

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAY 4 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** River View  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *S P of Oakley on Branch Rd.* Creek  
off Md. Rt. 470 (Oakley Road) at Canoe Neck  NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN Oakley vicinity  VICINITY OF First CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Maryland 24 St. Mary's 037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 Col. Colin F. Burch, Jr., USAF Ret.  
STREET & NUMBER 6807 Hampshire Road  
CITY, TOWN McLean  VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 22101

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Leonardtown Court Square  
CITY, TOWN Leonardtown STATE Maryland 20650

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust/St. Mary's City Comm., HABS of Tidewater/ Maryland  
DATE 1974-1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust  
CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

River View is located off Md. Rt. 470 (Oakley Road) at Canoe Neck Creek, about 4 1/2 miles from Clements, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

It is a one-and-one-half story, Flemish bond brick house that is one of the best preserved examples of its type in Lower Southern Maryland.

The river facade faces south onto Canoe Neck Creek and is five bays in width. The centered entrance frames a paneled door with overlight. Flanking the door, two on each side, are four evenly spaced sash windows. The rear elevation has a similarly located door but only one window to each side. The window heads on both elevations are decorated with double-ogee based arches of rubbed, gauged brick.<sup>1</sup> Only two other examples of the latter detail have been recorded in Southern Maryland. These are at Marshall Hall (Phase I), Charles County, and Holly Hill (Phase III), Anne Arundel County. Both of these similar examples are dateable to circa 1725. A second St. Mary's County house, Mill Point Farm, possessed this same feature but the house was demolished about thirty years ago.

One of the most striking architectural features of River View is the manner in which the ends of the brick gables rise above the roof line to form low, corbeled parapets, a detail that gives the ends of the house a decidedly Jacobean appearance.<sup>2</sup> There are no

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<sup>1</sup>Although the front window heads were completely covered by the porch roof and thus inaccessible it would seem unlikely that they were not fashioned in the same decorative fashion. River View is the only house recorded to date that has both front and rear window heads embellished in this manner. On Marshall Hall and Holly Hill the rear windows have segmentally arched heads.

<sup>2</sup>At the south front of the house the "parapets" had been removed, perhaps when the present porch was built.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

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other known examples of similar parapets on buildings of this date in Southern Maryland. At each end of the roof is a single chimney with corbeled cap. On both the front and rear roof slopes are three pedimented dormers of six over six sash each.<sup>3</sup> The roof is wood shingled.<sup>4</sup>

Across the south facade is a screened, full-length, circa 1930-40 porch. A smaller, pedimented porch is located over the rear entrance. The full cellar beneath the house is lighted by small, flat arched, wood barred windows aligned with the windows of the front and rear facades. The exterior cellar entrance is toward the south corner of the west end and is a smaller flat headed version of a once larger and arched entry.

At the present time, the first floor room configuration consists of a center hall flanked by two rooms on each side. This is, however, an alteration of the original and more regionally characteristic eighteenth century plan of four rooms with a short rear stair hall. Initially the south front entrance opened directly into the larger of the two front rooms. The centered door of the rear elevation opened into the stair hall, as it does today. In about 1800 a partition wall was constructed at the east end of the southwest room which created the existing passage. To date there have been several dozen examples of the earlier plan recorded in the Charles--St. Mary's County region. The most notable of these in Charles County are: Marshall Hall (Phase I, ca. 1725); Greenwood (ca. 1740); Mt. Tirzah (1774); and, with a slight variation, Waverley (Phase I, ca. 1790). Similar examples in St. Mary's County include: St. Richard's Manor (early eighteenth century); The Plains (mid-eighteenth century); Woodlawn (late eighteenth century); and, Bard's Field (early nineteenth century). At River View the fireplaces are catercornered in three of the rooms but in the southwest room the fireplace is centrally positioned on the outside end wall. An example of similar chimney placement in the same room plan is seen at St. Richard's Manor.

<sup>3</sup>The existing dormer windows date from the nineteenth century. As the existing small gable windows are also later it would seem likely that dormer windows similar to those there now were part of the original plan.

<sup>4</sup>The roof framing system employs principal rafters and purlins. The upper sets of common rafters are morticed and tenoned into the tops of the purlins. The rafters, in turn, are braced by two sets of collars. It is the lower set of collars that define the ceiling level of the attic chambers.

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Throughout the house, the moldings, mantels and doors have profiles consistent with those normally associated with the first half of the nineteenth century. It is apparent that at about this time (ca. 1790-1840) the whole of the house was renovated, from the first floor to the attic chambers. There was, however, only one change to the arrangement of the rooms, this being the introduction of the first floor partition wall discussed above.

The only seemingly original woodwork in the house is that found on the stair. The stair rises in an area off the hall in the northeast corner. The paneled wall of the closet beneath rises above the winding treads and the turned balusters of the rail are footed on top of this wall rather than into the ends of the steps. This detail is not unlike the treatment of the main stair of Holly Hill (Phase III, ca. 1725). The stair paneling at River View is unusual in that it is composed of vertical boards with large molding strips applied directly over them in a diagonal position and irregularly spaced.

At the east end of the house stands a formerly detached circa 1800 frame kitchen which was joined to the house by a two part circa 1900 addition. The latter houses a bathroom with walls and ceilings covered in pressed tin, one of the earliest such facilities now recorded in Southern Maryland. On the exposed east end of the kitchen is a brick chimney with stepped weatherings. In close proximity to the east and southeast side of the house stand several circa 1800 dependencies, most of them in poor condition. These include a smokehouse, shed, and log quarter.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

River View was built by the Gardiner family in the early eighteenth century. The house was willed in 1744 to Anne Neale, sister of Wilfred Gardiner. About the time of the American Revolution, River View was purchased by Ignatius Fenwick. Fenwick was a prominent military figure in Maryland's Revolutionary navy. He commanded the "Lydia" at the Battle of Piney Point in the Lower Potomac River in 1776. Later he commanded the privateer "Sally" which raided British shipping during the Revolution.

The next owner of River View was Jeremiah Alvey who purchased the property in 1824. His daughter, Mary Amanda Burch, inherited the home in 1841. River View has remained in the Burch family to this day.

Despite its interesting history of ownership, the principal significance of River View is its architecture. Particularly noteworthy are the raised gables forming low parapets and the double-ogee based window heads of the front and rear elevations. The original floor plan of four rooms and rear stair hall, although characteristic of eighteenth century Southern Maryland house plans is, with Marshall Hall, Charles County, the earliest such plan recorded to date. Unlike many houses of the early eighteenth century River View, at least on the exterior, has remained basically unaltered. Also of significance is the number of early domestic dependencies which comprise the largest single collection of such buildings in St. Mary's County. For these reasons River View is one of the most important sites in Southern Maryland, invaluable to the study of that region's domestic architecture.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey.

Records of the St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland.

The Chronicles of St. Mary's, July 1972, August 1972, September 1973, October 1973.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 85.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	348980	4236390
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	348270	4235670

B	18	348860	4236060
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	18	348420	4236670

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

Historian

St. Mary's County Committee / J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural/

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 1975      sao

Maryland Historical Trust

TELEPHONE

109 Lakeland Drive / 21 State Circle

373-5251 / 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Hollywood / Annapolis

Maryland

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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

*John M. Pearce*

DATE

12/12/75

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting *William M. ...*

DATE

5/4/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

5-4-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER