

2017

Preservation Matters

Celebrating Charles County's Historic Places



CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Planning & Growth Management
www.CharlesCountyMD.gov



DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & GROWTH
MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 2150 • 200 Baltimore Ave.
La Plata, Maryland 20646

301-645-0627
Maryland Relay: 7-1-1

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The information contained in this annual publication "**Preservation Matters**" has been brought to you as a public service by the Charles County Department Planning and Growth Management to support historic preservation in Charles County.

MANAGING EDITORS

Cathy Thompson
Beth Groth
Sheila Geisert

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Beth Groth • Cathy Thompson • Esther Doyle Read
Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. • Michael Fleming
Nicole Diehlmann • Linda Dyson • Francis Gray
James G. Gibb • Matthew Cochran

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tina Kozloski

Be a part of the news...

Would you like to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Historic Preservation magazine?

Please call Beth Groth at 301-645-0684, or send an email to GrothB@CharlesCountyMD.gov



Charles County's Rich Legacy of History

Michael Fleming

Welcome to the third edition of *Preservation Matters*, the annual publication of the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission.

Another year has passed, and 2017 is certain to bring new challenges to our efforts to protect the county's historic resources. The new year also promises new opportunities to engage with the public and preservation-minded local organizations, to not only preserve those historic assets that are threatened, but to also identify new treasures and share what we have learned with our community.

Since our last issue, we have continued our efforts to preserve Charles County's rich legacy through support, advocacy, and hands-on involvement with long term projects at Rich Hill, Port Tobacco, Pomonkey, Hughesville, and others that you'll find more information about in this issue. We've also provided review of and recommendations on proposed projects around the county, and have had success in our efforts to preserve history without hindering economic growth.

In addition to these efforts, we have been actively planning for the future of historic preservation in Charles County. In the past year, we have identified three, goal-oriented initiatives for the Historic Preservation Commission, and have started implementing strategies to achieve those goals. Our first goal is to solidify partnerships with other local, regional, and state historic organizations, to provide better support and advocacy for their initiatives, and draw upon their strengths and support for our own. To achieve that goal, we have already increased our participation and communication with many of those groups, and we have established a subcommittee focused on outreach to target those opportunities. Another part of this goal is to increase awareness of and support history education programs, and the outreach subcommittee will be working on strategies to achieve that in the coming year. Our second goal is to increase participation in the county's annual Historic Preservation Awards program, and a second subcommittee has been established to work towards that goal. Both of these subcommittees are comprised of both Commission and community members, allowing us to involve the public and special interest focused individuals so that we have a broad base for developing courses of action. Our final goal is to update the county's Historic Preservation Plan to reflect the milestones that have been achieved since it was written in 2004, and add new goals and plans to accomplish our mission of preserving and protecting Charles County's historic assets.

As you can tell, we've been very busy in the last year, and will continue to drive forward in 2017. I want to take this opportunity to give great thanks to our staff support in Planning and Growth Management: Beth Groth, Sheila Geisert, Cathy Hardy Thompson, and Esther Read. As an all-volunteer Commission, we could not hope to achieve our goals or complete our mission without their steadfast support and dedication.

I hope you'll find this issue of *Preservation Matters* informative and educational, and I hope it will encourage you to get out and visit some of the amazing historic sites we have here in Charles County. I further hope that the content here will inspire you to get involved in historic preservation, either through participation in one of the county's local historical organizations, attending a public event at one of our historic sites, or attendance of a Historic Preservation Commission monthly meeting—our meetings are open to the public and dates, times, and agendas are posted on www.CharlesCountyMD.gov.

For the Service of Almighty God


1692 ANGLICAN PARISHES IN CHARLES COUNTY

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.



Old Fields Chapel near Hughesville



Continued on next page 



Trinity Episcopal Church near Newport

Anglican Parishes – Continued from previous page.

