National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	ie /	alha	lla				
historic	Part of Partnership & Part of Aix-la Chappelle; Friendship						
and/or common	Valhalla (PREFERRE	ED)				
2. Loca	ation						
street & number	19010 White	e's Ferr	ry Road		not for publication		
city, town	Poolesville <u>X</u> vicinity of congressional distric		Eighth				
state	Maryland	code	24 county	Montgomery	code 031		
3. Clas	sificatio	n					
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisiti in process being consid	on	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:		
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	У				
name	Mr. and Mr.	s. Fleto	cher F. Bernsdorf	f (Jane E.)	972-8387		
street & number	19010 Whit	e's Fern	ry Road				
city, town	Poolesvill	e	vicinity of	state	Maryland 20837		
5. Loca	ation of L	.egal	Descripti	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Montgo	omery County Cour	thouse			
street & number		Courth	nouse Square		·		
city, town		Pooles	sville	state	Maryland 20850		
6. Repr	resentati	on ir	n Existing	Surveys			
title SEE CONT	FINUATION SHEE	T #1	has this pro	pperty been determined e	legible?yes Xno		
date				federal sta	ate county local		
depository for su	rvey records						
city, town				state			

7. Description M-17-12Condition Check one Check one _ excellent deteriorated _ unaltered _X_ original site X_ altered _X good ruins _ moved date _ _ fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Valhalla is a two story rectangular shaped nineteenth century house of ashlar construction of local Seneca sandstone to which are attached a circa 1835 story and a half log structure and two twentieth century small scaled one story frame wings. The structure was built in two sections: the eastern portion which has a three bay symmetrical facade (north elevation) and a two room plan on the interior was constructed about 1835 and the western section also with a three bay facade (north elevation) but a side hall and parlor interior arrangement between 1855 and 1865. The interior of the house has simple classical influenced woodwork dating primarily from the 1855 to 1865 period when the western section was added and the interior of the eastern section was damaged by fire. The interior of the log section has the logs exposed and contains a large stone fireplace. The property is further enhanced by a circa 1830 stone dairy building and a frame nineteenth century barn.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Valhalla is located on the south side of White's Ferry Road, about three miles west of the intersection of Route 107 with Route 109 at Poolesville, Maryland, in the northwest section of Montgomery County, Maryland. A tree-lined driveway of about .2 miles leads to the house and outbuildings. The house is surrounded by broad lawns, large shade trees, and has a boxwood garden on the west side.

The house is a six bay by one bay, two story with attic Seneca sandstone structure which faces north. It consists of two parts and has a low front slope. The windows are double hung, 6 over 6 pane, flanked by louvered shutters. There are large dressed stone lintels across window and door openings and stone window and door sills. There are interior chimneys at each end of the house and one stack rising from the roof, indicating where the original exterior west wall of the house was located.

The larger, east portion of the house, built 1835, shows features of Georgian influence in the symmetrical arrangement of center doorway, window above, and windows on each side.

An addition built to the west, 1855-1865, joins the original house with a continuous stone wall, both front and back. Doorway, double hung 6 over 6 pane windows, heavy stone lintels and smaller stone sills, match those of the original house in form, but with a different arrangement. Each doorway has a straight, 4 light transom.

The west facade is a stone wall with an interior brick chimney flanked by two four-pane attic windows.

The south facade of the stone house has two double hung, 6 over 6 pane windows on the first floor and three on the second floor. On the second there is also one six pane easement window. The one-story frame additions project from the south side of the main block. On these additions there is one door, one double hung, and 5 small, casement windows. The roof of the west addition is of asbestos shingles, that of the center addition, patterned tin.

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify
Specific dates	1835 & 1855-65	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable Criteria: C

The significance of Valhalla lies in its architecture as an example of a type of construction which was common in the mid-19th century in northwestern Montgomery County but of which only two or three examples exist today. Valhalla, built in 1835 and enlarged in 1855-1865, was one of the first large buildings erected in this section of the county to use the local red brown — stone which heretofore had been used almost exclusively in small cottages, slave quarters, barns and foundations of frame and log houses Valhalla—also has the heavy four-square proportions and lack of decorative detailing on the exterior which are common to Montgomery County's rural architecture of the mid-nineteenth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Valhalla was built in 1835 for Sarah Poole and Isaac Jones, each third generation descendants of the earliest families to settle Montgomery County, (1) which families, in 1835, continued to have large landholdings and to dominate the farming industry and representation in public life.(2)

The size of the property inherited by Sarah in the division of her father's estate, (3) 354 acres, was the typical size of a working farm where the practice of cultivation of tobacco had given way to cultivation of grain crops.(4) The 354 acres were part of two tracts called Partnership and Aix-la-Chappelle, names of original land grants, portions of which John Poole II has bought in 1808.(5)

Prosperous farmers built large houses during this period, but only two others had built large houses of stone in a classical design when Sarah and Isaac Jones built their house. (6) Neither of these earlier examples exist today.

