

gracing the main first floor room. Acquired by the Baltimore Museum of Art in 1928 and installed in the American wing, the paneling fortunately remains preserved.

Through a series of additions Habre de Venture assumed a unique crescent shaped plan. Besides the main block there is a semi-detached, one room, gambrel roofed frame dependency off the south end that originally served as Stone's office. The north wing includes an early one story brick section connecting the main block to a kitchen-service wing of brick and frame construction.

Habre de Venture remained in the Stone family until 1936 when it was acquired and restored by Charles Stevenson Smith. The Vischers, who continued the restoration, have owned the property since 1945.

In 1972 Habre de Venture was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior, the highest distinction accorded buildings of national historical significance. The State of Maryland, through its historic preservation agency, the Maryland Historical Trust, has publicly expressed concern for the future of the property and there has been the suggestion of State acquisition. Future developments of significance will be reported in The Record.

Notes:

The Friendship Furnishings Committee, chaired by Warren E. Barley, held its first formal meeting on March 17th. In addition to Mr. Barley, members include Mrs. Velva Perrygo, Mrs. Catherine Mitchell, Mrs. Louise Turner, Mrs. Mary

Ellinger and J. Richard Rivoire.

The purpose of the Committee is to acquire through purchase, gift or loan furnishings and accessories of the 17th and 18th centuries appropriate for use and display in the recently reconstructed Old Friendship, new headquarters of the Historical Society. Anyone who has or knows of an item (or items) they feel the Committee would be interested in, please contact any one of the members.

The Historical Society recently acquired a collection of copies of manuscripts pertaining to early Charles County. Included among them was the builders specifications for the construction of the county alms house, formerly located north of Poor House Road. To complete the file on this most interesting building the Society would welcome copies of any photographs of the structure that might exist. If you have a photograph of this building and would be willing to let the Society make a copy, please contact Watson Perrygo or the Editor.

As a continuation of the above item, The Record would be interested in obtaining previously unpublished photographs recording county buildings no longer extant, county events that occurred prior to the 1930's, or any photographs recording the varied facets and modes of early county life, including agricultural practices and/or equipment, transportation, recreation, etc. The most interesting photos received will be published in a special insert in a future edition of The Record. If requested, all original photographs will be promptly returned once copies have been made. Copies of the photographs will then become part of the permanent collection of the Society. If you have photographs you feel would be of interest, please contact Mr. Perrygo or the Editor.

The Record welcomes any suggestions you might have for improvements to the newsletter and/or future articles. Address: J. Richard Rivoire, P.O. Box 132, La Plata, Maryland, 20646.

The Historical Society of Charles County
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



The RECORD

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May 1977

Watson M. Perrygo, President

J. Richard Rivoire, Editor

SPRING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spring Dinner Meeting of the Historical Society of Charles County will be held on Friday, May 6th, at the Officer's Club, Naval Ordinance Station, Indian Head. A cash bar will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., with a steamship round of beef and fried chicken dinner, including salad bar, served at 7:30. Tickets are \$6.50 per person. Reservations must be made by noon, May 2nd. Please make checks payable to the Historical Society of Charles County and send to Mrs. Robert L. Mitchell, P.O. Box 966, La Plata, Maryland, 20646.

The evenings program will include presentation of the film, 'Charles Carroll of Carrollton'. A member of the socially and politically prominent Carroll family of Maryland, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was one of America's most illustrious Revolutionary-era figures.

THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST HISTORIC SITES SURVEY:

