

PH019 3468

# 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:	Charles
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 11 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Waverley

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SE of MORGANTOWN off  
East side of Wayside--Morgantown Road (MD 229)

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

COUNTY: Charles

CODE: 017

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Rodrigo J. Mouré

STREET AND NUMBER: Waverley

CITY OR TOWN: Newburg

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Architecture  
Maryland Historical Trust--SMCC; Survey of Tidewater Maryland

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

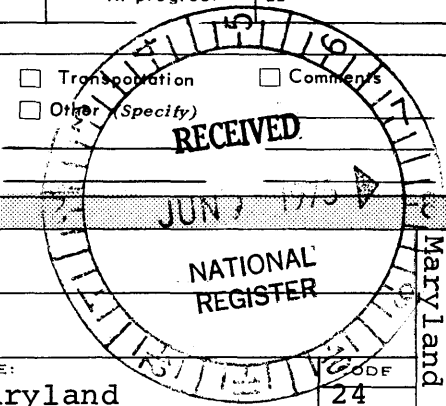
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Charles

ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 11 1975

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Waverley, a large two-story brick home long associated with the Harris and Hungerford families of Charles County, stands at the end of a private drive about three-quarters of a mile east of Lower Cedar Point (Morgantown) in the lower Potomac River Valley. The entrance to the property is on the east side of the Wayside-Morgantown Road, about one mile south of Wayside. The 136 acres nominated encompass several historic features, including the house, the original entrance approach and gate posts (the approach drive has been abandoned for many years and is largely overgrown, though still discernable), the sites of several field cabins, and that portion of the original acreage that remains a part of the existing Waverley tract.

The five bay, Flemish-bond principal facade of the main block, facing the Potomac River, has centered, elliptically headed entrance framed by panelled jambs and headed by a headed fanlight. Within the doorway and flanking the double door are narrow tapered columns and three-pane sidelights. At the base of the fanlight and hidden by a shelf above the door are two small lead figures of a boy and girl, purportedly giving good fortune to those who pass beneath. Flanking the entrance are four large windows of twelve over twelve lights, with flat arches of splayed stretcher brick, and louvered blinds that are a replacement of earlier panelled ones. Across the second floor level are five windows of eight over twelve sash. Below the first floor windows are four small wood barred cellar windows. There is no watertable. Toward the end of the nineteenth century a one story porch was built across this elevation and traces of its outline can be discerned in the brickwork. A brick entrance stoop now fronts the doorway.

The rear (north) elevation of the main block was originally only three bays in width but a later addition (c. 1823) built against the east end toward the northeast corner extended this facade two additional bays at both floor levels. Centered on the original wall area is an arched doorway similar in treatment to that of the principal facade except that the arch frames an unornamented board panel. Original brickwork behind this panel negates any possibility that the arch once framed a fanlight. The two flanking windows and the three second floor windows are treated in the same manner as those of the facade. On both elevations the roof cornice is of stepped brick with one course of brick set on the diagonal in a sawtooth fashion. The two first and second floor bays of the addition consist of transomed end doors and adjacent windows treated the same as those of the main block. At the time that the addition was made a two story porch with balustraded roof supported by tapered columns of the Doric order was built across the entire rear facade. Mortices for the floor and roof joists of the porch, provided

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 type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Waverley is well known throughout the lower Southern Maryland region, not only for its distinctive architecture, but also as the house supposedly built by Dr. Morgan Harris, member of a once prominent and influential family. Although it is now an accepted fact that Dr. Harris did not actually build the house, his influence on its present form establishes a close bond between the two.

Waverley is situated on a tract of land not far from the site of Burrough Hall, a gambrel-roofed frame house built in 1774 by Colonel Thomas Harris, where Morgan Harris was born and raised. As a member of a moderately wealthy family, Morgan was provided with ample opportunity and training for personal advancement. Although the opposite is true of all members of his immediate family, there is scant biographical material relating to Morgan's early life. It is known, however, that when a young man, he and his brother Thomas had left the county and resided in the West Indies. When Morgan returned to Charles County in about 1819-1820, he brought with him a wife of Creole ancestry. This union spawned great controversy at the time and is still the object of much local speculation and comment.

