

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Maryland

COUNTY:
St. Mary's

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

2

1. NAME

COMMON:
Charlotte Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Coole Springs

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mi. East of Hughesville on Md. Route 5

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlotte Hall

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: St. Mary's CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Leonardtown Maryland 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: | Federal | State | County | Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The Charlotte Hall Historic District encompasses a small village located on the south side of Maryland Route 5, three and one-half miles southeast of Hughesville and one-fourth mile northwest of New Market, in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The district is bounded on the north side by Maryland Route 5 and on the east side by Maryland Route 6. The boundaries extend five hundred yards west from the Briscoe House and, on the south side, five hundred yards south of the rear wall of the Academic Building on the college campus. The district is intersected by "Old Route 5" which runs east to west through the town and along which many of the existing buildings and sites are situated. Within the historic district boundaries are thirteen recorded buildings and sites of historic and/or architectural interest as well as the main campus of the Charlotte Hall Military Academy, the oldest military preparatory school in Maryland. As a result of its being bypassed by Maryland Route 5, Charlotte Hall has managed to preserve much of its aesthetic charm and its basic original plan. As previously stated nearly all of the houses are situated along the "Old Route 5," which serves as the main street through the village. All of the houses are attractively situated on commodious, tree shaded lots and are, for the most part, in good repair. The village is bounded on its perimeter by open, uncultivated meadows and woodland and its age and continuity is readily apparent to one entering the town from either end. The campus of the academy figures predominately in the townscape and its rural unspoiled beauty gently commands attention. Fortunately, almost all of the newer school facilities are concentrated toward the rear of the campus and are almost completely sheltered from view by a great number of large trees and expanses of lawn. The several hundred acres of the campus are concentrated towards the southeast end of the village, with all of the residential dwellings bounding it on its north and west sides.

While many of the buildings within the district were initially built in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, most were extensively renovated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Exceptions to this would be the Briscoe House, which is a fairly plain Federal house of Flemish bond construction and with an unusual "U" shaped plan. This house was built about 1825, although it is commonly referred to locally as "Kilgore's Tavern," dating circa 1690. For many years it served as both a private residence and boarding house for young men attending the academy. Of particular interest are its matching one and one-half story rear wings and the remarkable carvings of its Federal style parlor mantles. Another significant structure within the

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE Maryland SM-381	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	LAT

(Number of entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

district is the Chesley House, ^{SM-89} said to date from the late eighteenth century, which is attractively quaint in appearance and immaculately maintained. It is a small frame house, situated close to the side of the road, and has a two room main block with a sharply pitched gable roof and several diminutive rear wings. Close to its south side is a detached frame kitchen or wash house with a large external chimney. A third privately owned dwelling deserving of notation is a Victorian frame house ^{SM-768} initially built about 1800 but extensively remodeled in the latter part of the nineteenth century. It has a one story front porch extending the width of the two story facade and four evenly spaced cross gables on the front slope of the roof. This particular house is attractively situated in a small grove of trees and faces onto what was once the village green from the south side.

On the college campus is the White House, ^{SM-86} built in 1803 for the dual purpose of serving both as the President's residence and classrooms. It is a pleasant five bay, one and one-half story, gambrel roofed brick structure, fairly typical in plan of many late eighteenth century Tidewater buildings. Although "re-stored" in 1938 it still retains nearly all of its original exterior and interior features. This house is particularly interesting since detailed builder's specifications for it survive.

The Academic Building, ^{SM-367} erected in 1897 and also situated on the academy grounds, is another building of interest, early recognizable for its clean free lines. It is a commodious "T" shaped stuccoed brick structure, with a two story inset portico at the end facade. Toward the front of the hipped roof is a large open belfry.

One of the most significant structures in Charlotte Hall is the Dent Memorial Chapel, ^{SM-87} a Victorian Gothic stone church built in 1884. It is a fine example, albeit retarditaire, of its form and the only noteworthy example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Southern Maryland. Its exterior treatment, consisting of carved bargeboards and exposed rafter ends, and belt courses and trim of molded brick tiles, the latter contrasting with the irregularly coursed cut granite walls, is especially attractive. This small chapel, serving both the school and the village, was erected to the memory of the Reverend Hatch Dent, a Revolutionary War figure active in local political affairs, who served as the school's first president.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE Maryland SM-381	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

Known historic sites in Charlotte Hall include "Ye Coole Springs," now a small memorial park, where five natural springs flow within a short distance of each other, converging at a point now marked by a "colonial revival" spring house erected during the Maryland Tercentenary. "Ye Coole Springs" is the reputed site of one of the earliest sanitariums in the English colonies. A hospital was built there between 1698 and 1703 to serve Southern Marylanders who believed that the fresh spring water possessed medicinal healing qualities. The springs, which furnish most of the water to the school, are maintained by that institution.

