

PH0026247

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	St. Mary's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ocean Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
855 Md. 239
Southeast side of Bushwood Road at Bushwood (Wharf)

CITY OR TOWN:
Bushwood *vic.*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: St. Mary's CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

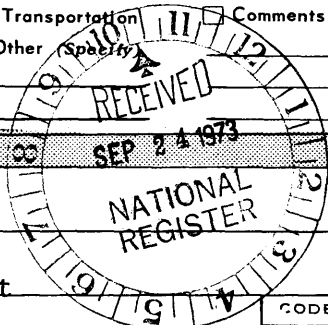
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
John Franklin Blakistone and John R. Blakistone

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o John R. Blakistone - 2640 North Richmond Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Arlington

STATE: Virginia CODE: 2207 45



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Leonardtown

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Tidewater, Maryland,
Maryland Historical Trust - St. Mary's City Architectural Survey of/

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Present; St. Mary's City Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Mary's City

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: St. Mary's

ENTRY NUMBER: 901

DATE: OCT 25 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ocean Hall is situated on the southeast side of Bushwood Road at Bushwood (Wharf), 1 3/4 miles southwest from the intersection of Md. routes 239 and Bushwood Road.

Although the original house is believed to have been built circa 1670, successive alterations were made to the initial structure in the early eighteenth, late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The extent of these alterations have made a definitive interpretation of the building difficult at the present time.

Of the original house only the brick, Flemish bond exterior walls remain. It is almost impossible to identify precisely the locations and dimensions of the original window openings. The only opening that appears undisturbed is the centered doorway of the north facade elevation. A similar doorway exists in more or less the same position on the south, river, facade. However, this door has been repositioned slightly to the right of the original opening, an alteration that may have been made circa 1725, at the time of the extensive interior alterations. The windows of the north and south elevations, enlarged and apparently repositioned about 1725, are larger than average for window openings of this period; the present 12/12 sashes are a nineteenth century replacement of the originals. The extent of the alterations to the two principal facades, in addition to a thin stucco and several layers of paint, makes the use of such evidence to interpret change extremely difficult.

The two windows of the west end elevation, also of 12/12 sash are neither original nor from the circa 1725 alterations; the front and rear facades, as well as the west end, are covered by deep veranda, added about 1900. The elongated decorative drops of the west end barge boards date from this addition. The roof is of an "A" frame plan with the ridge terminating with single, flush gable, interior chimneys at each end. Both chimneys retain plaster necking bands, a decorative feature seen in Tidewater Maryland architecture throughout the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The three peaked roof dormers on both the front and rear slopes of the roof are all late nineteenth century additions; there is no evidence of any earlier dormer windows.

About 1910, a one story, two part frame wing was added to the east end of the house. The one story, one room addition on the southeast corner of the south facade is even more recent.

In plan, the first floor of Ocean Hall consists of a central hall flanked by a single room on each side. It is believed that when the interior was rebuilt (or extensively altered) about 1725, the floor plan configuration was a hall and parlor, a two room plan typical of this region throughout the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The existing west room retains its original dimensions as well as most of its interior finishings. The present center hall was formed by erecting a second partition wall about ten feet east of the first with a stair along the original partition

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the extent of the alterations to the original Ocean Hall have made the structural interpretation of the building difficult, they have not destroyed the basic architectural significance found in a possibly unique American example of cruck roof framing and the well-preserved features of the ground floor room. Continued study is planned to establish more firmly the initial appearance of the building, as well as to define the extent, type, and significance of all alterations.

As of this date studies of the land history of this property indicate that the original Ocean Hall (constituting the outer brick walls of the existing house) was built circa 1670 by or at the direction of Robert Slye, the politically active and wealthy owner of Bushwood Manor.*

The Archives of Maryland record a meeting on March 3, 1660 of the Privy Council at Bushwood (then Wicomico) for the purpose of establishing a mint. It is known that a mint was built on a site near here but its period of operation was brief and by 1708 the building had disappeared.

