

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-18 Building Date: 1843, 1881
Building Name: Digges-Sasscer House
Location: 14507 Elm Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Digges-Sasscer House is a two-story, frame, gable roof dwelling of five-by-two bays, with a large, rear ell-wing. Built in stages, the central section of the rear wing probably dates to the early 19th century, with the east three bays of the main block constructed in 1845, followed by the west two bays in the 1870's. The house stands on a 2.06 acre lot in an old residential section of Upper Marlboro. The Digges-Sasscer house is covered with horizontal lapped wood siding, with corner boards. The brick foundation is laid in American bond. Interior corbelled brick chimneys rise from the east and west gable ends and from the south connection of the ell with the main block. The roof is newly covered with cedar shingles. The boxed cornice is crown molded and returned in the gable ends. The interior of the house has an "I" house plan in the main block.

Significance

The Digges-Sasscer House is significant as one of the early dwellings in Upper Marlboro. The house was completed in stages, with low six-panel doors and beaded siding, as well as mortice and tenon construction in the south wing dating to the early 19th century. The stair detail in the main block is Greek Revival in style and probably dates to the 1840's. The moldings in the west parlor, and the grey marble mantel in the east bedroom date to construction on the house in 1881. The house has been surrounded by its two acre town lot since at least the 1840's. The mature trees, lawn terraces and sunken garden plots, as well as the nineteenth and early twentieth century domestic outbuildings on the property form a unique setting of which there are few examples in the County. The house is also significant for its association with its owners and occupants. The house has been inhabited by a series of owners prominent in Upper Marlboro and the County.

Acreage: 2.06 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G. #79-18

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Digges-Sasscer House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14507 Elm Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lansdale G. Sasscer, Jr. and Anne M. Sasscer

street & number P.O. Box 550 telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Maryland 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6148

street & number Main Street folio 693

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ loc

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010, c/o CAB

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #79-18

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Digges-Sasscer House is a two-story, frame, gable roof dwelling of five-by-two bays, with a large, rear ell-wing. Built in stages, the central section of the rear wing probably dates to the early 19th century, with the east three bays of the main block constructed in 1845, followed by the west two bays in the 1870's. The house stands on a 2.06 acre lot in an old residential section of Upper Marlboro.

The five bay north facade of the main block has central entry through a four-panel door with a wide, three-light transom and single-pane side-lights over wainscot panels. The door panels are deeply inset with three courses of moldings defining the panels. The surround is a plain flat board with an inner bead and a raised back band. The entrance is sheltered by a single bay porch with Greek Revival detail. Two rectangular columns with capitals and set on base blocks support a flat roof with a complete entablature. The narrow plain architrave is surmounted by a wide frieze with a stylized, simplified band of triglyphs and metopes, and the overhanging, crown molded cornice has block modillions. The wooden porch floor is set on a brick base. The house is undergoing extensive renovation and portions of the molding on the columns as well as the decking of the porch roof have been replaced with new wood. The cornice detail has also been further embellished, modeled on Mt. Airy in Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County.

Windows on the facade are 6/6 double hung new wood sash. Window surrounds are narrow boards with an inner bead, and wooden window sills. The black, louvered wooden shutters are held back by iron pins. The lapped wood siding is interrupted by a vertical seam and mismatched siding boards between the third and fourth bay. The west two bays are the ca. 1870's addition to the ca. 1845 main block.

The Digges-Sasscer house is covered with horizontal lapped wood siding, with corner boards. The brick foundation is laid in American bond. Interior corbelled brick chimneys rise from the east and west gable ends and from the south connection of the ell with the main block. The roof is newly covered with cedar shingles. The boxed cornice is crown molded and returned in the gable ends.

The main block is one room deep. The east gable end has two narrow 4/4 sash windows on the first story and two small 2/2 sash windows at loft level. The west gable end, a later addition to the main block, has two narrow 4/4 sash windows on the first and second story levels, and two round arch double-hung sash windows at loft level.

The south (rear) facade of the main block is complex, the result of at least four additions, the most recent completed in 1987. A large 6/6 sash window and an entrance door on the southwest two bays of the first story are all that is visible of the main block. These open onto a brick floored patio and are sheltered by an overhanging flat-roofed second story addition supported on rectangular wooden posts. The addition has 6/6 sash windows, and a plain boxed cornice.

The south facade is dominated by a two-story, three-by-two bay gable roof wing set perpendicular to and slightly lower than the main block. The central bays of this wing are probably the earliest portion of the building, dating to the early 19th century. A shed-roof pent shelters the first story on the west elevation, where there is a central entrance. The 6/6 sash windows are larger on the second story than on the first. The door and window surrounds are narrow, with an inner bead. There are overhanging eaves but no cornice. The lapped siding is somewhat irregular on the second story.

The east side of the wing has a shed roof porch enclosed by new multi-pane French doors across the first story. The siding on the first story, sheltered by the porch, is old beaded lapped siding original to the building.

An exterior chimney with a corbelled cap rises at the south gable end of the wing. It is enclosed by a one bay, two story gable roof extension to the wing. During the 1986-87 renovations, the roof of this extension was raised approximately three feet to make a full two stories in height. This southernmost section of the building is a historic addition. It has traditionally contained the kitchen on the first story and a low bedroom above. The west side has a pent sheltering the first story window. The south gable end is unfenestrated. The east side has a two bay lean-to on the first story, with a low six-panel entry door.

The interior of the house has an "I" house plan in the main block. The open-string stair rises along the west wall of the central stairhall, turns 90° at a landing between the first and second floors, and turns 90° once again and rises along the east wall to the second floor. There are two turned balusters to a step, and jig-sawn end brackets. The newell post is a cylindrical turned post set on a high cylindrical base. A door beneath the stair leads to the basement. The surround around the entrance door and the entries to the east and west parlors are wide flat boards with an extended cornice molding. The baseboard is the same throughout the hall, parlors and second story hall and bedrooms. It is an eight inch wide board having a Greek Revival style double cap molding.

The older east parlor has moldings like those in the stairhall. A circular medallion centered on the ceiling has a design of acanthus leaves. The west parlor or library has banded one-step door and window surrounds with a large outer half-round molding. Modern built-in bookshelving covers the east wall. A door in the southeast corner opens onto the

exterior brick patio. The hearths in both the east and west parlors have long had replacement mantels. Those installed after the present renovations will probably be 18th century mantels from Virginia, found by the owner.

The second floor hall has an enclosed stair to the attic in the north-west corner. Moldings are the same as those in the hall below. The east bedroom has a Victorian, grey marble mantel with a round-arch opening surmounted by a cartouch bearing a bunch of grapes. The west bedroom has flat two-step architrave door and window moldings, with an inner bead. A door in the south corner of the room leads to the addition which forms an overhang over the brick patio below. The addition was made in two successive sections. The eastmost room had a marble door sill and was probably a bathroom addition. An entry to this room in the south wall of the bedroom has long been closed. There was lapped siding on the west side of the central wall between the two small rooms in the addition. There is also lapped siding on the exterior wall of the main block in the small west room of the addition, indicating that the west room was probably added last. The recent renovations have covered the exposed siding on these walls. The rooms are now a walk-in closet and a bath.

The first floor of the south wing is reached through a six-panel door at the south end of the main stair hall. The wing is three steps lower than the main block. The moldings and flooring in the wing are all replacements, although the flooring is of old boards from the backs of church pews, found by the present owner. The room entered from the main block is the dining room. The hearth on the north wall has a replacement mantel, an 18th century mantel from Virginia. A door to the south yard is in the southwest corner of the room. An old low six-panel door on the east wall leads to the enclosed, brick-floored east porch. There is an old two-step door surround with an inner bead on the outside of this door. During renovation the timbers of this room were exposed. They were heavy hewn timbers with mortice and tenon joints held by wooden pegs. There seemed to be a division or seam between the structure of this central room and the one to the south, indicating that the wing was built in successive sections, as well as the main block.

An old low six-panel door in the southeast corner of the dining room leads past an enclosed stair to the second room in the wing, a breakfast room. The hearth on the south wall of this room is also a replacement. A door in the southeast corner of the breakfast room leads to the south addition to the wing, which contains the kitchen. A small enclosed stair formerly stood in the southwest corner of the kitchen and lead to a cook's bedroom above, which had no connection to the rest of the house. This stair has been removed. A low six-panel door in the east wall leads out to the east side yard where the service buildings are located.

A doorway on the stair landing of the main block leads to the second floor of the south wing. While the building was in the process of renovation, the rafters of the wing were exposed and appeared to be sawn timbers. Just east of the entry into the wing is the chimney which runs up the south side of the main block. A small modern bathroom encloses the chimney, subdividing what formerly was one large bedroom. An enclosed

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Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 4

stair leading down to the first story divides the wing. A door in the southwest corner of the bedroom leads past the stair to a second bedroom. The plain wood mantel on the south wall of this room is original to the building. It has a square hearth opening defined by a raised ogee molding. The plain mantel shelf is supported by three brackets which have three grooves or bands along the outer edge and two decorative dentils at their base. A door in the southeast corner of this room has been newly cut and leads to the room above the kitchen. Formerly a maid's room, the ceiling in this section of the building has been raised approximately three feet and has been renovated for use as a bathroom.

Just east of the house is a large one-by-one bay, one-story structure used for many years as a children's playhouse. It has a gable roof covered with new wood shingles, is sided with horizontal lapped wood siding and set on a poured cement base. There is a new entrance door on the west side, and 6/6 sash windows in the north and south gable ends.

South of the playhouse is a one-by-one bay meat house set high on a brick base. The wood shingle gable roof has a boxed side cornice and rake boards in the gable ends. There is an old door of vertical boards on the north side. The interior has a dirt floor.

