Capsule Summary
SM-888
Cusic House
Leonardtown
Private

circa 1900

Telescoping plan houses represent one of the well known house types located in the Chesapeake region. Consisting of a series of cascading additions, these types of dwellings were necessitated when planters began integrating kitchens into the domestic organization of their houses. In order to segregate the noxious fumes and potential for fires, planters often isolated the kitchen from the rest of the house. Eventually, many connected the two together by building an intermediate wing. While that exact situation did not necessarily occur at the Cusic House, the telescoping plan of the dwelling merely reveals a series of additions made to the house over time. The one-and-a-half story building appears to have been built in three stages that occurred in rapid succession. The one-and-a-half story main block was built first around 1900 with the remaining additions following soon after. This dwelling deserves further research and investigation.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-888

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	
other	Cusic House

2. Location

street and number	22530 Bull Road	__	not for publication
city, town	Leonardtown	x	vicinity
county	St. Mary's		

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

name	Lloyd and Mary Cusic				
street and number	22530 Bull Road			telephone	N/a
city, town	Leonardtown	state	Md	zip code	20650

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-40, P-10		
city, town	Leonardtown	liber	133	folio	296

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
_x_building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
_x_private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_x_domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-888

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
x__ fair ___ altered

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

The Cusic House is located on the northeast side of Bull Road just east of its intersection with Newtowne Neck Road in the vicinity of Leonardtown, Maryland. Oriented on a southwest/northeast axis, the house is approached via a short drive that extends to the north of Bull Road. The 8.17 acre parcel includes the house a contributing privy and tobacco barn as well as a non-contributing modern dwelling. Much of the property is flat. The property is bounded to the northwest and southeast by a residential parcels, to the northeast by a wooded tract, and to the southwest by Bull Road.

The Cusic House is a one-and-a-half story, six-bay, telescoping plan house with a gable roof. The exterior of the dwelling is entirely sheathed with German siding while the roof is covered with corrugated metal. Interior end brick chimneys are visible protruding from the roofs of the main block and middle wing.

The primary or southwest elevation of the main block is pierced by a four panel door and a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. The middle wing is also pierced by a six-over-six window and a door. The southeastern most wing exhibits a six-over-six window and a four panel door. An interesting four pane window is visible just under the eave of the main block.

The southeast elevation of the southeast wing is pierced by a six-over-six window. A rear shed addition to the wing is visible lying just to the northeast. It is pierced by a door and window.

The rear or northeast elevation of the main block is pierced by a six-over-six window and another window lying just under the eave. The middle wing is pierced by two six-over-six windows.

The northwest elevation was not observed.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-888

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
1800-1899	x architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/govemment
x 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__ ethnic heritage	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Telescoping plan houses represent one of the well known house types located in the Chesapeake region. Consisting of a series of cascading additions, these types of dwellings were necessitated when planters began integrating kitchens into the domestic organization of their houses. In order to segregate the noxious fumes and potential for fires, planters often isolated the kitchen from the rest of the house. Eventually, many connected the two together by building an intermediate wing. While that exact situation did not necessarily occur at the Cusic House, the telescoping plan of the dwelling merely reveals a series of additions made to the house over time. The one-and-a-half story building appears to have been built in three stages in rapid succession. The one-and-a-half story main block was completed around 1900 with the other two wings following soon after. This dwelling deserves further research and investigation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-888

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	8.17 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	8.17 acres		
Quadrangle name	Leonardtown	Quadrangle scale:	1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the northwest and southeast by a residential parcels, to the northeast by a wooded tract, and to the southwest by Bull Road. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 133, Folio 296.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

SM-888
Cusic House
Leonardtown
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad

1 MILE
5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

EET
CONTOURS
M OF 1929
ITH SUPPLEMENTARY

State Route

SM-888
Cusic House
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Sept/00
Md SHPO
Looking N
1 of 3

SM-888
Cusic House
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Sept/00
Md SHPO
Looking NE
2 of 3

SM-888
Cusic House
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Sept/00
MdSHPO
Looking S
3 of 3