The influence of Georgian design is seen in the original part of the house in its symmetry, pitched roof, flat arches, transom lights, paneled doors, and double hung sash windows.

Contrasting with this formal arrangement, the stone is of varied size, laid without courses and without quoining.

The interior shows refinement in the carved molding on the window and door reveals, architraves, chair rail, baseboards, and paneled doors. The exterior wood trim, on the other hand, is very plain.

9. Major Biblio aphical Reference

UIM ROT WITTED

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7.

10. Geograph	ical Data						
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name Poolesy UMT References		_	Quadrang	le scale <u>1:24000</u>			
A 118 2 912 81310 Zone Easting	413 313 91410 Northing	B] 18 · Zone		413 313 91410 Northing			
C] 18 2 9 2 7 3 0 E G	4,3,3,3,6,1,0	D <u>] </u>	29,26,9,0	413 313 91610			
Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of the property being nominated are delineated on the attached map. The boundary justification is found on Continuation Sheet page 3.							
List all states and counties	for properties overla	pping state or	county boundaries				
state N/A	code	county		code			
state N/A	code	county		code			
11. Form Prep	pared By						
name/title Jane M. Be	ernsdorff and M	Mary Ann Ke	ephart				
organization Historic I	Medley District	inc.	date Ma	arch 30, 1981			
street & number Box 232			telephone (301)	972-8635/972-8588			
city or town Poolesvil	lle.		state Maryla	nd 20837			
12. State Hist	toric Prese	rvation	Officer C	ertification			
The evaluated significance of th	• •						
national	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.							
State Historic Preservation Office	er signature	ask	2-5-0	82			
title State Hist	toric Preservat	ion Office	er date				
For HCRS use only	resett is included in the	- Notional Begiet					
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register							
Keeper of the National Register	er .	\$400 MARIEMAN	date	3/15/02			
Attest:	,		date				
Chief of Registration		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Valhalla

Montgomery County, Md Continuation sheet

Item number

6

1 Page

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title:

Historic Sites Identification Map

Date:

April, 1969

Type:

County

Depository:

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910

Title:

Montgomery County Atlas of Historic Sites

Date:

1976

Type: County

Depository: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910

Title:

Master Plan and Ordinance for Historic Preservation in

Montgomery County, Maryland, #17/12, page 33

Date:

1979

County

Type: Depository:

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Title:

Historic American Building Survey

Date:

1936-1941

Type:

Federal

Depository:

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Title:

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory:

Montgomery County (M-17-12), Christopher Owens, surveyor

Date:

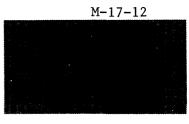
1973

Type:

State

Depository: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number 7 Page 2

Valhalla Montgomery County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

A story and a half log building now used as the kitchen and covered with asbestos siding is attached to the main block of the stone house by a frame structure. The south slope of the asbestos shingle roof of the log building is pierced by a dormer containing two four-pane windows. On the east facade of the asbestos covered wall of the log kitchen there is a massive stone chimney with a brick chimney stack, flanked by two four-pane windows at the loft level. The east facade of the main block is stone with an interior brick chimney and two four-pane windows at the attic level. This log building is believed to date possibly as early as the original portion of the house.

INTERIOR

The plan of the original house has two rooms on the first level and two on the second, with no hall. An enclosed stairway with a simple hand rail rising from the west room opens into the two rooms at each level.

The present dining room, the east of these two rooms, is entered directly from the exterior by a door in the north wall. One window in this wall, the four-light transom above the door, and two panes of glass in the door furnish the only light to the dining room. The fireplace on the east wall has reeded pilasters on each side of the mantel, and a design of a carved bevel effect on the frieze under the mantel shelf. This mantel design is found in three other houses in Poolsville. (See footnote #9 on SIGNIFICANCE.) One door in the west wall opens onto the stairway, and one door onto a sitting room.

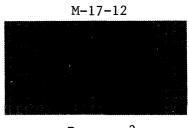
The present sitting room, the west room of the two original ones on the first floor, has a window in the north wall and a window in the south wall. Woodwork in this and the dining room has paneling. A simple molded design is used on the door and window reveals and architraves, chair rail, and baseboard. The 24" sandstone window sills, extending from exterior to interior wall, are covered by wooden sills. A four foot high paneled door opens onto a closet beneath the stairs. The fireplace and mantel on the west wall match those in the dining room.