Immediately south of the house is a large gable roof one-story building used as a wood house. Sided with board-and-batten, and having entry on the north and east sides, the wood house also has a dirt floor. It is newer than the meat house and probably dates to the early 20th century. It adjoins and is attached to the new, ca. 1986 board-and-batten garage, immediately to the west.

In the northwest yard, separated from the house by two low earth terraces is a small, one-and-one-half story board-and-batten stable. Set on brick piers and having a new wood shingle, gable roof, the stable appears to date to the 19th century. There is an entry door in the east and west gable ends. The west entry door is sheltered by a pent. A shuttered window centered above the east entry door gives access to a loft.

The two acre lot on which the house stands is encircled by a board fence, and bounded by Marlboro Pike on the west, Elm Street on the north and a service alley to the south, behind the house. The gravel driveway is reached off the service alley. The house fronts on Elm Street, connected to it by a brick walk. Boxwood lines the front walkway and curves in a semi-circle around the west side of the house. Mature beech, maple and cedar trees are scattered in the yard. There are two ornamental terraces west of the house which separate the yard immediately around the house from the far west yard where there are six sunken rectangular areas which served as garden plots. The stable also stands in the far west yard and has access through a wooden gate to Marlboro Pike.

8. Significance

Survey No.

P.G. #79-18

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Digges-Sasscer House is significant as one of the early dwellings surviving in Upper Marlboro. The house was completed in stages, with low six-panel doors and beaded siding, as well as mortice and tenon construction in the south wing dating to the early 19th century. The stair detail in the main block is Greek Revival in style and probably dates to the construction of the eastern portion of the main block, in the 1840's. The moldings in the west parlor, and the grey marble mantel in the east bedroom date to construction on the house in 1881. The house has been surrounded by its two acre town lot since at least the 1840's. The mature trees, lawn terraces and sunken garden plots, as well as the nineteenth and early twentieth century domestic outbuildings on the property form a unique setting of which there are few examples in the County.

The Digges-Sasscer house is also significant for its association with its owners and occupants. The house has been inhabited by a series of owners prominent in Upper Marlboro and the County.

In 1826, the lot on which the house stands was owned with some improvements, by Benjamin B. Hodges.¹ It is not clear where Hodges acquired the lot. It was sold, without a deed, to Edward Scott in approximately 1838.² Scott resold the property to Daniel Carroll Digges in 1843.³ The hall and east parlor of the main block were probably constructed for Digges at the time of his purchase.

Daniel C. Digges (1813-1860), was an attorney, educated at Georgetown College and practicing in Upper Marlboro in 1836. Digges was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1849, and twice served as the County's State's Attorney.⁴

After Digges' death in 1860, the house was sold to William A. Jarboe (1819-1882), who served as Prince George's County Register of Wills, 1854-71 and Clerk of the Court, 1879-82.⁵ The west parlor and bedroom above were added to the house in 1881, shortly before Jarboe's death.⁶

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Section 8 Page 2

At Jarboe's death in 1882 the house and lot were acquired by Robert Clagett of "Oakland", who deeded it to his daughter, Lucy Sasscer in 1887. Sasscer was the wife of Frederick Sasscer, Jr., lawyer and publisher of the Prince George's Enquirer.⁷

The Sasscer's son, Lansdale Ghiselin Sasscer, acquired the house in 1931, after his father's death. Sasscer, who served as a Maryland State Senator, 1922-38 and U.S. Congressman, 1939-53, resided at the house until his death in 1964.⁸ The house is now in the possession of his son, Lansdale G. Sasscer, Jr., and is undergoing renovation at this time.

Notes

1 Tax Assessments, Prince George's County, District 3, 1826-38; and Land Records, Deed, EWB 1:74.

2 Tax Assessments, District 3, 1838-45; and EWB 1:74.

3 ibid.

4 Effie G. Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., Baltimore, 1975. pp. 266.

5 Land Records WAJ 3:253, WAJ, JR 1:256.

6 Prince George's County Orphan's Court, Administration File 1188, July 18, 1882.

7 Bowie, op. cit., pg. 716.

8 Susan G. Pearl, Sasscer family interview, 1981; and Bowie, pg. 716-717.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #79-18

See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 2.06 acres

Map 101 Grid E-1

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro F

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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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

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 Marina King, Architectural Historian/Susan Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date December 1987

street & number 14740 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive

telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Digges-Sasscer house

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 14507 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro VICINITY OF 4th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland Prince George's COUNTY

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Agnes C. and Lansdale G. Sasscer, Jr. Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 14507 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro VICINITY OF Ma 20870 STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. P.G. Co. Courthouse

Liber #: 1508
Folio #: 345

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro, Md. STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE 1974 ☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Calvert Mansion, MNCPPC, 4811 Riverdale Rd.