One of the cultural touchstones left behind in England by Lord Baltimore's colonists was the established church, the Church of England. After a brief 55-year experiment with religious freedom, a Protestant faction seized Maryland's provincial government and petitioned King William III and Queen Mary II to declare Maryland a royal colony. Lord Baltimore's charter was suspended and a royal governor, Lionel Copley, was appointed. The Assembly established the Church of England as the colony's state religion in 1692. The original 30 parishes of 1692 were geographically defined, and the new world began to resemble the old. [i]

Four 1692 parishes were carved out of the area that was then Charles County: William and Mary (Picawaxon), Port Tobacco, Nanjemoy (later known as Durham), and Piscataway at Broad Creek. Piscataway Parish became a part of newly created Prince George's County in 1696, and therefore was not long a part of Charles County. Trinity Parish was created by an Act of Assembly in 1744 and encompassed an area stretching from Newport to Benedict. The Establishment lasted 84 years and was the instrument responsible for the construction and maintenance of nearly all of Maryland's pre-Revolutionary, Anglican churches, including those in Charles County. Many

of them still grace the county landscape, some surrounded by ancient graveyards.

William and Mary (Picawaxon) lay on the Potomac side of the county. The vestry elected in 1692 was: Colonel John Courts, Robert Yates, William Hawton, Henry Hardy, John Wielder, and William Harbert. A church had been built prior to the Establishment but that church was replaced by the current brick structure sometime in the 18th century. George Tubman was inducted as rector in 1695. The parish shared him with Durham and Port Tobacco parishes. Tubman was controversial, beleaguered by charges of bigamy. He was dead by 1701 and the controversy died with him. In 1706, Newport Hundred was cut off from King and Queen Parish in St. Mary's County and added to the area of William and Mary. Perhaps the most historical rector was Samuel Clagett, father of the future Bishop of Maryland Thomas John Claggett. He was born at Croom, the Clagett family estate in Prince George's County and was ordained in England on Ash Wednesday, February 24, 1748, in St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, London, by John Thomas, Bishop of Peterborough, Northamptonshire. [ii] Clagett was inducted into William and Mary by September 1750 following the death of his wife, Elizabeth Gantt, and newborn son Richard. Samuel was previously at Christ Church, Calvert

[i] 1692 Establishment Archives of Maryland (AMD), Vol. 13, pages 439-552.

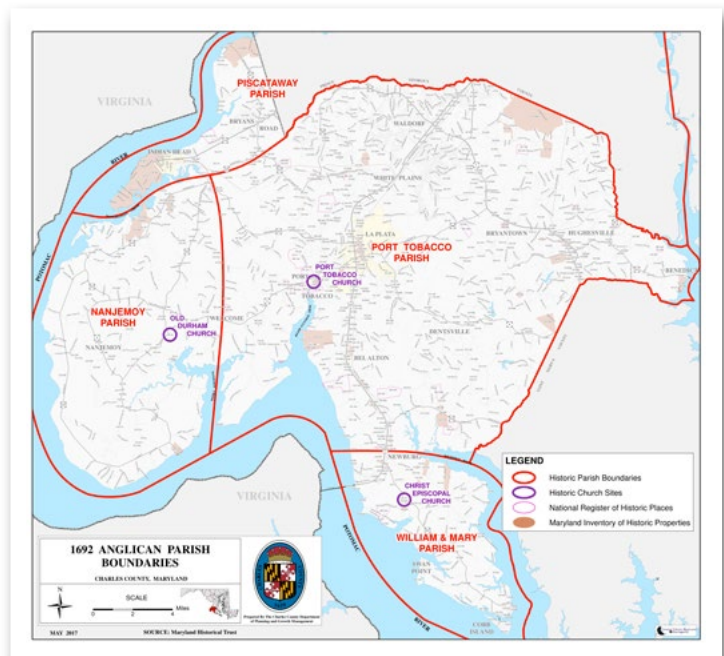
[ii] Samuel Clagett's ordination documented in Peterborough Diocesan Institution Book 9 (ML 732) 1718-1764.



Griffith map of 1794 shows major landmarks in the late 18th century including a depiction of Durham Chapel. Griffith, D., Thackara, J. & Vallance, J. (1794) Map of the State of Maryland laid down from an actual survey of all the principal waters, public roads, and divisions of the counties therein; describing the situation of the cities, towns, villages, houses of worship and other public buildings, furnaces, forges, mills, and other remarkable places; and of the Federal Territory; as also a sketch of the State of Delaware shewing the probable connexion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. [Philadelphia, J. Vallance] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/76693265/>.