Morgan and Ann Harris first lived at Burrough Hall, but in 1823, Morgan inherited Waverley, then known as Bowles Purchase and St. George and consisting of about 473 acres. Historical and physical evidence strongly suggests that a large brick house, similar in plan to the house existing today, had been built on the property about 1795. When Morgan acquired the property, the building was either in need of extensive repairs or was merely modernized. Whatever the case, Morgan Harris replaced the roof, built curtains between the chimneys which he emblazoned with his initials and changed the interior finishings. By about 1826, he had also added a brick kitchen, an auxiliary stair wing, and a large rear porch. The house as it is today reflects a strong Federal influence, all of it contemporary to Morgan Harris' residence. Except for minor improvements made during its recent restoration, the house remains almost exactly the way Morgan Harris last saw it.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klaphor, Margaret and P. D. Brown. History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1956.

Turner, Louise. "Mt. Tirzah, Charles County, Maryland." Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Maryland, 1968.

**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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38 ° 20 ' 47 "	76 ° 57 ' 51 "		°	'	"
NE	38 ° 20 ' 49 "	76 ° 57 ' 01 "				
SE	38 ° 20 ' 13 "	76 ° 57 ' 33 "				
SW	38 ° 20 ' 21 "	76 ° 57 ' 44 "				

TL 071-  
18/327 710  
4245

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **136** 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 Rivoire, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust**      DATE: **1/30/75**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**The Shaw House, 21 State Circle**

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 *John N. Pearce*  
**John N. Pearce**

Acting Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date June 6, 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

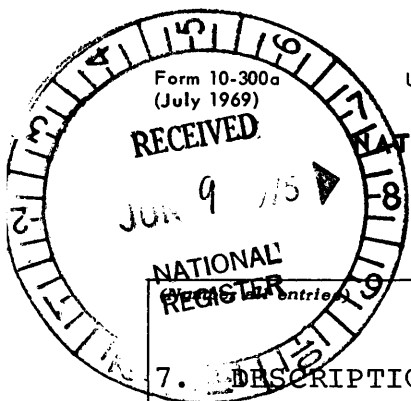
*A. R. Mortensen*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *8/11/75*

ATTEST:

*W. M. A. B.*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **AUG 7 1975**



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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 11 1975

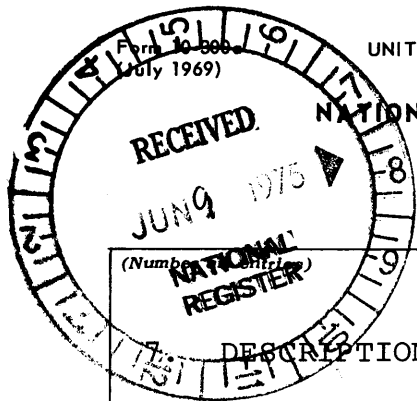
Waverley

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

for when the wing was built, but punched into the walls of the main block, document the fact that the addition and porch were contemporary to one another. When the present owners acquired the property in the early 1960's, the porch was in need of massive structural repair and was removed and rebuilt, using a brick floor in place of the original frame floor and five slightly larger columns instead of the original six.

Both ends of the main block are of common bond construction and are not as finely built as the front and rear facades. Since the brick courses of the ends do not match those of the front and rear walls, and the latter crudely bonded into the former it has been speculated that the ends of the house remain from an earlier structure incorporated into the present building. The two windows of each floor level on the fully exposed west end match precisely those of the front and rear elevations and there is no evidence whatsoever that they were ever altered in size or location. At each end of the house are two flush chimneys joined by brick curtain walls to a point slightly above the roof peak. On each end of the house, between the top of the curtains and the top of the attic window heads, the initials "MAH" (for Morgan A. Harris) are set in glazed headers. Just above the initials, again at both ends, is a small lozenge, also of glazed headers. This same glazed brick decoration is seen on the chimney curtain of Mt. Republican, a significant Federal house about four miles west of this property. While the chimney curtain of Mt. Republican is by all appearances original those at Waverley are not, a claim substantiated by the presence of seams in the brickwork and variations in the coloring and size of the bricks in the area between the attic windows and the tops of the curtain walls. Thus, Morgan Harris' initials and the small diamonds were added after the house was first built.

The present covering of the gable roof of the main block and the circa 1826 east extension is of slate but fragments of earlier wood shingles can be found in the attic of the main block. The roof, which on the main block is flat at the crown, is heavily framed but does not utilize purlins, a ridge pole, or bracing other than collars. The collars have a half-dovetailed half-lap where they are joined to the rafters. The rafters themselves are morticed, tenoned and pinned at the ridge and are butted onto a flat board plate laid on top of the front and rear walls. This type of framing is a common feature of early nineteenth century buildings in lower Southern Maryland. The use of cut nails throughout



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(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		AUG 11 1975

(Number) NATIONAL REGISTER

Waverley

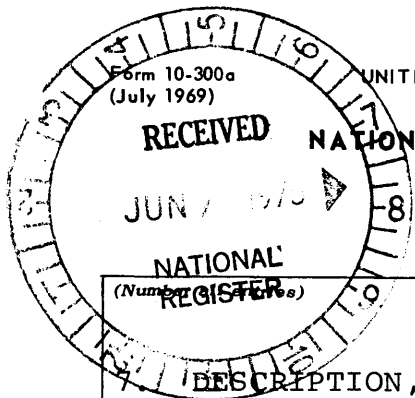
DESCRIPTION, continued

seems to indicate that the roof might have been rebuilt after the fire.

