

PH0121479

DATA SHEET

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:	St. Mary's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 2 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Charlotte Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Coole Springs

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mi. East of Hughesville on Md. Route 5

CITY OR TOWN:
~~Charlotte Hall~~ Hughesville vic First

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

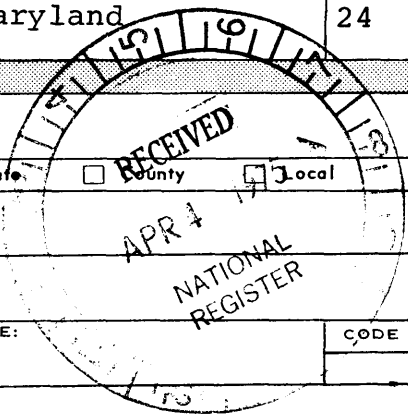
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: St. Mary's

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 2 1975

DATE: MAY 2 1975

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 type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charlotte Hall Historic District encompasses a small village located on the south side of Maryland Route 5, three and one-half miles southeast of Hughesville and one-fourth mile northwest of New Market, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The district is bounded on the north end by a line running east to west approximately five hundred yards north of the Briscoe House, on the east side by new Maryland Route 5, on the south end by Md. Route 6, and on the west side by a line running north to south five hundred yards west of the rear wall of the Academic Building.

The district is intersected by "Old Route 5" which runs east to west through the town and along which many of the existing buildings and sites are situated. Contained within the historic district boundaries are thirteen recorded buildings and sites of historic and/or architectural interest, as well as the main campus of the Charlotte Hall Military Academy. Charlotte Hall has managed to preserve much of its aesthetic charm and its basic original plan and, with the exception of two mid-twentieth century dormitories and a gymnasium on the school campus, there has been no twentieth century development. All of the houses are attractively situated on commodious, tree-shaded lots and are, for the most part, in good repair. The village is bounded on its perimeter by open, uncultivated meadows and woodland and its age and continuity is readily apparent to one entering the town from either end. The campus of the academy figures predominately in the townscape. Fortunately, almost all of the newer school facilities are concentrated toward the rear of the campus and are almost completely sheltered from view by a great number of large trees and expanses of lawn.

While many of the buildings within the district were initially built in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, most were renovated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Exceptions to this would be the Briscoe House, which is a fairly plain Federal house of Flemish bond construction and with an unusual "U" shaped plan. This house was built about 1825, although it is commonly referred to locally as "Kilgore's Tavern," dating circa 1690. For many years it served as both a private residence and boarding house for young men attending the academy. Of particular interest are its matching one and one-half story rear wings and the remarkable carvings of its Federal-style parlor mantles. Another significant structure is the Chesley House, said to date from the late eighteenth century, which is attractively quaint in appearance and immaculately maintained. It is a small frame house, situated close to the side of the road, and has a two room main block with a sharply pitched gable roof. Close to its south side is a detached frame kitchen or wash house with a large external chimney. A third privately owned dwelling deserving of notation is a Victorian

(See continuation sheet No. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 | osophy | _____ |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Charlotte Hall is perhaps best known in Maryland as the home of the Charlotte Hall Military Academy. Founded in 1774 the school was initially conceived as a consolidation of all of the free schools in the four Southern Maryland counties. Continuously active since 1796 it is the oldest military preparatory school in Maryland and one of the oldest in the nation. Although Charlotte Hall has remained a relatively small institution its archives show a varied and interesting history. Throughout much of the nineteenth century it was recognized as one of the finest schools of its type in the country. Past alumni and trustees include Roger Brooke Tawney, fifth Judge of the U.S. Supreme Court; the Right Reverend Thomas John Claggett, First Episcopal Bishop consecrated in America; John Marshall Scott Causin, notable Congressman during the administration of John Quincy Adams; George Watterson, the first Librarian of Congress; Edward Bates, Attorney General during the Lincoln administration; and three Maryland Governors; Robert Bowie (1803-06 and 1811-12), Thomas King Carroll, (1830-1831), and James Thomas, (1833-1836). During the one hundredth anniversary of the school in 1874 the celebrations were attended by forty members of Congress, all of them alumni.

However, the history of the village of Charlotte Hall, referred to in late seventeenth and eighteenth century archival records as "Cool Springs," extends back to at least the end of the seventeenth century. In 1697-98 Southern Maryland suffered a severe outbreak of pestilence and it is recorded that the inhabitants of the region often visited the fresh water springs located here, believing that the water possessed medicinal qualities. At about the time of the turn of the eighteenth century a hospital was built near the site of the springs, thus becoming one of the first sanitariums in the English speaking colonies.

Unfortunately, little research has been accorded Charlotte Hall and the history of its development throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth century remains largely unknown. It is, however, fairly certain that it has always been a sparsely settled area, even though it enjoyed an obviously convenient location on the post road from St. Mary's to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of the Charlotte Hall Military Academy, Charlotte Hall, Maryland.
 Klaphor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul D., History of Charles County, Md. La Plata, Charles County Tercentenary Commission. 1958.
 Pogue, Robert E. T., Old Maryland Landmarks, Bushwood, Maryland, privately printed. 1972.

