

K-284

Yellow Brick House
Georgetown
c. 1819

On the 1787 resurvey of Georgetown, Lot No. 7 corresponds to the location of the Yellow Brick House. Originally, the entire lot extended from Front Street to the Sassafras along King Street, currently Route 213. The first owner of the property, besides Gideon Pearce who developed the town, was George Vansant, a farmer. He purchased Lot No. 7 in 1733.¹

According to local tradition, the house was standing in 1819 when Andrew Woodall was born therein. Whether it had survived the burning of the town by the British or was built or rebuilt afterwards has not been documented.

When it was being remodeled in 1975, two original openings on its east side were clearly visible. The door was located in the northernmost bay and a small 4/4 window was located to the south. In the north brick gable there was a fireplace, but its chimney had been removed above the roof. The west side had two 6/6 windows, but these may have been later alterations to what may have mirrored the east side.

When the north two-story, frame wing was added, around the turn of the century, a leanto was added on the east side of the old brick section, slightly overlapping the frame part. The house remains essentially the same, but with various modifications over the years.

1. Land Records, Lib. 4, fol. 323.

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Before 1819

Little Brick House

Georgetown

Private

Georgetown's Little Brick House is located very close to the roadway on the east side of Route 213 just south of the Sassafras River bridge. The oldest section dates from before 1819, when Andrew Woodall, the chief middle and late nineteenth-century entrepreneur of Georgetown, is said to have been born there. Whether it survived the burning of Georgetown by the British in 1813 is unknown. Although all of lower Georgetown is said to have been destroyed, it is possible that it was rebuilt from a brick shell. The old, one-storey section with loft, built in a simple vernacular style, has been so often altered and repaired that it is difficult to come to many conclusions about it. The interior was not seen. It is now two bays wide and with no entry on the west, main facade side, probably not the original fenestration. It may have been either two or three bays wide, but undoubtedly with front entry. There has been much repair work to the brick, obscuring the original arrangement. There is now a closed, non-original entry in the south gable end's west bay. In the rear there is a narrow door in the south bay to a new shed-roofed addition. At the north end a frame two-storey, now two-bay wide wing has been added, probably in the late nineteenth century, with front and rear walls continuous with those of the brick section. A quite recent shed-roofed, one-storey wing extends from the rear, east wall of the brick section, entirely covering it. Whether or not it survived the burning of Georgetown, the Little Brick House is one of the oldest buildings of the laid-out colonial town. Only the Kitty Knight houses (K-146 and K-147), Duckhollow (K-117), and Valley College (K-148) can be dated to the eighteenth

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century with certainty. If later than 1813, it shows one type of small, modest dwelling that was being built in the period and in Georgetown, a difficult time for the town.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Little Brick House

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 213, at Sassafras River Bridge not for publicationcity, town Georgetown vicinity of congressional districtstate 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 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 William H. and Elmer S. Combs

street & number 813 Mt. Pleasant Rd telephone no.:

city, town Bryn Mawr state and zip code PA 19010

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP65

street & number Cross Street folio 585

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date unknown federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. K-284

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 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.

Georgetown's Little Brick House is located very close to the roadway on the east side of Route 213 just south of the Sassafras River bridge. With the new bridge that is nearing completion in 1986 closer to the house than the preceding one, northbound traffic will pass only a few feet from the northwest corner of the house. The oldest section dates from before 1819, when Andrew Woodall, the chief middle and late nineteenth-century entrepreneur of Georgetown, is said to have been born there. Whether it survived the burning of Georgetown by the British in 1813 is unknown. Although all of lower Georgetown is said to have been destroyed, it is possible that it was rebuilt from a brick shell. The old, one-storey section with loft has been so often altered and repaired that it is difficult to come to many conclusions about it. The interior was not seen. It is now two bays wide and with no entry on the west, main facade side, probably not the original fenestration. It may have been either two or three bays wide, but undoubtedly with front entry. There has been much repair work to the brick, obscuring the original arrangement. There is now a non-original entry in the south gable end's west bay and a casement window in the gable above. In the rear there is a narrow door in the south bay to the new shed-roofed addition. At the north end a frame two-storey, now two-bay wide wing has been added, probably in the late nineteenth century, with front and rear walls continuous with those of the brick section. A quite recent shed-roofed, one-storey wing extends from the rear, east wall of the brick section, entirely covering it.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-284

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates before 1819 **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.

