Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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INVENTOR	Y NOMINATION	FORM	DATE ENTERED	
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1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
AND/OR COMMON	HOLLY HALL			
2 LOCATIO	N			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
STREET & NUMBER				
	259 South Bridge S	treet	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	Elkton		CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT
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	Maryland	24	Cecil	015
3 CLASSIFI	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	<u> X</u> PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	X_COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRES	v	PRIVATE RESIDENC
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OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTE	DINDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME				
	Associated Cecil E	ndeavors, In	ıc.	
STREET & NUMBER				
 	259 South Bridge S	treet		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	_
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5 LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	APTION		
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DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED

X_ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED

DATE___

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Holly Hall is a Federal-style mansion built about 1810 on the east side of the main road leading south from Elkton, about one-fourth of a mile from town. A few holly trees remain of the many which gave this house its name and many large English boxwoods remain from early formal plantings west of the house.

Holly Hall is a brick mansion two and one-half storeys in height above a high basement, five bays in length, with a hipped roof supporting a small flat deck; the brick walls extend above the rafter plate as a parapet, and early photographs show a railing surrounding the deck. The south and north front walls (the former being the principal facade) are laid in Flemish bond with closers at the corners; the east and west sides are laid in common bond, every sixth course being headers. A small wood moulding caps the parapet walls. Two chimneys rise flush with the exterior walls at the east end and originally two similar chimneys existed at the west end, later removed; the southwest chimney was false.

Identical entrances are in the center bay of both the south and north fronts, consisting of a wide door, sidelights with muntins describing ovals and small diamonds, and a semi-elliptical transom with muntins describing a shield centered between radiating muntins parallel to the ides of the shield; engaged columns of the Tuscan order flank the door. Muntins of the south entrance sidelights have been removed but their traces remain. Much original glass with scratched inscriptions remains in the northerly entrance. The south entrance is sheltered by a small portico of modern construction. The existing brick foundation appears in early photographs beneath a wooden portico which consisted of four columns supporting an entablature with a paneled frieze. The north entrance is enclosed within a small north wing, further described below.

Windows of the first and second storeys are, typically, six-over-six with narrow frames, marble sills and brick jack arches. Windows of the basement storey are three-over-three. Centered in the second storey of both the south and north fronts is a Palladian window, its masonry opening unadorned. In the parapet area a horizontal, rectangular, recessed panel of stucco is above each window except the Palladians. Louvred blinds originally flanked each window, as shown in the early photographs, but only the iron hinge pintels remain, their butts rebated in and screwed to inner faces of the jambs. In all storeys of the south front the windows of the westerly bay are false; wooden frames surround recessed panels of stucco, now painted black with white painted muntins; in the early photographs blinds are shown closed over these false windows which, today, show no evidence of hardware.

The west end elevation is expressed as three bays with windows in each storey and stucco panels in the parapet matching those elements of the south and north fronts. The east end elevation is covered by the east wing, further described below.

(see continuation sheet #1)

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

Holly Hall Cecil County, CONTINUATION SHEETMaryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

Two dormers are in the south and north slopes of the roof, each with top sashes elliptically arched, the muntins describing three Gothic lancets; below the arched segment of the top sash the muntins describe a conventional six-over-six arrangement. Dormer roofs are gab led, the small rake cornices terminating on small eave returns. A double dormer on the easterly roof slope is a later addition.

The east wing, probably added forty to fifty years after the house was built, is of brick laid in common bond, two storeys high above a high basement, two bays in length. Its shed-roof of shallow pitch is concealed behind parapets above the south and north walls. Windows are similar to those of the main house, and in the easterly bay of the south front's first storey was, originally, a door with transom, sheltered by a portico, its roof concealed behind a simple classical entablature supported by square columns suggesting the Tuscan order. A window now occupies this bay, the door and portico eliminated. In the east side of the east wing, a door, sheltered by a modern porch, is in the middle of three bays and windows are in flanking bays.

A three-bay, one-storey brick wing extends north, centered on the main house, added as a chapel in the 20th century.

The floor plan of the main house is a variation of the typical centerhall plan and all original partitions are brick to the third floor.

A center hall extends through the house with (originally) a pair of parlors to the east (the front or southerly one being slightly larger) and one large room and the staircase to the west. The staircase, occupying the southwesterly corner of the house, is screened from the center hall of each principal storey with a broad elliptical arch supported by engaged, semi-elliptical fluted Tuscan columns in the first storey, fluted Tuscan pilasters in the second. The stair rises, with intermediate landings, clear to the third floor. Its round rail of black walnut terminates in a spiral in the first storey and it extends continuously to the third, turning at each landing or floor in a semicircular radius. The first two treads from each level, in each direction, have their inner ends following the same curving profile, making the ends of the treads and the edges of the landings and floors of equal length, masking the effect of flat landings and floor levels.

(see continuation sheet #2)

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PAGE

Holly Hall

Cecil County,

Maryland

Continuation Sheet Maryland

TEM NUMBER 7

DESCRIPTION (continued)

There are no newels and the rail is supported by plain rectangular balusters. Step ends and the fascia of the third floor are ornamented with applied carved scrolls.

The easterly parlors were, originally, connected by a wide arched opening, now filled. The northeasterly parlor is now subdivided into a narrow passage to the east wing and two small rooms. The large west room is now subdivided into two rooms of equal size and the westerly chimney has been removed in its entirety from the basement clear through the house. All changes appear to date from the mid-20th century.

The second floor plan is similar to the first and all three rooms have been subdivided into two, with closets. The third storey, finished with lathe and plaster originally, had a similar original floor plan but the easterly portion has been modified slightly.

The basement storey has a similar floor plan and laterations have been minimal. The southeasterly space is subdivided into three spaces by brick walls of undetermined age. Ceilings in the basement are or were plastered on hand-split lathe fastened to joists with early cut nails. Where the finish is missing, boards are visible spanning between joists and supported by ledgers nailed to the joists probably supporting a layer of mortar or plaster for insulation. A small chamber beneath the south porch may have served as a root cellar. Exterior entrances were through the east and west facades near the north corners, but both have been closed, the former by the east wing. The original kitchen was probably in the basement, but the existing closed fireplaces seem too small for cooking purposes and possibly the kitchen was the large northeasterly room where the chimney is removed.

Interior elements of woodwork are, or were, identical throughout both principal storeys. Doors are of six panels in the conventional arrangement with loose ogee-with-astrigal mouldings and shallow raises. The bold architraves of interior doors and windows have plain blocks at top corners. Architraves of windows extend to the floor. The splayed window jambs have a single tall, flat panel above the sill and one in the soffit; a large panel with a shallow raise fills the space below the window. Door jambs and soffits are, likewise, paneled, the panels having shallow raises. All panel mouldings match those of the doors. Door hardware is generally modern. The third storey trim is simpler and door architraves are of two planes with applied backbands. Dormer ceilings are arched, following their top sashes.

(See continuation sheet #3)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Holly Hall Cecil County, Maryland	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE 3	
				

DESCRIPTION (continued)

All rooms in the two principal storeys had chair railing but it survives only in the southeast room of the first storey. A modern chair rail has been installed in the center halls.

The only surviving mantel is in the southeasterly room of the first storey. Of gray King-of-Prussia marble, its Ionic columns support boldly-projecting paneled blocks in the fluted frieze and it has a broad shelf. A small cupboard is built into the south side of the chimney breast and former windows flanking the chimney breast are now filled with modern bookshelves.

Shallow original closets flank the chimney breast of the northeasterly room of the second storey.

All floors in the two principal storeys are covered with modern narrow oak flooring.

The interior of the west wing was simple and utilitarian from the beginning and it has been superficially modified through the years. Elements of interior embellishment were inspired by their counterparts in the main house including the paneled window recesses and the sixpaneled doors, the latter having wide, loose ogee mouldings with tallish top panels. The wide, beaded architraves have an applied echinus backband.

The interior of the chapel or north wing is finished with eimple stock window trim and chair rail with acoustical board walls and ceilings.

A simple, late 19th century, two-storey tenant house of wood stands north of the main house, and two concrete block buildings, each one store in height, stand to the east.



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1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Holly Hall is a mansion designed after published designs of such early architects as Asher Benjamin and Robert Morris. Its design is simple but sophisticated and restrained, in the manner of the early 19th century. While its basic form, hipped roof and recessed stucco panels are noteworthy, its parapets are unique in Maryland. They relate it to many contemporary published designs, commonplace in England but rare in America 1

The family history of James Sewell, builder of Holly Hall, dates back to about the middle of the 17th century. Henry Sewell, born in England, came to St. Mary's County, Maryland, in 1660 with his wife, Jane Lowell Sewell, and children. He was Secretary of the Province and Counselor and Lipient of numerous patents of land made to him by Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. In 1665, a year after Sewell's death, his widow married Governor Charles Calvert who later became the third Lord Baltimore, Henry and Jane Sewell's only son, Nicholas, had two sons, Charles and Clement. The latter was born in Cecil County and died in 1740. His only son, Henry, also born in Cecil County but later moving to Talbot, had a son, Basil. Basil Sewell was the father of James Sewell, builder of Holly Hall.

