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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 20 1978  
DATE ENTERED MAR 2 1979

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 Cedar Grove

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION S of La Plata off MD 6

STREET & NUMBER 500 yards west of Blossom Point Road, about 1/2 mile south of its intersection with Md. Rt. 6.

CITY, TOWN La Plata VICINITY OF Hill Top CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Charles CODE 017

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS                                       | PRESENT USE                            |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS    | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED   | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:        |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Boss Associates, Inc., c/o Charles R. Ourand

STREET & NUMBER

new owner - John Moscato Star Rt. 1 Box 1269-B Welcome, Md. 20693 12-14-78

CITY, TOWN Bryantown VICINITY OF STATE Maryland 20617

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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

Cedar Grove is located on the west side of Blossom Point Road, approximately one-half mile southwest of the intersection of Blossom Point Road and Maryland Route 6, and about four miles west of La Plata, Charles County, Maryland. The house faces south and is surrounded by large shade trees. Open fields lie to the east, northeast and south-east of the house; the remaining area is largely wooded, although there are several small meadows to the west and southwest.

Built in the late Federal style, Cedar Grove is a three-part house consisting of a 2½-story main block with a two-part east wing. All three parts of the house were built at the same time and are of common bond brick construction with headers every sixth course.

The principal facade of the main block is three bays wide. The entrance door, framed by over and sidelights, occupies the first bay from the west end. The remaining two first floor bays and the three second floor bays frame windows of six-over-six sash. On the north, rear side the fenestration repeats that of the front except that the first second floor window from the west end is positioned about 18" below that of the other two in order to align it with an interior stair landing. The rear door has been replaced with one having four panes in its upper half. The lower sash of the first floor windows have been replaced with two-pane sash. On the west end there is a single window centered at each floor level including the attic. The second floor, however, has two windows, the other located between the center window and the southwest corner. In the partially exposed east end there are two windows in the gable and a single, off-centered door at the first floor level. The gable roof runs east to west with two flush gable chimneys at the east end. On the front roof slope are three pedimented dormer windows with six-over-six sash. Centered on the north slope is a single pedimented dormer. The eave cornice is of corbeled brick with one course laid in a sawtooth pattern. The roof and dormers are presently sheathed with composition shingles, replacing the original wood shingles.

The two-part east wing begins with a 1½-story section at the west end, two bays wide on both side elevations. Above the first floor openings are small eyebrow windows. The remaining area is of one-story height, three bays wide on both sides. Both parts of the wing have shed roofs sloped to the south with tin over earlier wood shingles. On the north side the brick walls are capped with a soldier course; on the south side both walls rise to a sawtoothed, corbeled cornice. Centered on the east wall of the wing is a narrow, flush stove chimney. All openings are headed by splayed flat arches.

Alterations to the exterior, besides the resheathing of the roof of the main block and wing, include replacing the splayed arches and wood sills of the windows of the main block (except three windows on the west end and the two windows and door on the east end) with masonry lintels and sills; the removal of the louvered exterior shutters (the ties and hinges, however, remain and most of the shutters are stored in a nearby barn); the construction of a large brick stoop fronting the south entrance door and an unattractive concrete porch across the south side and east end of the wing.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

circa 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Francis B. F. Burgess

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A plain yet attractive Federal-style brick house, Cedar Grove, has both architectural and historical significance in its local context.

Built circa 1854 by Francis Boucher Franklin Burgess, the present Cedar Grove replaced an earlier two-story frame dwelling of similar plan that stood on or near the present site. A watercolor sketch of the earlier Cedar Grove (the name predates 1853), believed to have been built by Henry Dent (d. 1815) and destroyed by fire circa 1852, appears on a surveyor's plat of the property executed in about 1844.

The history of Cedar Grove is complicated by the absence of several key transfers and a lack of accurate or sufficiently detailed survey descriptions. Nevertheless, a portion of the property, including the house site, has been successfully documented back to 1658 when 300 acres "lying on the east side of the easternmost branch of Nanjemoy Creek" was sold by Captain William Boarman -- a prosperous and politically influential colonial figure, who owned vast acreage throughout southern Maryland -- to Richard True, Boatwright.

In 1676 True sold half of the 300-acre tract to John and Eleanor Lambert who later transferred it to their son-in-law, James Allen. Both the Lamberts and the Allens lived on or proximate to the present Cedar Grove but the precise location of their dwellings remains undetermined. By 1716 all except a few acres of the original contiguous properties. The Manning lands remained intact until 1812. By that year a large portion of it, 449 acres, had been purchased through various separate transactions by Henry Dent. Dent died in 1815, leaving the property and the family dwelling, believed to have been the predecessor of the existing house, to his wife and two sons, Thomas and Henry. Thomas and Henry Dent, when the youngest had attained legal age, sold the property to William D. Briscoe in 1836.

