

PHO 12 1380

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 10 1974

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Chiswell's Inheritance**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**same**

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **NW of Poolesville off MD 109 -  
Route 109 - Beallsville**

CITY OR TOWN: **Poolesville vicinity** 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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

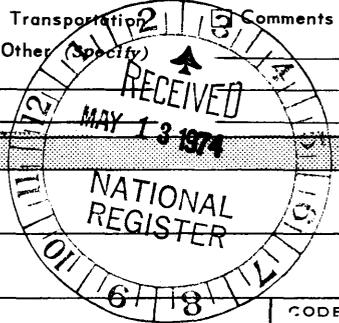
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<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: **George O. and MaryAnn G. Kephart**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 25**

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



#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Land Records Office, Montgomery Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Sheet #6  
Historic American Buildings Survey. (a) (See Continuation/**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 10 1974

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 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 brick plantation house consists of a main block with an attached kitchen wing on the south end. The foundation, visible on the exterior only from the west, is of local pink sandstone. The roofing is slate shingle.

The five-bay main facade faces east. It is laid up in Flemish bond with a water table of quarter-round profile about two feet above ground level. The central doorway is topped by a five light transom; two large twelve over twelve double hung sash windows are on each side of the doorway. The second story has five nine over six double hung sash windows. The walls are carried over the openings by jack arches.

The north end, laid up in common bond, has a flush gable chimney capped with five courses of corbelled bricks. Inlaid in glazed brick near the peak of the gable is the inscription "C S" with the date "1796" below. There are small four light windows opening into the attic on the extreme of the gable. Two windows at the east and west extremes of the first floor have been bricked in.

The west facade, laid up in common bond, has a central rear door with two nine over nine hung sash to the north and two six over six double hung sash to the south on the ground floor. On the second floor there are three symmetrically spaced, equal-sized nine over six windows and an additional small, four over four double hung sash with a single shutter.

The south end has an external chimney with a two-story base tapering to a stack. Small single light windows pierce the gable on either side of the stack with two larger four over four double hung sash below. A door opening exists on the south as well as on either side of the kitchen wing. The western door opens to a recently added porch. The eastern door opens into a walkway to the kitchen wing which was formerly exposed, but was enclosed at sometime in the past.

The kitchen wing rests on a stone foundation without a basement. It has an external chimney on the south end with a free-standing stack capped by four courses of corbelled brick. The chimney base is of two depths, one for the main cooking fireplace, and one for the bake-oven. The one-and-one-half-story base has tapered weatherings, the east part of the base projecting outward about one-and-one-half feet less than the rest. Dormers on either side of the roof are later additions.

Both the main block and the kitchen wing have boxed cornices covering the rafter ends.

(See Continuation Sheet #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) **1796**

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

The Chiswell family is one of the earliest in this part of Maryland. Stephen Newton Chiswell emigrated from Leicestershire, England in 1735 at the age of 20. He originally settled in Anne Arundel County. After marrying his first cousin, Sarah, he moved to the Poolesville area where he had acquired considerable landholdings through patents from the Crown.

Stephen Chiswell is referred to in the land records of the time as "planter of Frederick County" and his only son, Joseph, carried on this family tradition. In 1778, on his twenty-first birthday, Joseph Newton Chiswell received from his father a gift of some one hundred and forty acres of land. Included in this gift was a tract of ninety acres which Stephen had named Joseph's Choice when he acquired it by patent from George III in the year of Joseph's birth. Most of this original tract is included in the present farm.

During the next ten years, Joseph Chiswell acquired several contiguous parcels of land and in 1788 he obtained from the State of Maryland a patent for his consolidated holdings under the name of "Chiswell's Inheritance." He built the existing plantation house in 1796. The house has been lived in and the land farmed continuously since at least that date.

Chiswell's Inheritance is an elegant compromise of the rugged demands of eighteenth century farm life and those of the well-to-do gentlemen planter's family. The house is one of the earliest in Western Montgomery County to be built with a conscious attention to architectural style. At a time when most of the neighboring houses were of log with little attention to symmetry and detail, Joseph Chiswell built a house with symmetry on the main facade and highly stylized interior detail. The carved woodwork throughout the house has a character that differentiates it from other Montgomery County buildings. The origin of the designs is unknown, but of particular significance are: a) the intricately decorated north wall of the living room, b) the window in a closet on the north wall of the living room. (This may be the only example of this type of window in Maryland.), c) the main

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Building Survey U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service, U.S. Government, Washington, D.C. 1941.  
 Poolesville Building Survey Montgomery County Historical Society (Robert C. Braumberg, Jane C. Sween) 1969.  
 Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland Roger Farquhar Judd & Detwiler, Inc., Washington, D.C. (1952) 1962.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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' 27"	77° 25' 42"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 09' 27"	77° 25' 02"				
SE	39° 08' 57"	77° 25' 02"				
SW	39° 08' 57"	77° 25' 42"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 135

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

NW 1/4 291080/4336810  
 SE 1/4 291046/4335890  
 SW 1/4 291030/4335930

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David L. Prestemon, George O. Kephart, MaryAnn G. Kephart sh

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 1974  
10 January, /

STREET AND NUMBER: Chiswell's Inheritance, Box 25

CITY OR TOWN: Poolesville STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Historic Preservation Officer

Date April 24, 1974

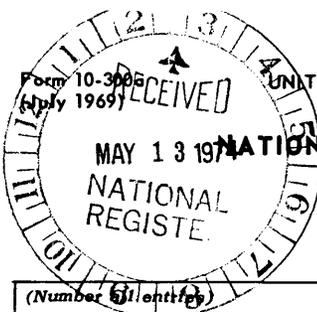
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/10/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.6.74



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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	SEP 10 1974

(Number of entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

The basement is divided into three rooms by the sandstone foundation walls that support the interior brick partition walls above. The longitudinal wall runs the length of the house and divides the basement in half. The east-west wall runs only from the eastern foundation to the central wall, dividing the eastern portion of the basement into two smaller rooms. (The western end of the east-west wall is supported by posts.) The longitudinal wall is pierced by two doors and small wooden-grilled window openings into each of the smaller rooms. There is a fireplace on the western side of the north wall and a fireplace foundation on the eastern side of that wall. A small segment of the arch supporting the southern hearths is also visible in the basement.

In the attic, five seven-foot high posts resting on the brick north-south partition wall support a longitudinal tie-beam which is mortised into the brick end walls. The posts are supported by angle braces resting on the interior partition walls. Pegged to this beam are lateral tie-beams which are mortised, tenoned, and pegged to the rafters near their midpoints. The rafters in turn are mortised, tenoned, and pegged at the peak. The floor joists rest on and overhang the exterior walls and are in-filled between. They support a false plate to which the ends of the rafters are mortised, tenoned and pegged.

On the north end of the attic the separate fireplace stacks, two-flue on the eastern side of the house and three-flue on the western converge forming a corbelled arch.

The interior of the main block of the house is divided approximately into quarters by the interior partition walls. The longitudinal, north-south partition wall is constructed of brick, approximately one foot thick, rising the full two stories. The east-west partition wall, located slightly to the south of the center line of the house, is of brick nogging construction on the first story and wood above.

On the ground floor, the main doorway opens directly into the northeast (living) room. The north wall of this room has a central fireplace flanked by cupboards. The fireplace opening is enclosed by a dogeared surround of heavy molding. This carries consoles which support a carved frieze course, bed molding and mantle shelf. The central motif of the fireplace is a block decorated with a carved flower design and a cutout ogee arch. Above the mantle shelf is a panel with a crossetted surround, shield motif carvings in the crossetts, and bellflower motif

(See Continuation Sheet #2)



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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	SEP 10 1974

#7 Description (Continued)

decorations along the outside of the molded surround. The ceiling cornice has a vine motif of high Federal style.

The flanking corner cupboards have double, round arched, three-panel doors with a five inch molded surround and molded keystone. Inside the left cupboard are three butterfly shelves. The bottom two shelves are absent in the right hand cupboard; the now-bricked window in the north wall is visible at the back of the cupboard.

