

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

TYPE: Architecture

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: Anne Arundel
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Brice House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Brice House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
42 East Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley S. Wohl

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 923

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Anne Arundel County Court House--Clerk of the Circuit Court

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 Buildings Survey (15 photos--28 data pages)

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1936, 1937,  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

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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

Standing on a high terrace above the street, the Brice House is a five-part composition 156-feet long. It is comprised of a two-and-a-half-story central block over an elevated basement--about 52-feet wide and 45-feet deep--two one-and-a-half-story hyphens, each 27-feet long and 18-feet deep, and two symmetrical one-and-a-half-story wings, each 26-feet wide and 45-feet deep, built at right angles to the main axis. The end wings project about 22-feet forward (south) of the street facade of the main block. Each section has a steep gable roof; the roofs of the hyphens and end wings are dormered. At each end of the central block a wide, chimney rises high above the roof, capped with a corbelled brick course. The wings also have a set of wide, thin, but lower chimneys.

The foundation of the central block is fieldstone of great thickness. The massive walls of the south (street) and north (garden) facades are of an all-header bond of oversize brick. The gable ends are of English bond. The street elevation of the main house has a molded brick water table and a brick belt course at the second floor level. The windows on this five-bay front have flat arches of rubbed brick and those on the other three sides have segmental brick arches, with brick filling the portion between the arch and window head. First story windows have nine over nine light sash and second floor windows nine over six sash. The center doors of the north and south facades are approached by sets of reconstructed wooden steps and stoops; these are based on an 1863 photograph of the house, which is believed to show the original approaches. The rectangular street-front doorway is framed by a wooden architrave. These deeply recessed double doors are original. The existing lock and knocker are reconstructions. The center door of the north or garden facade is topped by a segmental arch. The segment is filled with brick leaving a rectangular opening, within which the original architrave trim is set. This double door is a reconstruction, copied from the original doors on the south entrance.

The south facade is enriched by the uniquely designed pseudo-Palladian window over the center door and by the correspondingly designed main cornices of both main elevations. The cornices have a frieze formed of tiny carved arcades supported by turned balusters. The south Palladian or triple window is set in an opening spanned by a segmental brick arch. The window is framed by four fluted Corinthian colonnettes of wood with large capitals and bases resting on low pedestals. Above the colonnettes is a carved wooden cornice. The central block was originally covered with cypress shingles. When two layers of later sheet metal roofing were removed in the 1950s, the original shingling was found to be still in place. In order to comply with the modern building code, the original covering has been replaced by imitation shingles made of tile.

The Brice House has an asymmetrical interior plan. The off-center entrance hall extends from the south (street) elevation halfway through the house. On the right (east) is a very small office, one-bay wide, and beyond (north) is a lateral hall leading to the east wing and also containing the stair, which is located against its north wall. A single door in the west (left)

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. 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)

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

The Brice House, 42 East Street, Annapolis, Maryland, lacks the embellishments of Palladian pavilions and classic pediment, but the boldness and simplicity of its masses and its imposing scale make it one of the most impressive brick buildings in American Georgian architecture. Erected in 1766-1773, the Brice House, in all but its town setting is a magnificent example of a five-part Southern plantation house. The exterior, with its pure rectangular door and windows which leave the wall plane unbroken, is almost early-Georgian in its simplicity, but its elaborate interiors, attributed to William Buckland, are mostly late-Georgian in character. The Brice House is also remarkable because its original 18th century structural material and adornments have survived virtually unaltered.

History

The Brice House was constructed in 1766-73 for Colonel James Brice, who was soon to gain fame as a soldier during the Revolution. The architect is unknown but there is evidence that William Buckland, who arrived in Annapolis in 1771 and died in 1774, worked on the interiors of the house. The residence remained in the possession of the Brice heirs until 1874. After passing through the hands of several owners, the house was purchased by St. John's College in the 1920s and used as a faculty residence. The building was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley S. Wohl in 1953 and carefully restored between 1953 and 1957.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beirne, Rosamond R., "William Buckland, Architect of Maryland and Virginia," Maryland Historical Magazine, September 1946.  
 Beirne, Rosamond R., and Scarff, John H., William Buckland, Architect Virginia and Maryland, Baltimore, 1958, p. 96-97.  
 Corner, J. M., and Soderholtz, E. E., Examples of Domestic Colonial Architecture in Maryland and Virginia, Boston, 1892, plates 20-21.  
 Davis, Deering, Annapolis Houses, New York, 1947, pp. 34-39, 144.  
 Hammond, J. M., Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware, Philadelphia, 1914, pp. 45-59.