At the east end of the house, in addition to and directly behind the two story addition previously mentioned, stands a long, one-story kitchen-hyphen wing of undetermined age. Although there is a consistency in the bonding of the outside walls, variations in the thicknesses of the hyphen walls (see plan) suggest that this part might constitute the alteration of an earlier structure. The hyphen is presently divided into two rooms, a narrow hall with an adjoining pantry. Below the pantry floor is a brick walled opening that might have initially served as an outside entrance to the cellar of the main block. It is possible that the south wall of the pantry is later and that only the hall, or at least part of it, served as the actual connecting link between the two buildings, or is part of a structure that preceeded the present kitchen-hyphen arrangement.

The first floor room configuration of Waverley consists of four rooms, a small entrance vestibule and a larger rear stair hall.\* One of the most interesting interior features of the house is the manner in which the two first floor front rooms are arranged so that each extends half-way into that area through which the hall would pass. To compensate for this the centered entrance on the principal facade opens into a small triangular shaped vestibule, with angled doors opening into the two adjoining rooms. At the rear of the house the stair hall terminates in about the middle of the house, also with angled doors opening into the two front rooms. This same arrangement of partition walls is repeated in the basement, as well as on the second floor. All of the partition walls are of brick. The main stair, positioned on the west wall of the hall, rises in four flights to the attic, interrupted by two landings. The simple detail of this stair, with delicate posts and lightly turned balusters, is characteristic of the Federal period. When the house was restored in the late 1960's, panelling was added to the side walls of the stair to a height level with that of the balustrade.

Throughout the house the woodwork, including doors, windows, mantles and hardware is all characteristic of the Federal period, and all of it installed at one time with few alterations since, excepting the loss of several first floor carpenter locks, the panelling on the stair wall and a small amount of panelling added to a wall of the library. All of the rooms of the house are finished in a light and airy manner, free of extraneous detail, and are extremely handsome in appearance.



Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 11 1975

Waverley

DESCRIPTION, continued

When the house was restored by the present owners great care was taken to camouflage the introduction of modern conveniences, including plumbing and electricity. The two principal bathrooms are contained in two rooms of the 1826 addition, areas that had previously been used for storage. A third half-bath is built into the triangular area above the first floor entrance vestibule and a fourth at the end of an attic hall. The kitchen, a near ruin when the restoration commenced, has experienced the greatest number of changes, including a new brick floor, panelled walls, new sash and doors and accompanying mouldings, and a reconstruction of the original walk-in fireplace. One of the most interesting features of the kitchen is an extremely deep and narrow stair to an attic loft that is enclosed between the kitchen-pantry partition wall.

\*This floor plan, not recorded elsewhere in the region and believed to be unique, is based on a traditional Southern Maryland plan used throughout the eighteenth century, its earliest recorded example dating circa 1720-25 and the latest circa 1800. Normally the configuration would consist of two large front rooms, one of which would be longer than the other and into which the principal entrance door would open, and a centered rear stair hall extending half the depth of the house and flanked by two lesser rooms.

When Waverley was acquired by the present owners the grounds around the house had overgrown to such an extent that it was impossible to photograph the house at any angle. With the clearing of the site it is now possible to observe several interesting features. The most notable of these are irrigation ditches separating the immediate grounds from former orchard areas. Buildings remaining include a brick and frame quarter, initially a one story brick structure believed to have been built in the early nineteenth century and then raised to a two story height in the late nineteenth century, and a brick, pyramid roofed dairy. Sites include that of an eighteenth century combination corncrib and jail and an icehouse. Remnants of brick and gravel walks leading from the house to the wells, servants house, and the rivershore can still be seen. Not far from the west end of the house is the Harris family cemetery containing the graves of Morgan Harris, his two wives, several of their children and numerous descendants.