NW 18 / 344670 / 4260490
 SE 18 / 345130 / 4259590
 SW 18 / 344820 / 4259540

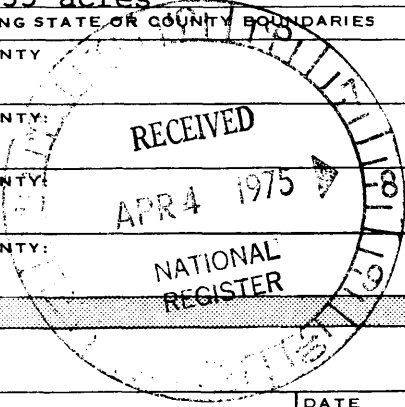
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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° 28' 52"	76° 46' 51"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 28' 56"	76° 46' 32"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	38° 28' 22"	76° 46' 30"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	38° 28' 21"	76° 46' 45"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **135 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**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **February 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2525 Riva Road**

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

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 Arthur C. Townsend
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date April 2, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arthur C. Townsend
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

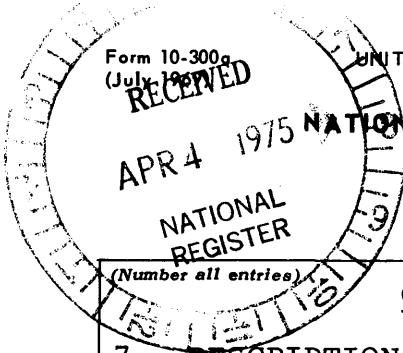
Date 5/2/75

ATTEST:
Charles O. Henry
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 5-1-75

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 2 1975	DATE



Charlotte Hall Historic District

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

frame house, initially built about 1800 but extensively remodeled in the latter part of the nineteenth century. It has a one story farm porch extending the width of the two story facade and four evenly spaced cross gables on the front slope of the roof. This particular house is attractively situated in a small grove of trees and faces onto what was once the village green from the south side.

On the college campus is the White House, built in 1803 for the dual purpose of serving both as the President's residence and classrooms. It is a pleasant five bay, one and one-half story, gambrel roofed brick structure, fairly typical in plan of many late eighteenth century tidewater buildings. Although "restored" in 1938 it still retains nearly all of its original exterior and interior features. This house is particularly interesting since detailed builder's specifications for it survive.

The Colonial-revival Academic Building, erected in 1897 and also situated on the academy grounds, is another building of interest, recognizable for its clean free lines. It is a commodious "T" shaped stuccoed brick structure, with a two-story inset portico at the end facade. Toward the front of the hipped roof is a large open belfry.

One of the most significant structures in Charlotte Hall is the Dent Memorial Chapel, a Victorian Gothic stone church built in 1884. It is a fine example, albeit retarditaire, of its form and the only noteworthy example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Southern Maryland. Its exterior treatment, consisting of carved bargeboards and exposed rafter ends, and belt courses and trim of molded brick tiles, (the latter contrasting with the irregularly coursed cut granite walls), is especially attractive. This small chapel, serving both the school and the village, was erected to the memory of the Reverend Hatch Dent, a Revolutionary War figure active in local political affairs, who served as the school's first president.

Known historic sites in Charlotte Hall include "Ye Coole Springs," now a small memorial park, where five natural springs flow within a short distance of each other, converging at a point now marked by a colonial-revival spring house erected during the Maryland Tercentenary. "Ye Coole Springs" is the reputed site of one of the earliest sanitariums in the English colonies. A hospital was built there between 1698 and 1703 to serve Southern Marylander's who believed that the fresh spring water possessed medicinal healing qualities. The springs, which furnish most of the water to the school, are maintained by that institution.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1975

(Number all entries)

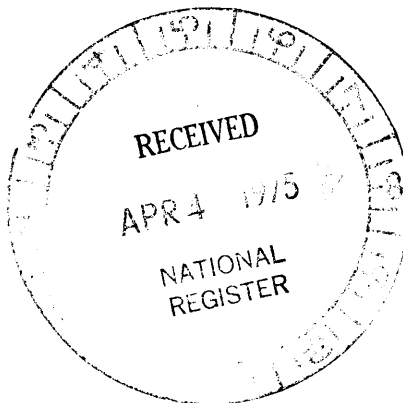
Charlotte Hall Historic District

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

A second recorded site is that of the first school hall at Charlotte Hall, built in 1793 and for which a complete record of its original specifications remain as part of the school archives. It was a two story brick structure with a full cellar that contained various classrooms. It served as the main campus building until its destruction by fire in 1897. It was replaced by the existing Academic building.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Alexandria and Washington. Today it has the distinction of being the largest surviving eighteenth century village in lower Southern Maryland. While other towns in this immediate region may have at the most four or five surviving structures dating before the Civil War--such as Chaptico or Port Tobacco--Charlotte Hall has about thirteen, with the further possibility that others exist behind later facades. The association of the military academy to the village, the existence of its several notable historic sites and examples of architecture, easily establish the significance of this small community to the social history of Southern Maryland.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
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(Number all entries)

Charlotte Hall Historic District

There are no modern intrusions that could be considered to have an adverse impact on the integrity of the Charlotte Hall Historic District. Railroad tracts abandoned.

Photo Coverage: Buildings spaced too far apart and irregularly situated. Street scapes impossible, as are overviews of wooded campus.

Other: Boundaries only include north half of campus which takes in original academy grounds. Boundary description corrected.