Holly Hall is built on land originally belonging to Robert Alexander, a Tory sympathizer during the American Revolution. About two-thirds of his lands were confiscated when he left with the British fleet and were sold at public auction. Tobias Rudulph bought lots in Elkton and some farm land in the area. In his will (1787), he left land to his daughter, Anne Marie Rudulph, who married James Sewell in 1809, seven years after he had moved to Cecil County. The sewells built Holly Hall circa 1810 on the farm land left to Mrs. Sewell by her father.

On January 20, 1808, the Maryland Legislature authorized a lottery for the purpose of finishing Elkton Academy and paving the streets of Elkton for which James Sewell was named a Commissioner. On December 24, 1808, in an Act for Improvement of Elkton in Cecil County, Sewell was one of those named to mete and bound the town and make a plat of same. On April 12, 1811, he was elected Fresident of the first Elkton bank. In 1813 he commanded the 2nd Battalian at Fort Defiance, which defended Elkton from miral Cockburn. The garrison repulsed the British advances and prevented them from reaching Elkton. Sewell was Clerk of the Circuit Court in Elkton from 1816 to 15+0 and was one of the founders of Trinity Episcopal Church in 1832.

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Holly Hall
Cecil County, ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

General Sewell dispensed a generous hospitality in Elkton, inviting every visitor of prominence or distinction to Holly Hall. A gentleman of urbanity and polished manners, he was active in the Whig political party. He was identified with the old Bank of Maryland, the failure of which precipitated a riot in Monument Square in Baltimore.

A brick burial vault was built into the side of the slope to the west of Holly Hall. A stone on the iron door bore an inscription reading: James A. Sewell's Family Vault - 1838. General Sewell died in 1842, leaving four children, James, Martha, Glenn, and Mary. In a deed dated October 8, 1858, a Circuit Court order listing James M. Sewell and others, parcels totaling 225 acres were sold to Edwin Wilmer for the sum of \$23,750. However, that part described as the Garden, containing the burial vault, was held in trust as a cemetery for the descendants of General James Sewell.

In 1860 the house and some land were sold to James E. Barroll for \$18,000. During the War between the States, the coach and pair from the Holly Hall stables were sent by James Barroll to convey the Reverend W. H. B. Mitchell, Rector of Trinity Church, when he was arrested for treason in the Chancel with his robe on. The Union forces were taking him in a road wagon, but as they passed the entrance to Holly Hall, Mrs. Barroll came out and made such an earnest plea for more comfortable transportation for her Rector, insisting on the use of her own coach, her request was granted.

After Mr. Barroll died the house was evidently rented out as a number of Elkton residents report relatives who have lived there. A number of weddings have taken place on the stairs. In 1889 all the real estate was sold to Mr. William Singerly for \$7,000. He never occupied the house, but built a pumping station and laid a water line to his pulp mill west of Holly Hall on Elk River. In 1895 he sold a five-acre strip of land for a right-of-way for the Elkton-Middletown Railroad Company. This was a project begun to connect Elkton and Middletown by means of an electric railroad. A single line was laid as far as the Canal, but the Company disbanded in 1912.

(see continuation sheet #5)

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Holly Hall
Cecil County,
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM N

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the first quarter of the 20th century the property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. George R. Ash, who operated a dairy farm. In 1923 it was sold to the Order of the Society of the Divine Savior. The Catholic order acquired the estate as a means of supporting the Foreign Missions which it had in China. During the various administrations a dairy farm was developed with a herd of registered Guernsey and Holstein cattle.

After the Mission Fathers vacated the property, the owner's representatives in Washington were contacted by some members of the Women's Club of Elkton. This original group enlisted the aid and interest of other citizens and a non-profit corporation was formed, called Associated Cecil Endeavors, Inc. ACE signed an agreement to lease Holly Hall with a three-year option to purchase. The group is the managing corporation dedicated to the restoration, redecoration, and refurnishing of Cecil Center-Holly Hall as a civic, cultural, and social center. ACE is also responsible for the three other buildings on the property. All rentals, fees, and other profits from any of their projects are to be applied to the cost of acquiring and properly maintaining Holly Hall.

Holly Hall was indeed patterned after published architectural designs of the early 19th century. What makes it especially interesting is the manner in which this was done, the finished result being a not-quite-successful, but nonetheless impressive, version of the English high style of the time.

