

F-5-9  
Rigg's Sanitarium  
Ijamsville  
Private

C. 1862

The Rigg's Sanitarium is a large frame building consisting of three main buildings connected by a variety of additions and hallways which were originally built by Christopher Riggs for housing of Welsh families who worked in the nearby Ijamsville slate quarries.

In 1896, Dr. George H. Riggs, son of the original builder of the cottages, established the Riggs Cottage Sanitarium for nervous and mental diseases which operated until 1969. The cottages were converted into twenty-seven patient rooms, a patient's sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two examining rooms, doctors and nurses facilities and several sun porches.

The sanitarium treated as many as 1,030. As one of the foremost psychiatrists of the time, Dr. Riggs type of treatment was considered innovative and advance for the times. The buildings are now used for a French restaurant.

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Riggs Sanitarium

AND/OR COMMON

Gabriel's Restaurant

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West of Ijamsville Road

6th E D 9

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Ijamsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Frederick

STATE

COUNTY

Map 87 P 211

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- \_\_\_DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- \_\_\_STRUCTURE
- \_\_\_SITE
- \_\_\_OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- \_\_\_PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- \_\_\_BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- \_\_\_IN PROCESS
- \_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- \_\_\_UNOCCUPIED
- \_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- \_\_\_YES UNRESTRICTED
- \_\_\_NO

**PRESENT USE**

- \_\_\_AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_EDUCATIONAL
- \_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT
- \_\_\_GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_MILITARY
- \_\_\_MUSEUM
- \_\_\_PARK
- \_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Guy Gabriel

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 39A

CITY, TOWN

Ijamsville \_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md 21701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Court House

Liber #: 886

Folio #: 596

STREET & NUMBER

Record Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Md 21701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                     UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Riggs Sanitarium is a large frame building consisting of three main buildings connected by a variety of additions and hallways. The building is set on a hill facing south from the west side of Ijamsville Road near the town of Ijamsville.

The first cottage located on the west end of the building is a two and a half story frame structure which is four bays wide. It is built on a low random rubble stone foundation with a slate roof finished by a boxed cornice with return and double hung 6/6 windows occupy all four bays on the south side. Two brick chimneys straddle the gable on the east and west ends.

The second cottage is almost identical to the first cottage except for the addition of a kitchen area on the north side which was added to the building in 1931.

The third cottage is a two story frame structure which was converted from a two and a half story structure in the 1930's after fire destroyed the top part of the building.

At one time as many as twenty seven patient rooms existed in addition to a patient's sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two examining rooms, doctors and nurses facilities and several sun porches.

The houses were originally built in 1862 by Dr. Riggs father, Christopher Riggs, and used by six Welsh families who worked in the slate quarries of Ijamsville.<sup>1</sup> The building is now open to the public as a French restaurant.

1 Ijamsville, the Story of a Country Village, Frederick News-Post, Feb.-March 1951

**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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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) Medicine
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES      1862                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Christopher Riggs

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Riggs Cottage Sanitariym for Nervous and Mental Diseases was established in Ijamsville in 1896 by Dr. George H. Riggs who practiced both medicine and psychiatry in Frederick County. The sanitarium operated until 1969 when it was converted into Gabriel's French Provincial Resturant by the current owner, Guy Gabriel. In addition to Riggs, there were two other owners who were psychiatrists. Dr. and Mrs. Hosea McAdoo owned the sanitarium from 1939 until 1953 to 1969.<sup>1</sup>

Originally treating both men and women, Dr. Riggs was forced to limit admission only to women because of a lack of male nurses during World War I. The sanitarium did not only serve those in Frederick County; patients came from many places including Iorth Carolina and Philadelphia. These patients had mild mental problems such as paranoia and febblemindedness. They also suffered from nervous breakdowns and some were schizophrenic. "Each patient receive(d) individual psychotheraputic attention, occupation, and recreation, and every facility (was) offered for restoration under the most favorable hygenic conditions".<sup>2</sup> Difficult patients were transferred to Springfield State Hospital.

Dr. Riggs' medical and psychiatric practices and achievements were outstanding., He served as Ijamsville's family doctor for more than fifty years, and treated as many as 1,030 patients at the sanitarium. He has been regarded as one of the country's early psychiatrists and the type of treatment he gave his mental patients was considered innovative and advanced for the times.

1 Sale from Riggs to McAdoo - Frederick County Land Records, Liber 418, Folio 494  
Sale from McAdoo to Learner - Frederick County Land Records, Liber 522, Folio 429.

2 Advertisement distributed by Dr. Riggs describing the sanitarium.  
Acquired from Mrs. Evelyn Riggs England (daughter)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ijamsville, The Story of a Country Village, Frederick News-Post  
Feb. 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17 1951 Charles E. Moylan  
Riggs Cottage Sanitarium for Nervous and Mental Diseases, by Suzanne Boton  
Hood College, Paper on Local History, May, 1972 located in Hood College Library

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21.68 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Suzanne Bohn, Hood College Intern

May, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Planning Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

1-301-663-8300 Ext. 266

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Md. 21701

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.