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

(Continuation Sheet) #4

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 11 1975

(Number all entries)

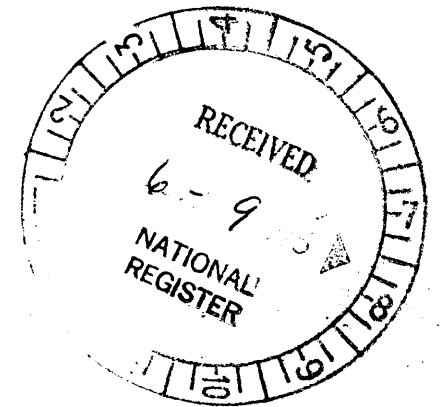
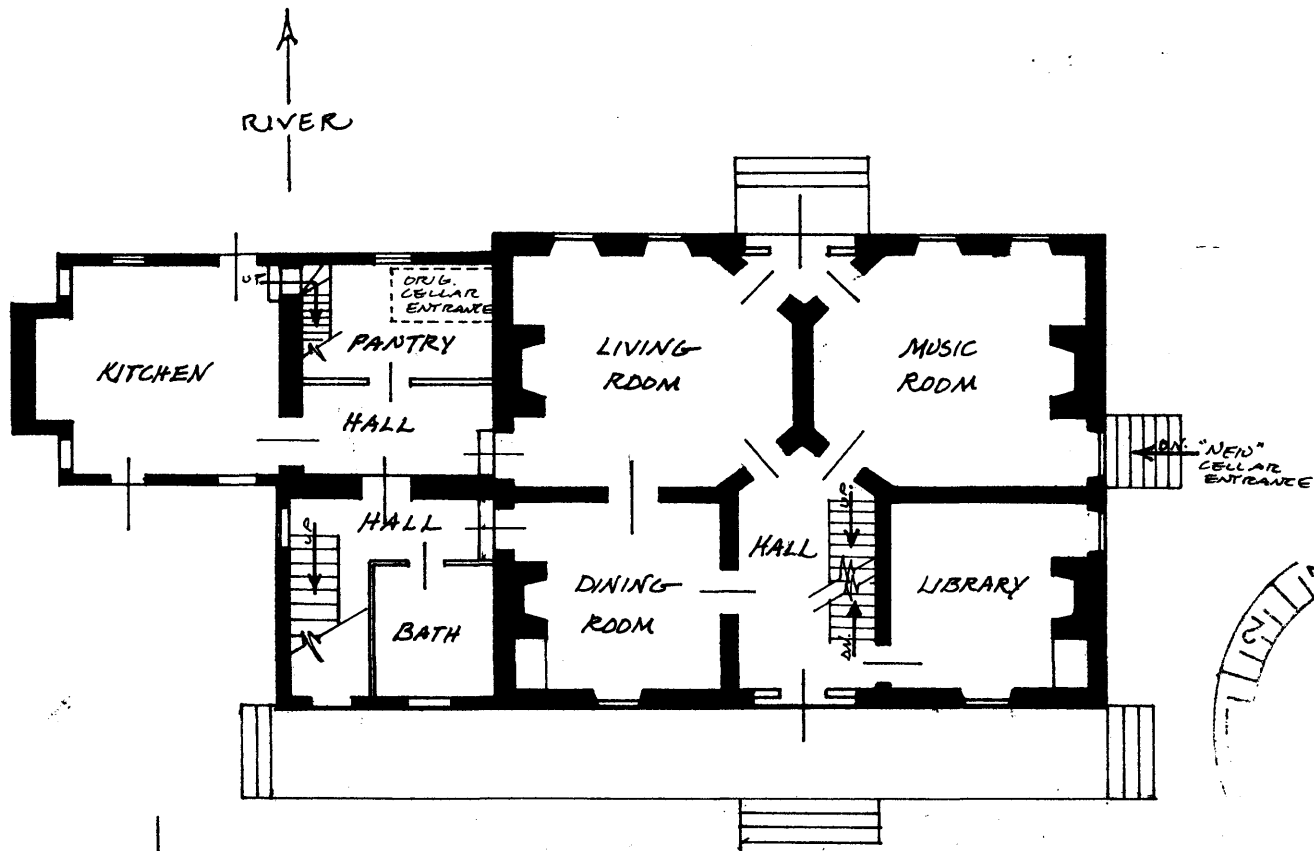
Waverley

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Waverley, because of its extremely unusual floor plan, five bay principal facade, and wealth of simple but handsome interior detail, deserves recognition as one of the better and more complete examples of Federal architecture in Southern Maryland. The fact that it is an alteration of an earlier building does not diminish its significance when one considers the thoroughness to which the alteration was executed. It is without question a regional landmark worthy of continued preservation.







WAVERLEY, CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND  
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN: NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
 SERVOIRE 4/75