Whether or not it survived the burning of Georgetown by the British in 1813 during the War of 1812, the Little Brick House is one of the oldest buildings of the laid-out colonial town. It is said to have been there by at least 1819. Only the Kitty Knight houses (K-146 and K-147), Duckhollow (K-117), and Valley College (K-148) can be dated to the eighteenth century with certainty. It is also possible that the Little Brick House burned but that the brick shell survived. If later than 1813, it shows one type of small, modest dwelling that was being built in the period and in Georgetown, a difficult time for the town. Although the town did recover to some extent by the end of the nineteenth century, largely due to the enterprises of Andrew Woodall and his family (and the dwellings they built), it never again was the same kind of place it had been earlier. More possibly could be learned about the house if access to the interior could be gained. It apparently has never been used for commercial purposes but always as a dwelling, though various commercial enterprises were conducted nearby, to the south in a Victorian general store (now antique store) and to the north in a building related to shipping on the Sassafras River.

(Continued)

The old brick section measures about 20'-8" wide x 16'-4" deep. The north frame wing is 20'-4" wide and the same depth, and the newest section is 22'-0" wide x 13'-11" deep.

The old brick section has suffered from subsidence or from fill having been placed around it, or perhaps both. Its main floor level now appears to be below ground level. It would not be possible now to open the south gable-end door even if it were not sealed shut, because the lower part is now at or below ground level.

The brick of the south gable end is laid in 1-to-3 bond. The west side bond is Flemish. There appear to be at least some random glazed headers. Most of the brick is very dark red. It first was painted white or whitewashed, then two shades of yellow, the current color. Because of the coating, it is not easy to measure the bricks. The headers appear to be only about 4" despite stretchers that measure about 8-1/2" and a thickness of 2-1/2" to 2-5/8". The wing was originally covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard, recently mostly covered with vinyl siding. Only the south gable still is weatherboarded.

The foundation appears to be of brick, though there may be stone below-ground. There is no water table visible. The two-storey frame wing is built over a crawl space, as the brick section appears to be. The wing foundation appears to be of common red bricks, but piers may have been original and later infill added. There appears to have been some reworking of at least the north end of this foundation.

The brick section now has no chimney. It is within the south gable-end wall of the two-storey wing, at the center, adjacent to the brick section. It is built of dark red brick and appears Victorian with its corbelled cap (out and in).

The steeply pitched roof of the brick section is covered with rusted corrugated steel over multiple layers of wood shingles. The two-storey section's roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The south end of the brick section has flush verge boards with beaded lower edges, but they appear plowed and machine-made. In poor condition, they are partially lapped by a metal roofing edge. It is the same type of beading as on the 9" fascia of the facade's boxed cornice, which overhangs the walls about 9". An old half-round gutter is in place on the west side. The two-storey wing cornice has been covered with aluminum on three sides (all but the south gable). That roof overhangs the walls about 10" and has prominent returns about 24" wide on the non-aluminized south gable only. Here there is a crown molding of a cyma recta without fillets.

The main entry into the house is now in the central bay at the rear of the two-storey wing, with a secondary entry through the sliding glass doors of the recent one-storey section, which is unfinished, into a rear door of the brick section. There are now no first-storey openings in the wing onto the west side facing the road. Presumably there were earlier but they have been

(continued)

covered. A door very likely was located there. The entry in the west bay of the south end does not appear original, and the door is relatively modern, with one large light. There is no arch at the head. Trim is plain.

In the area of the west side's north bay, where conceivably there once could have been an entry, there are evidences of changes in the brickwork, though these could be attributable to subsidence or poor original construction or window replacement. There is no arch or apparent lintel at this window though there is a row of headers laid flat over this and the other front window. The brickwork below the window does not appear to have been disturbed. There have also been disruptions to the brickwork in the area of the south bay's window, but it was not possible to see much because of ivy.

