

N. R. FIELD SHEET  
CH 29  
0905295304

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE:           |      |
| COUNTY:          |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON: "EFTON HILLS"

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Doncaster Grayton Road (MD 6)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Grayton (Nanjemoy vicinity)

STATE: Maryland      CODE:      COUNTY: Charles      CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)           |  | OWNERSHIP                                   |  | STATUS   |                                       | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC                |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| District <input type="checkbox"/> | Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public <input type="checkbox"/>             | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> | Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Yes:                                  |   |  |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/>     | Structure <input type="checkbox"/>           | Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In Process <input type="checkbox"/>          | Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>         | Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>   |   |  |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/>   | Both <input type="checkbox"/>                | Both <input type="checkbox"/>               | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>    | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> |   |  |
|                                   |  |   |  |  |                                       | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |  |  |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>  | Government <input type="checkbox"/> | Park <input type="checkbox"/>              | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>  | Comments <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>    | Industrial <input 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 <input type="checkbox"/>        |  |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Janet Coy

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Doncaster Grayton Road (MD 6)

CITY OR TOWN: Nanjemoy      STATE: Maryland      CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Charles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata      STATE: Maryland      CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |                                    |   |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                        |   |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|           | Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> | Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      | Fair <input type="checkbox"/> | Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> | Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>                    | Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTEGRITY | (Check One)                        |   |                               | (Check One)                           |   |                                    |
|           | Altered <input type="checkbox"/>   | Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                               | Moved <input type="checkbox"/>        | Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Efton Hills" is a two storey frame house of the 1820 - 1840 period. Five bays in length it has a center door flanked by two windows on either side. One room in depth it has a large south room, center hall with hanging stair, and a room at the N end. On the second and third(or attic level)there are two rooms each. Both firstand second floor room have fireplaces the first floor S being the largest.

The floors, doors, mouldings, mantles are all of early Victorian appearance. There are light plaster medallions on the ceilings of the first floor rooms the most interesting being in the S room.

There is a enclosed porch and addition onto the rear (E) wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 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 type="checkbox"/>           | _____                                    |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>            | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>           | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                                    |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>        | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>             | _____                                    |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>          | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>      | _____                                    |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  | _____                                    |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>               |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

"Efton Hills" is credited with being the birthplace and home of Admiral Raphael Semmes of Civil War fame though this could be disputed. It was a Semmes home but it's more likely that Raphael was born in another earlier house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUOE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE |                         |  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER  | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUOE   | LONGITUDE               |  |
|   | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds  | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |
| SE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |
| SW  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | COOE | COUNTY: | COOE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | COOE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | COOE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____<br/>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____<br/>Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p> |
|--|---|

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Paul Dennis Brown  
1958 The History of Charles County, Maryland.  
La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc.

TERCENTENARY YEAR 1958

127

Charles Riddle, William F. Bowling, L. M. Southerland,  
and P. A. L. Contee.

Not all the Charles County men served in this battery as we also find individuals like Basil Spalding who ran away from school and enlisted in the Confederate Cavalry in 1862 when he was just a boy of 17. He served to the end of the War in Mosby's Raiders. After the war, Mr. Spalding lived at Green Park near Pomfret until his death in 1929.

Perhaps the most famous of all Charles Countians to serve in the Confederate cause was Admiral Raphael Semmes. Semmes was born at Efton Hills near Nanjemoy in Charles County in 1790. He was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy 1826. While waiting for his orders, he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1837 and served with distinction in the Mexican War. In recognition of his services in the Mexican War, a resolution was passed by the General Assembly of Maryland that thanks and congratulations of the Legislature were tendered to him for his gallant conduct during the war with Mexico and they recommended him to the favorable consideration of the Executive of the National Government for promotion.

In 1861, Semmes resigned from the United States Navy and immediately entered the Confederate Navy. He was put in command of the noted Confederate raider "The Alabama" which, in a cruise of three years, did more damage to Union shipping than any single ship in the Confederate Navy. The "Alabama," most formidable of the Confederate Privateers, destroyed an estimated eight to ten million dollars worth of United States property.

After the War, Admiral Semmes settled in Mobile, Alabama, where he practiced law and devoted himself to literary pursuits until his death in 1877.

The feelings of the people in the County in regard to the Union side may be seen in their response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. In 1862, there was one volunteer



CH-29  
15' Nanjemoy Quad, 1933

CROSSROADS NANJEMOY TAYLORENECK

MARYLAND  
VIRGINIA

MARYLAND PT LIGHT

