony to the size and quality of the Buck House. The prominence of its owners may also explain why such drastic alterations were carried out in the 19th century to make the house as up-to-date as possible.

The alterations to the house were probably carried out under the ownership of Edward Grafton W. Hall who owned it between 1857 and 1887. Horatio C. Scott, the previous owner, was Hall's father-in-law. He owned the building from 1832 to 1857. The alterations are thought to date from 1855 to 1870, suggesting Hall as the instigator.

see continuation sheet #8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

Buck House  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 8

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The property on which the Buck House stands has strong potential as a very important archeological site. A 1761 inventory, a 1765 deed and 1787 newspaper advertisement describe many outbuildings on the property, none of which have survived. Among these were a wash house, milk house, brick office, wood stable and carriage house, meat house, hen house and rabbit house. Records of the same period indicate that the property once had a formal garden, and a 1788 deed mentions a family burial vault not far from the house.

The fact that the Buck House in its original form was one of the most prestigious houses in 18th century Maryland, coupled with the distinct possibility that it was constructed before 1741, when Daniel Carroll owned the property, raises some very interesting and controversial questions. Could the Buck House have been the original home of Daniel Carroll, the father of Bishop John Carroll and Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek, and could it also have been the birthplace of the famous Carroll brothers, rather than the unpretentious frame house which once stood on the present courthouse property? A number of factors suggest that the answers to both questions may be yes.

Daniel Carroll of Upper Marlborough was an extremely wealthy man, one who would have been expected to build a large formal brick mansion such as the Buck House would have been in the 18th century.

The 4 3/4-acre parcel which Wardrop purchased from Carroll in 1741 already had a dwelling on it.

The frame house which stood on the present courthouse property until the 1880's, and which has traditionally been referred to as the birthplace of the Carroll brothers, appears to have been built, on the basis of its style, between 1790 and 1820.

It has traditionally been said that John Carroll and his brother Daniel of Rock Creek were born near the courthouse. When did this statement originate? If before 1880, then it refers not to the present courthouse site but rather to the site of the two previous courthouses which stood on the western end of the island formed by present-day Main and Pratt Streets.

see continuation sheet #9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	

Buck House  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 9

---

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Buck House property was always referred to in 18th and 19th century deeds as being near the courthouse, meaning near either the first or second Upper Marlboro courthouses and not the present one.

Both John Carroll and his brother, Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek, were born before their father sold the 4 3/4 acres of ground with a dwelling house to James Wardrop in 1741. Daniel was born in 1730 and John in 1735.

Aubrey C. Land, "Planters of Colonial Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine, 67 (Spring, 1972), p. 116.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 23 1977

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1978

Buck House  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 10

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 9      PAGE 11

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- P.G. Co. Marriage License Record 1797-1817, P.6,
- P.G. Co. Land Records Liber JRM No. 7, folios 179-181,
- P.G. Co. Real Property Tax Assessment for 1800 (10957),
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- P.G. Co. Real Property Tax Assessment for 1803 (10961),
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- P.G. Co. Real Property Tax Assessment for 1814 (10985),
- P.G. Co. Real Property Tax Assessment for 1819 (10995),
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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 12

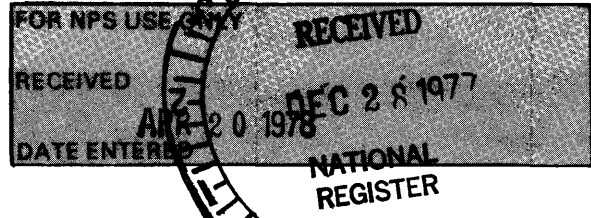
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P.G. Co. Land Records, Liber JWB No. 8, folios 195-196,  
P.G. Co. Chancery Record, Liber JWB No. 30, folios 1-40,  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Buck House  
Prince George's County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 13

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Buck House as it stands today is a typical example of the Italianate style. The conversion and enlargement of the building in the mid-19th century was remarkably complete.

The identity of the man who made these alterations is not known for certain, although it was one of two very prominent Upper Marlboro merchants. Horatio C. Scott had the property from circa 1830-34 until 1857, when he passed it to his son-in-law, Edward Grafton W. Hall. Hall held onto the house until circa 1883-87.