A door in the south wall of the living room leads to the dining room. The south wall of this room has a door on the eastern side opening on a walkway to the kitchen wing. Next to this, and slightly off-center to the west, is a fireplace with a dogeared surround supporting fluted blocks, a dentiled course and a molded mantle shelf. The central motif is a block carved with a design consisting of three six-pointed flowers separated by groups of five flutings. To the right of the fireplace, about four feet from floor level, is a one-and-one-half foot by one-and-one-half foot pass-through to the kitchen wing.

A door in the west wall of the dining room leads to the present kitchen. The south wall of the kitchen has a door on the western side and a fireplace off-center to the eastern side. The fireplace is decorated with a dogeared surround, supporting two brackets, a course carved in a triglyph and metope motif and a molded mantle shelf. A block in the center of the frieze is carved with a motif of three diamonds separated by groups of five flutings.

The door in the west facade opens into an entrance hall. To the north of the hall is a small library. The small, centered fireplace in the library has a dogeared surround, surmounted by a three-panel frieze, bed molding, and mantle shelf. To the west of the fireplace is a bricked in window opening. To the east is a two-door closet with a molded surround, carved frieze, and a pediment.

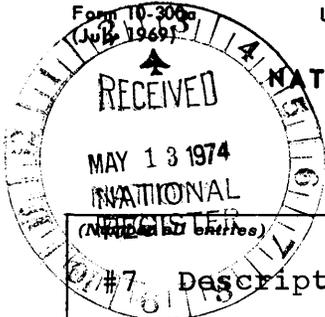
On the ground floor, the jambs and soffits of all the windows and the two doors through the longitudinal partition wall are panelled. The jambs of the windows in the main facade are splayed. The three doors in the exterior walls (other than the door in the kitchen) are hung with hand-wrought strap hinges approximately three feet long. The doors in the rear facade and in the south wall of the dining room are of diagonal beaded boards on the inside and panels on the outside. The main door is panelled on

both sides. (See Continuation Sheet #3)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
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#7 Description (Continued)

The chair rail throughout the rooms of both the first and second floors is three-inch beaded board with a rail of semicircular profile. The exception is the dining room which has an unusual chair rail consisting of a beaded board and an applied band carved in a triglyph and metope motif similar to the course above the kitchen fireplace.

The main staircase, rising along the north wall of the entrance hall, is a three-run, half-turn staircase with landings. Two turned balusters rest on each tread and support a carved hand-rail. Each tread is supported by a bed molding and the tread ends are decorated with a carved motif. There are small newel posts at the turns. The balustrade continues along the second floor hall and up the stairs to the attic as far as the turn. The narrow quarter-turn staircase with winders leading to the attic has a patterned, jigsaw-work balustrade on the left-hand side. On the right-hand side, from the turn of the stairs to the attic is a Chinese Chippendale trellis balustrade.

From the second floor hall, between the attic stairs and the west wall is the entrance to the northwest room. The fireplace in the north wall of this room is off-center to the west. It is identical in decoration to, but smaller than, the fireplace in the library below. The fireplace is flanked by closets. The room is separated from the hall by a partition wall of beaded board.

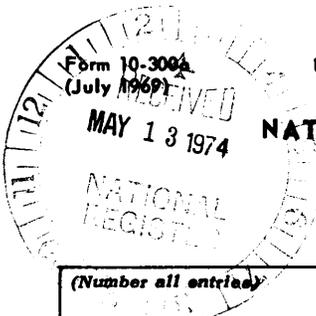
The master bedroom in the northeast corner of the second floor has a fireplace in the north wall slightly off-center to the east. The fireplace is enclosed by a dogeared surround with a three panel frieze above and a mantle shelf supported by a bed molding. It is flanked by closets, around the doors of which are dogeared moldings with a plain keystone. Above the fireplace is a recessed panel surrounded by a dogeared molding.

The bedrooms in the southeast and southwest corners of the second floor are plain. Each has a fireplace with a molded surround and a molded mantle shelf.

On the east side of the kitchen wing is a small room approximately six feet by ten feet, presently a laundry room and formerly "slave quarters."

The "old kitchen" has two fireplaces in the south wall, a large (approximately five feet wide by four feet high) cooking fireplace with a period crane, and a smaller fireplace with a bake

(See Continuation Sheet #4)



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Continuation Sheet) # 4

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

oven. (The bake oven opening is bricked in behind.) There are metal support bands under the header arches of the two fireplaces. All of the exterior openings have wooden lintels, the one over the door and a window in the west wall being continuous. A wooden ladder fixed to the wall in the northeast corner leads to a trapdoor to the loft above (the opening is now covered over).

Alterations:

The following alterations have been significant in giving the house its present appearance:

a. Two windows in the north wall on the ground floor have been bricked in. They appear to have been closed very early in the life of the house, probably because the prevailing winter winds make this wall very cold even today.

b. On both the first and second floors, there were originally no doors between the halls and the southwest rooms. These are later additions. Also, the wall between the southwest bedroom on the second floor and the bathroom is not original.

c. The wall between the northeast and southeast bedrooms on the second floor originally was identical to the first floor wall immediately below though of wood rather than brick construction. This wall has been removed and remodeled with closets and a bathroom.

d. A narrow staircase that led from the present kitchen (rising in the northwest corner of that room) to the southwest bedroom and then to the attic has been removed. There is some evidence that a similar staircase may have led from the southeast bedroom to the attic, though if it did exist, it must have been removed a considerable time ago.

e. The door in the south wall of the present kitchen was originally a window.

f. The walkway between the door in the south wall of the dining room and the "slave quarters" in the kitchen wing was originally exposed to the east (though covered by the kitchen wing roof). It has been enclosed to form a hall and a stairway has been added rising from the hall to the loft above the old kitchen.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

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

(Continuation Sheet) #5

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
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	SEP 10 1974

(Number all entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

g. No alterations have significantly changed the exterior appearance of the house (with the exception of the enclosed walkway). The outlines of large porches, nineteenth century additions now removed, are visible in the brickwork in the front and rear of the house. A porch has been added to the west side of the kitchen wing. A walled terrace has recently been constructed raising the level of the west lawn approximately two feet to the level of the rear door.

Also included within the nominated property is an excellent example of a large bank barn. The frame, mortised, tenoned, and pegged, rests on a two foot thick sandstone wall. The posts and beams of the frame are hand-hewn oak, six to eight inches square. There is some evidence, in the memories of local people, that the barn was in existence at least as early as the Civil War. It is in good condition and in current use.

Six of the original sandstone boundary markers of Chiswell's Inheritance remain on the property, intact, in place and in good condition. A typical inscription is quoted below.

No. 22  
Chiswell's Inheritance  
Joseph's Choice  
At This End F'd Line  
J N C 1793

#8 Significance (Continued)

staircase with its carved decoration and variety of balustrades, including one run of a Chinese Chippendale trellis pattern, d) the panelling throughout, e) the carved chair rail of the dining room.

The farm as a whole, the house together with the supporting out-buildings, and the land itself preserve a representative example of eighteenth and nineteenth century plantation life in Maryland.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 6

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 10 1974

(Number all entries)

#6 Representation in Existing Surveys (Continued)

"Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region" (b)  
1969, County.  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,  
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

#9 Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Maryland, a Guide to the Old Line State Writer's Program of  
the Work Projects Administration of the State of Maryland.  
Oxford University Press, New York. 1938.

The Civil War in the Poolesville Area Roger S. Cohen, Jr.

Tax and Land Records located in:

Montgomery County Courthouse  
Rockville, Maryland

Frederick County Courthouse  
Frederick, Maryland

Hall of Records  
Annapolis, Maryland

#11 Form Prepared By (Continued)

Natalie Bates  
Poolesville Area Citizen's Association  
Box 66, Poolesville, Maryland 20837, January 12, 1974

Christopher Owens, Park Historian  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907 January 12, 1974

