

PH0026140

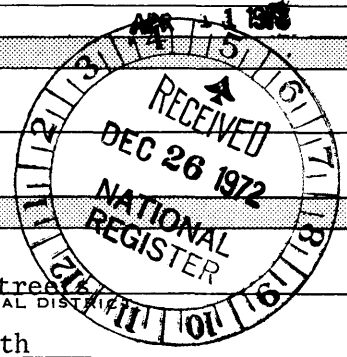
Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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:	Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	



1. NAME

COMMON: Riversdale

AND/OR HISTORIC: Calvert Mansion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South side Riverdale Road between 18th and Taylor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Riverdale CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Prince George's CODE: 033

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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Offices	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 6600 Kenilworth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Riverdale STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 14735 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey (see continuation sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Prince George's

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973

DATE:

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 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

Riversdale was planned in 1801 by Baron de Stier to resemble his Belgian home, Chateau du Mick. Only the central portion was built by de Stier, the hyphens and wings being added c. 1830 by his son-in-law, George Calvert.

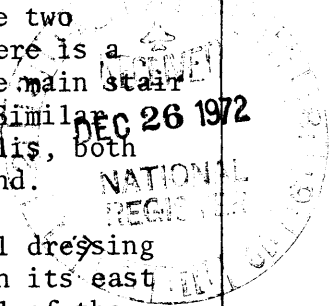
The building is a large scale late Georgian mansion with superior Federal interior. Both facades of the central block are divided into three nearly equal sections, the center of both being recessed to relieve the otherwise massive surfaces. A Doric portico gives access to the central door with its flanking windows. Three windows complete the vertical plane of both central recesses. On north and south, both flanking surfaces contain two windows on each story slightly wider than the central windows, and the second story windows being diminished in height by one pane. The south portico lacks the pediment found on the north side of the house, but instead of a door, there are three floor-length arched windows with flanking pilasters. During the twentieth century, the entire house, including its water table and belt course was stuccoed over the original brick. A hipped roof with 'kick' at the eaves covers the main block. Its cornice has large mutule-like modillion blocks. Flanking the late nineteenth century cupola are two small chimneys, the east chimney being purely decorative. On the extreme east and west sides of the main block are deep narrow chimney stacks which service the hyphen fireplaces as well as those in the main block.

The first floor plan is composed of three nearly equal rooms on the south and three smaller rectangular rooms on the north, the north rooms containing stair hall, entrance hall, and a service area with secondary stair.

The entrance hall opens into a square drawing room which overlooks the former terraces. On each side are rooms of nearly equal size with less elaborate decoration than the drawing room. The central drawing room has three shallow arched panels on each wall. The semi-circular arches are flanked by Ionic pilasters with adamesque garlands applied within the recessed panels of the pilasters. The arches of the south wall have triple hung windows reaching to the floor. Double mahogany doors occupy the central arches on the other three sides of the room. The plaster cornice is composed of a fascia with grapevine motif, and courses of acanthus leaves, carved modillions and egg and dart molding. The central ceiling medallion repeats the same detail found in the cornice. The plaster decoration of the two flanking rooms is less elaborate, but the cornice and medallion detail is correlated as in the drawing room. The two latter rooms possess marble mantels around the fireplaces. There is a tradition that William Thornton had a hand in the design of the main stair as the grooved handrail is characteristic of his other work. Similar handrails exist at Ogle Hall and the James Brice House, Annapolis, both the product of the pre-revolutionary architect, William Buckland.