(continued)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		UTM	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds			
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "			
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			
				18.371130.	4315310

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmarks Review Project; original form done by Charles Snell, 1969.

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: 7/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, NW

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

**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: (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK) Landmark

Designated: Apr 15, 1975 date

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK) Boundary Certified: Condon Heintzelman 6-19-75

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys date

Boundary Affirmed: Director, OAHIP date

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	Maryland
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COUNTY	Anne Arundel
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARK)

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1) Brice House, Annapolis, Maryland

wall of the hall leads into the parlor, which is two bays wide. A door in the north wall of the hall opens into the large ball room which occupies three bays of the north side of the house. To the west (left) of the ballroom is the dining room, which is two bays wide. Most of the interior details are late-Georgian in character. Walls are plastered, not paneled in wood, though the plaster is molded in the form of panels in the ballroom and dining room. The fine stairway is of Santo Domingo mahogany and has scrolled step ends with a band of Greek fret ornament. The ball room, probably done by William Buckland, is one of the great rooms of the Georgian period. Its scale is even larger and its effect more monumental than the large ballroom in the Hammond-Harwood House (1773-74), also by Buckland. In the Brice House there is a range of three openings across the north (rear) wall and a pair of windows flanking the chimney breast in the end wall. The carved wood fireplace, with its exceptionally ornate lateral consoles flanking the opening, its ornamented frieze and eared overmantel panel, comes directly from the plates of Abraham Swan's British Architect (1745). The ballroom also has elaborate plaster cornices, rich with acanthus, dentils, and modillions, and a full Corinthian entablature. First floor rooms are wainscoted in wood; the four bedrooms on the second floor have plaster wainscoting with wood base and dado rail.

Each hyphen contains two rooms and a narrow passageway on the first floor. The kitchen and servants' quarters were located in the east wing and the carriage house in the west wing.

The house was meticulously restored after careful research in 1953-1957. Throughout the Brice House all of the original 18th century structural materials and adornments have survived, including the walls and cross walls, horizontally wood-pegged flooring, window glass and mahogany window frames; iron hinges, most of the hardware and **doors**, elaborate wood carvings, chair rails, plasterwork, and all eight mantels are original. The original room colors were also discovered and these have been restored. In excellent condition, the house is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

Boundary

The boundary of the Brice House has been drawn to coincide with its city lot. The Brice House is bounded on the south by the near curb of East Street, from the east property line of Number 34 East Street to the curb of Prince Georges Street, then by the near curb of Prince Georges Street on the west to the south property line of Number 178 Prince Georges Street, then on the northwest by the south property line of Number 178 Prince Georges Street, then on the northeast by a parking lot which opens onto Martin's Lane, then on the east by the east property line of Number 34 East Street to the curb of East Street, the point of beginning.

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

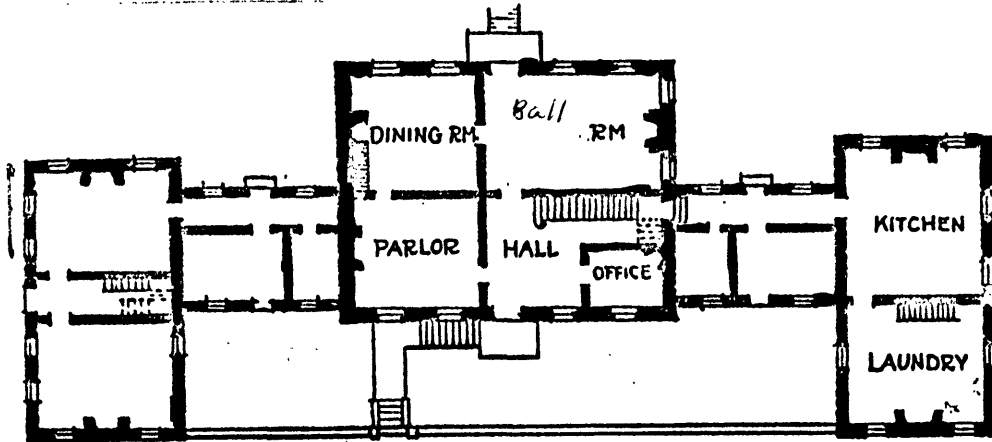
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARK

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) 7. Description (2)

North or garden facade



**BRICE HOUSE**

South or street facade

First floor plan of Brice House.

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

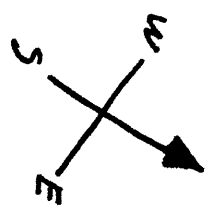
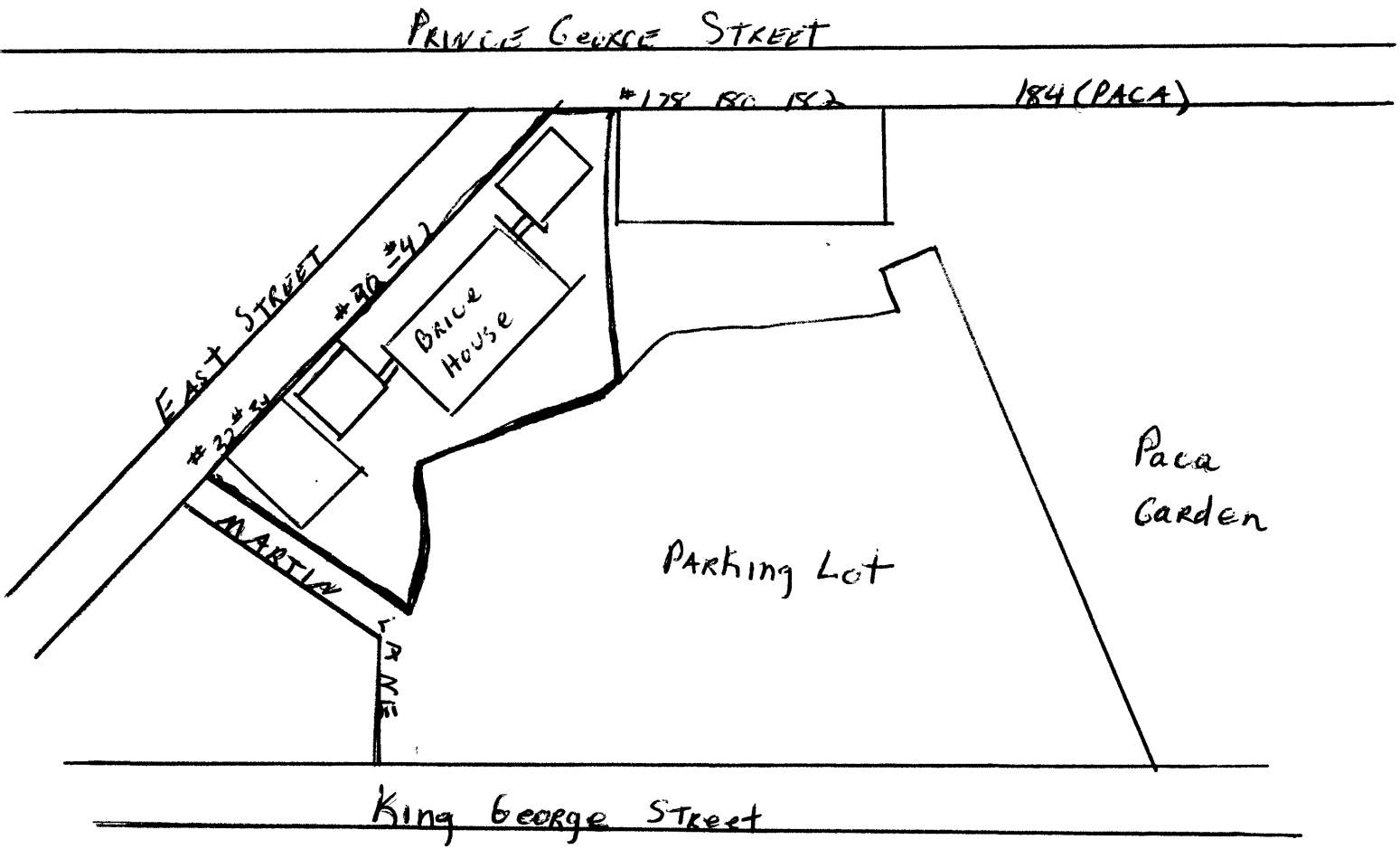
*(Continuation Sheet)*

*(Number all entries)*

9. Bibliographical References; (1) Brice House

Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York, 1922, pp. 76, 77 (note), 79, 122, 124, 125.

Waterman, Thomas, The Dwellings of Colonial America, Chapel Hill, 1950, pp. 95, 104, 105, 109.



SKETCH MAP FOR  
BRICE HOUSE