

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 3 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 27 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON
** Armstrong's Lott; Liberty Hall
LIBERTY HALL (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER one-half mile east of Clyde Ford Road on
west branch of Annessex Creek, one-half
mile south of Maryland Route 361
CITY, TOWN Westover VICINITY OF First
STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Somerset CODE 039

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. and Mrs. Theodore Dorman Telephone No. (301) 651-0532
STREET & NUMBER Liberty Hall
CITY, TOWN Westover VICINITY OF Maryland STATE 21871

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Somerset County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Princess Anne STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Liberty Hall is located in the vicinity of Manokin in Somerset County, Maryland. Basically similar in form to Linden Hill and Tudor Hall also in Somerset County, it is a fine example of mid-eighteenth century architectural style.

The main block of the house is clapboard with a shingle roof, three bays wide and two bays deep. Two and one-half storeys, it sits on a high brick foundation with horizontally barred windows. The double door in the center bay is three-paneled on the exterior with diagonal battens on the interior. There is no transom. This door is graced by a fine broken, scrolled pediment. The design of the stoop is of the period. First story windows are 12/12 and second story windows are 9/6. Enclosed gable end chimneys are found on either side of the main block. The Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 accurately describes the present structure:

Particular list, Dwelling Houses: (this includes houses worth more than \$100 plus about one acre of land). 1 Dwelling House built of wood 34 feet by 28 d° Two storey high 7 windows 5 1/2 feet by 3 d° 10 windows 4 1/2 feet by 2 feet 3 Inches 4 Garret windows 3 feet 8 I [nches] by 2 feet 3 I [nches] 1 Kitchen 18 feet by 16 ditto 1 Milk house 8 feet square 1 Smoake House 12 feet sqr 2 Negro Houses 18 feet by 16 d°. Value \$650.00

The old frame kitchen at the other end of the three-part plan was destroyed circa 1935 and reconstructed by Mr. Theodore Dorman along the original lines in 1975. A hyphen connecting the main block to this kitchen was enclosed in about 1830. Its architectural elements are distinctly Greek Revival as opposed to the Georgian influence in evidence throughout the rest of the house.

Most of the interior of the main block has remained completely intact. There are three rooms and a stairhall downstairs and three chambers plus a bath on the second floor. The house has a basic center hall plan minus the hall west wall with the main entrance into the great room. The stair hall is behind the great room and can be entered from the central rear door. The dining room enters off the stair hall. The withdrawing room is entered from the dining room only.

Parts of the interior of the house are finely paneled. There are four corner fireplaces: one with a simple board molding and shelf mantel in the withdrawing room; one with an elaborate Georgian console mantel in the dining room; and two with Federal mantels with pilasters and classic friezes, one each in the great room and upstairs bed chamber. All the rooms are paneled with dado and have cornices. The stair hall has magnificent raised paneling.

(see continuation sheet #1)

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Liberty Hall
Somerset County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION, continued

All of the door and window frames have dog-ear moldings. The great room and dining room have double dog-ear moldings. The stair hall and the withdrawing room have simple wooden ceiling cornices while the great room and dining room have more elaborate dentil cornices.

Original pine floors exist throughout the house. An interesting feature of Liberty Hall is that it has been painted only three times since its construction: once by Foster Mathews (white); once by John Christophel (brown and grey), circa 1954; and once by Theodore Dorman (multi-color), 1961.

During recent work on the fireplace opening in the great room, it was discovered that at one time it was larger than at present. Cooking utensils and remains of interior bake ovens were found. This gives rise to speculation that the great room existed before "Liberty Hall" was constructed. At the present time, there is no historical documentation to verify this hypothesis, interesting though it may be.

Liberty Hall stands today as a good example of some of the best architectural elements of the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 between 1783 and 1798 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE and addition circa 1830

Liberty Hall is significant in the architectural history of Somerset County for several reasons. A building of typical style and proportions for the period 1783-1798 in Somerset, it is, however, constructed of frame rather than the brick more usually found in a structure of this sort. The house retains, in good condition, nearly all of its 18th century architectural features. Each of the downstairs rooms retains full woodwork, including cornice, chair rail, baseboard, paneling, and door and window moldings. A hyphen in the Greek Revival style, built to connect the old kitchen to the main house circa 1830, remains also as an example of well-executed interior work of that style.

Liberty Hall stands on a tract of land patented for Matthew Armstrong in 1663 as "Scipers Plantation." These 600 acres consisted of two parts, "Armstrong's Lott" and "Armstrong's Purchase," 300 and 200 acres respectively. A separate patent was issued for the former in 1666. Two deeds from Cecilius Calvert, first to Matthew Armstrong and Stephen Bond (1667) and then to Armstrong with altered boundaries (1670), were also issued for "Scipers Plantation."¹

In 1672 half of this land was sold to Daniel Curtis of Somerset County, the tenant farmer on the tract, by Hannah Armstrong "of Boston in New England widdow (the relict and sole executrix of Mathew Armstrong late of Boston in New England marriner deceased)." For 4,000 pounds of tobacco Mrs. Armstrong sold Curtis 250 acres, the upper part of Armstrong's Lott and Purchase on which a house stood, plus half of the cattle, hogs and other possessions owned jointly by Armstrong and Stephen Bond. The deed also states that it is "to be understood that after Daniell Curtis hath his halfe of the whole that was out upon the Land when A Tennant by Lease and divided after the expatriation of the lease he the said Daniell Curtis is to enjoy first the half of the whole and then to have the half of the other half left."²

Curtis died in 1681, leaving this property to his son James, who upon his death in 1721 left it to his son Charles. Also in his will, James provided for the care of his son and one of his daughters until they reached the ages of eighteen and sixteen respectively: "... and it is my Will & desire y^r my Exc^{tr} shall have all y^e proffett & benifitt of my son Charles & my Daughter Rachels Estate till they come to the age afores^d provided he educate & bring them up & give my son Charles four years schooling & cover y^e south side of my dwelling house wth

see continuation sheet #2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Probate Records of Somerset County, Maryland, in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Tax Assessment of 1783 and Federal Direct Tax of 1798 for Great Annemessex Hundred, Somerset County, Maryland; Hall of Records.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E	1.8	43590.0	42164.50	A	1.8	43620.0	42163.60
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B	1.8	43622.0	42160.00	C	1.8	43612.0	42159.00
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

D & 18 / 435650 / 4216120

Beginning at the right angle bend in the driveway to Liberty Hall, 1.3 miles south of Maryland Route 361, then from a line northeast 1400 feet to a point, then east, crossing the Annemessex Creek 1000 feet to a point, then south 1200 feet to a point, then southwest 500 feet to a point on said creek, then northwest 1600 feet to the point of the beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE Jack Finglass, Architectural and Grants Administrator/
Pamela James, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE January 1976

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, Maryland STATE 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Nancy Anne Hill
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE Dec 2, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting *Cam [Signature]* DATE 12/29/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]* DATE 12.26.76
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Somerset County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

cypress & cover my kitchen & milk house if need require so that my
sd son Charles may enjoy & possess his Estate"3

Charles Curtis died in 1741, bequeathing "the Plantation or Land I
now live on called Armstrong's Lott" of 250 acres to his son James.
The tract was resurveyed in 1767 for 311 acres. On the Tax Assess-
ment of 1783 James Curtis was taxed for this Resurvey and 147 other
acres. The improvements on Armstrong's Lott were as follows:

brick wall dwelling house out of repair.
Kitchen Barn milk house midling good other
houses sorry a small young apple & peach
orchard. other improvements midling

Curtis possessed seven slaves, four horses and twenty black cattle.
There were five white inhabitants on his property, two male and
three female.⁴

James Curtis died in 1791, apparently without any surviving children.
He made the usual provisions for his "dear and well beloved wife,"
that if she did not remarry all of the estate, real and personal,
was to be hers to dispose of in a will. But if she married again
or died intestate, the personal estate was to go to two relatives
and the real estate to his nephew, William Curtis, or nephew John
Curtis if William had no heirs.⁵

William is listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax as possessor of
Armstrong's Lott. On the Particular List of Lands for Great
Annessex Hundred, which includes assessment on land and houses
worth less than \$100, the improvements were as follows:

1 old Dwelling House 40 feet by 20 feet
2 old Negro Houses 18' X 16' 1 Lumber House
12' square 1 Barn 32' X 29' 1 Barn 24' X
20' 1 Corn House 22' X 8'

On the Particular List of Dwelling Houses, which includes houses
worth over \$100, the improvements were:

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

1 Dwelling House built of wood 34 feet by 28 feet Two storey high 7 windows 5 1/2 feet by 3 ft. 10 windows 4 1/2' by 2' 3" 4 Garret windows 3' 8" by 2' 3" 1 Kitchen 18' by 16' 1 Milk house 8' square 1 Smoake House 12' square 2 Negro Houses 18' by 16'

When the information from the 1783 and 1798 assessments is compared, it is evident that the present structure called Liberty Hall was built between the years of the two evaluations. There is an old dwelling house on the 1783 assessment that appears again on the 1798 assessment in addition to Liberty Hall, thus indicating that the original house on the tract was not incorporated in the present structure as has sometimes been thought.

¹Patents 6/224 and 10/551, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

²Deed JJ/381, Hall of Records.

³Will EB 9/72, Hall of Records.

⁴Will EB 9/224; Patented Certificate #215 (Somerset County); Lands and Property, Tax Assessment of 1783, Great Annessex Hundred, Somerset County; Hall of Records.

⁵Will EB 17/164, Hall of Records.

⁶Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Great Annessex Hundred, Somerset County; Hall of Records.

75°45'
38°07'30"

435000m E.

436

437

KINGSTON QUAD SOMERSET CO

4219000m N.

(361)

Westover

BM

(361)

14

UPPER FAIRMOUNT 2.3 MI.

PENNSYLVANIA

15

DEC 3 1976

4217

Liberty
Hall

4216

Big

53

Annemessex

63

5'

4215

Kingston

BM

8

St Marks
Ch

4214

10