A door in the west wall containing a one-piece 24" stone sill opens onto the hall of the 1855-1865 addition. The hall runs the depth of the house and is four feet wide. The north doorway of the hall, which is now the main entrance to the house, has a six-panel door surmounted by a four-light transom.

At the south end of the hall, a former exterior door now opens onto a large one-story frame addition built in 1954.

To the west of the hall is a large living room. Two deepset, double-hung windows are in the north wall and one in the center of the south wall. The fireplace and mantel on the west wall match those in the sitting room and dining room. The

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Continuation sheet 7 Page 3

Valhalla Montgomery County, Maryland

woodwork in this room and the hall is similar to that in the sitting room and dining room, but simpler in design.

The second floor of the main block contains a hall and three bedrooms, corresponding with the three rooms below and containing the same window and fireplace arrangement. A door in one bedroom opens to a full, floored attic.

All floors, on both levels, are of random width, wide, boards. The walls are all of plaster over lath.

As mentioned earlier, a one-story, ell-shaped addition connects the log kitchen, hall, and bath. It opens from the south side of the dining room (on the east side of the house). The walls of the log building are exposed on the interior. Heavy, smoke blackened beams cross the ceiling. The east wall contains a stone cooking fireplace with iron crane in place. An enclosed stairway leads to a slleping room above.

OUTBUILDINGS

- DAIRY located across a walkway from the kitchen building. Rectangular 12' X 10'.
 Walls are of uncoursed stone. Projecting gable roof of hand cut shingles.
 Circa 1830s.
- 2. BARN 41' X 39', built of wood on a stone foundation, probably late 19th century.
- 3. GARAGE cinderblock, located far south of the house, on the edge of the boundary of the ten acres nominated. Built for some farm function unknown to the present owners, and seldom used by them. It has seven windows on the north and south elevations, on first and second floors. The roof is gabled. There are sliding doors on the east side. Circa 1920.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

Ten acres of land are included in the nomination to visually maintain the historic rural setting of Valhalla and its contributing outbuildings. The house and the outbuildings set .2 mile from White's Ferry Road (Maryland Route 107) and are reached by a drive that leads an almost straight path over fairly flat terrain with the complex forming a focal point as the drive is entered. In determining the actual boundaries, lines of convenience formed by visual and physical factors, White's Ferry Road on the north and a fence line on the south, and existing property lines along the east and west boarders were utilized so as to establish easily understood boundaries.

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Valhalla

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, MD

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Page 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The kitchen building of log with stone chimney was characteristically a separate building. The stone dairy situated near the kitchen door is still standing.

Isaac Jones died in 1840 and Sarah and her two daughters continued to occupy the house. In 1852, Sarah married her widowed brother-in-law, Thomas L. Jones, who had six young children. Sarah and Thomas L. Jones had one son, Fremont, so there were three families of children growing up at the farm. (7)

It was sometime after this 1852 marriage that a fire occurred, damaging the house severely. With the dramatic increase in the size of the family, repair following the fire was extended to the construction of a large addition to the main block of the stone house. A diary kept by one of the daughters refers to the fun of camping out in the barn like gypsies one summer while the house was being worked on. (8)

The addition made the house about 50% larger and asymmetrical, but retained the solid massiveness and proportion. The house was probably re-roofed at this time since no joining is visible in the slate tile roof. The type of patterning of three diamond designed in the roof is usually attributed to a period around 1860. Another architectural feature fixing the addition at around 1860 is the carving of the mantels in the "new" living room addition and the two matching ones in the older part of the house, possibly replacing damaged ones. The unusual beveled design of the frieze of the mantel can be seen in three other houses near Poolesville, which were built between 1850 and 1865 (9).

Assessment records between 1842 and 1876 show both Sarah and Thomas L. Jones to be the owners of substantial personal property. (10).

Sarah Jones lived at Friendship, as she called the property, for eighty years. When she died her daughter, Priscilla, sold the farm out of the Poole-Jones families, and it changed hands several times until bought by the present owners in 1944 (11) A 1920 Equity Court recordingives a good description of the property and the buildings. (12)

Regarding the name of the property, it continued as Part of Partnership and Part of Aix-la-Chappelle in assessment records from 1838 to 1908, when the then 312 acres with improvements changes to Friendship.(13) In 1915 the acreage now reduced to 201 acres, is still called Friendship.(14) The present owner, being of German descent and a career military man, named it Valhalla after the mythical home of fallen heroes.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The owners in 1938, Chauncey and Marion Snow, installed central heat, electricity and plumbing. They built a frame addition to connect the log kitchen building to the stone house. The stone fireplace and crane of the log kitchen are still in place.

