

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mansion House; Montebello

and/or common Duckhollow (preferred)

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 213 1/10 Mile south of Front Street not for publication

city, town Georgetown vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Rosan

street & number telephone no.: 648-5103

city, town Georgetown state and zip code Maryland 21930

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber 76 30

street & number Cross Street folio 721 158

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date Circa 1968-70 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-117

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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The house at Duckhollow (a modern name) is located on the east side of Route 213 (King Street) in Georgetown, on the hill above the lower town and the Sassafras River. The two-part brick, gable-roofed house probably was on the site by 1787, built in a Federal style that appears to be drawn on Philadelphia townhouses. The main section is tall and two-storey, with a side hall plan having two side rooms, one behind the other, both with access from the long, wide side hall. To the north of those rooms is the service wing, also two storeys but lower and set back from the facade of the main section. This section does not seem to predate the main section. In the middle nineteenth century a large two-storey frame rear ell was added behind the brick wing. It burned in the mid twentieth century. At about the same time the house was "Victorianized," with added dormers, central gables, and porches that have been removed. Of the original building a handsome stair open to the third level, much interior trim, and handsome finely-detailed Federal mantels remain. During the 1970s a modern addition was added on the north side of the hall, a hyphen and two-storey perpendicular wing with gable-front facing the road. The facade was treated in a manner sympathetic to the original styling of the house while the rear is modern and with much glass.

(Continued)

The main section is two storeys tall, three bays wide, and three bays deep. The entry is into the north bay, into a large hall, with an opposite under-stair door in the room. The facade openings are symmetrical, evenly spaced, and aligned from first storey to second. The rear openings are similar except for an intermediate window at the landing between first and second storey and door from the hall that is of necessity not centered in its bay. An end second-storey window has been closed with brick. At the gables there is a single, central window. The three-bay wide wing is set back on the east end of the main section. The entry is central, into a remodeled kitchen in the south section, with the dining room the room to the north. The wing has only central and north openings in the rear, the central one a door.

The brick of the main-section facade is laid in Flemish bond, with struck joints that may have been redone. There is an unusual belt course about halfway between first and second storey windows. In it three courses are set out slightly (about 3/4" to 1") and a single course above protrudes more (about 1" more). There are evidences in the brickwork of the old Victorian porch in the front and a former terrace cover in the rear that extended almost the full width of the section. There is a water table on the facade, but not on the north or south ends, that is about 12" higher than the top of the main entry sill. It is molded with cove and fillets. Below the water table the foundation is laid in 1-to-5 common bond. There are no dark headers in the facade; the brick is dark red and quite uniform. The bond elsewhere is 1-to-5 common, with a few random dark headers and parts of stretchers. There is a full cellar under the main section, with stone under brick. The wing appears to be entirely brick and is built over a crawl space that has been partially dug out. There is a curious possible old entry through the dining room floor near the common wall with the main section, and there is a door between crawl space and cellar near that possible old stair. It may have provided access to the cellar without going into the main section of the house, where now, at least, there is a cellar stair under the main stair. An exterior entry to the stair is in the west bay of the south end.

There is a pair of chimneys in the south gable end of the main section, within the wall, centered on the front and rear rooms of that section, to serve their fireplaces and those on the second storey above. They have a one-course band and a deep corbelled cap (out and in). At the south end of the wing, within the wall at the center, is what is probably the old kitchen chimney. It is lower but built of the same brick and with the same details. A fourth chimney serves a corner fireplace in the dining room's southeast corner. It is therefore just north of the rear center bay, tall and in the same style as the other chimneys.

The roofs have boldly overhanging box cornices with built-in gutters. Most likely this is a Victorian roof that was retained. There are large returns (c. 30-36"). The trim is a cyma recta with cove below.

The handsome stair rises on the hall's north wall, toward the east. It is half-turn with landings. The balustrade is unusually tall, but the rise is unusually gradual. There are three slim rectangular balusters per tread in the
(continued)

open-string stair. The rail is simple, with its outer lower edges delicately beaded. The upper part is molded for a hand grip, with "ears." The newel is a tall and slim column; the shaft is plain, with simple turnings near the base and below the rail. The rail simply widens to become the cap. There are simple, applied scroll-type step brackets. The spandrel has a very large recessed and slightly raised panel made of three wide, horizontal boards. The panel molding is a delicate cyma. From the hall there is a doorway to each of the adjacent principal rooms. The jambs and lintel are panelled. In each of these rooms is a handsome mantel with fine gougework and frieze panels. Second-storey mantels above are similar but simpler. The shelves are broken-edge. Adjacent to the chimney of the east fireplace is a tall, built-in cupboard with panelled upper and lower doors.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-117

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 checked="" 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 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 Circa 1785-1790 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Federal-style house at Duckhollow is one of Georgetwon's outstanding dwellings. It was built in a Philadelphia townhouse style, with a side hall plan that was two rooms deep, an uncommon plan in Kent County. Despite this width-saving plan, it does have a set-back side wing. It probably was one of the finest houses of the thriving little port town at the time it was built, and it was one of very few to survive the British burning of Georgetown in 1813. The entire lower town is said to have been burned, and it is only buildings on the hill that escaped, though some outbuildings were burned there too. Despite the Kitty Knight legend, Duckhollow and Valley Cottage (K-148) survived besides the two brick buildings close together now known as Kitty Knight House #1 and #2 (K-146 and K-147), now joined into one building. The house is also important as the location of an early boarding school operated by the Dennis Donlevys, from 1812 until their books, furnishings, musical instruments and furniture--apparently the entire contents of the house--were hauled out and destroyed by the British in May, 1813. What might have happened to the house itself is not known. Architecturally, it is a fine example of Federal-period craftsmanship and decoration, despite some later changes during the Victorian period and in the mid-twentieth century. The Victorian changes were drastic on the exterior, creating a central gable on both main and wing facades, putting a pair of Victorian Gothic Revival Style dormers on the main west roof, and adding Victorian windows and porches. During the 1940s these changes were largely undone, though the combining of the main two first storey rooms by a large opening was left unchanged. Some of the interior trim is gone, but a fine stair, mantels, doors, and cupboard remain.

The town of Georgetown was laid out during the 1730s by Gideon Pearce, with the authority of the colonial government, from part of his large tract of Colchester. There is an indication that in the lower area of the laid-out town, near the ferry that was already operating across the Sassafras River, there were already some houses, but for the most part the town was laid out on undeveloped land. The original plat(s) have been lost, but a resurvey was made in 1787 and the original now held by the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. The first sale of the property for at least part of the Duckhollow property was on April 24, 1736, from Gideon Pearce, "Gentleman," and his wife, Ann A. Pearce (who made her mark) to Thomas Spencer of "Beddeford," in "great Brittain marriner." He paid £16 current money for lots 27, 28 and 29 (part of the current Duckhollow property) and lot 17, which is separate and on the north side of Front Street. (JS 18/248). In 1773 Spencer sold lots 27, 28, and 29 to Edward Tilghman of Queen Anne's County for £150, which may or may not indicate the presence of a building there. By then Georgetown had become a thriving colonial port community, second only in Kent County to Chestertown. In 1786 an Edward Tilghman, evidently the son of the first Edward and a Philadelphia lawyer, sold the property to Matthew Tilghman (EF 5/540, 543), and a short time later, in 1787 Matthew Tilghman, Jr., noted as being of Kent County, sold it to Joseph Sturges of Kent County, a merchant, for £400. The selling price indicates the presence of a house, probably the present main section with wing. The trail could not be followed after this point continuously, for Sturges (Sturgis) evidently died in 1791, and the house passed into his estate. It very like was still in his estate or in the hands of at least one daughter Ann Sturgis, until James Boon bought the house sometime in the 1820s or 1830s. It evidently was rented during much if not all of that time.