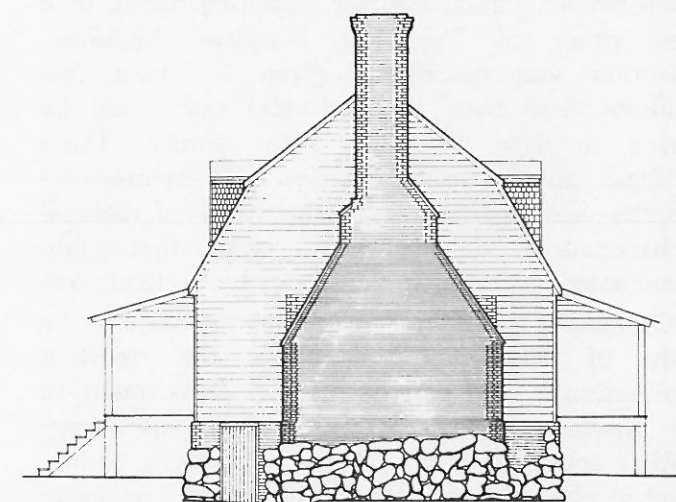
What It Is And What It Does

By Mark R. Edwards

Progress. This simple word always seemed inherently good, positive, beneficial. Not long ago, most Americans agreed that progress was good for us all. It usually meant an increase in jobs, an increased tax base due to new building and general economic growth for an area; all the good and none of the bad. But recently we have begun to see dangerous signs around us that progress has also rudely, mercilessly attacked - in the name of good - parts of our natural and built environments.

To a greater or lesser degree, this process of progress is pushing inexorably onward. As our awareness of its effect on our environment has grown, so has the realization that a sense of history and place is necessary for a healthy environment. In response to

this, many communities are beginning to see the need to identify those elements of their local community which, though all too often taken for granted, give it its unique character. Many have found that integrating preservation - the retention of the historic built environment - into the overall planning process will allow for new development and growth as well as the conservation of properties of historic, architectural, archeological and cultural value.



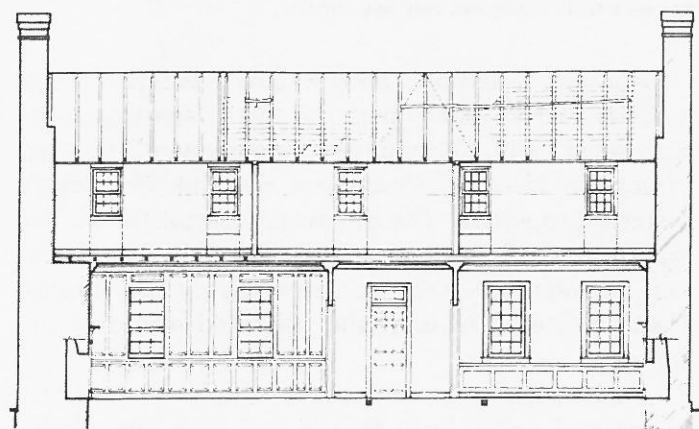
Maxwell Hall. East end elevation. Maxwell Hall represents a house type popular during the second half of the eighteenth century. While houses of this plan - one story with a gambrel roof and massive end chimneys - were once fairly numerous, only two remain.

For over a decade, the Maryland Historical Trust, a State agency and part of the Department of Economic and Community Development, has led efforts to identify, locate and describe Maryland's historic properties. The ongoing survey of the State's significant buildings, structures, districts and objects will provide the basis for the county by county Historic Sites Inventory, the published record of the survey.

Such an inventory and survey of cultural resources is required under both federal and state law. Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P. L. 89-665), each state was directed to prepare a comprehensive statewide survey and inventory of its

historic resources as part of its overall historic preservation plan. Under Maryland Law (Annotated Code, Article 41, Section 181 KA), the inventory was designated in 1974 as the official catalogue of historic sites for the benefit and enjoyment of all Maryland citizens.

Historic sites surveys are conducted in the field by professional architectural historians, social historians and archaeologists. While city and county surveys are typical, the Trust also undertakes other specialized surveys. One example of a "topical" survey is that undertaken with the Commission on Afro-American History and Culture to survey 18th and 19th century buildings and sites in lower Southern Maryland associated with black history. Another example is the architectural, historical and structural survey and investigation of specific buildings. For instance, over the past several years the Trust and the St. Mary's City Commission (St. Mary's County) have jointly sponsored an annual summer recording survey of a select group of Tidewater Maryland buildings. Attention was specifically given to those few buildings (less than 10 statewide) that could be proven to date from the 17th century. These buildings, and others chosen for their architectural integrity and significance to the study of regional architectural development, were thoroughly documented physically and historically. Certainly one of the most important contributions yet made to the study of Maryland architecture, the resultant information is now part of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) collection at the Library of Congress. Sarum, Marshall Hall, Maxwell Hall and the Old Friendship Barn were among the Charles County buildings included in this survey.