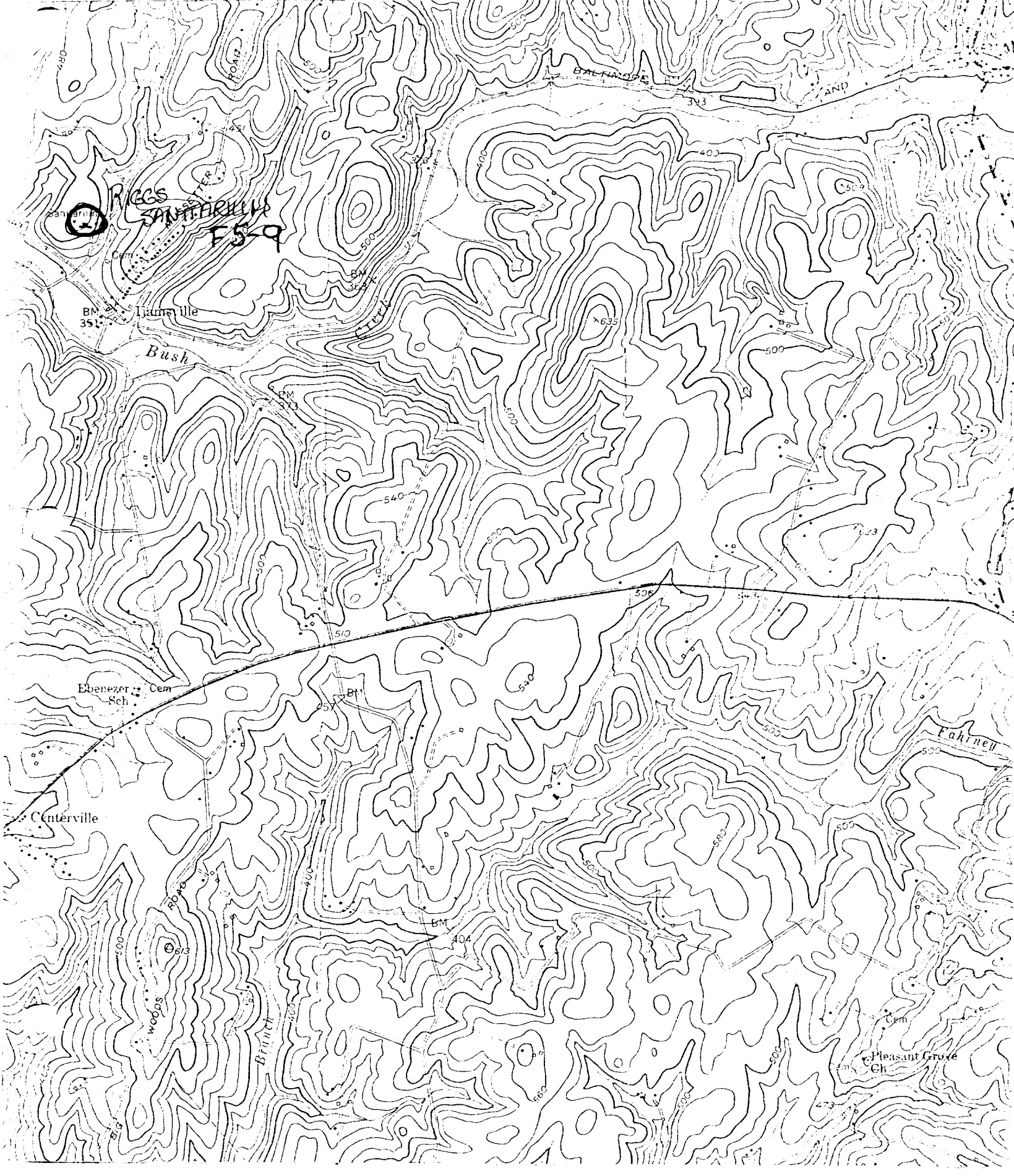
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

URBANA  
QUADRANGLE

TO U.S. 40 300 5542 (V.N.) (WALKERSVILLE) 302 17'30" 303 1720 (70) FEET 304





Rigg's Sanitarium

West side of Ijamsville Road in Ijamsville

Southeast view

CEW 8/77

F-5-9





Riggs Sanitarium  
W/3 Ijamsville Rd

CEW 5/77  
F-5-9

SOUTH + WEST ELEVATION



RIGGS SANITARIUM  
W/S Ijamsville Rd

SOUTH ELEVATION

CEW 5/77  
F-5-9



Rigg's Sanitarium

CEW 8/77

West side of Ijamsville Road in Ijamsville

F-5-9

Northwest view