At the time Briscoe acquired the property he was leasing and residing at Linden (NR) near Port Tobacco. By 1840 he had moved to Cedar Grove and maintained a successful farming operation there. (The complete household and farm accounts kept by Briscoe and his heirs during their ownership of Cedar Grove exist in a private manuscript collection in Charles County.) In 1853, following Briscoe's death and the destruction of the house, Briscoe's two daughters, Sarah and Mary, sold the property to a locally prominent attorney and political figure, Francis B.F. Burgess.

Burgess, who was active in the state legislature immediately preceding the Civil War, is believed to have built the present house shortly after his purchase of the property. (A small collection of his farm and household accounts, as well as correspondence between himself, as Legislator, and Walter H. J. Mitchell, a prominent political figure and ardent supporter of the Confederacy, also exist in a local, private

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles County Land and Probate records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |         |       |          |       |
|---|------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| A | 1,8  | 31,9    | 3,610 | 4,26,1   | 1,610 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING |       | NORTHING |       |
| C | 1,8  | 31,9    | 0,00  | 4,26,1   | 0,300 |

|   |      |         |       |          |       |
|---|------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| B | 1,8  | 31,9    | 2,000 | 4,26,0   | 7,000 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING |       | NORTHING |       |
| D |      |         |       |          |       |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Historian

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 132

TELEPHONE

(301) 645-<sup>1144</sup>6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Nancy Miller*

9/14/78

TITLE ACTING STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

*Bill Lebovich*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/2/79

KEEPER ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE 3/1/79

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Cedar Grove  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The floor plan of the main block consists of a side stair hall and adjacent double parlor on the first floor. Both the second floor and attic have a hall, a small room at the head of the hall, and two bedrooms. All of the woodwork is characteristically Federal in design. The first floor windows and doors have molded surrounds with roundells in the upper corners. The two fireplaces have Empire/Victorian-style marble mantels with arched openings. The stair, rising in four flights to the attic, has scrolled steps and turned newels and balusters. Except for a simple medallion on the hall ceiling there is no ornamental plasterwork. On the second floor the woodwork is of a simpler design, and the mantels, also marble, are plain. Flanking the fireplace in the southeast bedroom are two shallow closets with shelved interiors. Alterations to the interior include the installation of heat, electricity, and a bathroom in the small room at the head of the second floor hall.

The east wing contains three ground floor rooms: a kitchen with fireplace at the west end, a small pantry that now houses the furnace and, at the east end, a larger room that was presumably used as a kitchen and/or storage area. A narrow enclosed stair at the east end of the west kitchen provides access to a low-ceiling room that probably once served as sleeping quarters for domestic servants.

All of the interior walls of the wing are plastered and the woodwork is of a basic mid-nineteenth century profile. Later alterations to the interior include the bricking up of the fireplace in the west kitchen and the installation of "modern" kitchen equipment in the same room.

There are several farm related structures proximate to the house, including two large barns, a small cattle barn, and several sheds. The oldest of these, a small frame shed located about seventy-five feet north of the end of the wing, appears to be at least as old as the house.

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Cedar Grove  
Charles County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

collection. Both the Briscoe and Burgess papers are being catalogued as part of a local history project sponsored by the Charles County Community College.) During the Civil War Union troops were bivouacked at Cedar Grove and according to accounts left by Burgess' daughters the property suffered extensive damage.

