

PH0672556

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 30 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 28 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

**
Poplar Hill Farm of Cranberry Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Poplar Hill (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

115 Poplar Hill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Harford

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

X __OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X __BUILDING(S)

X __PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

X __PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

X __NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Catherine V. Mitchell (Mrs. John S. Mitchell)

STREET & NUMBER

727 Old Philadelphia Road

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

Maryland 21014

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Poplar Hill is a gambrel-roofed frame house, three bays in length and one and one-half stories high. Its principal entrance in the middle bay of its east front is flanked by a 6/6 window in each end bay. The west front is similar. The east entrance is sheltered by a one bay, shed-roofed porch, while a shed-roofed porch or piazza extends across the entire west front. Three shed-roofed dormers with 6/6 windows are on each side, and interior brick chimneys rise at each end. The house stands on a brick foundation laid in English bond. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles.

The structure corresponds to one described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records as Aquila Hall's dwelling. Owned by the heirs of John B. Hall, it measured 39 by 20 feet with a piazza 7 feet deep. It was a one story building of wood construction.

A one bay, two story, gable-roofed wing, apparently an addition of the late nineteenth century, adjoins the main house at the south end.

On the interior, a hall extends through the house in the middle bay. It contains an original open staircase which rises to the second floor in a single straight run with a few winders at the top. The moulded handrail is supported by turned newels and turned balusters, the latter rising from a closed stringer. There is a full handrail and a half-rail on the opposite wall. The space beneath the stair which contains the stair to the cellar is enclosed with fully raised paneling. It is accessible by a door under the winders at the west end of the hall. That door, with its fully raised panels, is somewhat unusual in that a single panel occupies the area usually divided into two small panels. The west exterior door is of six fully raised panels, sheathed internally with beaded boards applied on an angle slightly raised from the horizontal, their ends along the lock side of the door being slightly higher than their ends on the hinge side. The hinges are long, wrought-iron straps. Chairrail and a wood cornice surround the hall. The latter includes a bed moulding, soffit and fascia, and a crown moulding.

A single room flanks the hall on either side, each accessible through original, fully-raised, six-panel doors surrounded by moulded, two-plane architraves with ovolo backband. Each room has chairrailing and a cornice similar to those mouldings in the hall. The northerly room has a fully paneled north wall, consisting of a shouldered architrave fireplace surround on the slightly projecting, paneled chimney breast, a large closet to the west, and a cupboard to the east. The cupboard, enclosed with upper and lower pairs of paneled doors, has scrolled shelves and a half-round back.

The southerly room has had its paneling removed. Lines in the walls and ceilings and fragments of the top rail which remain in place suggest it resembled the northerly room.

The second floor plan is similar to the first and ornamentation is similar but simpler, with paneled doors, narrower architrave surrounds, chairrail, and architrave-surround mantels.

The cellar extends under the central hall and northerly room, suggesting that the house was built in two stages, both of them early. The wall between the hall and the southerly room is filled with brick nogging and exterior walls are presumed to be the same.

see continuation sheet

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Poplar Hill is one of the oldest houses still standing in Harford County where the essentially untouched survival of eighteenth century houses is rare. Probably built in the mid-eighteenth century, it is a gambrel-roofed, frame house showing the influence of Tidewater Maryland architecture rather than that of nearby Pennsylvania. The largely unaltered state in which the building has survived makes it a useful tool in the study of architectural history. The interior work is of good quality for the period, particularly the paneling in the parlor.

Poplar Hill Farm is part of the 1547-acre tract called Cranberry Hall, patented in 1694 by John Hall (1658-1737). In his will, Hall devised "all that part of the tract whereon I now live called Cranberry Hall lying on the east of the main branch of Mill Run" to his son Edward Hall. Another part of the Cranberry tract, that to the west of Mill Run, was devised to his son Parker. (Will 2/45, Hall of Records) When Edward Hall died in 1742, he left "all my part of Cranberry Hall" to his son John, who subsequently left part of this property to his son Edward Hall and part to his son John Beadle Hall, at his death in 1779. (Will, Box 6, folder 44, and Harford County Will AJ 2/276, Hall of Records)

In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment of Harford County, Poplar Hill is "described . . . as being in Harford Lower Hundred, owned by the heirs of John B. Hall, 39 by 20 feet, one storey, of wood construction, with a kitchen 20 by 18 of wood. The outbuildings, all measured, include quarters, a meat house, a corn house with shed, two stables, a grainery, a smith shop, and outhouse, and a stone grist mill 35 by 24 feet; his other assets included 22 slaves. Obviously his should be the dwelling of a prosperous planter . . . [and] not a humble dwelling, when compared to the majority. It was probably built in two stages: the center hall, with its staircase, and the parlor on the left, comprise one section, and a dining room of similar size on the right comprises the other. The two sections were built very close in time, for the details match. The kitchen, a gabled roof addition to the extreme right, was probably added but a century ago; the original kitchen was undoubtedly a separate building, perhaps . . . the basis of a small house which still stands beside the dwelling." (James Thomas Wollon, Jr., "An Early Dwelling Near Aberdeen," Harford Historical Bulletin, Number 7 (Spring, 1974), 27)

On C. P. Hauducoeur's 1799 "Map of the Head of the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River," the house is shown as Aquila Hall's, apparently the son of John B. Hall.

The Halls were a prominent family in Harford and Baltimore Counties. Because the same first names were used over and over within the family, it

see continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Harford County, Harford County Courthouse, Bel Air, Md.
Preston, Walter W. History of Harford County, Maryland from 1608.
Reprint of 1901 ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1972.
Probate Records of Harford County, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 9 9 2 8 0	4 3 7 2 2 8 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	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

Mrs. Frederick J. Viele, Chairman, Harford County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust, assisted by James T. Wollan

ORGANIZATION

architectural description; Mr. Jon H. Livezay, Attorney, Items No. 8, 10, 5.

DATE

September 1, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

237 Cooley Mill Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hayre de Grace

STATE

Maryland 21078

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

John Pearce 12/22/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Leslie B. ...
Charles ...

DATE

5/28/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-25-76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Description, Continued #7

Although exterior surfaces and some details have been changed through the years in the course of normal maintenance, they remain compatible with the original, and most interior details remain unaltered and unrestored.

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Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

Significance, Continued # 8

is sometimes difficult to determine precisely which Hall is referred to in the records. However, John Hall of Cranberry (died 1779) was one of the commissioners appointed to buy land to build a courthouse and prison for the newly-formed Harford County in 1773. John Beadle Hall was an officer in the Harford County militia during the American Revolution. Other members of the family served, including those connected with Poplar Hill, in other religious and political offices of the times.

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Poplar Hill
Harford County

9

PAGE 3

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

Bibliographical References, Continued #9

Woolon, James Thomas, Jr. "An Early Dwelling Near Aberdeen." Harford
Historical Bulletin. Number 7, (Spring, 1974), 27.

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage, A History of Harford County,
Maryland. n.p.: By the Author, 1967.

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Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

11

PAGE

4

Form Prepared By, Continued #11

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Annapolis, Maryland 21401. (301) 267-1438.