

PH0005584

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Charles
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 25 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Araby

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SE of Mason's Springs of MD 225  
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of/  
Md. Rte. 425 & 244.

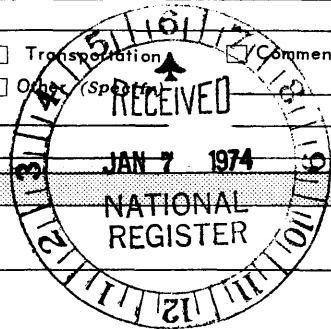
CITY OR TOWN:  
Mason's Springs VIC

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Charles	CODE 017
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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:  
Adm. and Mrs. Frank Jack Fletcher

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Araby

CITY OR TOWN:  
Mason's Springs

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
La Plata

CITY OR TOWN:  
La Plata

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
21404

DATE:  
JUL 25 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Charles

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 25 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

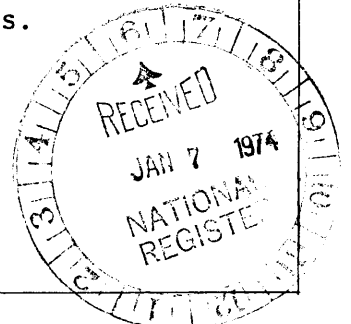
Although late Federal in its exterior appearance, Araby is actually a mid-eighteenth century house that was extensively altered in the mid-nineteenth century. The initial stage was a one story, five bay gambrel roofed, Flemish bond brick structure. Two chimneys were enclosed within each end wall (east and west) and there is a moulded brick watertable at the base of all four elevations. The windows have gauged brick lintels and there was a wood, modillioned eave cornice. (A small section of this cornice is preserved under the roof of the existing, mid-nineteenth century, north elevation entrance porch.) The interior plan of this first stage, retained when the house was altered, consisted of four rooms and a short rear stair hall. This plan is fairly typical of Southern Maryland architecture dating from circa 1720 to circa 1780. The Great (southeast) Room has all four wall surfaces sheathed with fielded panels and has two shell alcoves flanking the fireplace. The reeded mantle in this room constitutes its only nineteenth century alteration. The other rooms have both paneled fireplace walls and dadoes and the fireplaces in two instances have moulded surrounds. The stair has simple, turned banisters and a black walnut rail.

In the mid-nineteenth century the roof was raised to a full two story height. The English bond brickwork of these wall extensions contrasts with the Flemish bond of the original walls, making the cornice line and the roof profile of this first stage easily discernable. The one decidedly Federal characteristic evidenced on the exterior is the bridging (or joining by a curtain) of the chimney stacks at each end. Other Federal period influences can be observed in the brick, denticulated eave cornice of both the front (south) and rear (north) facades and the short, projecting brick water lip over the main entrance door of the south facade where a flat roofed porch is believed to have stood.

At the west end of the house stands a frame hyphen connecting the house to a one story brick wing. Presumably the brick wing, positioned at a right angle to the main block, was initially used as a detached summer kitchen. The later hyphen contains a modern kitchen and a roofed porch with fluted columns and stone paved floor.

On the grounds are several interesting domestic dependencies, large plantings of boxwood, and an interesting rose garden. At a distance of approximately five hundred yards from the northeast corner of the main house stood an eighteenth century grist mill. Dating circa 1760-80 it was, until destroyed several years ago because of its proximity to a state highway, the earliest surviving example of this type of architecture in lower Southern Maryland. The stone foundation wall of this three story frame structure still exist, as does parts of the original machinery and the mill stones.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Araby was the home of William and Sarah Eilbeck whose daughter Anne married George Mason (also a Charles Countain), author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and builder of Gunston Hall in Virginia. It is believed that George and Anne made Araby their home until the completion of Gunston Hall and made lengthly, periodic stays here afterwards. Their son, William inherited Araby upon the death of his grandmother and it was for him that the nearby Mason's Springs was named. George Washington recorded many visits to Araby in his diaries, most of them occuring while visiting a nearby property he owned.

As a mid-eighteenth century example of vernacular domestic architecture Araby is important in that despite the major renovation previously discussed it retains a significant amount of original interior and exterior fabric intact. In a region where few examples of such structures have survived unaltered Araby is found to be of particular interest, most notably for its simple but sophisticated interior treatment, the preservation of various construction features, and as an example of a type of house erected by persons of a relatively high position within the socio-economic class levels of mid-and-late-eighteenth century Charles County.

Because of these aspects of its architectural merit and direct association with such historically prominent personalities as George Mason and George Washington it is felt that Araby deserves further attention through both academic study and historic preservation and stands today as an important physical lesson in both local, state, and national history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Charles County Land and Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Fitzpatrick, John C. (ed). The Diaries of George Washington 1748-1799.  
4 vols. reprint of the 1925 edition. New York: Kraus Reprint Company, 1971.

Klaphthor, Margaret Brown and P. Dennis Brown. History of Charles County.  
La Plata, Maryland: n.p., 1958.

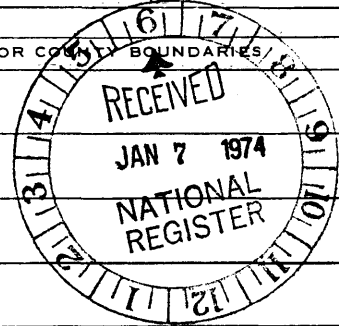
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 38 ° 34 ' 50 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 77 ° 07 ' 05 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	38 ° 34 ' 41 "	77 ° 06 ' 36 "				
SE	38 ° 34 ' 37 "	77 ° 06 ' 39 "				
SW	38 ° 34 ' 38 "	77 ° 07 ' 05 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 74 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
J. Richard Riyoire

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: March 13, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis, STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date March 30, 1973

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

A. B. Werten  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/25/74

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/22/74