CITY, TOWN Riverdale, Md. 20737 STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Digges-Sasscer house is a two-story gable-roofed frame, house, five bays wide, with a one-story porch sheltering the central entrance on the main (north) facade; this doorway has transom and sidelights. The windows, altered late in the nineteenth century from their original multi-light form, are now 2/2 sashes, and 1/1 on the gable ends. The cornices are returned at the gable ends, and there are two internal chimneys at the ridge. A four-bay gable-roofed wing extends south from the rear of the main house; part of this wing probably stood on the lot before the main house was constructed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1845

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house has always been occupied by prominent Prince George's citizens. The two acre lot was purchased in 1843 by Daniel C. Digges, who practiced law in Upper Marlboro and had been appointed to the Prince George's County Court in 1836. He built the main section of the house, incorporating an older structure as the present south wing. Digges was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1849.¹

After Digges' death in 1860, the house was sold to William A. Jarboe, Register of Wills, 1854-71, and Clerk of the Court, 1879-82.² After Jarboe's death in 1882, the house and lot came into the possession of Robert Claggett of "Oakland", who deeded it in 1887 to his daughter, Lucy Sasscer, wife of Frederick Sasscer, Jr., lawyer and publisher of the Prince George's Enquirer.³ Their son, Lansdale Ghiselin Sasscer, Maryland Senator, 1922-38, and U.S. Congressman, 1939-53, inherited the house and resided there until his death in 1964; the house remains in the possession of his family.

1. P.G. Deed EWB#1:174. E.G.Bowie Across the Years in P.G. County, p.266
2. WAJ#3:253
3. JWB#8:567,589. E.G.Bowie op.cit. pp.716-717

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PG 79-18

P.G. Deeds EWB#1:74; WAJ#3:253; JWB#8:567,589
Wills WAJ Jr.#1:256
E.G. Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County
Interview with family

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan G. Pearl

ORGANIZATION

P.G. Historical & Cultural Trust

DATE

June 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert Mansion, MNCPPC, 4811 Riverdale Rd.

TELEPHONE

779-2011

CITY OR TOWN

Riverdale, Md. 20737

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CHAIN OF TITLE
DIGGES - SASSCER HOUSE
P.G.#79-18

1508:345 13 June 1952 Deed	Gladys Duvall to Agnes C. and Lansdale G. Sasscer Jr., to Agnes for life, then to Lansdale, 2.6 acre parcel in Upper Marlboro, which Duvall acquired from Sasscers May 1952
1508:342 26 May 1952 Deed	Lansdale and Agnes Sasscer to Gladys Duvall, 2.6 acre parcel which Sasscers acquired from F. Harold Sasscer in Jan 1931
360:72 1 Jan 1931 Deed	F. Harold and Lansdale G. Sasscer, executors of will of Frederick Sasscer - to Lansdale and Agnes Sasscer, the Home Place, in Upper Marlboro
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JWB#8:589 30 May 1887 Deed	Robert & Emily Clagett to daughter Lucy Sasscer, wife of Frederick Sasscer Jr., same house of which W.A. Jarboe died possessed, & which Robert Clagett acquired in 1886
JWB#8:567 17 Nov 1886 Deed	Charles Clagett & J.K. Roberts, executors of will of W.A. Jarboe to Robert A. Clagett, dwelling house in Upper Marlboro;
WAJjr#1:256 1 June 1882 Will	Testator, William A. Jarboe: executors Charles Clagett and J.K. Roberts Jr. to sell all real estate, proceeds to be equally divided between Jarboe's children
WAJ#3:253 17 Nov 1881 Deed	Samuel Hance to William A. Jarboe, by Equity #693 (papers missing) Hance appointed to sell real estate of Daniel C. Digges; sold first to M. Hilleary, who died; resold to William A. Jarboe 27 Dec 1871; Digges' 2 acre lot in Upper Marlboro
EWB#1:74 14 Feb 1854 Deed	Benjamin Hodges & Edward Scott to Daniel C. Digges; lot in U.M. where Digges now resides, which Hodges sold to Scott, then Scott sold to Digges on 17 July 1843; now both execute this legal deed

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey : 79-18 Date ca. 1845
Building Name Digges-Sasscer House
Location 14507 Elm Street, Upper Marlboro, Md.
Open to Public yes x no

The Digges-Sasscer House is a two-story gable-roofed frame house, five bays wide, with a one-story porch sheltering the central entrance on the main (north) facade; this doorway has transom and sidelights. The windows, altered late in the nineteenth century from their original multi-light form, are now 2/2 sashes, and 1/1 on the gable ends. The cornices are returned at the gable ends, and there are two internal chimneys at the ridge. A four-bay gable-roofed wing extends south from the rear of the main house; part of this wing probably stood on the lot before the main house was constructed.

This house has always been occupied by prominent Prince George's citizens. The two acre lot was purchased in 1843 by Daniel C. Digges, who practiced law in Upper Marlboro and had been appointed to the Prince George's County Court in 1836. He built the main section of the house, incorporating an older structure as the present south wing. Digges was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1849.

After Digges' death in 1860, the house was sold to William A. Jarboe, Register of Wills, 1854-71, and Clerk of the Court, 1879-82. After Jarboe's death in 1882, the house and lot came into the possession of Robert Claggett of "Oakland", who deeded it in 1887 to his daughter, Lucy Sasscer, wife of Frederick Sasscer, Jr., lawyer and publisher of the Prince George's Enquirer. Their son, L. Ghiselin Sasscer, Maryland Senator, 1922-38, and U.S. Congressman, 1939-53, inherited the house and resided there until his death in 1964. His widow remains there today.

Priv/occ/res/exc

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Lansdale G. Sasscer House				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Daniel Carroll Digges House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14507 Elm Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Lansdale G. Sasscer				
STREET AND NUMBER: 14507 Elm Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, frame structure, five bays wide, with a one story, balustraded porch in the center bay of the main (north) facade. This section, with its returned cornice, transom and side-lighted entrance, large and regularly spaced 2/2 sashes, and small internal stacks, appears to be a Colonial Revival addition to the older house behind it. The older rear section has a large chimney but has been much remodelled.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1845

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built by Daniel Carroll Digges, son of William Dudley Digges and grandson of Daniel Carroll of Duddington. He was a lawyer and a member of the House of Delegates, as well as the State's Attorney for Prince George's County.

After the death of Daniel C. Digges, Mrs. Matilda Magruder Hilleary, widow of Henry Hilleary of "Moore's Plains," lived in the house. Subsequently, it was purchased by Congressman L. Ghiselin Sasscer, whose widow still lives there.

Note: William Dudley Digges was the owner of "Green Hill" or "Chillum Castle Manor" and a friend of Pierre L'Enfant, whose body was first interred at the house.

OTHER: Mrs. Lansdale Sasscer is very ill and will not allow visitors in the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Effie Gwynn Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:
STATE:	COUNTY:
STATE:	COUNTY:
STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 5/9/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Digges - Sasscer House
P.G.#79-18

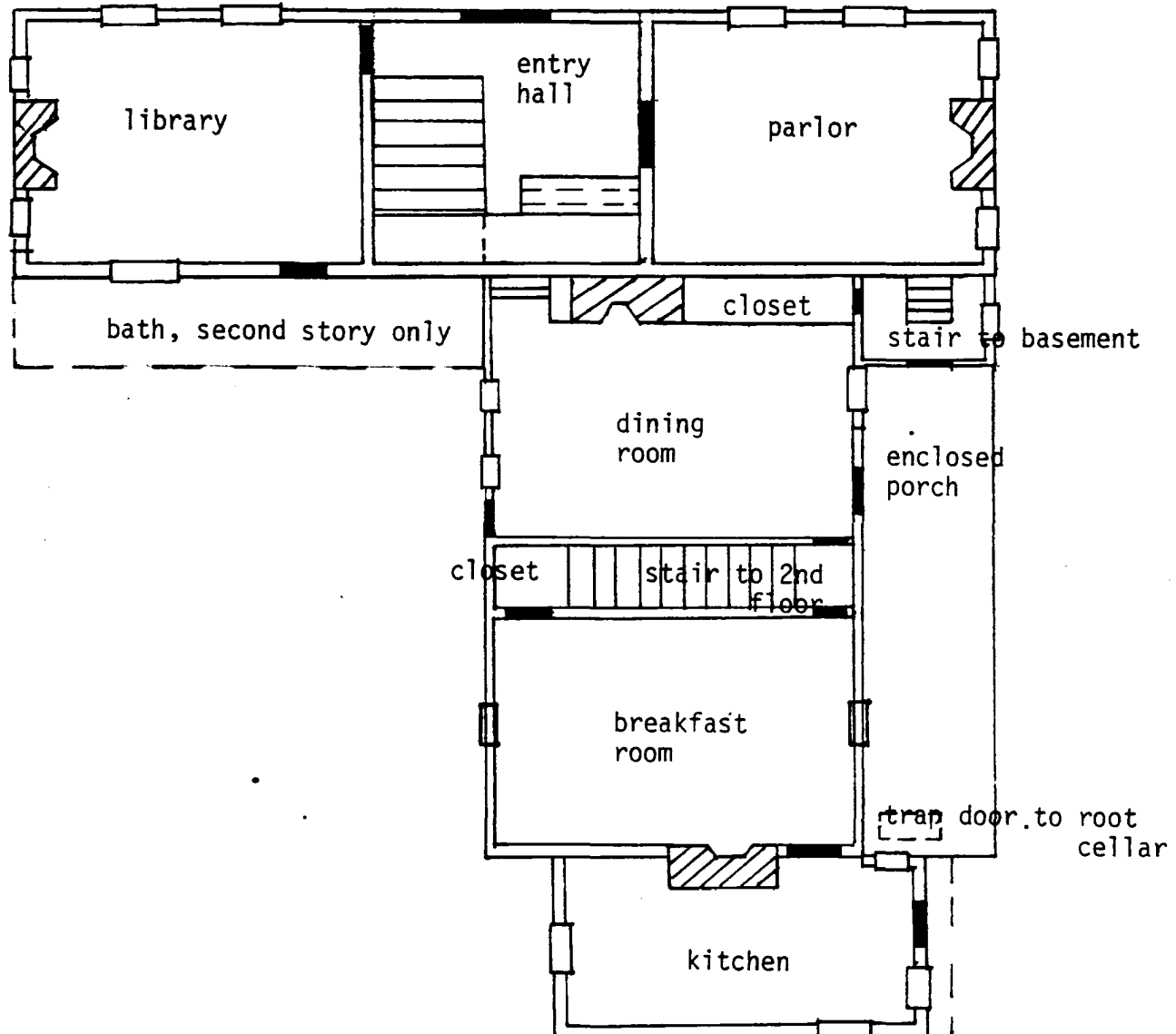
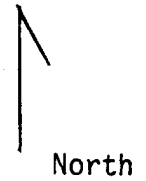
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Chain of Title

