

PH0229237

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:	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 9 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
"Old Chiswell Place"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Old Chiswell Place" "Blue Plains"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *E of Poolersville*
Cattail Road (RFD)

CITY OR TOWN: Poolersville *vic.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eighth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Montgomery CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

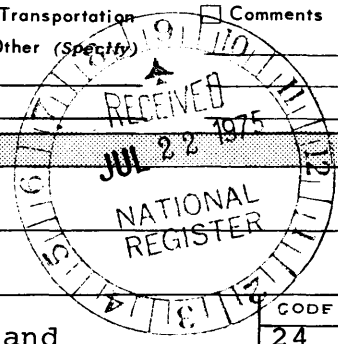
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private 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:
R. A. and E. M. Bock, et al.

STREET AND NUMBER:
11527 Cushman Road

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville STATE: Maryland CODE: 24



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites in the BiCounty Region

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State Bi County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 9 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 Old Chiswell Place is a frame, log, and brick structure built in three stages. The south wing sits at right angles to the main block of the house, giving it a modified "L" plan. The east end of the south wing is the oldest part of the house. It is a frame, 1 1/2 story, A-roofed building sitting on a stone foundation. On either end it has external chimneys (the one on the west end now enclosed by the addition). The facade is three bays with a central doorway; the sheathing is beaded clapboards.

To the west, a one bay log addition was added. The logs are laid up with inverted "V" notches; where the log and frame sections abut, the ends of the logs of the front and back walls are tenoned into mortises in an upright post.

In plan, the frame section is two rooms divided by the boxed staircase. The staircase is a "T" approached from either room with two steps leading to a landing from which the straight run rises. The landing has two wedge-shaped steps built out and resembling winders approached from opposite sides. The log section is two steps down from the frame section; it has a fireplace on the east wall with a narrow, boxed staircase rising between the chimney and the south exterior wall. The fireplaces in the west chimney have both been closed off but the mantles are still in place. The east chimney is open but the surround has been replaced with newer brick and the shelf has been removed.

The second floor of the frame section has two rooms on either side of the small hallway. The partitions and ceiling are boards of random widths. On the south facade, a long dormer window has been added since the only light came from the small gable windows flanking the chimneys. The second floor of the log section is completely separate from the frame section.

The two-story Federal style, brick section is connected by a one-story, frame passageway. When the present road was cut through and the facade of the house reversed, the passageway was given a brick "square front" on the west side to mask the lean-to roof. The passage has one room and a hallway across the west facade.

The brick section is laid-up in Flemish bond on the main facade and common bond on the ends and rear facade. It has a three bay facade and a flush gable chimney on the north end. The entrance in the south bay has a transom light; the reveals are panelled. The windows are nine over six double hung sash on the first floor and six over six double hung sash on the second floor.

(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) **Frame part between 1778 and 1793; Brick part 1826.**

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

The significance of "The Old Chiswell Place" is the existence today of a community of buildings which have comprised a working farm for at least 170 years. Beside the residence there is a meathouse of log with an attached springhouse. (The springhouse was moved from its original site by a spring and attached to the meathouse to be near a new well dug more than 85 years ago.*) There is a small log house probably used for storage with sandstone chips used between the logs. There is an early corncrib made of frame and logs, still used as a corn crib. The site is remarkable for giving the immediate impression of a plantation from Colonial days.

It has the further significance of having been the home of three men distinguished in their period. George Frazier Magruder bought this farm in 1778 and moved from Prince George's County where he had been a fourth generation resident and planter, a Grand Juror as a "Loyal Civil Services" during the Revolution, and took the "Oath of Fidelity and Support" to Maryland. He later took the same oath in Montgomery County. (1) He was a large slaveholder and a man of prominence in the community.

When this farm is offered for sale in the estate of George Frazier Magruder in 1803, it is described as "a frame dwelling house, 28x24 ft. with 3 rooms on the lower floor and two on the upper, a kitchen adjoining the house and all other necessary outhouses" (2) etc. Colonel Solomon Simpson bought it but died soon thereafter and Colonel Thomas Fletchall bought the property at public sale in 1804. He willed this farm to his daughter, Sarah Fletchall in 1819. In 1809 Sarah had married William Chiswell whose father had given him 414 acres (in 1810) which adjoined this land.