The second floor is divided into five chambers with three small dressing rooms. The south central bed chamber has an unusual feature in its east wall, which has an alcove extending from floor to ceiling. All of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1973	DATE

(Number all entries)

Riversdale

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

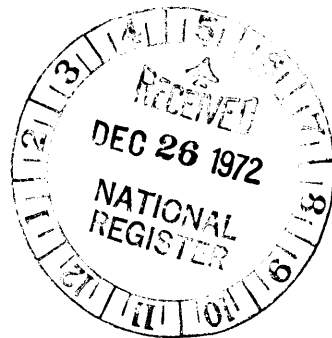
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks
 1970 State
 Maryland Historical Trust
 2525 Riva Road
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 CodeL 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

second story rooms have simple architectural treatment and lack the elaborate plaster decoration of the first story. Plain plaster cornices exist in each of the rooms as well as simple door and window trim and marble mantels.

The date of the construction of the wings has been estimated as circa 1830's, and judging from the profile of the door trim and plaster cornice, as well as an inventory of 1838, there seems little doubt as to the attribution. Both wings contain one huge room each in addition to a kitchen on the east and hall on the west. Their ceilings reach eighteen and one-half feet in height but are the product of the twentieth century remodeling of two-story wings. Connected to the east wing by a covered passage stands the nineteenth century kitchen.

Riversdale is presently used for the office of the Legislative delegation from Prince George's County. It is in good condition, but lacks the refinement found in private residences.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

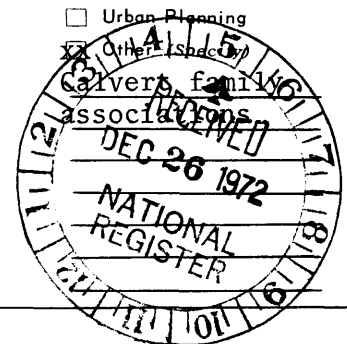
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1801**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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

Riversdale's architectural importance derives from its role as one of the best late Georgian, five part houses in Maryland. The Federal interior is of such high quality as to support the local tradition that attributes the design to William Thornton, architect of the Capitol. However, the available information on Thornton does not support the tradition.

The historical significance of Riversdale rests with its builder Henri Joseph the Baron de Stier and his son-in-law George Calvert who inherited the property. In 1794 de Stier immigrated to the United States from Belgium which the French army had occupied. He lived in Anne Arundel County and in the Brice House in Annapolis immediately before building Riversdale which he modeled after one of his European houses. In 1799 de Stier's daughter married George Calvert, a descendant of the Lords Baltimore. Four years later de Stier decided to return to Europe leaving his Prince George's County residence in charge of this daughter and son-in-law.

Charles Benedict Calvert succeeded his father as master of Riversdale. He devoted his life to agriculture through his supervision of this 2000 acre farm and through county, state and national agricultural societies. His efforts through the United States Agricultural Society were responsible for the creation of the Department of Agriculture (1853).

Henry Clay often visited Calvert at Riversdale staying in the northeast bedroom. Tradition maintains that he wrote a draft for the Compromise of 1850 while in that room.

The house remained in the Calvert family through the 1880's. It had a series of owners until 1949 when the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchased the property for its Prince George's County headquarters. (It is now the headquarters of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland Assembly.) With the acquisition of Riversdale, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has declared its interest in the heritage of the bi-county region and in the preservation of historic properties in the midst of the sprawl of suburban Washington, D. C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. "The Calvert Mansion 'Riversdale.'" Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Regional Office, 1958.

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	38 ° 57 ' 41 "	76 ° 55 ' 59 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38 ° 57 ' 39 "	76 ° 55 ' 48 "				
SE	38 ° 57 ' 34 "	76 ° 55 ' 50 "				
SW	38 ° 57 ' 36 "	76 ° 56 ' 00 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.5 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:
Michael Bourne and Nancy Miller, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Nov. 17, 1972

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: Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date: November 17, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

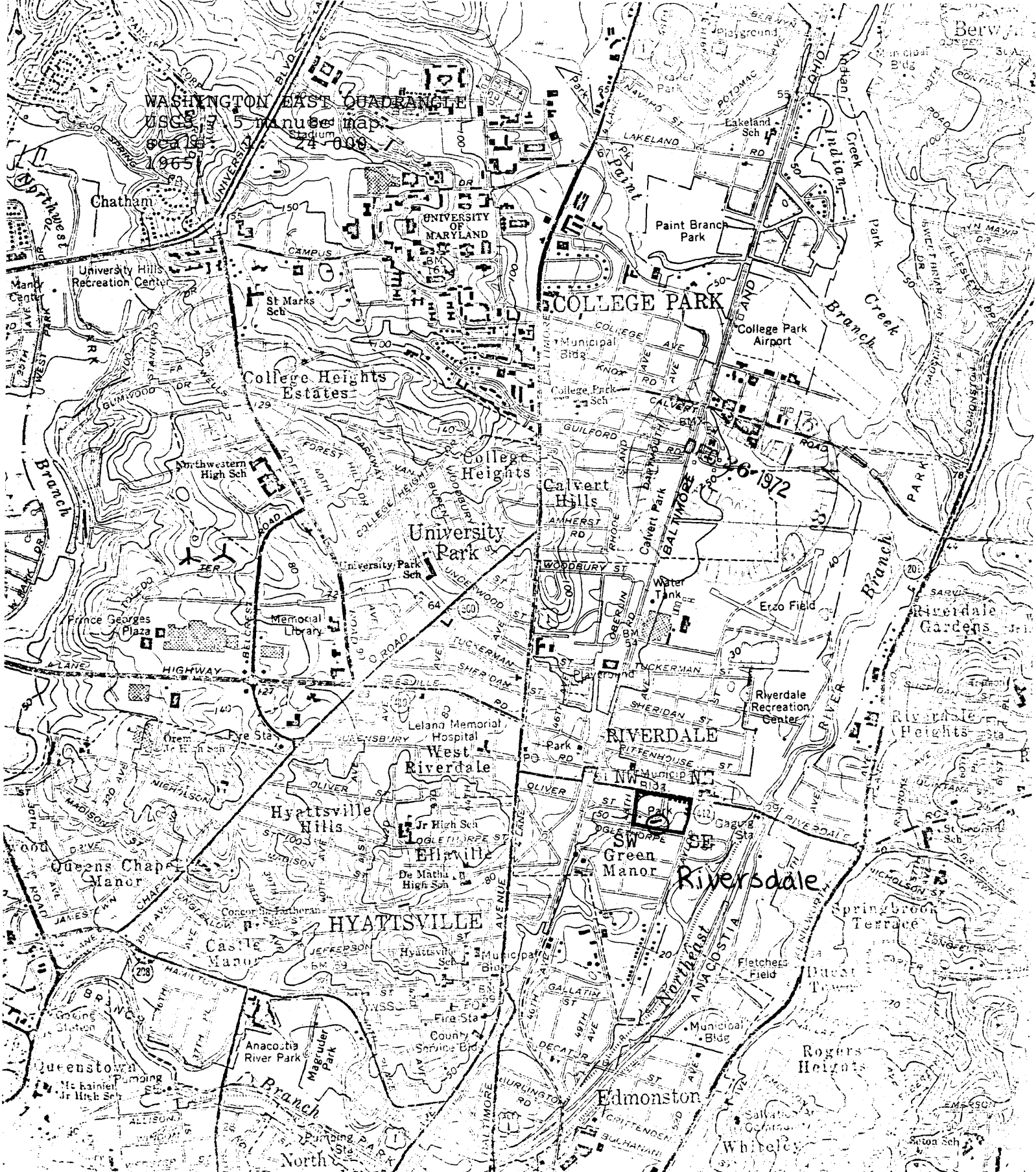
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 4 73

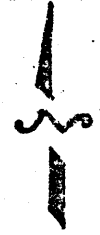


LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

NE	38° 57' 39"
SE	38° 57' 34"
NW	38° 57' 41"
SW	38° 57' 36"

76° 55' 48"
76° 55' 50"
76° 55' 59"
76° 56' 00"



SCALE 1:24,000