Beaven Hall is the first documented permanent building constructed for the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, which now occupies several buildings in this part of Solomons Island. The Biological Laboratory was founded by Dr. Reginald V. Truitt in 1925 with the University of Maryland's Conservation Department for scientific research on the marine life of Maryland. In 1929, sufficient funds were appropriated for the construction of Beaven Hall, which was completed in 1931 and dedicated in 1932. Beaven Hall is the centerpiece of a larger campus of marine research facilities owned and operated by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, with sister campuses on the Eastern Shore and in the mountains of Western Maryland. The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is the first permanent State-supported marine biological laboratory in continuous use on the East Coast.

The principal façade of this two-and-a-half-story building fronts southward toward the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Patuxent River. The building is constructed of Flemish-bond bricks with glazed headers and a soldier-course water table. The side-gable roof is sheathed in slate shingles, with metal snow guards and a plain fascia board, bed molding, an ogee-molded cornice, and returns. The center four bays of the eight-bay-wide façade are marked by a front-gabled pediment with a single 2/2 replacement-sash window in the brick-faced tympanum. There are two front-gable dormers on the south elevation and three on the north elevation. Each dormer is clad with slate shingles and has a 2/2 replacement-sash window with square-edged wood surrounds. Exterior-end stretcher-bond brick chimneys rise from the center of the east and west side elevations. The one-story portico is one bay wide with fluted Doric columns. The parged tympanum of the portico pediment is ornamented with a bas-relief plaster plaque that depicts local sea life. The fenestration is comprised of 2/2 replacement-sash windows with stone lintels and sills, a paneled wood door with six-light sidelights and a nine-light transom on the façade, and a replacement one-light metal door on the north elevation. The entry on the north elevation is framed by square-edged surrounds and is capped by a stone pediment with a wide architrave. A molded plaster surround with flared imposts frames the stone surround. Blind openings with soldier-course surrounds flank the entry.
### 1. Name of Property

- **historic Beaven Hall, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory**
- **other**

### 2. Location

- **street and number**: 160 Farren Avenue (not for publication)
- **city, town**: Solomons (vicinity)
- **county**: Calvert

### 3. Owner of Property

- **name**: State of MD Board of Regents Univ of MD Center
- **street and number**: PO Box 775
- **city, town**: Cambridge (MD, zip code 21613-0775)

### 4. Location of Legal Description

- **courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.**: Calvert County Courthouse
- **tax map and parcel**: 46A:59
- **city, town**: Pr. Frederick

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

### 6. Classification

<table>
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<td>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 1</td>
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7. Description

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>altered</td>
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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SETTING
Beavan Hall at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is located at 160 Farren Avenue in Solomons Island. The property, comprised of 11,714 square feet, is set to the west of the Chesapeake Bay. The slightly sloping site is accessed from Farren Avenue by concrete stairs and a metal rail. Paved walkways, landscaped gardens, mature trees, and wooden benches surround the building. A sign indicating the use of the building is located to the west of the primary entry on Farren Avenue. A small quadrangle of associated buildings not included in the survey are located to the north of Beaven Hall. Edna Amos Nice Hall, designed by Katherine Cutler, was built in 1938 along the west side of the quadrangle as a residential facility. The north side of the quadrangle is defined by a two-story brick building dating from the 1960s. A new brick laboratory with a controlled-environment was built in 1973.

PRIMARY RESOURCE
The principal façade of this two-and-a-half-story building fronts southward toward the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Patuxent River. The building is constructed of Flemish-bond bricks with glazed headers and a soldier-course water table. The side-gable roof is sheathed in slate shingles, with metal snow guards and a plain fascia board, bed molding, an ogee-molded cornice, and returns. The center four bays of the eight-bay-wide façade are marked by a front-gabled pediment with a single 2/2 replacement-sash window in the brick-faced tympanum. There are two front-gable dormers on the south elevation and three on the north elevation. Each dormer is clad with slate shingles and has a 2/2 replacement-sash window with square-edged wood surrounds. Exterior-end stretcher-bond brick chimneys rise from the center of the east and west side elevations. The poured concrete front steps are flanked by stretcher-bond brick pedestals. The one-story portico is one bay wide with fluted Doric columns. The parged tympanum of the portico pediment is ornamented with a bas-relief plaster plaque that depicts local sea life. The fenestration is comprised of 2/2 replacement-sash windows with stone lintels and sills, a paneled wood door with six-light sidelights and a nine-light transom on the façade, and a replacement one-light metal door on the north elevation. The entry on the north elevation is framed by square-edged surrounds and is capped by a stone pediment with a wide architrave. A molded plaster surround with flared imposts frames the stone surround. Blind openings with soldier-course surrounds flank the entry.
Beaven Hall at 160 Farren Avenue is the first documented permanent building constructed for the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, which now occupies several buildings in this part of Solomons Island. The Biological Laboratory was founded by Dr. Reginald V. Truitt in 1925 with the University of Maryland's Conservation Department for scientific research on the marine life of Maryland. The small laboratory first occupied an old oyster shed. (1) In 1929, sufficient funds were appropriated for the construction of Beaven Hall, which was constructed in 1931 and dedicated in 1932. Beaven Hall is the centerpiece of a larger campus of marine research facilities owned and operated by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, with sister campuses on the Eastern Shore and in the mountains of Western Maryland. (2) The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is the first permanent State-supported marine biological laboratory in continuous use on the East Coast.

