



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-1147



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### CASE NO. CR 22-06 (DOE 22-01) NOMINATION TO COUNTY REGISTER STAFF REPORT

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#### SUMMARY

**Property:** Dr. James Long House  
8721 Doctor Baxter Road, Frederick

**Applicant:** Khalid and Ruqaiya Asad

Public Hearing for consideration of placing the property located at 8721 Doctor Baxter Road, Dr. James Long House, on the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Kalid and Ruqaiya Asad, property owners of record.

The public hearing for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 7:00 p.m., or thereafter, on August 3, 2022.



**Figure 1: Subject Property outlined in yellow.**

## **DESIGNATION STATUS**

The property is located within the Frederick-Baltimore Transportation Corridor on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties under inventory number F-3-224. The Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission determined the property eligible for listing to the County Register at their February 2, 2022 meeting (DOE # 22-01). The property contains the historic house, a garage, stone walls, steps, and a fountain. The nominated property encompasses seven-and-one-quarter acres of land.

## **SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

A completed County Register nomination form, maps, a statement of significance, and photographs were submitted. Staff assisted with writing the the architectural description of the property.

## **SITE VISITS**

Site visit dates were scheduled prior to the February 2<sup>nd</sup> determination of eligibility (DOE) hearing. These visits were scheduled on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> between 10 and 1 p.m. No exterior changes have occurred at the subject property since the DOE hearing. Commissioners who were not able to attend any of these dates are urged to familiarize themselves with the exterior on their own time from the public right-of-way.

## **REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1) Analysis**

The architectural and historical significance of the Dr. James Long House is documented in the supporting materials. The property is associated with transportation and Civil War history in the County. Additionally, the property is architecturally significant for its representation of a building's evolution during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and for its documented landscaped gardens. Based on the information provided, Staff finds the property would be eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A), 6B(1B), 6B(1D), 6B(2A), and 6B(2B).

### **2) History Summary**

The Dr. James Long House was built circa 1830 and altered in 1928. The property is located east of the City of Frederick with the Monocacy River adjoining the property to the west. The property slopes westerly towards the river.

The property was originally the home of Frederick Keller and his wife Catherine. When Frederick died in 1832 he left the house to his wife. Land record searches have only been able to trace the property back to 1836. Catherine is recorded in the 1833 records as holding a tavern license, verifying the property operated as a tavern. In 1836, Jonathan Eader acting as trustee for the estate of Catherine sold the property to Samuel Canby. At that time the property consisted of 59 acres. Cornelius Shriner began acquiring the property in 1841 and the remainder in 1852. The statement of significance indicates that Shriner never lived at the property but leased it during his ownership. Following his death, the property was sold to Frederick Bremerman in 1855. In 1860, Bremerman sold the property to Richard and Anne Waters. It was during their ownership that Union troops camped on and near their property and that Lieutenant Robert G. Shaw may have resided in the house in the winter of 1861 to 1862. The economic toll may have impacted the Waters as they sold the property three years later in 1863. Mary Deck owned the property from 1863 to 1865. It was during her ownership that the Battle of Jug Bridge in July of 1864 occurred, a smaller battle that occurred during the Battle of Monocacy. Again the toll of the Civil War likely had an effect on Mary Deck as the property was sold in 1865 to Peter Brunner. The Brunners retained the property until 1901.

During the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the property was sold again and then in 1920, Dr. James Long purchased the property. During his occupation, significant alterations were made to the residence and the landscape. Dr. Murray Baxter acquired the current seven and one quarter acres of property in 1945 and retained the property until 1977. It was then sold to Kenneth Grimes before it was sold to the current property owners in 2000. The period of significance for this property is from circa 1830 to 1928.