During the same month that the Council met another, more infamous meeting was held at Bushwood (Wicomico) during the course of which Josias Fendall, an early political activist anxious to overthrow the Calvert's control of the proprietary government, issued a proclamation declaring the independence of Maryland and his deviously acquired position as governor of the new republic. Both were short lived, however, for by the close of the year control of the Maryland colony was restored to the Calvert family with the accession of Charles II to the English throne.



* Initially a part of Dr. Thomas Garrard's, ca 1630 - ca 1650, 16,000 acre St. Clement's Manor

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pogue, E. T., Old Maryland Landmarks, 1972, private, Bushwood, Maryland.
 Klaphthor, M. G. and Brown, P. D., History of Charles County Maryland, 1958, Tercenterary publication, La Plata, Maryland.
 St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, architectural and historical data including photographs and drawings, 1971 - 1873. St. Mary's City, Maryland.

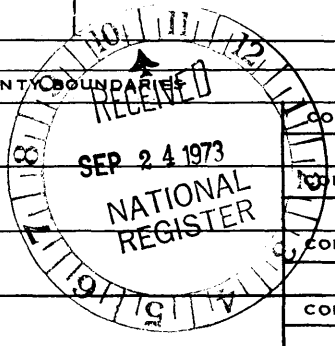
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 17' 01"	76° 48' 10"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **J. Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyor** mh
Christopher Owens, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **and Planning Commission**
Maryland Historical Trust - Maryland National Capitol Park/

DATE: **May 29, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2525 Riva Road - 5107 Muncaster Mill Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**
Rockville

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Preservation Officer
for Maryland

Date May 29, 1973

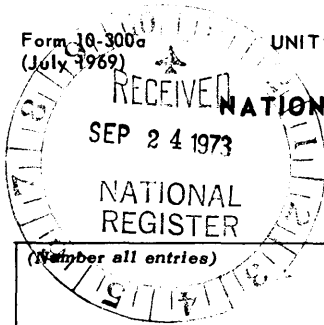
NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ann A Connally
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
 Associate Director, Professional Services **OCT 20 1973**
 Date _____

ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register
 Date 10-19-73

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
001	SEP 1973



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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

Ocean Hall

No. 7. Description Continued.

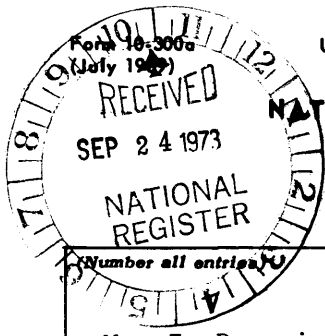
wall about ten feet east of the first with a stair along the original partition wall. Both of the latter alterations probably occurred about 1825 since all interior moldings and the general design of the stair are of that period. Unusual but not unique features retained in the east room are wine cabinets and linen drawers beneath the north windows. The stair is interesting because the second flight is positioned away from the east partition wall, between that wall and the first flight and is, in fact, free standing. In the attic are two large bedchambers as well as a small storage room off the short hall at the head of the stair. In the attic, the interior finishings, including plaster and lath, doors, mantles, sash and other woodwork, indicated a late 19th century renovation. These rooms had been finished at an earlier date as eave wall studs were found positioned behind the existing studs, the former bearing traces of lath or sheathing nails. It may be concluded from the repositioning of the wall studs at the south side that the rooms were slightly altered in width in order to provide them with storage areas within the eaves along the south walls.

Of all the rooms in the house only the first floor west room retains any of its original work and this, for the exception of the existing mantle, is complete. The walls are sheathed with fielded panels set between stiles bearing quarter round moldings to frame the panels. Above the moulded chair-rail the panels are rectangular in shape and regularly spaced. Narrow fielded panels are set horizontally over the window openings as well as over and around the overmantle panel and the fireplace opening. * The upper edge of the baseboard is heavily molded and there is a deep, six part, ceiling cornice. The mantle, of the Federal period, is a later installation, probably replacing a bolection type of enframing used there originally. The mantle is of an excellent design, however, with a deeply carved bed molding beneath the shelf and reeded panels on the frieze and reeded pilasters. On the end blocks of the frieze above the pilasters are carved, oval sunbursts. The present fireplace opening, corresponding to the size of the mantle, is somewhat smaller than the original opening. That earlier aperture had a segmental arch, rounded interior side walls, and an inset smoke channel. Above the fireplace is an over-mantle painting probably executed by an indentured servant or itinerant artist. It depicts a waterscape, the subject of which may have been the old Wicomico Wharf nearby (now the Bushwood Wharf). The painting depicts several individuals, a dog and a farm cart in the foreground, as well as a river, a wharf, and what appears to be an English, cargo ship. Judging by the costumes of the figures and other details this painting was probably done between 1720 - 1740.

It is not yet known whether an earlier interior of Ocean Hall was completed at the time of the exterior walls were finished. The possibility exists that the house was never completed and stood as a vacant shell until re-

(see continuation sheet #2)

*except over the two west windows which were installed at a later date



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
001 25	1973

Ocean Hall

No. 7. Description continued.

newed efforts toward its completion as an inhabitable dwelling were made some years later. Another possibility is that the interior of the first house had to be replaced. It is known that Robert Syle, builder of what is believed to be this house, returned to England for an extended visit shortly after a 1670 mention of "his new house." Nevertheless, it is certain that the interior framing is not contemporary to the exterior walls. This is particularly evidenced in the obvious change in the roof pitch over what was originally intended when the outer walls were built. This change is easily discernable in the brick work of both gables of the house. It is also fairly certain that the roof framing is contemporary to the paneling of the first floor west room since the joining of the framing members and other structural details show a firm relationship between the two.

The framing system of the roof of Ocean Hall is more generally defined as a crucked roof, one that employs massive curved upright timbers to support a ridge pole which, in turn, supports the remaining roof framing members.

Although the roof framing system employed in constructing the roof of Ocean Hall derives from the medieval architecture of western and southwestern England, the roof was built in the early eighteenth century, by which time such difficult methods of construction had generally been superseded by simpler framing systems. It has been theorized that such systems were used by seventeenth-century builders in the mid-Atlantic colonies although no known examples from that century survive. It cannot be proven that the system as used at Ocean Hall represents a development of cruck framing within the colonies or whether it represents a unique import by an immigrant builder. In either case, the building would be significant; if a development of an existing and known medieval framing method, it shows that such methods persisted into the eighteenth century; if an import, it shows the diversity of ideas being introduced into the colonies.

Only two pairs of cruck blades, hewn from an oak tree, are used. They are positioned near the center of the house and are spaced approximately ten feet apart. The bases of the crucks are mortised and tenoned into the upper surface of tie beams that are supported at the ends by channels on the north and south walls just below the wall plates. The top of the tie beams are level with the top of the first floor ceiling joists but their bottom face extends several inches below the base line of the joists. (The tie beams are now enclosed within the existing partition walls of the first floor.) The base of the cruck blades are positioned less than one foot inside the interior face of the brick walls and begin their most pronounced curve toward the center line of the house about one and one half feet above their springing. After narrowing in width as they rise, they are lapped and secured with wood pins where they intersect at the roof ridge; a large ridge pole is supported in the resultant notch. The ends of the ridge poles are

(see continuation sheet #3)

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

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 001	DATE OCT 3 1973

(Number all entries)

Ocean Hall

No. 7. Description continued.

inserted into supportive niches provided for this purpose on the chimney stacks of the end walls. Halfway up the outside face of each cruck blade is a shaped cradle secured in position with wood pins; the cradle supports a purlin, the ends of which are supported by the brick end walls. The roof collars, normally rafter supporting members, are lapped and pinned into the underside of the purlin. It is not known how the rafter ends were joined to the wall plates since they were cut off above the mortise, lap, or butt marks at a later date. The wall plate along the south wall, at present the only accessible place at the eaves level, has also been disturbed and, in parts, replaced.



ROCK POINT QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1943

Ocean Hall
lat. 38° 17' 01" N
long. 76° 48' 10" W

BUSHWOOD
COVE

Off Pt
Prec

(ORD)

47 30'

COLTON 2 MI

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D.C.
346000m.E. MR 1284

24 000

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