ENDNOTES

(2) University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Sciences, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (downloaded 11/04/2004 from http://cbl.umd.edu/).
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.27
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Solomons Island
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is located at 160 Farren Avenue, Solomons, Calvert County, Maryland. The historic building is noted on Tax Map 46A, Parcel 59. It has been historically associated with Parcel 59 since the building's construction in 1932.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Trieschmann, Architectural Historian
organization EHT Traceries, Inc.
street and number 1121 5th Street NW
city or town Washington
state DC
date 11/5/2004
telephone (202) 393-1199

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7800
Richard J. Dodds, compiler, Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, (Solomons, MD: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995), #45.
University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Sciences, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (downloaded 11/04/2004 from http://cbl.umd.edu/).
(T-1005)

Chesapeake Bio. Lab., 100 Farron Ave.
Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerries
11/2003

MD SHPO

Southeast elevation

1 of 3
CT-1005

Chesapeake Bio. Lab, 100 Farren Ave.
Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

11/2003

MD SHPO

northwest elevation

2 of 3
CT-1005
Chesapeake Bio. Lab, 100 Farren Ave.
Covert County, MD
EHT Traceries
11/2003
MD SHPO
Southwest corner
3 of 3.
### 1. Name
(indicate preferred name)

**historic**

and/or common **Chesapeake Biological Laboratory**

### 2. Location

**street & number** Farren Avenue and Williams Street __ not for publication

**city, town** Solomons __ vicinity of __ congressional district

**state** Maryland __ county __ Calvert

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Owner of Property
(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

**name** Chesapeake Biological Laboratory/State of Maryland

**street & number**

**city, town** Solomons __ state and zip code __ MD 20688

**telephone no.:**

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Calvert County Courthouse**

**street & number** Main Street (MD 765)

**city, town** Prince Frederick __ state __ Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date __ federal __ state __ county __ local

pository for survey records
city, town __ state
Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The present "campus" of C.B.L. is composed of a loose quadrangle located between Farren and Williams Streets. Long, tall brick academic buildings enclose three sides of the quadrangle. Today, the C.B.L. facility spills over into several small auxiliary buildings, and a major new brick controlled-environment laboratory was built in 1973, but the first building is still the principal one. It is a two-and-a-half-story eight-bay brick building with a slate-covered gable roof, semi-exterior brick chimneys on the gable ends, and a pediment set into the roof and centered over the main door. The windows have two-over-two double-hung sash. The main entrance is sheltered by a portico supported on stone Doric columns. The tympanum is distinguished by relief carvings of various forms of Maryland marine life. The west side of the quadrangle is defined by a brick building that is similar in form and scale, but it is not as well finished as the original C.B.L. building. This is the main residential facility, called Nice Hall. The north side of the quadrangle is defined by a third two-story brick building that dates from the 1960s.
### 8. Significance

**Survey No. CT-1005**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>X architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400–1499</td>
<td>prehistoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500–1599</td>
<td>historic</td>
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</table>

**Specific dates** 1925, 1931

**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: _A_ _B_ _C_ _D_

and/or

Applicable Exception: _A_ _B_ _C_ _D_ _E_ _F_ _G_

Level of Significance: _national_ _state_ _local_

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The C.B.L. was formed by R. V. Truitt in 1925 with the Maryland Conservation Department for scientific research on the marine life of Maryland. Since 1931, it has been operated in cooperation with the Carnegie Institution, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland University, Goucher, St. Johns, Washington, and Western Maryland colleges. C.B.L. is distinguished as the first permanent State-supported marine biological laboratory in continuous use on the East Coast. From the C.B.L. historical marker and Solomons by Foot, Bicycle, or Boat.

The first C.B.L. building was constructed in 1931. The Edna Amos Nice Hall was built in 1938. Katherine Cutler, an incompetent, was the architect.
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.

The return address is:
Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438
Ct-1005  Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
Farren Avenue
Solomons

Camille Wells  9/86
view from the east