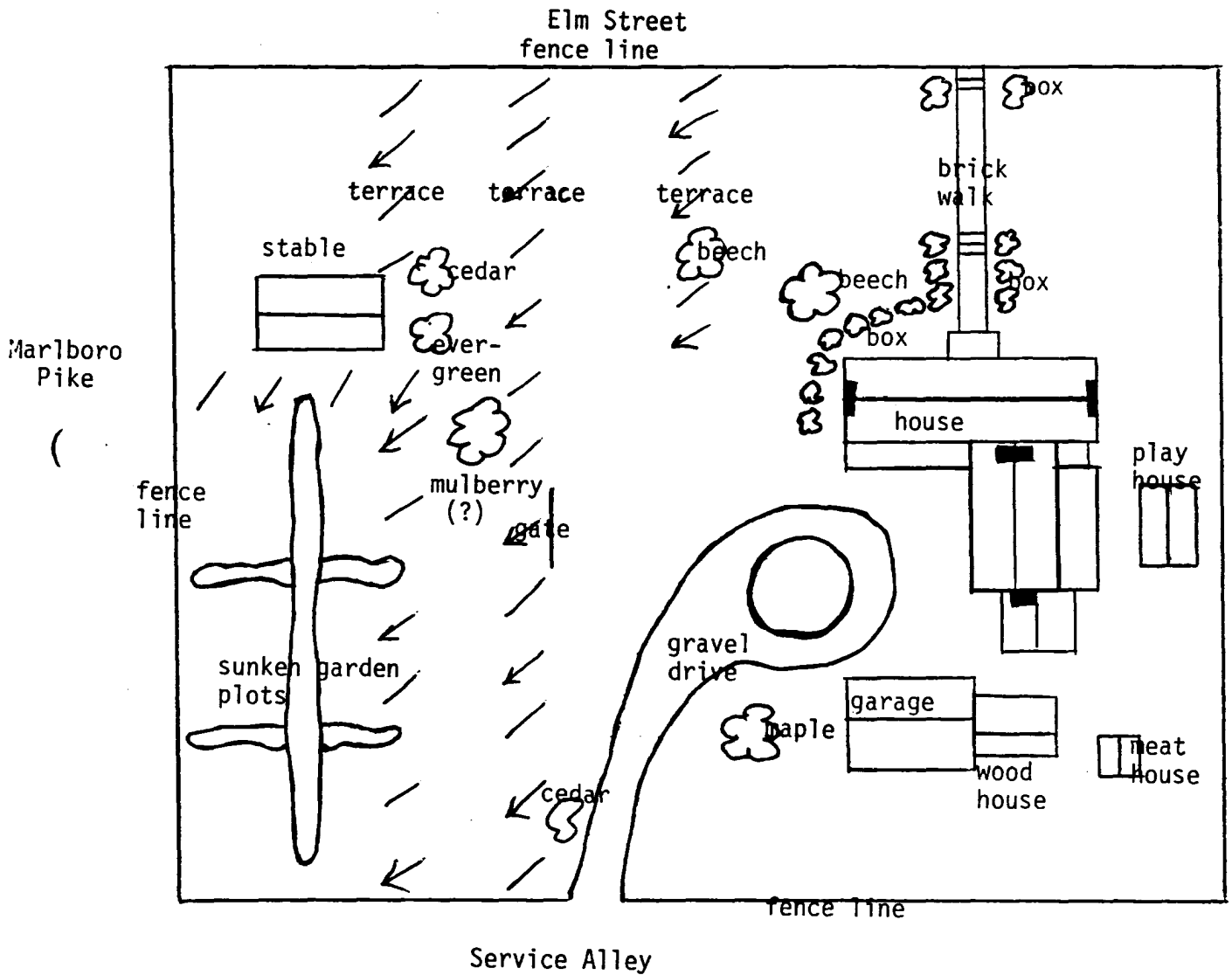
Digges - Sasscer House P.G.#79-18

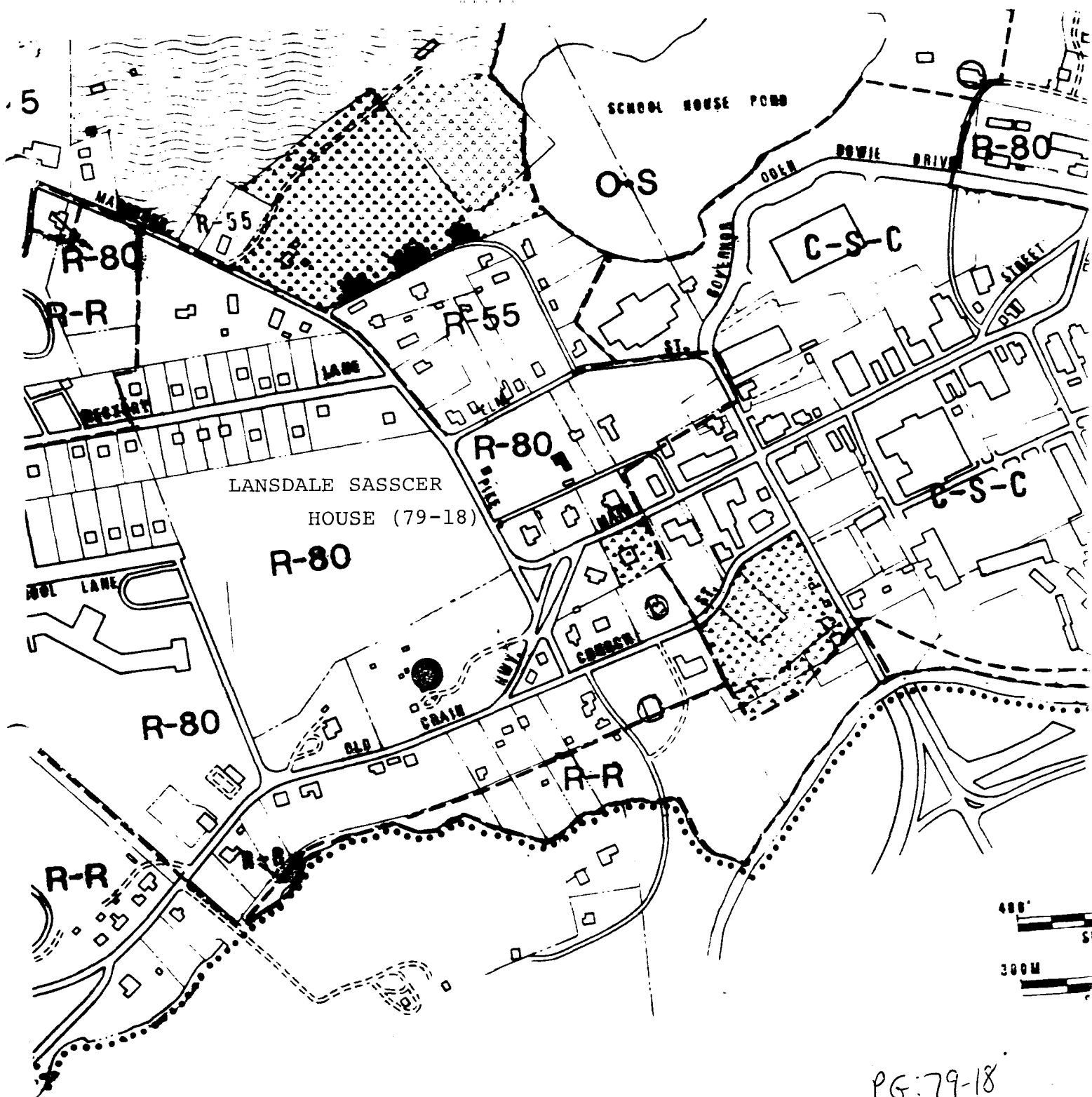
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P.G.#79-18
Digges-Sasscer House
Floor Plan
Not to Scale



P.G.#79-18
Digges-Sasscer House
Site Plan
2.06 acres
Not to Scale





PG:79-18

R-U

PAR 'I'