William Chiswell, the next verifiable resident, was an attorney whose name appears on many transactions between 1810 and 1846. For many years he was the County

* Mr. Remus Darby, Brooklawn Apts. Frederick, Maryland.
 (1) Brumbaugh, "Maryland Records" p. 302.
 (2) Frederick Town Herald Newspaper. June 11, 1803.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Assessment Book 1842-1857. Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.
 Bowie. Across the Years in Prince George's County. Richmond, 1947, p. 538.
 Brumbaugh, Maryland Records. Baltimore 1967, p. 302.
 Brumbaugh, Revolutionary Records of Maryland. Washington, D. C. 1924 p. 28.
 Chiswell. Willard Road, Poolesville, Maryland.

(See continuation sheet No. 4)

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 09' 10"	77° 23' 36"				
NE	39° 09' 10"	77° 22' 57"				
SE	39° 08' 44"	77° 22' 57"				
SW	39° 08' 44"	77° 23' 36"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **145 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mary Ann G. Kephart, Chairman (See continuation sheet No. 4)**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Preservation Committee, Poolesville Area** DATE: **August 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Citizens' Association Box 66**

CITY OR TOWN: **Poolesville** 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 Pearce
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date July 17, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

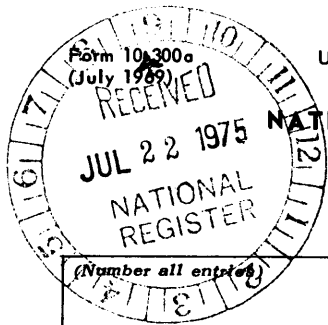
[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/9/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 SEP 8 1975

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 9 1975

"Old Chiswell Place"

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

In plan, the brick wing has an end hall and single parlor. The fireplace surround is paneled with a carved roll frieze and a moulded shelf. On either side of the fireplace there are cabinets about 4 feet high with drawers. The window and door frames have mouldings of squarish profile and the corner blocks have a square motif instead of the more usual bullseye. The fascia of the window surrounds does not run below the window sills; instead, either end of the sill is supported by console brackets.

The second floor plan is similar to the first except for an additional small room at the head of the stairs. The bedroom has a fireplace with a surround and mantle similar to that on the first floor. The staircase continues to the attic in an open double run.

Several domestic dependencies have survived. There is a small stone springhouse built adjacent to a log meathouse. There is also a small log barn or shed. The log buildings have inverted "V" notched joining and have "A" roofs. The springhouse is shed-roofed.

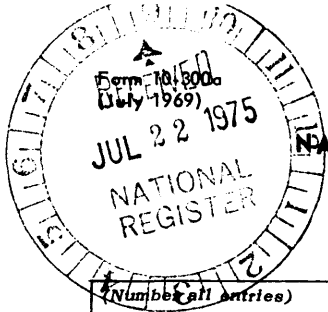
8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Surveyor for Montgomery County. In 1836 he was one of three designated to purchase land for the County. In 1846 he was appointed to a committee to prepare a draft of a constitution for the Montgomery County Agricultural Society. In 1821 he was one of a group to withdraw from their church and found a new congregation for which he furnished land for its new building.(3) He was a planter, attorney, and surveyor in a section of Maryland that was still frontier land.

The architectutal features of the large brick part of the house indicate that it was built in the 1820's and the fact that William and Sarah mortgaged land in 1826 to raise \$7,100 leads to the belief that this is when the brick addition was built. Elderly descendants point out an indentation near the creek "where I've always been told the clay came from to make the brick for Great Grandfather's house."(4) The addition contained one large drawing room and hall on the first floor and one large and one small bedroom on the second floor. The kitchen, dining room, and bedrooms in the original house continued in use connected to the brick house by a room and a partially enclosed passageway.

(3) Scharf, History of Western Maryland. p. 751

(4) Mr. Remus Darby, address above, and Mr. Carroll Chiswell, Poolesville.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 8 1975

"Old Chiswell's Place"

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Six of the ten Chiswell children grew to adulthood and one son, George, continued in his paternal home throughout his lifetime. Although its most celebrated occupant, he never held title to this farm. When his mother, Sarah, made her will, George was in Virginia fighting in the Civil War, so she prudently willed the farm to her grandchildren, "the children of my son, George." (5)

In 1862 Captain George Chiswell of Maryland marched "from that State with a full company to join White's Cavalry" (6) in Loudon County, Virginia. Having commanded his company in many engagements under Colonel Elijah V. White, Captain Chiswell objected to joining the Army of the C.S.A. "claiming that as Marylanders they owed no allegiance to the Confederacy" (7) but finally relented and became part of "Gen. Jones Brigade." (8) "Composed largely of men from the Poolesville area, Co. B, 35th Battalion of Rangers was formed between June and Oct, 1862 at Charlottesville. In December, under Capt. George Chiswell, the company raided its home neighborhood in Montgomery Co." (9)

Capt. Chiswell commanded with distinction and bravery in the almost constant fighting in Virginia. A book written by an officer who served with him (10) as well as his personal letters, reflect the pressure, danger, activity, and devotion to duty which characterized his service. He was seriously wounded at Brandy Station, Va. June 9, 1863 and was returned to his home in secret to be nursed back to health. An eye bolt visible today in the ceiling of the large bedroom held the rope and pulley to suspend his injured leg. In Oct. 1864 he writes his wife from Paris, Va. "I have thrown away my crutches or rather given them to Elijah Veirs." (11) He continued in service until he was honorably discharged April 8, 1865 to return to his home where he lived until 1891.

(5) Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, Liber EBP 27 Folio 203.

(6) Myers, The Comanches, p. 71.

(7) Ibid. p. 121

(8) Ibid. p. 121

(9) Manakee, Maryland in the Civil War. pp. 138,9.

(10) Myers, The Comanches

(11) Letters of Captain George Chiswell presently in possession of Mrs. Carroll Chiswell, Poolesville, Maryland.

(See continuation sheet No. 3)

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

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 9	1975

(Number all entries)

"Old Chiswell's Place"

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

An 1865 map published by Simon and Martenet shows the location of the house and the marking "George W. Chiswell." When a road was commissioned in 1869 "for the public convenience" the property is shown on the plat (12) belonging to "Sarah Chiswell's Heirs" who received \$20 damages for 110 perches.

Having bought full title to the farm from their brothers and sister Captain George's two maiden daughters continued to farm the Old Chiswell Place. They lived in the frame house and used the beautifully furnished brick part of the house for "summer boarders" who came regularly from Baltimore and Washington to spend a few weeks in the country.

Today the house, ancient farm buildings, and 145 acres are owned by speculators. Health authorities of Montgomery County have advised the owners that unless a new well and septic system are installed the house must be condemned. The owners do not value the house, which is occupied by renters, and have advised the County authorities that they will probably tear the house down rather than comply. Notified by this committee of the historicity of the place they have said they will reconsider ("think it over").

When Russell Wright visited Poolesville in July, 1973, he strongly urged that this property be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because of the existence of the community of farm buildings and residence.

(12) Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland. Liber 4 Folio 490,491.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #4

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 9 1975

(Number all entries)

"Old Chiswell's Place"

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

- First Census of U.S. p. 90.
- Frederick Town Herald. Frederick, Maryland. June 11, 1803 and December 15, 1804.
- Goldsborough, The Maryland Line in the Confederate Army. Port Washington, New York. 1972. pp. 329,330.
- Hall of Records. Annapolis, Maryland.
- Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland
- MNCPPC Historic Sites Identification Map. Silver Spring, Maryland. 1969.
- Manakee. Maryland in the Civil War. Baltimore 1961 pp. 138-9.
- Martenet, Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland 1865.
- Myers, Frank M. The Comanches: A History of White's Battalion Personal letters of George W. Chiswell owned by Mrs. Carroll 186,398.
- Register of Wills. Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland.
- Scharff. History of Western Maryland. Baltimore 1882. Vol. 1 pp. 339, 739, 751, 673, 657, 726, 737.
- 1790 State of Maryland Heads of Families. Washington Government Printing Office 1907.
- 1785 Assessment. Montgomery County. District 3.
- Unpublished Records of Prince George's County. (Rockville, Maryland Library) p. 11.
- Virginia Cavalry. Baltimore 1871. pp. 71, 109, 115, 121, 157, 180, 181, 186, 398.

11. FORM PREPARED BY, continued

Chris Owens
 Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
 5107 Muncaster Mill Road
 Rockville, Maryland 20853
 August 1974