### **3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria**

The property is eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1A), 6B(1B), and 6B(1D), as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- 6B(1A): *The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.*
- 6B(1B): *The property is the site of an historic event.*
- 6B(1D): *Exemplifies cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of county and its communities.*

The property has significant character, interest, and value in the development and heritage of the County, is significant for its association with the Civil War, and exemplifies the economic, social, and historic heritage of the County. The Dr. James Long house originally operated as a tavern along the National Road. The National Road was an important transportation route between the western settlements and the ports of Baltimore. Taverns, blacksmith shops, wheelwrights, and other support services were located along the road to assist travelers. The

location of the National Road through Frederick County helped to spur further development in the County and supported the economies that existed. The location of the Dr. James Long house just east of the Jug Bridge was most likely a memorable landmark to travelers who could easily inform others of its location next to the bridge. It seems as though the property serviced travelers long after the tavern ceased operation. The property is noted on the 1873 Titus Atlas as containing a blacksmith shop and a store. The store is also notated in the 1858 Isaac Bond map.

Additionally, the property played a part during the Civil War. Portions of the original 56 acres were utilized in the winter of 1861 to 1862 as a Union camp to guard the Jug Bridge. Lieutenant Richard G. Shaw has letters describing staying in a house near the bridge and mentions Mrs. Waters in them. Waters owned the property during this time. The Jug Bridge was important to protect as it allowed for the movement of troops and was important to the Union Army to protect. This would come into practice during the July 1864 Battle of Monocacy. About 760 men from three Ohio units were sent to guard the bridge during the battle; however, 3,000 Confederate troops under Major General Robert Rodes were sent to take the bridge and weaken Wallace's right flank. Several attacks were launched on the western bank of the river. As the Confederates pushed easterly towards the bridge, the Union troops retreated across the bridge and possibly continued skirmishing from across the river as evidenced by Civil War artifacts discovered on the nominated property. Eventually the Confederate forces captured the bridge and the Ohio unit retreated.

The Dr. James Long property is a good representation of the economic, political, and social heritage of the County during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its location along one of the County's earliest east-west routes and the contributions the tavern and other support services provided were important to the County's economy and social heritage. Additionally, the Civil War events associated on and near the property make it an important piece of the County and Nation's history.

#### **4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria**

The property is also eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) and 6B(2B) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- 6B(2A): *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*
- 6B(2B): *The property represents work of master craftsman, architect, or builder.*

The Dr. James Long house was originally constructed as a four-bay wide, two-story stone dwelling with a rear ell and full basement. In 1928, extensive alterations were made to the building and the landscape. A two-story, two-bay wide addition was added to the east, two sleeping porch areas were added to the upper floor on the façade and the western elevation, and a one story addition to the ell was added on the west. Additionally, a garage was built and the yard was

formally designed by landscape architect Stuart Haller. Many of the character-defining features from the original structure are still present and include the exterior stone walls, symmetrical façade, six-over-six wood windows and front entry doors, the carriage house doors, the end chimneys, the two-story height, and rear ell configuration.

The 1928 alterations have achieved significance in their own right. These alterations represent the economic standing of Dr. Long as well as the architectural preferences of the time. In addition, the house alterations were designed by local architect Charles Bowers. Character-defining features from this time period include the porch, the two sleeping porches, the cross gable on the façade, the six-over-six wood windows, the 12-by-12 sliding windows in the enclosed basement, and the 9-by-9 sliding wood windows with transoms above. Character-defining landscape features include all the stone walls and steps and the pond feature.

In addition to the property's characteristics of a type and period of construction, the property also is a good representation of the work of Stuart Haller. Stuart was a prominent landscape architect in the County in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He designed projects throughout the State as well and is reported to have completed at least 1,000 projects. To date, projects at Hood College, Sunnymeade (his residence), and Guilford have been documented in the County. Guilford's designed landscape has been destroyed with the addition of offices and much of Sunnymeade's landscaping has also been compromised by recent development activities. The terracing, fieldstone walls and steps, and fountain at the Dr. James Long house are one of the last remaining residential projects of Haller's that is still relatively intact. While the plantings are no longer present, the physical objects consisting of the walls, steps, and fountain still exist. Architect Bowers does not qualify to meet criteria 6B(2B) as several examples of his work still exist in the County and nothing has been shown that the design at the Dr. James Long house differs or excels beyond his other work.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Dr. James Long house to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A), 6B(1B), 6B(1D), 6B(2A), and 6B(2B) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.