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1. STATE Manyland

COUNTY Cecil County

TOWN EINTON VICINITY EINTON

STREET NO. Rt. 213, I mile Noth Rt 40

ORIGINAL OWNER Gen. James Sewall

ORIGINAL USE dwelling

PRESENT OWNER ASSOCIATED Cecil Endeavours

PRESENT USE Community Center

WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick

NO. OF STORIES 2/2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CE-131 INVENTORY

2. NAME Holly Hall

DATE OR PERIOD 1803

STYLE Federal

ENCARCHITECT

BUILDER Games Sewall

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

OPEN TO PUBLIC HES

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

Holly Hall is a Federal style Mansion begun in 1803 by General James Sewall. It stands two-and-one-half stories on a high basement and is five bays long and three bays deep, withere is a two-bay, two-story wing on the east side. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on the north and south facades. An elliptical arch is above both entrances, which have fanlight, and sidelights with doric pilasters. The south entrance has a one-story porch in poor condition. The north entrance leads out to a room, used now for meetings but originally built in this century for a chapel. The center bay of each facade, on the second floor nas a window of Palladian design with fluted pilasters. There are plaster panels above the second floor windows, and there is no cornice, as the walls project above the roof line and are capped with stone. Each window has 6/6 sash with piltels on the frames for shutters. The basement windows have 3/3 sash and the roof is hipped with a platform and has two dormers on each facade with radiating muntins in the upper sash. Two chimneys on the west wall have been removed, but those on the east wall are still standing. The west bay of the south facade is blocked up to imitate the other windows, the reason being that there is a stair rising in this area. for this is an interior strancase.

This house has many features in common with At. Ararat, also in Cecil County.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endongered NO Interior fair Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optianal)

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Poges)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Forman, Early Manor..., 1934, p 235

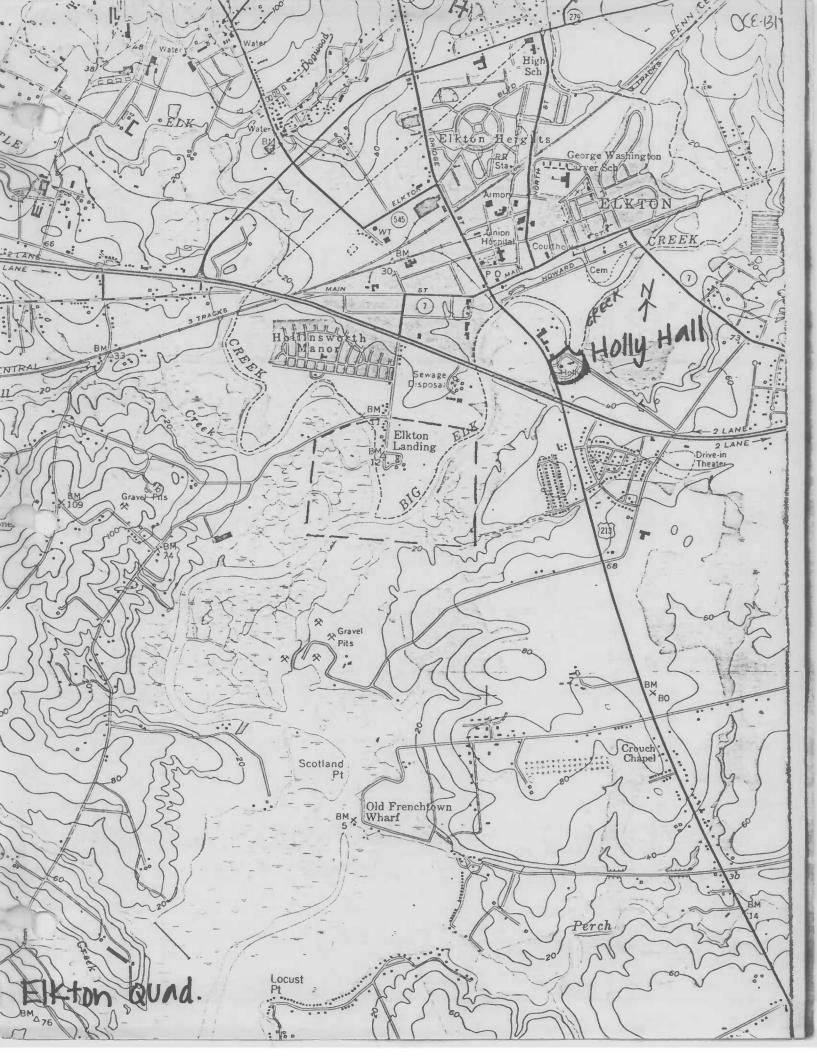
7. PHOTOGRAPH (E. 3193

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Michael Bourse

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD April 16, 1968





CE-131 Holly Hall PJB 2/95



CE-131 Holly Hall Route 213, South Elkton Geoffrey Henry 3/85



HOLLY HALL SOUTH ELEVATION NO ELKTON, MD. POT 6/80 DOSS NEG. - MHT CE-131



HOLLY HALL - ELKTON - MANTLE - FIREPLACE PRONT PARLOR BOOKCASES WERE ORIGINALLY WINDOW