The renter at the time of the War of 1812 was Dennis Donlevy and his wife. They had come to Kent County "for the purpose of educating his nephews" and in doing so opened a school in the building, for both boys and girls. "The learned languages, French, English Geography and the useful part of Arithmetic, will form the course of study" (Republican Star (Easton), April 7, 1812). A little over a year later the Donlevys must have been broken people, for although the house itself was not destroyed by the British arson that consumed most of the town, the Donlevys filed the largest claim of all Georgetown residents, over \$3,000, for musical instruments, books, apparel, furniture, and clothing. The goods evidently were hauled outside into big piles and burned. What sort of damage might have happened to the house in the process is unknown. According to tradition, the house was empty for a number of years after the war. It could not be found how and when Colonel James Boon obtained the house, but he remained the owner until his death in 1851. Since his family has an old photo of the house after it was "Victorianized," presumably that family was responsible for the remodeling, though it seems very early for the kind of remodeling that it was -- 2-over-2 windows, central gable in both wing and main section, and the addition of dormers to the main section front roof, with broadly overhanging roofs, as well as pointed sash in the central gables. The rear, perpendicular frame wing was also in place by this time, it appears. It burned in the late 1940s. It was also during this period that the owners sought to restore the building to its earlier Federal appearance, removing the central gable and the dormers and the two front porches.

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation KENT COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back View Map New Search Ground Rent
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Account Identifier: District - 01 **Account Number -** 015664

Owner Information

Owner Name:	ROSAN, RICHARD M, NANCY R ROBLIN & WENDY R COSTA	Use:	RESIDENTIAL
Mailing Address:	PO BOX 177 GEORGETOWN MD 21930-0177	Principal Residence:	NO
		Deed Reference:	1) MLM/ 211/ 572 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 14001 AUGUSTINE HERMAN HWY GEORGETOWN 21930	Legal Description LOT 8.54 AC 14001 AUGUSTINE HERMAN GEORGETOWN
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Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No: Plat Ref:
7	2D	12		12				82	

Special Tax Areas		Town Ad Valorem Tax Class	
Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1700	4,992 SF	8.87 AC	
Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior
2	NO	STANDARD UNIT	BRICK

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of	Phase-in Assessments	
			As Of	As Of
Land:	172,320	01/01/2003	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
Improvements:	250,010	241,320		
Total:	422,330	488,960	444,540	466,750
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: ROSAN, HELEN M, ETALS	Date: 12/22/2000	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: MLM/ 211/ 572	Deed2:
Seller: ROSAN, RICHARD TRUSTEE &	Date: 01/27/1998	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: MLM/ 135/ 417	Deed2:
Seller: ROSAN, RICHARD A. & HELEN M.	Date: 12/29/1992	Price: \$0
Type: MULT ACCTS ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1: MLM/ 33/ 483	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

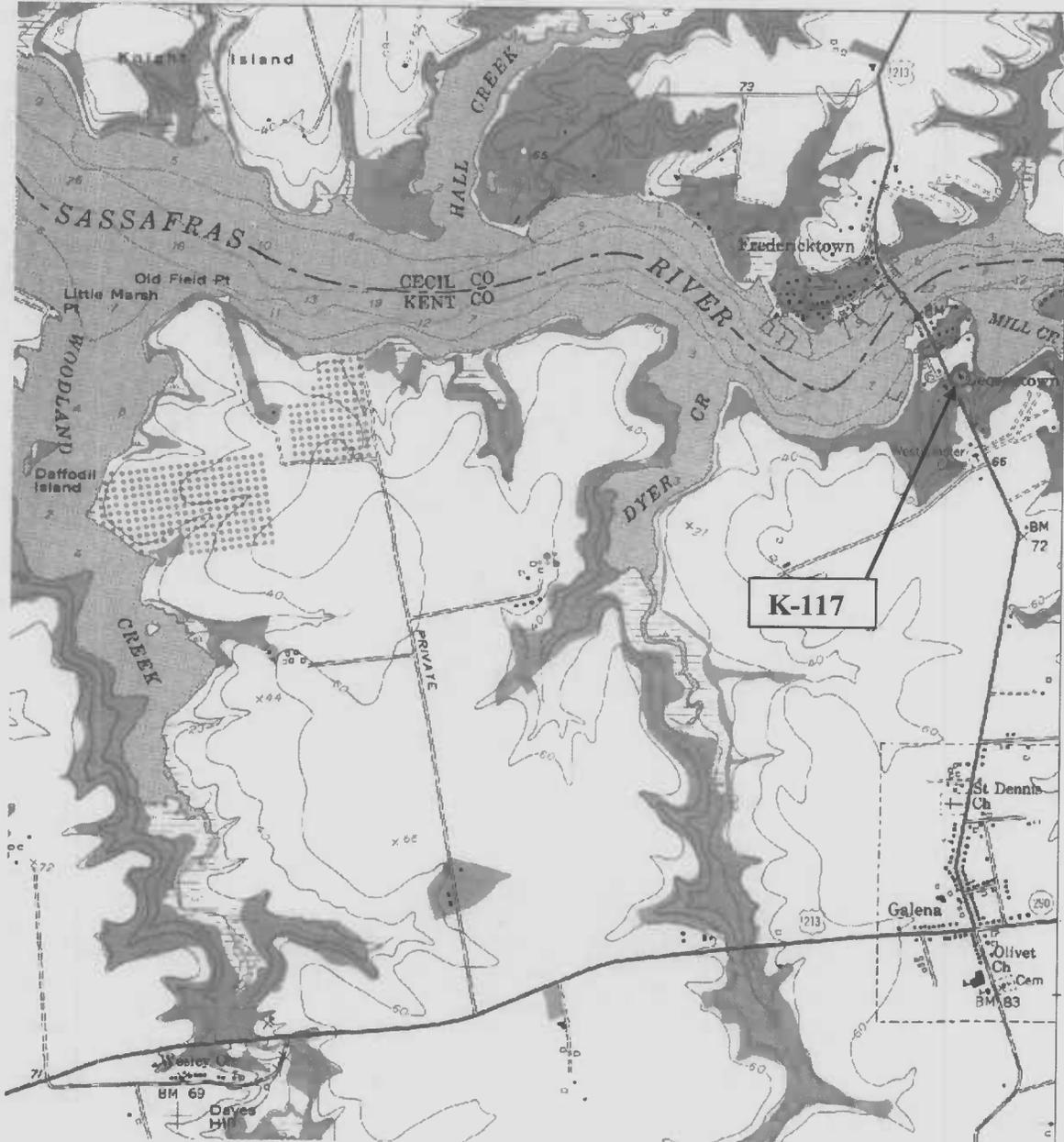
Tax Exempt: NO **Special Tax Recapture:**
Exempt Class: * NONE *

K-117

Duckhollow

(Montebello, Mansion House)

14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213), Georgetown
Galena Quadrangle





K-117
Duckhollow
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
Michael O. Bourne
9/1968
Neg. on file at MHT

K-117
Duckhollow
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
Michael O. Bourne
9/1968
Neg. on file at MHT



K-117
Duckhollow
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
M.Q. Fallaw
9/25/1985
Neg. on file at MHT

K-117
Duckhollow
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
M.Q. Fallaw
9/25/1985
Neg. on file at MHT



K-117
Duckhollow
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
M.Q. Fallaw
9/25/1985
Neg. on file at MHT

K-117
Duckhollow
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
M.Q. Fallaw
9/25/1985
Neg. on file at MHT



K-117
Duckhollow interior
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
M.Q. Fallaw
9/25/1985
Neg. on file at MHT

K-117
Duckhollow interior
14001 Augustine Herman Highway (King Street) (MD 213),
Georgetown
M.Q. Fallaw
9/25/1985
Neg. on file at MHT