The brick section has a four-light casement window in the center of the south gable. The west facade windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. The casement window has plain trim. The facade windows also have plain 3" trim. The wood sills have a thin added upper piece. Very possibly these windows are not original. On the facade windows there are panelled shutters that appear quite crude. When open, they reveal recessed panels and when closed flush boards on the back side. They are hung with mortised hinges.

The lot for this building is small. Now waterfront appears to be part of it, and a two-storey store building (K-285) is to the north past a small parking area for the house. Views are of the marina area across the road, the river, and the Cecil County side.

On an early plat of Georgetown (laid out in the 1730s but resurveyed in 1787 because the original plat had been lost and boundaries become obscure), Lot No. 7 is shown as extending from the river on the north and to Front Street on the south, immediately east of King Street (Route 213). On this lot in the 1980s there are three buildings--this house, the Victorian store, and a large Victorian house near Front Street(K-580), which also may be on part of Lot No. 6. Early land records show that very early the long, narrow lot was split and sold repeatedly in smaller parcels, evidently due to commercial use of at least part of it. George Vansant, a farmer, was the first purchaser, of the entire lot, in October, 1733, apparently soon after the Georgetown lots were offered for sale by Gideon Pearce, its "developer." (Book 4/323) By 1738 there evidently was a house on the lot. Through gift deeds George Vansant, Sr. gave part of the lot to his son Benjamin and part to his son-in-law, Thomas Newcomb, "Joyner." For Benjamin, Vansant excepted 46 feet square, but fronting Front Street apparently. That 46 feet square was what Newcomb got, "on . . . which the said Thomas Newcomb hath built a house." By 1761 Samuel Sloss [Floss?] was selling the larger part of the lot to William Rasin for either £250 or £200 current money, possibly indicating the existence of a building or buildings but also suggestive of the commercial value of the waterfront property. A Philip Rasin owned this lot and Lot No. 1, where the Hamilton House (K-582) now is, at the time of the War of 1812 and filed a claim for the loss of a granary. It may have been on this lot, though possibly to the north of any existing house such as the "Little Brick."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Yellow Brick House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER US Route 213, South side of Sassafras River - 1st

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

Georgetown _____ VICINITY OF _____

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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Wm. H. Combs Telephone #: _____

STREET & NUMBER 810 Mt. Moro Rd.

CITY, TOWN Villanova STATE, zip code Pa., 19085

_____ VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent Co. Courthouse

Liber #: _____

Folio #: _____

STREET & NUMBER High Street

CITY, TOWN Chestertown STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust

DATE 1988 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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"/> TRANSPDRTATION
<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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yellow Brick House is of importance to Georgetown because it is the only brick house constructed at the bottom of the hill after the British burned the majority of the area in 1814. It is also of interest as it may be an example of the one cell dwelling, persisting into the 19th Century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached.

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Consultant

October 1979

ORGANIZATION

Georgetown Association

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Richard A. Rosan

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Georgetown, Md. 21930

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1502845204

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Georgetown VICINITY STREET NO. Rt. 213 and the sassafras River (east) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER James D. Quinn PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION brick & frame NO. OF STORIES one & two	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 284
	2. NAME DATE OR PERIOD 18th century STYLE colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER
	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior Exterior good	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD Feb. 24, 1969

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

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At the edge of the Sassafras River in Georgetown is a small yellow house, part frame and part brick. The brick portion appears oldest and is two bays long and one story high with "A" roof. The west facade is laid in ~~the~~ Flemish bond. The frame portion is two bays long with a false center ^{covered porch,} ~~portico~~ and is two stories tall with "A" roof. Both sections are apparently only one roof deep.

Because of its proximity to the water, this house was probably burned during the War of 1812, and later rebuilt, possibly using the original brick walls of the smaller section.



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Little Brick House

Rt. 213 Georgetown

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/30/85

View to northeast

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K-284

Little Brick House

Rt. 213 Georgetown

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/30/85

View to northwest

K284-9



Yellow brick house
Georgetown
(Little brick houses)

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West facade

M. Bourne - March 1979