3031

MALBOROUGH TOWNE ARTS

6201

STATE OF MARYLAND
5156/836
6.39 A.
P.250

8/267

O-S

SCHOOL HOUSE POND

P G CO.
4411/183
11.00A.
P 258

O-S

MNC P & PC.
4413/241
8.05 A
P 74

R-18

R-80

725

79-25

R-55

8621

R-55

CLARA SMITH
4731/291

6 87A. P. 53

R-80

79-18

ELIZABETH CLAGETT, ETAL
6086/866
5.00A.
P.55

T. VAN CLAGETT
2509 -174
3.21 A.
P.56

79-15

TRINITY CHURCH
3296/253

R-R

P. G. CO.
COMM.
3190/520
5.48 A
P.266

C-S-C

518/194
L94 A.
P.59

STATE OF MD.
5755/860
3.84A.
F. 96

BOARD OF EDUCATION
419/446
4.34A
P.60

O-S

I-1

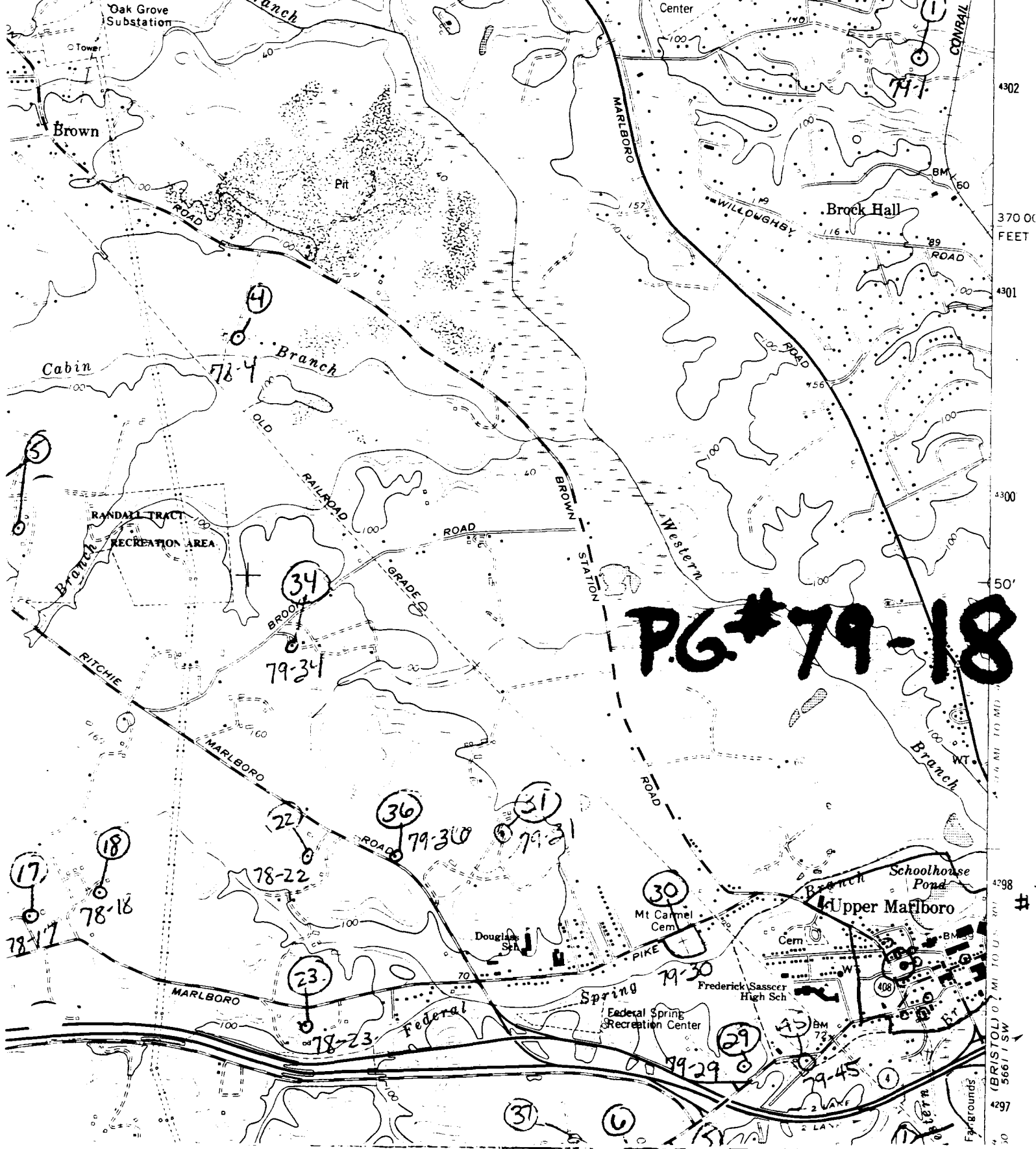
I-3

R-A

PG:79-18

1/2 MI
RAC
TRAM

Upper Marlboro





ay
P.G. #79-18

Digges, Sasscer House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1987
North elevation
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges-Sasscer House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
March 1987
East elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges, Sasscer House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1987
West elevation
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges-Sasscer House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
March 1987
Stair
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges, Sasscer House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1987
North, Main entrance
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges-Sasscer House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1987
West elevation
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges-Sasscer House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
March 1987
East bedroom mantel
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #79-18

Digges-Sasscer House
Prince George's County, Maryland
Marina King
March 1987
East parlor, detail
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD