

7. Description

AL-IV-A-123

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		

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY ON CONTINUATION SHEET #1

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas Koon House is a circa 1912 brick Craftsman influenced house of large scale and horizontally arranged rectangular blocks with large expanses of window space, a terra cotta tiled hip roof, and a small similarly influenced detached garage to the northwest.

The building rests on a high brick base with a plain water table. The low hipped roofs are covered with round terra cotta tiles, ribbed along the ridges of the roofs, with finials on the peaks. The widely projecting eaves consist of a cornice, soffit, and bed mould. Stenciled patterns on the soffit have been covered with a layer of paint. Some of the stenciled patterns remain on the soffit on the garage and are in an arabesque design.

Wall features include seven brick belt courses along the base, each consisting of a row of headers and a row of stretchers. Two stone bands are located at the bases of the first and second story windows serving as continuous sills. A projecting two story semi-circular bay window is located at the base of the first and second story windows serving as continuous sills. A projecting two story semi-circular bay window is located on the northern side of the central block.

The main entrance, approximately in the center of the northern facade, includes a fifteen light glass door. The office entrance on the west elevation is located in a small hip roofed portico with a fourlight square transom. The outer door has two recessed panels and one light. The two interior doors are both one light beveled glass doors with original hardware.

Windows are one over one light nailed with cyma recta moulding and the continuous stone sills mentioned above. Windows on the east and west are large and square, each with twelve small lights surrounding a larger two-light casement window. In the center of the second floor north elevation, is a group of five multi-light windows separated with four mullion.

The interior of the house is marked by a feeling of open space, created in part by large window openings, and a utilitarian quality emphasized by simple trim some of which is structural in appearance. Originally designed as both residential and office space, the aesthetic attention was directed to the living area, particularly the living room with its beamed ceiling and the dining room with built-in wall unit of cupboards surrounding the fireplace and wall murals above the high wainscoting.

Although "new" with general design, the house still retains "hold over" elements particularly from the Queen Anne period. The east wall of the dining room is bowed which seems out of place with the Craftsman design and the windows of the back sections are the standard double-hung one-over-one sash type whereas the front windows are casement type. The turned stair balustrade and the mantels in the office section are more Queen Anne in execution than the utilitarian Craftsman. The front first floor room which is flanked by sunrooms is Neoclassical in decorative detailing with a recessed painted dome in the center of the ceiling. This room and its treatment appear to be original.

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

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

One interior feature which is of particular note is the brick mantel in the living room. This object uses rough cut red brick and has a stone shelf with stone supports and acorn shaped end pendants, stone floral decoration, and stone capitals with egg and dart motifs terminating flat brick pilasters flanking the opening.

The house is structurally sound and quite in tact.

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8. Significance

AL-IV-A-123

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** Holmboe & Lafferty

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable Criteria: B and C

The Thomas Koon House, located to the east of the central business district in Cumberland, is a 1912 Craftsman style house which was erected for Thomas Koon (1870-1946), a physician who served as Mayor of Cumberland for nearly twenty years. The house draws significance from its architectural merit as a relatively rare example of this type of house in Cumberland, and probably most of western Maryland, and for its association with Koon who had a strong influence on the growth and development of the city in the first decades of the present century. The notable design elements which set this house apart from the most commonly found form of Craftsman influenced house in Cumberland, the bungalow, are the large scale and horizontal massing of rectangular shapes capped by a terra cotta hip roof and the use of a single exterior wall covering, in this example brown brick. It was during Koons eleven terms as mayor that the city's streets were paved, the installation of a new water system was begun, fire protection system was improved with the construction of several new fire houses (at least two of which are Craftsman in influence), and the city's boundaries expanded.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The building permit for construction of the house was issued to Koon in 1912. The architects are identified as Holmboe and Lafferty of Baltimore but no Baltimore sources list such a firm or individuals as architects. (NOTE: No evidence indicates that the Lafferty identified in the permit records and J.E. Laferty, the Baltimore architects, are the same person allowing for a typographical error.) Nor is there evidence that the firm existed in Cumberland. Holmboe and Lafferty are also identified as the architects of the Cumberland City Hall, a Neoclassical structure erected in 1911-1912. The Koon house was constructed by W.J. Morley, a Cumberland contractor.

Koon, a native of South Carolina who was schooled in Baltimore, moved to Cumberland in 1900. Interested in civic affairs, he was elected to the Cumberland City Council in 1908, as police and fire commissioner in 1910 and 1912, and as mayor for the first time in 1914. He served as mayor until 1932 and for another term beginning in 1939. Koon resigned early in his last term to become a member of the Maryland State Tax Commission.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Cumberland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>692360</u>	<u>4391410</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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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

The property is an irregularly shaped city lot measuring 74' x 104'x78' and is more precisely described in Allegany County Deed Book 489, page 744.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald L. Andrews and David A. Dorsey

organization Maryland Historical Trust date November 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 [Signature] 6-4-82

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>7/18/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Thomas Koon house, Allegany County, Maryland

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland.

Cumberland Building Permits, City Hall, Permit No. 3297, issued in 1912.

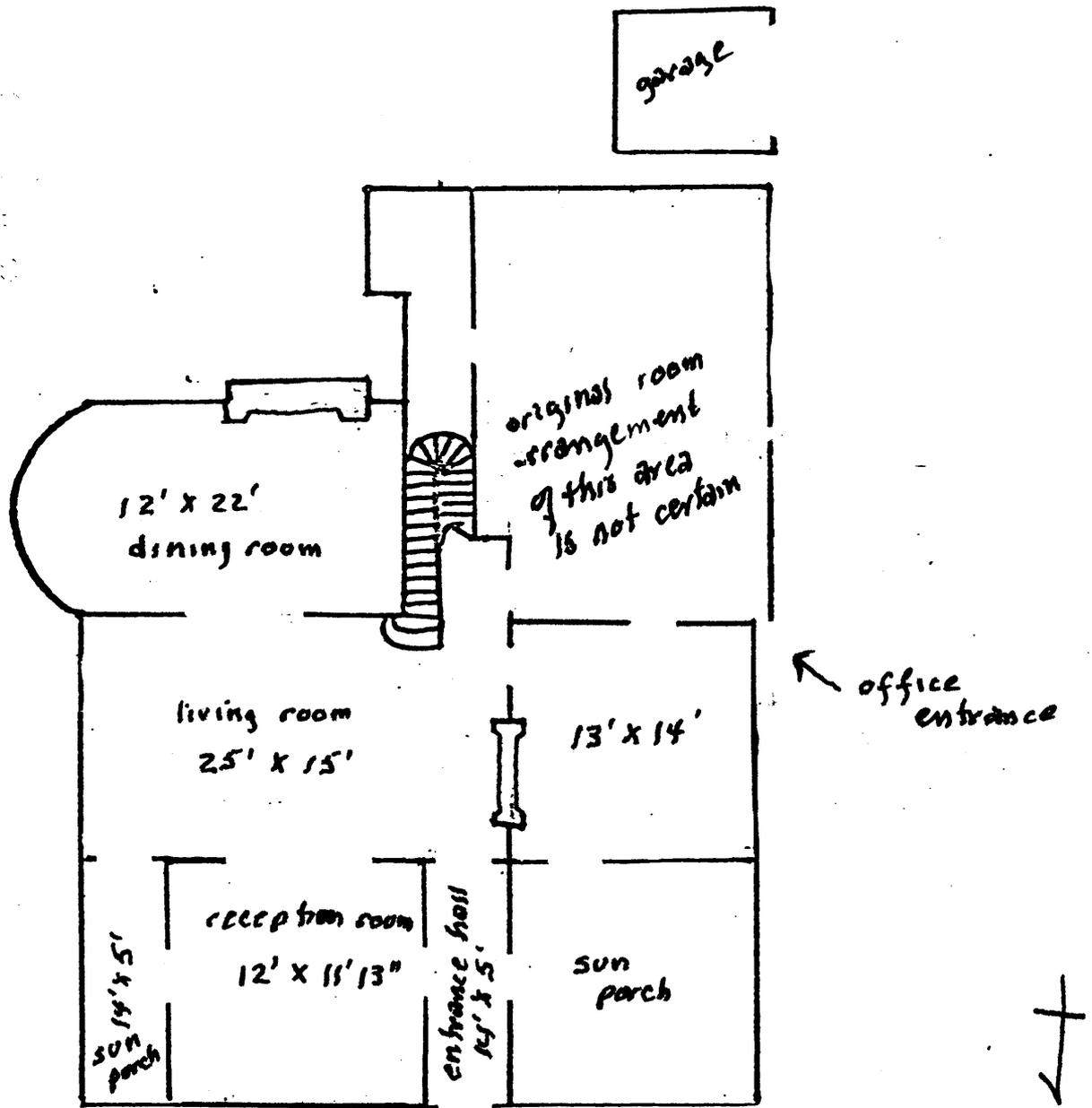
Thomas, James, W. and T.J. C. Williams. History of Allegany County.
n.c.: L.R. Tibworth and Company, 1923, pp. 746-747.

Keller, Timothy and Genevieve Keller. Architectural and Historic
Survey of Cumberland, Vol. II. Charlottesville, Virginia: Land
and Community Associates, 1976.

"Dr. Koon's Service Praised by Sloan", Cumberland (Maryland) Evening Times,
(December 5, 1946), page 16.

Ko Thomas, House
Allegany County
Maryland

ROUGH outline of 1st floor
NOT to scale



this half was originally
all residential

this half of 1st floor was
originally office space
and kitchen area



Baltimore Avenue