Two 1936 photographs made by the Historic American Buildings Survey, which describes Valhalla as "fieldstone house, two stories, early 19th century" (15), show the house to be much the same as it is today.

The present owners built another one story addition at the rear of the house containing a large bedroom in 1954.

Valhalla retains its traditional early rural environmental setting. The house, surrounded by extensive lawns, large shade trees, and a boxwood garden, is set well back from a main road and is reached by a tree lined driveway.

Valhalla further retains its architectural significance today in depicting the size, material and style of house built in rural Montgomery County in 1835, clearly visible in the original portion and two of its outbuildings. The early addition attesting change in family needs, duplicates some of the architectural details of the original and adds a few details of its own period, 1855-65. While now contributing to its significance, later additions do not detract from the clearly stated design of the original stone building. It is an important feature of the historic rural landscape of Montgomery County, Maryland.

¹Martha Sprigg Poole, <u>The Poole Family, Descendants of John and Priscilla Poole of Montgomery County, Maryland, second edition, 1973. Unpublished. Located Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland, page 3.</u>

²Scharf, <u>History of Western Maryland</u>, Vol.1, 1882, Regional Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1968, edition. Pages 682 and 726.

³Montgomery County Equity Case <u>BS4/368</u> Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

ARichard K. MacMaster & Ray Eldon Heibert, A Grateful Remembrance. Montgomery County Government, Rockville, Maryland, 1976, page 124.

⁵Montgomery County Land Records. Liber 0, Folio 245.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The Dawson House, built 1808, now in ruins. Located on Locational Atlas of Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland. Map 13, Site 17-40, Coordinate A-9, Published by MNCPPC, Silver Spring, Maryland, 1976. House built by a member of the Young family. Located on HOPKIN'S ATLAS, Published 1878, Washington, D.C. Page: Medley District, shown as house of David Young. House demolished in 1957.

⁷Martha Sprigg Poole, <u>The Poole Family</u>, page 52.

⁸Interview with Miss Katherine Poole, May, 1978.

91 Stevens House, Poolesville, Maryland. Built 1850

2. Two story addition to Dr. Thomas Poole House, Poolesville, Maryland, Built 1860.

3. Two story Victorian addition to Mt. Nebo. Near Poolesville, Maryland, built circa 1860.

10 Montgomery County Assessment Records. Located Montgomery County
Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland. 1837-1842, 1869-1876.

11
Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland, Montgomery County
Courthouse. Liber 258, Folio 119.

 12 Montgomery County Equity Case $\underline{^{3664}}$ Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland 1920.

"Ten room stone dwelling with frame addition, six rooms being in stone part and four rooms in frame part. There is a stable to accommodate about six horses. There is a cow stable, two corn houses, chicken houses, meathouse and dairy and some other small outbuildings. The farm is well fenced and is well watered by streams, spring and a well."

13
Assessment Records Montgomery County 1908, page 64.

14
Assessment Records, Montgomery County, 1910-1918, page 62.

15 Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1941. Page 155. "Poolesville..." (1936).

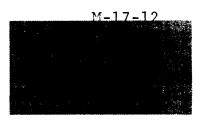
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Montgomery County Land Records. Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Montgomery County Assessment Records. Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland. Books: 1831-1866, 1869-1876, 1908-1910, 1910, 1918, Third Election District.

Montgomery County Equity Case Records, BS4/368 and 3664, Montgomery County Courthouse.

Montgomery County Will Records, Register of Wills, Montgomery County, Maryland

Map: Martenet and Bond, 1865. Map: Hopkins Atlas, 1878

Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S.

Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1941.

Interview with Miss Katherine Poole, Gaithersburg, Maryland, May 1978.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Poole, Martha Sprigg, The Poole Family, Descendants of John and Priscilla Poole of Montgomery County, Maryland, Second Edition 1973. Unpublished. Located: Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland.

Records of Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Md.

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Inventory Form prepared for Sugarloaf Regional Trails by Barry Bogage, August, 1978.

Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Programs, 1950 and 1953. Country Homes Tour Programs, Sait Peter's Episcopal Church, 1949 and 1957.

Master Plan and Ordinance for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, MNCPPC, Silver Spring, Maryland.

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vашаща Montgomery County Maryland National Register Boundaries April 1981 scale 1"=100' POOLESVILLE - DAWSONWILLE boundaries ROAD NR boundary NR boundaries PART OF L. 935 F. 205 Bresed Story Stowe. Frame ALHALLA Davy CIMOLENDLOGK GARAGE NR boundary. lpipe set