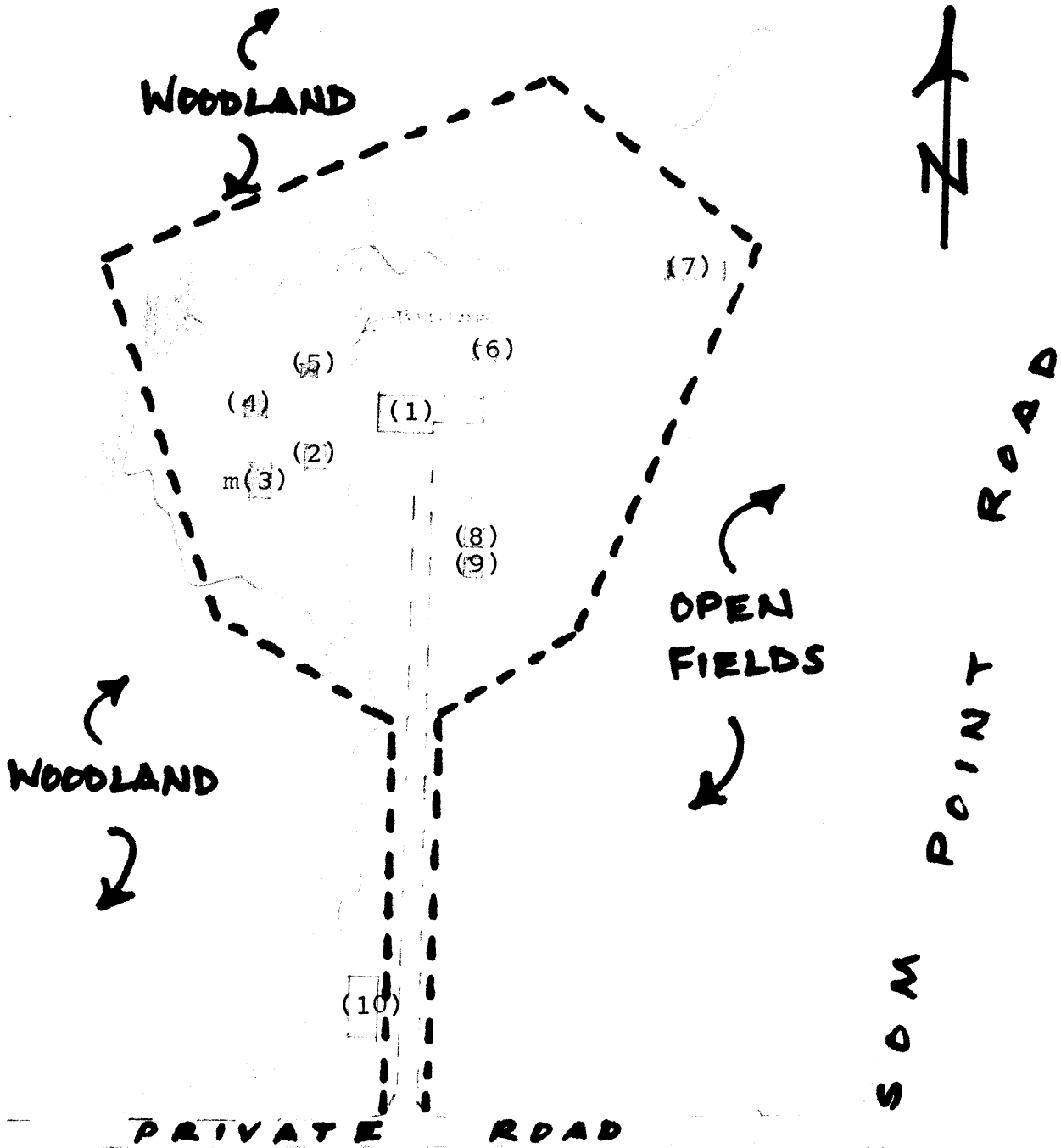
Francis Burgess died in 1865, leaving his real and personal property to be divided between his wife and children. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1868, at which time the half of the property that included the house came into possession of his two daughters, Jane and Martha. In 1939 the two sisters transferred title to the property, subject to a life estate, to Katherine Deegan. In 1944 Deegan assumed full ownership and sold the property, then 285 acres, to John and Cordelia Hindle. It is thought to have been during the Hindle ownership that most of the existing renovations were made. In three ensuing transfers the property steadily diminished in size to its present ten acres.

Basically late-Federal in styling (a house plan regionally popular from about 1800 to 1860), the house built by Francis Burgess is of interest for several reasons. It is one of the very few substantial brick houses built here between 1845 and 1880, a period during which the county experienced extreme economic instability. The house is nearly unique in that the two-part east wing is original to the 2½-story main block. The wing is of further interest for the design of its roof, the only known example of its form in Charles County. Many of the features of the house suggest a similarity to another Charles County house, Green's Inheritance, built by Francis Green in 1851 (NR). It is possible that since Francis Burgess and Francis Green were political associates, they employed the same contractor, G.A. Henisler of Baltimore.

The house today is essentially the same in appearance as when it was built, and it is one of the very few buildings that retain all of their original interiors. As one of a handful of mid-nineteenth century structures and the home of a local political figure, Cedar Grove warrants designation as an architectural and historic landmark of regional importance.

CEDAR GROVE, Charles County, Maryland

PLOT PLAN

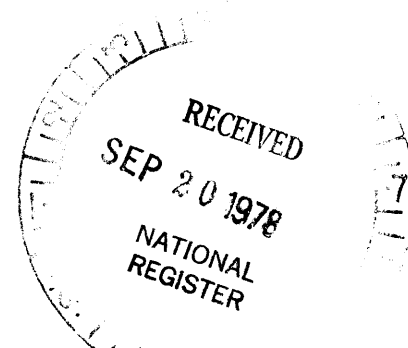


- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Main House  | 7. Wagon Shed     |
| 2. Small Shed  | 8. Small Shed     |
| 3. Animal Barn | 9. Small Shed     |
| 4. Small Shed  | 10. Tobacco Barn  |
| 5. " "         | (not on property) |
| 6. " "         |                   |

PROPERTY LINES: - - - - -

Not To Scale

BLOSSOM POINT ROAD



318

5'

319

5561 II SE (PORT TOBACCO) LA PLATA 5 MI. PORT TOBACCO 2.7 MI

321

2'30"

