

PH 0509728

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 5 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

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

Sandgates on Cat Creek

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E of oakville on md 470

of the Patuxent River

south side of Sandgates Road, 1/2 mile west

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oakville

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

024

St. Mary's

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

W. Darwyn Moore

STREET & NUMBER

Sandgates Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oakville,

VICINITY OF

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Lane

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Leonardtwn,

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress; St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington; St. Mary's City

D.C.; Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Sandgates on Cat Creek" is located on the southeast side of Sandgates Road 2 1/2 miles east of Maryland Route 235 and 1/2 mile west of the Patuxent River.

The house is a 1 1/2-story, three-bay frame structure with brick ends built in the mid-18th century (circa 1740-1780). A kitchen-hyphen combination of similar proportions was added in 1964. The original front of the house faces northwest toward the Patuxent, although the view is blocked by trees. The driveway entrance is at the southwest elevation.

Both sides have an eight-panel door in the center bay flanked by windows with 9/6 light double-hung sash. Wooden steps lead up both entrances. The sides are covered with weatherboard, painted white, and have boxed cornices at the corners. The structure sits on a foundation of Flemish bond brick.

The brick end walls are also laid in Flemish bond. Each has a double exterior chimney with a one-story, brick-roofed pent. The chimney stacks are detached above the first story level. The northwest elevation has one 9/6 light window with a flat arch to the north of the chimney, and a 4/4 sash window immediately to the outside of each chimney stack.

The gable roof is covered with shingles. It has three gable-roofed dormers with 4/4 light sash on the northeast elevation, and no dormers on the southwest elevation.

The north half of the chimney on the southeast elevation is covered on the first floor by the hyphen of the 1964 addition. The kitchen of the addition is perpendicular to the house, and has a single exterior chimney on the southwest end, two dormers on the southeast and one dormer on the northeast. In construction of the wing, the brick foundations of an outbuilding, probably a kitchen, were uncovered to the south of the house.

The ground floor has a hall, parlor and back rooms plan, with entry into the slightly larger hall on the northeast and a small stair hall on the southwest. On either side of the stair hall is a small room; the one in the south corner opens into the parlor but not into the stair hall, while the one in the west opens into the stair hall but not into the larger front room. There are doorways between the hall and parlor, the hall and stair hall and the parlor and the wing. The latter appears to originally have been a door to the exterior. The pent closets open into the hall and parlor.

The hall and parlor are both paneled across their end walls. The paneling is identical except that the hall fireplace is flanked by a pair of fluted pilasters. Included in the paneling are a cornice, chair rail,

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Civil War History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sandgates displays all of the regional characteristics of Southern Maryland according to Dr. Cary Carson, formerly of the St. Mary's City Commission. In his description of this mid-18th century house these characteristics are enumerated:

checkerboard Flemish-bond brick gables, each supporting a pair of pented chimneys; weather-board sidewalls, one story high by three bays wide; a classic hall, parlor and back rooms plan downstairs with four chambers similarly laid out in the attic. Hall and parlor are fully and identically paneled across the end walls, saving the one difference that a pair of simple, fluted pilasters flank the fireplace opening in the hall. The small back room in the northwest corner is entered from the stair hall as usual, but not the southwest room. Instead it opens directly off the parlor, suggesting a functional relationship between those two rooms.... (Carson, see #9, entry 1.)

Sandgates has been said to be perhaps one of the best and most authentic restorations in Southern Maryland. Major rooms are fully paneled on fireplace walls and have dado paneling or chair rails and cornices on remaining walls. The stair hall is a major architectural feature, the stairs rising in a broken flight and ending over the door to the great room. All rooms on the second floor are partitioned with 17th Century verticle paneling, salvaged from an earlier house and incorporated here at the time of construction. All interior woodwork is original except for the overmantel which was reproduced to match it and several doors. Much of the hardware is also original; the remainder is of the period or reproduced to order. The furnishings are primarily Queen Ann and Chippendale, heirlooms supplemented by pieces made to order in the style of the period.

Sandgates was built between 1740 and 1780. The earliest description of the house is in the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment for St. Mary's County, Lower Resurrection Hundred. Owned by John Smith (Sr.) it was described as a dwelling house 32 x 34, ends of brick, sides of wood, five windows 2 1/3 x 4, six windows 1 2/3 x 3 2/3, three outhouses 16 x 40, 16 x 16,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research File-Architecture Work Sheets SM-99, St. Mary's City
 Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland. Cary Carson, Architectural
 Historian
 Margaret King (Meyers) Fresco, "The Forrest Papers" Chronicles of
St. Mary's. Vol. 16 No. 12, Dec. 1968.

See Continuation Sheet #4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.49

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	3	59	10	20	4	2	5	2	3	4	10
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE

John K. Bruton, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

DATE

St. Mary's County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust 6/30/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o David Roberts (Chmn.) 109 Lakeland Drive (301) 373-5251

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Hollywood,

Maryland 20636

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 N. Pearce 11/30/77
 SHPO

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>William LeVouch</i>	<i>11/14/78</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>William LeVouch</i>	DATE: <i>Nov 8, 1978</i>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

cupboard and raised panels. The mantels in the back rooms were missing when Sandgates was acquired by the Moores. The northwest room now contains a comparable mantel from Long Lane Farm, St. Mary's County, and the southwest room an excellent copy.

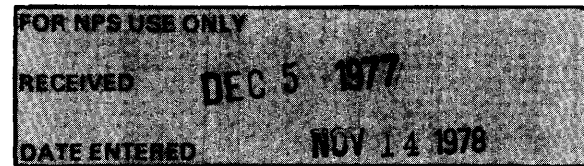
The stair has turned balusters, a molded rail of walnut, molded treads and simple brackets on the step ends. It ascends along the feather-edge plank partition between the northwest room and the stair hall.

The second floor or attic was divided into four unheated rooms with a large closet until the Moores' ownership. The south room now contains a full bath, and the closet is a "powder room." The partitions are of vertical sheathing similar to the plank wall on the first floor.

All of these exhibit signs of early paint, dark red in the south chamber, blue in the hall chamber, olive green in the small northwest room and on the first floor partition, and black along the base of the wall on the landing.

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Sandgates on Cat Creek
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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

and 12 x 12.

Sandgates was held by the Smith family until 1812 when Zachariah Forrest is listed as owner on the Assessment List.

Zachariah Forrest (1742-1817) was one of the first Judges appointed in St. Mary's County. One of the earliest families in Virginia, the Forrests emigrated to Maryland before 1650. Zachariah's brother, Uriah Forrest, was Brigadier-General of the Maryland Line and Aide to General George Washington at Germantown, Pennsylvania. When Zachariah died in 1817 he left Sandgates to his son James.

James Forrest (1781-1826) was commissioned a captain and Commander of the Troop of Horse called the Leonardtown Cavalry on May 8, 1812. At this time the British had two to three thousand troops at Point Lookout, possessed St. Georges Island and were blockading the Patuxent, Wicomico and Potomac Rivers as well as the Chesapeake Bay. After the war of 1812, James was elevated to Brigadier-General, Commander 4th Regimental Cavalry District of Maryland. In 1820 he was elected Presidential Elector for the ninth Presidential election, and in 1823 he was appointed to the Maryland Committee. James Forrest was Registrar of Wills for St. Mary's County from 1812 until his death in 1826. Sandgates was left to his son, Joseph Forrest.

A staunch supporter of states' rights and a slaveowner, Joseph Forrest (1821-1889) was commissioned a captain in the Confederate Army and recruited his own regiment composed mainly of fellow St. Mary's Countians. (St. Mary's County, like the rest of Maryland, was nominally part of the north. It was only due to the presence of Federal Troops and the arrest of the Maryland Legislature that Maryland did not secede from the Union.) Fearing for his life and his family's safety, Forrest fled to Texas by ship with his entire household. He abandoned Sandgates and his wife's land at Coles Creek, all totaling more than 1000 acres.

In November 1864 General Lew Wallace ordered the seizure of Forrest's lands. General Wallace was the creator of the "Freedmen's Bureau." The purpose of the Bureau was to protect former slaves and provide living quarters and a livelihood where possible. In order to meet these goals, Wallace was empowered to take any abandoned lands and turn them into farms for the freed slaves. These plantations were called "Government Farms." The only properities abandoned and seized in all of Maryland were in St. Mary's County. They were The Plains, owned by Col. John H. Sothron, and Sandgates and Cole's Creek, owned by Captain Forrest.

see continuation sheet 3

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

These plantations were administered by a Lt. O'Brien who took the land and made them into working farms. At Sandgates he rebuilt the wharf, erected a stable and re-opened the mill. By the time the lands were returned to Forrest there were 200 acres under cultivation.

Forrest returned to Maryland in 1865 with his family after having served honorably for the Confederacy. He was fully pardoned by the summer, and in August 1865 President Johnson ordered all confiscated property returned to the original owners. Forrest received Sandgates in March 1866 after petitioning the government several times.

In 1878 Forrest lost Sandgates when the court ordered the land into trusteeship to be sold for the payment of debts. The property changed hands a number of times until 1961 when it was purchased by its present owners. Sandgates, then almost total disrepair, was completely restored, and a wing was added.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland

"Sandgates on Cat Creek" Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage 1976, The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, 600 West Chesapeake Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.

Registry of Wills Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland

Tax Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland

Tax Records, St. Mary's County, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland