

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maryland</b>
COUNTY: <b>Anne Arundel</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Whitehall**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Whitehall**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**7 miles southeast of Annapolis on Whitehall Road off Route 50.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Vicinity of Annapolis**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**4th**

STATE: **Maryland**      CODE: **24**      COUNTY: **Anne Arundel**      CODE: **003**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scarlett, Jr.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Whitehall R.F.D. 2**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Annapolis**

STATE:  
**Maryland**

CODE:  
**24**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Anne Arundel County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 71**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Annapolis**

STATE:  
**Maryland**

CODE:  
**24**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Building Survey (6 photos)**

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

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Division of Prints and Photographs**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D.C.**

CODE:  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

Whitehall is a five-part brick building of unusual length, about two hundred feet. In the basement, exposed only on the north or land side, were the Governor's office and dining room with cellars under the central hall. On the main floor was a Great Hall, flanked by two withdrawing rooms, and fronted on the south or river side by a portico of four great Corinthian columns. The central hall was 20 feet in height, its coved ceiling actually projecting upward into the roof. The smaller parlors had lower ceilings, with the one to the west connected by a small circular stairway to the office below it. The north and south center door each had semicircular transoms which were topped by pediments. The south door led out to the portico, almost at ground level. The north entrance led to an open porch, one-story above ground level, with steps descending on each side to a landing from which they proceeded at right angles to the ground.

The pedimented portico of Whitehall's central block is superbly executed. The fluted Corinthian columns, resting on bases of sandstone and molded brick, are made of white cedar logs with a five-inch hole bored from end to end, presumably to prevent splitting. Every detail of the richly carved exterior entablature follows the pattern of a Corinthian model shown in Plate XVIII of The Modern Builder's Assistant, by Halfpenny, Morris, and Lightoler (1742). The interiors of the main rooms, attributed to William Buckland on the basis of an existing sketch for the design and placement of carved ornament for the Great Hall, are extraordinarily rich in carved decoration. Modillions, egg and dart ornament, window casings with lateral consoles, and especially the four satyr-like masks at the corners of the great coved ceiling, all bear a strong resemblance to similar details at Honington Hall, England, where Buckland studied, as well as to his work in the Chase-Lloyd House, 1779-74, and the Hammond-Harwood House, 1773-74, at Annapolis. John Rawlings, newly arrived from London, executed the elaborate plaster cornices, enriched with color and gilt.

At some unknown date, but probably by 1769, two brick wings were added with connecting one-story arcaded passages to the central block, thus bringing the house to its present five-part form and length. The end wings, which project northward and contain two bedrooms each on the main floor are one-story high but their pyramidal roof and central chimneys give the effect of two-story units. This strung out plan, based on Palladio's "Roman Country House" type, was shown in the plates of Robert Morris' Select Architecture, published in London in 1757 and used in a group of Virginia houses built in the 1760's and 70's. These houses include Brandon, 1765-70; Battersea, 1765-70, Belle Isle, 1760; Chatham, 1770; Monticello, 1770-78, and the Semple House, 1765-70. None of these latter houses, however, had a two story salon or giant portico.

The north or land side of the house was defended by a semi-octagonal shaped haha- a fortification comprised of a sunken ditch or moat-earthen ramparts, and four bastions or redoubts.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1764-1769

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 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

Whitehall, located 7 1/2 miles southeast of Annapolis, was erected in 1764-65 and extensively enlarged by 1769. As an outstanding example of a Georgian country house with the special distinction of being one of only two pre-Revolutionary houses in America to display a full temple portico (the other being Roger Morris' Mansion, Jumel, on the Harlem River in New York City begun in 1765), Whitehall is a major milestone in American architectural history. Much of the interior woodwork is attributed to William Buckland on the basis of style, and the plasterwork is documented as that of John Rawlings. Drawings exist by Joseph Horatio Anderson, one of the few professional architects in the Colonies. Although the extent of his work at Whitehall is still uncertain, his involvement with the design provides a possible partial explanation for the greater sophistication of the building. The full two-story salon of the central block combines with the giant portico to make Whitehall a unique example of Palladian architecture in its closer relation to the grandeur and magnificence of the country dwellings of the English aristocracy, giving an interesting illustration of the extension of this life style into the Colonies by the royal governors.

History

Whitehall was built for Governor Sharpe on a 1,000 acre estate overlooking the north bank of the Severn River. The central block of the five-part house, begun in the fall of 1764 and probably completed the following year, was at first only a pavilion used by the Governor as a retreat and for the entertainment of guests making excursions down the river from Annapolis. It was enlarged soon after this date and became the Governor's residence from the time of his enforced retirement in 1769 until his return to England in 1773. Whitehall was designed and built under Sharpe's direct supervision, as was the surrounding landscaping of gardens, parks, and semi-octagonal entrance court. The latter feature, capable of being fortified, undoubtedly reflected his military interests and concerns for defense. As commander of Colonial forces for the protection of Virginia and adjoining colonies until superseded by Major-General Braddock, he had first-hand experience with Indian warfare on the frontier.

In 1773 Governor Sharpe went to England and never returned. Upon his death in London in 1790 he willed Whitehall to his one-time secretary and friend, John Ridout. The Ridouts altered the mansion about 1793, and at this time a second-story was added to the central block. The mansion

(continued)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beirne, Rosamond R., and Scarff, John H., William Buckland, 1734-1774, Architect of Virginia and Maryland, Baltimore, 1958, pp. 72-76, 135.  
 Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York, 1922, pp. 77, 100, 101, 106, 299, 300.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952, pp. 386-390.  
 Scarborough, Katherine, Homes of the Cavaliers, New York, 1930, pp. 165-70.  
 Scarlett, Charles Jr., "Whitehall," Maryland Historical Magazine, March, 1951.  
 Waterman, Thomas, The Dwellings of Colonial America, Chapel Hill, 1950, pp. 103-04, 112, 113.

**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	UTM			
NW	18.376400.4318440			
NE	18.376920.4318190			
SE	18.376740.4317640			
SW	18.375860.4317750			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian. Landmark Review Project; original forms done by Charles Shedd, Jr. 5/9/60 and Charles Snell, 1969

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: July 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW.

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Designated: Oct 9, 1960 date  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Certified: Cornelia Heine 6-19-75 date  
 Chief, IBst. & Arche Surveys

Boundary Approved: [Signature] date  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Director, OAHIP

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1) Whitehall

The architect's original plans for the house called for a seven-part composition with an overall length of 258 feet. To the east of the existing east end-wing was to be a half-underground kitchen extension containing a well, and to the west of the other extant wing was to be a water closet with connecting passage. The water closet, of the "water seal" type then utilized in England, was fed by a cistern, with a pair of marble seal troughs, a wooden seat pierced by two holes and a cesspool below. So far as is known, this convenience, if ever built, was one of the very few interior water closets of colonial America. Archeological studies indicate that the kitchen addition was built as planned and demolished at some later date. Also established was the fact that an unusual cistern, fed by rainwater from the roofs, was actually incorporated into the foundation of the original unit, extending under the portico and across the entire central block to the west, apparently for use in the water closet. Foundations of the convenience, however, were never located. About this time, under the direction of the new owner, John Ridout, bedrooms were built over the two drawing rooms. Staircases to reach them were built in added end pieces with hipped roofs, and a gabled roof was constructed over the whole central block. The profile of the new main cornice was different from the old on the giant portico, and the levels of the two did not quite match. It was this circumstance which for many years led architects and historians to the supposition that the south great portico had been added in the early 19th century. With the discovery of the original plans in 1950 and a study of the attic showing the original slate-covered roof lined up with the slope of the pediment, conclusive proof was provided that the great portico of Whitehall was indeed a part of the original house built in 1764-65.

Based upon painstaking architectural, archeological, and historical research, the present owners completely restored the exterior of Whitehall to its 1764-69 appearance in 1957. This work involved the removal of the 1793 gable roof, the two second-floor bedrooms, and the added end pieces of the central block. Gabled roofs were reconstructed over the two one-story rooms of the central block and a balustrade was reconstructed around their eaves. The interiors are original. The house and grounds are maintained in excellent condition and preserve the integrity of the property by providing an environment in keeping with the country setting of its original state. For this reason the boundary has been drawn to include all of the existing property with the vista down to the Severn River, the approach up to the great portico used by the eighteenth century visitors and the land approach with the elaborate earth works and garden statuary, including a large lead urn by the entrance gate and an obelisk sheltered in the first grove of trees before the house. There is an addition of a pool with fountain to the west end of the house but it causes no disruption to the integrity of the whole.

The boundary, which includes all of the remaining acreage, begins on Whitehall Road, at a point approximately 5400 feet south of Route 50,

(continued)

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*(Number all entries)*

7. Description: (2) Whitehall

proceeding west along dirt road for about 780 feet to Whitehall Creek until it joins Meredith Creek; thence east and north along northern and western shoreline of Meredith Creek to a point about 1500 feet east of the point of the beginning of this boundary description; thence west along a dirt road to the point of beginning. This line encompasses about 115 acres. With the exception of the end pavilions to the south east and southwest of the house which are part of the landmark designation, a few scattered farm buildings are located on the property but these do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark. As stated before, the acreage included is necessary to insure the vistas and environment so essential to the perception of the property.

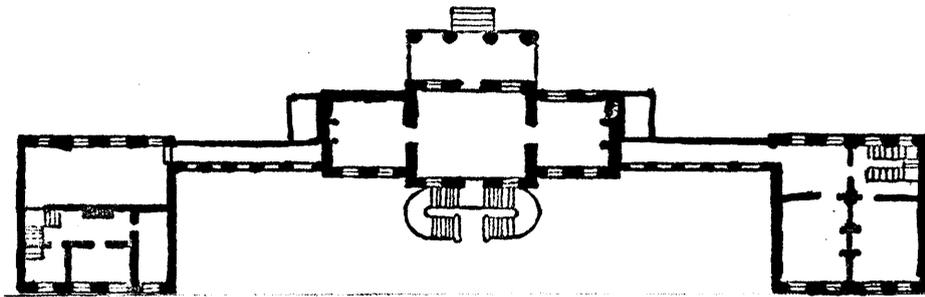
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(Number all entries) 7. Description (3)



Plan of Whitehall

■ Removed in 1957  
restoration

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LANDMARKS)

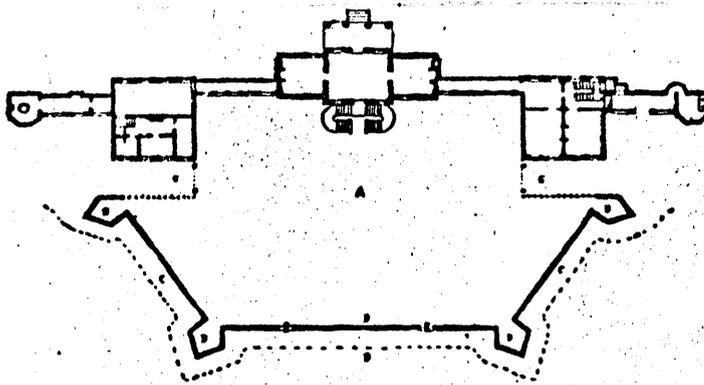
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7. Description: (4)



Original plan for Whitehall, 1764-65

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(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance: (1) Whitehall

remained in the hands of the Ridout family until 1895, when it was acquired and again put into good condition by Mrs. G.W. Story of Washington, D.C. Today owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scarlett, Jr., the structure underwent extensive restoration in 1957, to return it to its 1769 appearance.