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One of the exterior features of Mulberry Fields is the brick walls constructed in an all-header bond. The south elevation (river front) has a large center entrance door flanked at each side by two windows, each containing a nine-over-nine pane On the second floor level the window and door placement sash. is the same, but the centered door is a nineteenth-century alteration and the windows are smaller by six panes. All the windows are headed by segmental brick arches and have carved masonry sills. The hip roof has two "A" roof dormers framed by large chimneys positioned toward the roof ridge. Between the first and second floor levels is a brick belt course terminating approximately one foot from the corner of the building. The modillioned eave cornice is wood, painted white; and the five cellar windows have segmental brick arches and grilles of wooden bars. A very prominent feature on this elevation is a twostory Doric portico erected in the early nineteenth century (c. 1820).

At the north elevation (garden side) the house displays more simplified features. The fenestration and door placement is largely the same as on the south elevation, except the second floor door which remains as a window. The north entrance portico is of Doric style with a simple unadorned pediment and tapered one-story columns.

The interior of the house is of a simple and educated taste. The center hall and two front (south) rooms have walls of rectangular raised panels with chair rails. The staircase, which is of a style more commonly associated with smaller houses of this period, is at the north end of the hall. It has three sets of risers, delicately turned balusters, a channeled rail terminating in a scroll at the newel post, and carved step ends. An object of interest in the hall is a plain arch of wood, boxy and crude in execution, supported by paneled pilas-Through the rest of the house many original mouldings, ters. doors, and mantels are intact. Some alterations include the installation of several bookcases with glass doors, closets, half and full baths which have been placed in areas flanking the first and second floor fireplaces where passageways previously existed, and the extensive remodeling of the first floor and attic of the kitchen wing.

Flanking each side of the north elevation of the main block is a single, formally placed degendency. It is not known for what purpose each was atilAged, but with are very similar in design and plan. Each is officient, one story in height, has an "A" frame roof with the ridge running north to south, and an exterior chimney at the north end. The east dependency has been extensively remodeled on the interior and now serves as a guest

-see continuation sheet-

SIGNIFICANCE			
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Pre-Columbian	🔲 16th Century	😰 18th Century	y 20th Century
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At the end of a long, private driveway stands the only remaining Georgian "mansion-type" home in an area which once boasted several such structures. The panoramic view of the Potomac River to the south, the mile-long allée stretching downhill to the riverbank from the south side of the house, the large boxwoods and the brick dependencies placed in formal positions, engender continuing admiration for the respect and dignity of a longpast mode of planning, building, and living.

The one mile long allée presents the optical illusion of two parallel rows of trees. This is produced through a unique planting scheme, deliberately fanning the position of each tree in order to produce an actual triangle and a parallel effect. The apex of the triangle is the south side of the house. The rows continue without a break to points to the east and west of the apex on the north side of the Potomac River bank.

The house at Mulberry Fields was probably built by John Attaway Clarke. In 1763, he had the land surveyed, and sometime thereafter he built a house. The documentary evidence indicates that Clarke planted the cedar allée as a formal approach to his country home. This impressive allée sets Mulberry Fields apart from other eighteenth-century dwellings.

Upon Clarke's death, the house and grounds became the property of his wife during her widowhood. After her death, the property went to his nephew, William Somerville (d. 1806).

The Somerville family papers in the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, document the plantation life at Mulberry Fields during William Somerville's ownership:

Shortly before his [William Somerville's] death, he increased his slave labor force from 46 to 180 men, women, and children by 1806. An old brick Quarters (perhaps the one that oldtimers remember as dated "1760" on the gable) could not accomodate all, and frame quarters had to be built to house the newcomers. Most, of course, worked in the fields, cultivating

[see continuation sheet]

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Annes, Ethel. Stratford Hall: The Great House of the Lees. Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1936. Carson Cary. "Mulberry Fields, St. Mary's County, Maryland." St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland. September 1971. Debt Books, St. Mary's County. 1753-1774. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. -see continuation sheet- GEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATITUDE LONGITUDE COMMINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE COATNET THE PROPERTY OF LATITUDE LONGITUDE COMMINATES COUNTY COMMENT ARECTANGLE COATNET THE PROPERTY Mass 13: 01: 49.51 76: 34: 39 - 55 33 0: 11: 49.51 76: 34: 39 - 55 33 0: 11: 49.51 76: 34: 39 - 55 33 0: 12: 04: 76: 96 76: 33: 97 - 57 ATE: COMMENT Sub COMMENTER ONDERTY: 530.4 LITALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTY OF APPROVENTY DOUNDARIES TATE: CODE COUNTY COMMENTER SUB CONTINUES COUNTY BOUNDARIES TATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE FORM PREPARED BY MICH ael Bourne & Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyors, & Nancy Mille STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE FORM PREPARED BY AND VITLE: Michael Bourne & Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyors, & Nancy Mille STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE FORM PREPARED BY AND AND VITLE: Michael Bourne & Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyors, & Nancy Mille STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE FORM PREPARED BY Annapolis STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION As the designated State Liabon Officer for the Na- tional Historic Preservation Act of 1960 (Public Law SPAGES), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Presidence. National Register and enrify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and proceases est National Register and enrify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and proceases est National Capital Count Preservation Act of 1960 (Public Law SPAGES), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion Network Counter Preservation Act of 1960 (Public Law SPAGES), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion Network Counce Preservation Act of 1960 (Public Law SPAGES), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion National Register. N	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES		S	M-1
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2525 Riva Road CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis 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: Name Mandl Raddet IV Name Mandl Raddet IV Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland	-			, 1972
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEI NATION	PARTMENT OF T		STATE Maryland		
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		Mulberry	Fields			
6. R	EPRESENTATION IN	EXISTING	SURVEYS, c	continued		
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7. DESCRIPTION, continued

cottage, while the other retains its original riven clapboard partition walls, floors, doors, and hardware. Because of its floor plan and interior detail it is felt that the west dependency may have been used as a laundry.

A mile long cedar allée stretches from the house south to the Potomac River.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

mainly corn, wheat, flax, and cotton (Somerville owned an early patent cotton gin). Cooks, stable hands, waiters and housekeepers gave the mansion and the thicket of outbuildings around it the appearance of a busy village. A nearly matched pair of service buildings--a kitchen and "workhouse"-still flank the dwelling on its backside [north]-its business end. (The unrestored workhouse preserves a rare interior clapboard wall.) A dairy, a meathouse, two carriage houses, and a long granary that once stood nearby have disappeared.

Inside the house, the rooms were comfortable if somewhat over-furnished with the accumulations of at least two prosperous generations of Clarkes and Somervilles and heirlooms from three or four different branches of the family. Mahogany and walnut tables and chairs jostled bookcases, looking glasses, a huge Wilton carpet, and innumerable beds. The

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(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Mulberry Fields

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

crannies and corners hid the usual clutter of fish hooks, pickle pots, papers, and crockery (a tradition still honored by the present owners). Some things were new--the "Burnt Black china" tea set, for instance; others were "antique" and "broke." "2 prints Royal Family" suggests that more than the furniture was out of date by 1806.

The new master of Mulberry Fields, William's son, William Clarke Somerville, was one of those youthful, cosmopolitan creatures that inhabit romantic novels. An Army Major in the War of 1812, he subsequently toured Europe, called on beautiful people like Lord Byron, the Duke of Wellington, and the Marquis de Lafayette. He returned from Italy to rechristen his pedestrian Mulberry Fields "Montalbino." But when he sold the plantation in 1822, everybody in the neighborhood went back to calling it by its old name. The property then passed quickly through several hands until it was acquired by Thomas Loker, in 1832, who probably made the first and last major addition to the house: the two story Doric porflico. The Lokers sold it to Jessie Fay in 1916 from whom it passed to the present owners.¹

¹Cary Carson, "Mulberry Fields St. Mary's County, Maryland," St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's Oity, Maryland, September 1971, copy in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust. Mr. Carson's report on Mulberry Fields, quoted here, is the result of an intensive study of the building done under his direction at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, Maryland.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Mulberry Fields

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