

BUTLER-COOKE TENANT HOUSE
CH315
Hughesville, Maryland
Private

1880-1900

Though now abandoned and in derelict condition, this two-story, balloon frame house had been a rather fine dwelling when built. The facade has three bays, is sheltered by a shed porch, and the roofline is accented by a cross-gable pediment. Each of the two rooms downstairs was warmed by a fireplace, surrounded by woodwork of the neo-Georgian style. In its later years of occupation, in the twentieth century, the house was occupied by tenant families.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-10
MAE # 0103105004

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Butler-Cooke Tenant House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER End of second dirt road (Cooke Way), south side of Route 231,
0.3 mile west of Junction 231 and Oakes Road.

CITY, TOWN Hughesville VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8
STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Storage Facility

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Melvin Cooke Telephone #: 301-274-3436
STREET & NUMBER Rt. 1, Box 397
CITY, TOWN Hughesville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20636

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: MAP 162A
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse Folio #: P. 41
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

_ FEDERAL _ STATE _ COUNTY _ LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This unpainted 2-story frame house stands atop a knoll, facing north past barns and corn cribs to the west, and looks out over corn fields that stretch for several hundred yards. The house is abandoned and is cluttered with "junk" and with farm materials and equipment still in use. Since the house was well-built originally, it has lasted this long; but it will soon give up its ghosts.

The house consists of a three bay facade (a door centrally located flanked by two windows) and is one bay in depth. On the eastern gable end, there is a window on each floor; whereas on the western, there are none, an arrangement that has not been explained. Along the entire facade was a shed porch. Like many large, late 19th century farm houses, the A-roof was crossed by a prominent gable pediment centrally located.

The skeleton of the house is balloon frame, is sheathed with milled weatherboards, and the framing members fastened by wire nails. The interior consists of two rooms downstairs and two upstairs, each warmed by a fireplace opening into it from the central chimney. The interior contains some rather fine woodwork; for example, the mantelpiece in the east room is of a neo-Georgian style probably milled near the turn of the 20th century. The large turned balustrade and newel post of the quarter turn stairway with winders in the west room is atypically elegant for a reported "tenant house." In fact, the costly woodwork indicates that this house was first built as a landowner's dwelling and later relegated to tenants.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN
<input 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) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Date of construction: The wire nails in the frame postdate this house to 1879. Local oral informants indicate that it is earlier than 1900, and occupied as far they remembered (c. 40 years) by black tenant families.

This house represents a commonplace transition in housing on farms. A large, well-built, fashionably appointed (for the era) house is constructed for the landowners. Over time, whether due to advancement or failure of their economic position, or due to changes in their tastes or housing needs, or to their demise by natural causes, the landowning family abandons their house and leaves it to a tenant family on the farm. Compared to the small roughly built log or frame houses in which most tenant families lived in the 19th century, this larger house marks a considerable improvement. But not having the money, nor sometimes the drive, the tenant family does not maintain the house, and it is abandoned once again. This time it might be used for storage until it becomes too dilapidated. Eventually, it collapses. This house is in that next-to-the-last stage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

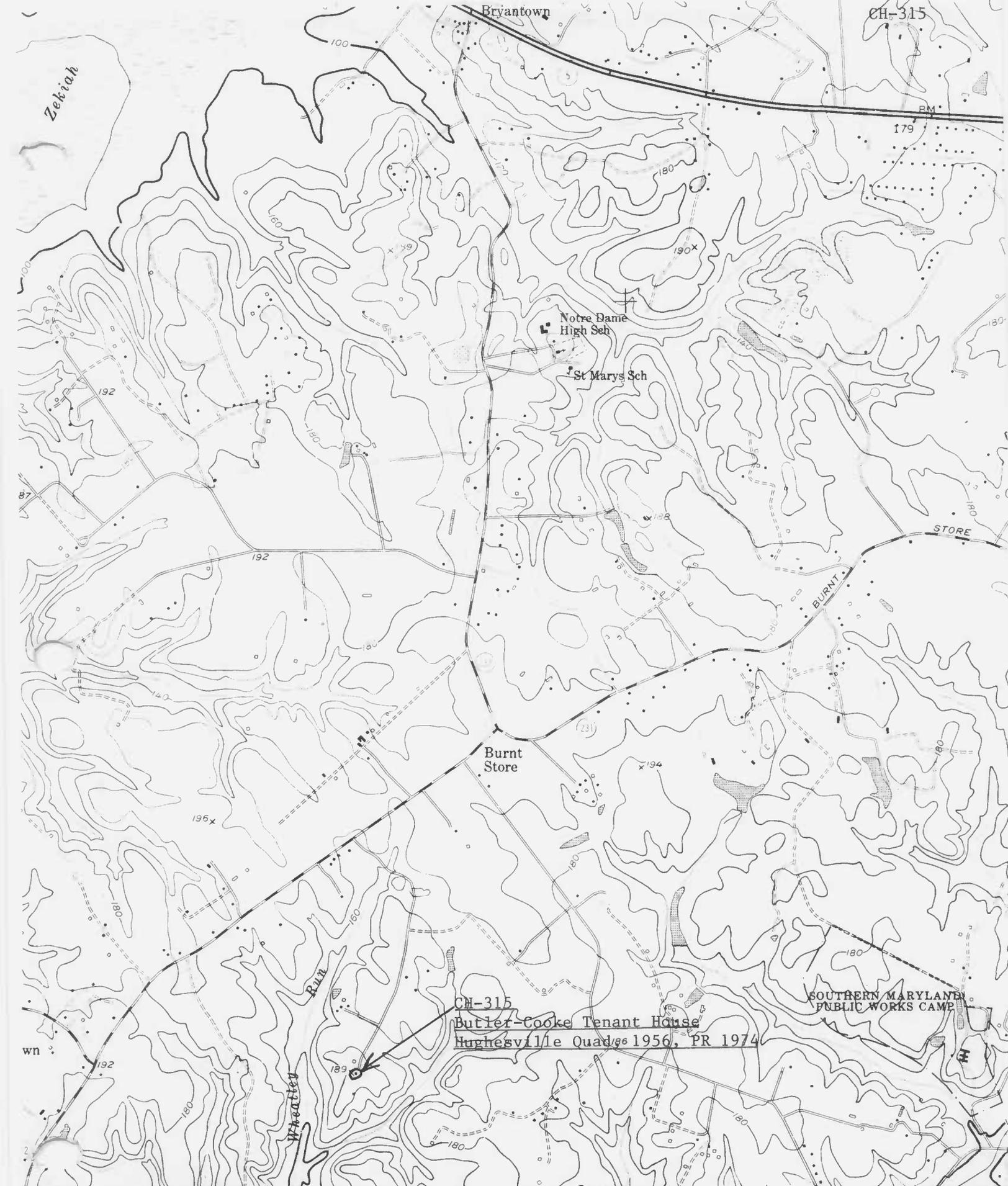
11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	George W. McDaniel	DATE
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture	TELEPHONE
STREET & NUMBER	20 Dean Street	STATE
CITY OR TOWN	Annapolis, Maryland	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



CH-315
 Butler-Cooke Tenant House
 Hughesville Quad 1956, PR 1974

OLIVERS SHOP 1.3 MI
 6.7 MI TO MD 234

Army Map Service
 Published by the Geological Survey

and USC&GS
 Map in part compiled from aerial photographs

(CHARLOTTE H
 5660 IV N

SCALE 1:24





BUTLER - COOKE
TENANT HOUSE

Hughesville, Md.

Cooke children (white)
with friends

CH 315 2/77 GWM



BUTLER - COOKE
TENANT HOUSE
HUGHESVILLE, MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
CH 315 2/77 GWM



BUTLER - COOKE
TENANT HOUSE
Hughesville, Md.
Northwest Elevation
CH 315 2/77 GWM