Sarum, Newport. Lateral section drawing. This very important building, incorporating the original seventeenth century house within later eighteenth century additions, was recorded as a joint project of the Trust and the St. Mary's City Commission in 1974-75.

Surveys of the HABS type, often requiring many hundreds of hours to sufficiently record a single building, are the exception rather than the rule. The average county survey is conducted by visiting the individual building or site, preparing a detailed written description and photographing it. Research is also undertaken in local archives to gather data for inclusion in a statement of significance for the property. This information is then transferred to a special inventory data sheet for use in further research.

One of the most tangible results of the survey program is the publication of the Historic Sites Inventory. These regional and county-wide volumes list the historic sites recorded by county, describing the important historical and architectural features of the building. The inventory volumes are not, however, intended as a tourist guide. To protect the rights and privacy of the individual property owners, specific locations are not given.

From the broadly inclusive state-wide survey, a small number of properties are selected for review by the Governor's Consulting Committee (the state review board), and recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is a list of properties of national, state and local significance maintained by the Secretary of the Interior as authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. National Register listed properties in Charles County include Araby, Sarum, Mt. Carmel, Waverley, Rose Hill, La Grange, Habre de Venture, Marshall Hall, Rich Hill and Maxwell Hall. Listing in the National Register provides the property owners with a degree of protection, tax benefits and eligibility for grant funding for restoration.

The results of the Trust's ongoing survey program are made available to the public in a number of ways. In addition to the printed inventories, survey data is microfilmed by the Hall of Records under the direction of the State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. The inventory has also been adapted by the Department of State Planning for use in the computerized Maryland Automated Geographic Information (MAGI) system.

In summary, the architectural and archaeological survey can be an effective tool in attaining a number of important goals:

1. Identification of buildings, districts, structures and objects which meet National Register criteria so that such resources may be officially recognized and made eligible for

federal matching fund assistance and limited legal protection.

2. Provision of data enabling communities and federal agencies to meet the requirements (e.g. the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements) of existing federal and state legislation and procedures. Federal Transportation Act of 1966, Section 4F; National Environmental Policy Act; Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; Maryland Environmental Policy Act.
3. Definition of areas to be designated as zoned historic districts, or identification of buildings to be designated locally as historic landmarks.
4. Gathering of basic information to aid in the development of historic preservation plans by historic district commissions.
5. Establishment of priority areas for conservation and rehabilitation.
6. Use as a source of information in design review procedures within conservation or rehabilitation areas.
7. To increase citizen awareness of the beauty and historic significance of important areas in their city or county.



St. Thomas Manor, Chapel Point. When built by the Jesuits in 1741, the Manor House was one of the most sophisticated examples of academic Georgian architecture in Southern Maryland. Despite the rebuilding of the interior and alteration of the roof following an 1866 fire, it remains one of Maryland's most important historic buildings.

In these roles, the architectural and archaeological survey is the basic "building block" of the Maryland Historical Trust's programs and the programs of groups involved with preservation at the local level. It is hoped that the publication of the inventory will make this material more readily available to both the

layman and the professional.

Because the survey of Maryland's cultural resources is an ongoing process, the inventory as published and the identification of new sites will continually create new information. These changes and additions will be included in later republications of the inventory volumes.

Editor's note: Mark Edwards, who holds a M.S. degree in Historic Preservation Studies from Columbia University, New York, is the Survey and Inventory Coordinator for the Maryland Historical Trust. For further information regarding the survey and other activities of the Trust, address inquiries to the Maryland Historical Trust, Shaw House, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401.



Habre de Venture, Port Tobacco. The gambrel roofed center section of this well known landmark was completely gutted by a New Years Day fire. See article below.

COUNTY LANDMARK BURNS

On New Years Day fire claimed the c. 1771 main section of Habre de Venture, a Charles County landmark of national significance. It was a tragic loss acutely felt by all. Although the central block was completely engulfed in flames when local fire companies arrived, their quick action, despite the freezing temperature, high winds and a shortage of water, prevented the fire from spreading into the flanking wings.

Habre de Venture was built by Thomas Stone, a prominent Revolutionary-era political figure and one of four Marylanders who signed the Declaration of Independence. It began as a brick, one and one-half story gambrel roofed house, only the outside walls of which survived the conflagration. Included among its many interesting features was handsome woodwork