A second recorded site is that of the first school hall at Charlotte Hall, built in 1793 and for which a complete record of its original specifications remain as part of the school archives. It was a two story brick structure with a full cellar that contained various classrooms. It served as the main campus building until its destruction by fire in 1897. It was replaced immediately by the existing Academic building.

#8 Significance (Continued)

Unfortunately, little research has been accorded Charlotte Hall and its developmental pattern throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth century remains largely unknown. It is, however, fairly certain that it has always been a sparsely settled area, even though it enjoyed an obviously convenient location on the post road from St. Mary's to Alexandria and Washington. Today it has the distinction of being the largest surviving eighteenth century village in lower Southern Maryland. While other towns in this immediate region may have at the most four or five surviving structures dating before the Civil War--such as Chaptico or Port Tobacco--Charlotte Hall has about thirteen with the further possibility of others hidden behind later facades. The association of the military academy to the village and vice versa, the existence of its several notable historic sites and examples of architecture, easily establish the significance of this small community to the social history of Southern Maryland.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Charlotte Hall is perhaps best known in Maryland as the home of the Charlotte Hall Military Academy. Founded in 1774 the school initially conceived as a consolidation of all of the free schools in the four Southern Maryland counties and, continuously active since 1796, is the oldest military preparatory school in Maryland and one of the oldest in the nation. Although Charlotte Hall has remained a relatively small institution its archives show a varied and interesting history. Throughout much of the nineteenth century it was recognized as one of the finest schools of its type in the country. Past alumni and trustees include Roger Brooke Tawney, fifth Judge of the U.S. Supreme Court; the Right Reverend Thomas John Claggett, First Episcopal Bishop consecrated in America; John Marshall Scott Casin, notable Congressman during the administration of John Quincy Adams; George Watterson, the first Librarian of Congress; Edward Bates, Attorney General during the Lincoln administration; and three Maryland Governors: Robert Bowie (1803-06 and 1811-1812), Thomas King Carroll, (183-1831), and James Thomas, (1833-1836). During the one hundredth anniversary of the school in 1874 the celebrations were attended by forty members of Congress, all of them alumni.

However, the history of the village of Charlotte Hall, referred to in late seventeenth and eighteenth century archival records as "Cool Springs," extends back to at least the end of the seventeenth century. In 1697-98 Southern Maryland suffered a severe outbreak of pestilence and it is recorded that the inhabitants of the region often visited the fresh water springs located here, believing that the water possessed medicinal qualities. At about the time of the turn of the eighteenth century a hospital was built near the site of the springs, thus becoming one of the first sanitariums in the English speaking colonies.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of the Charlotte Hall Military Academy, Charlotte Hall, Maryland.
 Klaphor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul D., History of Charles County, Md. LaPlata, Charles County Tercentenary Commission. 1958.
 Pogue, Robert E. T., Old Maryland Landmarks, Bushwood, Md., privately printed. 1972.

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	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 28' 52"	76° 46' 51"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 28' 56"	76° 46' 32"				
SE	38° 28' 22"	76° 46' 30"				
SW	38° 28' 21"	76° 46' 45"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 135 Acres

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: J. Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyor sh

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: 2/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

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 Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 3, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

Survey SM-381

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N. R. FIELD SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY: S. M. Co.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
CHARLOTTE HALL

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S. Side of Md. Rt 5 E of Hughesville +

CITY OR TOWN:
just West of New Market.

STATE: Md. COUNTY: St Marys Co. CODE: CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park (Hist. Site) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 75

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:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	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:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE _____ CODE _____

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



SM-89

NE E/E.

CHESLEY HOUSE, CHARLOTTE HALL

ST. MARY'S CO. (IN CHARLOTTE HALL NR HISTORIC DISTRICT)

SM-381

JERVIS 12/73



SM-88
(IN CHARLOTTE HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT)
SM-381

N.E. E. E.
BRISCOE HOUSE, CHARLOTTE HALL
ST. MARY'S CO.

BRISCOE
12/73



Demi Chapel Charlotte Hall SM-87

Charlotte Hall Historic District
SM-381

Dec 1973
J. Richard Rivoir