County. His former neighbors from Prince George's, the Lee family, now of Blenheim in Charles County, were active William and Mary parishioners. Clagett served William and Mary until his death in 1756.^[iii]

Port Tobacco Parish located on the Port Tobacco River was noted as having a church as early as 1684. The vestrymen elected in 1692 were Henry Hawkins, John Hawkins, William Barton, Phil Hoskins, C. Lomax, and John Hanson. The parish church has been in three different locations over the parish's history, suffering fire, relocation, and a tornado before becoming the church we now know as Christ Church, La Plata. The parish shared the services of George Tubman with two of her sister parishes, William and Mary, and Durham. Another controversial rector, William Maconchie, was inducted into the livings of both Port Tobacco and Durham after Tubman's demise. In April 1724, Giles Rainsford, a fellow clergyman, wrote an unnamed English friend lodging fresh complaints against many of his religious brethren including Maconchie. His letter read, "Mr. Maconchie is a Mere Nuisance, and makes the church stink. He fights and drinks on all occasions; and, as I am told he molests the wives of others." Maconchie reported to Bishop Edmund Gibson in 1724 that there were approximately 300 families covering both parishes (Port Tobacco and Durham), and that he baptized slaves. He noted he had glebes in both parishes but the land was "worthless." There were no public schools but several private schools and he noted Durham parish had a small library. The Assembly



Map indicating the approximate boundaries for the original Parishes in Charles County.

[iii] Samuel Clagett's ordination documented in Peterborough Diocesan Institution Book 9 (ML 732) 1718-1764.

Anglican Parishes – Continued from previous page.

approved a new parish church in 1751 and, in 1754 a chapel of ease was authorized to be located at Ivy Springs.^[iv]

Nanjemoy, or Durham, Parish lay along Mattawoman and Nanjemoy Creek. The vestrymen chosen in 1692 were: John Stone, Joseph Manning, William Dent, William Stone, Richard Harrison, and Gerrard Fowke. At the time of the Establishment, there was reportedly no church in the parish but one was soon thereafter constructed. Acts of Assembly authorized the construction of the brick church we now know as Christ Church, Durham in 1732 and 1736. It was originally a one-story structure and later renovated and enlarged to the structure we see today. Even though it was built, it was not consecrated until 1809 when Bishop Claggett performed the service. Durham shared the services of both Tubman and Maconchie during its early history, but after 1750 had a succession of rectors solely responsible for Durham alone. One of Durham's later rectors was Walter Hanson Harrison. He was a native son, born in the parish on June 21, 1750. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1774 and licensed to the parish of his birth to be an assistant to Henry Fendall, then current rector. Harrison was a brother to Richard Harrison George Washington's aide-de-camp and a supporter of the American Revolution.^[v]

[iv] Letter Ransford, Giles to 'Reverend Sir', August 10, 1724, Fulham Palace Papers.; Maconchie, William answers to Bishop Gibson's queries 1724, Fulham Palace Papers.; Acts of Assembly, Port Tobacco Parish, 1751, Chapter 12, and 1754, Chapter 7.

[v] Acts of Assembly, Durham Parish 1732, Chapter 28, 1736, Chapter 12, and 1754, Chapter 7.; Harrison, Walter Hanson ordination papers, Volume XXII, pages 95-99, Fulham Palace Papers.

The official end of religious freedom and the political elevation of the Church of England in the late 17th century had far reaching consequences for the entire colony and the parishes created out of the Establishment. Many laws enacted by the Assembly were relegated to parish vestries for enforcement. These laws covered matters as diverse as remuneration of the priest, public moral behavior, taxation, and in the case of laws affecting the tobacco industry, staffing inspection warehouses, and the enumeration of bachelors in support of taxation for financing the French and Indian War. Lord Baltimore's charter was restored to him in 1715, but only after he renounced the Roman Catholic Church and became an Anglican.

The intermingling of government and the Established Church was most notable in the colony's tobacco trade. The method of support for priest and parish was tied to tobacco, Maryland's premier commodity. Initially the legislation gave priests 40 pounds of tobacco per taxable person for their maintenance. This, of course, meant the more populated a parish, the greater the remuneration to the priest, and as parish population grew, so did a priest's compensation. Compensation was adjusted at various times throughout the colonial era, but it never fell below 30 pounds of tobacco per taxable person. Many priests owned plantations with a substantial portion of their wealth and income being derived from the tobacco trade, as well as from their clerical duties. Vestries were allowed to petition county courts for up



Old Durham Church near Nanjemoy



to 10 pounds additional tobacco per taxable person annually for parish expenses. Additional taxes required an Act of Assembly, and supplementary assessments could be levied for building churches and vestry houses, as well as repair of buildings and grounds.

The Bishop of London was the titular head of the colonial church, but an absent one. Jacob Henderson served as the bishop's commissary for the western shore, and later for all of Maryland for approximately 15 years but his position was largely symbolic. The relationship between Lord Baltimore and the Bishop of London was never defined. Guaranteed their yearly stipend by law, parish priests chosen and inducted by Baltimore's appointed governor were accountable to no one—their parishioners, the governor, or even Lord Baltimore himself. There was no provincial law or clerical court to turn to when a parish and its priest disagreed. This did not stop parishes from complaining about their priests or taking steps to try and remove wayward clergymen, but these instances were in the minority.

Tobacco was the economic lifeblood of the colony, as well as the church. The Assembly had done little or nothing to improve or regulate the province's most important export, tobacco, resulting in a consistently mediocre product and flat prices. It was during the Assembly's May-July 1747 session that the need for some form of regulation and standardization of the provincial tobacco industry was addressed. The act was simply titled, "An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for Limitation of Officers Fees." Among the many provisions and requirements of the act were two directly affecting Maryland's Anglican parishes; one in the way public warehouses would be staffed and the other with regard to the amount of legislated

clerical compensation. The act specified each warehouse was to have two inspectors chosen from a slate of four nominees presented to the governor by the vestry and churchwardens of each parish where tobacco warehouses were established. Compensation for clergy was dropped to 30 pounds tobacco per taxable person. The inspection act officially took effect on December 1, 1748 to initially last for a period of five years but remained in effect until October 1770. A consequence of the act was what had once been a colony-wide industry increasingly came to be the primary cash crop of one region alone, Southern Maryland. Southern Maryland's distinctive regional personality was now set, remaining that way for generations to come.^[vi]

Before the Maryland Convention's adjournment in 1776, they approved one resolution that many Anglican priests would have viewed as blatantly treasonous and probably blasphemous. The resolution said, "That every prayer and petition for the king's majesty, in the book of common prayer and administration of the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the church, according to the use of the church of England, except the second collect for the king in the communion service, be henceforth omitted in all churches and chapels in this province, until our unhappy differences are ended." With Governor Robert Eden's departure from Maryland in June the colonial era in Maryland came to an end. With the Declaration of Rights, the Maryland legislature revoked all acts supporting an Established Church.^[vii]

[vi] AMD, Vol. XLIV, pgs. 595-638, Vol. LXII, pg. 123 continued the act until 22 October 1770; Schweitzer, "Economic Regulation and the Colonial Economy: The Maryland Tobacco Inspection Act of 1747", pgs. 551-569; Middleton, Tobacco Coast, pgs. 143, 306, 322-323.

[vii] AMD, Vol., 78, pg. 156; MBD, Vol. 1, pgs. 299-300.

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*Christ Church in La Plata
(previously in Port Tobacco)*



Colonial Churches and their Preservation

Nicole Diehlmann and Cathy Thompson

Charles County's remaining colonial churches are important reminders of the role that religion played in the founding of the nation.

They are also some of our earliest and most substantial public buildings. Like the earliest Catholic chapels, the first known Anglican chapels were impermanent structures that were built of log or wooden frames with post-in-ground or wood-block foundations. Log chapels were known to exist at the site of Old Durham Church in Ironsides, **Christ Church** in Port Tobacco, and St. Paul's in Waldorf.

The first known Protestant church was constructed between 1661 and 1662 on one acre of land reserved by Port Tobacco Innkeeper Edmond Lindsay. By 1684, a Protestant church stood at the head of Port Tobacco Creek, perhaps replacing the 1661–1662 chapel. These early chapels were replaced and rebuilt several times before a more permanent church was constructed in the mid-18th century. In 1751, William Waite was selected as undertaker by the majority of the vestry, and built what was described in 1775 as “a very pretty church of freestone” just north of the village. This church, like many others, deteriorated after the American Revolution and was rebuilt adjacent to the Port Tobacco Courthouse in 1818 and consecrated as Christ Church. This building was dismantled in 1904 and rebuilt in the town of La Plata after the county seat was moved there in the late 19th century.

By the mid-18th century, Charles County planters had achieved considerable wealth and stability, which was reflected in a building boom that included religious, as well as domestic architecture. Several substantial Anglican churches were constructed at this time, usually replacing earlier log or frame structures. The first brick Anglican Church to be erected was Old Durham Church (photo page 8) in Ironsides in 1732; followed by Trinity Church (photo page 6) in Dentsville, built by John Arias of Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1756; and Oldfields Chapel of Ease (photo page 4) in Hughesville in 1769.

The 18th century Anglican parish churches in Charles County followed traditional conventions

of the day for public architecture, and share similarities with Anglican churches throughout the Chesapeake. All of the surviving 18th century Anglican churches suffered damage from severe neglect after the American Revolution. As the new Episcopal Church in the United States recovered in the late 18th and 19th centuries, these former-Anglican buildings were substantially altered or enlarged, including Old Durham Church, which was enlarged between 1791 and 1793. St. Paul's Piney near Waldorf was built in 1833. Christ Church Wayside (photo page 9) was originally constructed in the late 18th century.




The Mystery of Mount Aventine's West Wing and the Chapman Point Fishery

Linda Dyson



The Mount Aventine manor house, located in Chapman State Park in Indian Head, is considered one of the most significant antebellum houses in Southern Maryland. The house, including the viewshed, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. The oldest section of the house is the stone “west wing” located on the left end of the structure. Photo by Chris Platt.

Continued on next page 



Nathaniel Chapman, a wealthy Virginian with plantations and extensive business interests in Northern Virginia, purchased “Grimes Ditch” in Charles County in 1751. The family operated large and lucrative fishery and ferry boat businesses here on the Potomac from mid-1700 into the early 20th century.

Nathaniel built a large brick home on the Potomac shore about a quarter mile from the location of today’s Mount Aventine. An inventory of the property made by William Eilbeck and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer in 1761 shows the family as one of the wealthiest in the county. There is evidence that this house continued to be occupied by members of the family into the first quarter of the 19th century, when it fell into disuse.

In 1800, George Chapman, grandson of Nathaniel, moved back to the family plantation “Thoroughfare” in Virginia, but continued to oversee the Potomac enterprises in Maryland. The “Chapman Fish Books,” attributed to him, document the fishery at Chapman Point from 1814 to 1824 and are still used as a reference from which the productivity of the Potomac is measured.



Pearson Chapman (*portrait displayed at Mt. Aventine*), who inherited the Maryland estate in 1829 and lived there until his death in 1877, was the architect of the antebellum manor house which he named “Mount Aventine.”

Mount Aventine evolved over a period of 70 years from an existing 1½ story stone cottage now called the “west wing.” Built of quarried dressed stone of a type not found in the area, the cottage is thought to be the only cut stone structure of its age in Charles County, and, perhaps, in Southern Maryland. Its location, as well as the costly building material used in its construction, raise several intriguing questions. When was it constructed? What was its original use? Where did the stone come from?

In 2007, the state undertook a project to stabilize the exterior of Mount Aventine. The entire structure was stripped of white paint, exposing the dressed stone construction and its field-stone footings of the old wing. (The one story brick addition on the front was added in the 1930's.)

With support from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and the Charles County Commissioners, the Friends of Chapman State Park commissioned an architectural review of the house to help guide their renovation efforts. One aspect of the study was to unravel the mysteries of the west wing’s age and use.

The study, conducted by Barton Ross Associates, a historic architecture firm, suggests that the cottage was built sometime between 1810 and 1815.

The architectural study included inspections of construction elements such as the rafters and ceiling and floor joists. Plaster samples were also evaluated. Findings include heavy horse-hair plaster, early saw-cut lath and blacksmith hand-wrought nails. The collar ties in the attic are mostly saw cut with few hewn examples found. All these elements are consistent with early 1800’s construction.

The cottage’s original front door and a 12 over 12 window still exist and are incorporated into the 1930’s brick addition as interior openings. Although the woodwork surrounding these openings has been altered, the door and window design are also consistent with an early 1800 construction date.

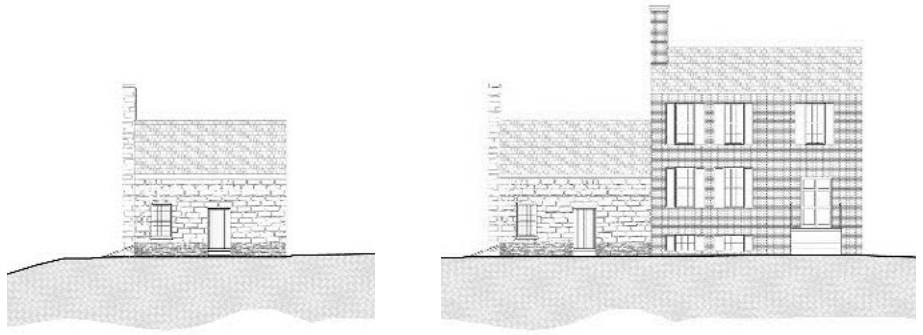
The working theory of the cottage’s original use is that it was built as a commercial building associated with the plantation’s Potomac businesses. Supporting arguments include the expensive stone construction and the lack of a storage cellar, which would not have been typical of a small farm house of the period. The location, on a prominent hill overlooking the fishery, would have provided a good vantage point for monitoring the shoreline, as well as providing access to customers and officials visiting the businesses by land routes, which were supplanting river transport during this period.

As to the source of the stone, it is known that the Chapman family operated a quarry in northern Virginia, so a reasonable assumption, which may be tested in the future, is that the stone originated there near Aquai Harbor.

The evolution of Mount Aventine from a small stone cottage to the formal center hall design that exists today took place in two documented building periods, circa 1840 and circa 1860. The 1840 design, a “side-passage” house typical of that period, included a 2+ story brick addition with a parlor, dining room, and stair hallway on the first floor. It was added directly to the pre-existing cottage. As the family’s fortunes and needs increased, the house was expanded to its current design in the 1860’s. The garage on the east end and “shed” addition to the west end were built in the 1930’s.

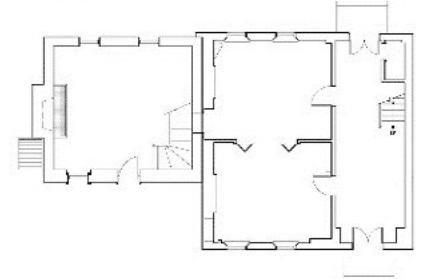
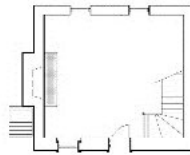
More study and scientific testing would undoubtedly add to the story. To date, there has been no archeological investigation of either the Mount Aventine site or the grounds of the original house on the Potomac — not to mention Chapman Point and Chapmans Landing. Additional study would provide a fascinating look into the history of this historic place, and the important role the Potomac played in the economic development of Charles County in the early 1800’s.

These drawings show how Mount Aventine evolved from the stone cottage to the five bedroom mansion that exists today. The home's unique series of planned architectural additions adds to its significance as an important historic structure.



Mr. Aventine
Circa 1805-1815

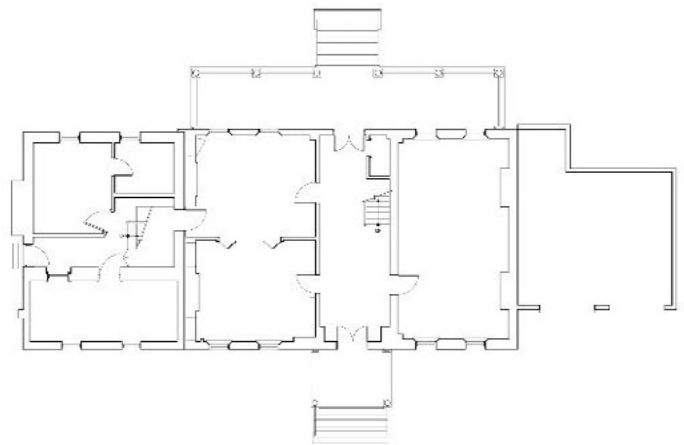
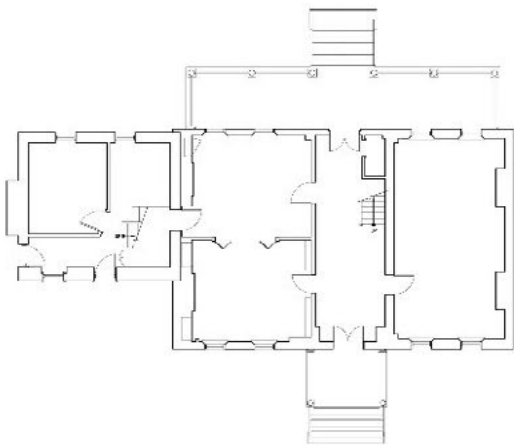
Mt. Aventine House
Circa 1830-1840



Mt. Aventine House
Circa 1850-1860 "Period of Significance"



Mt. Aventine House
Circa 1930-1940



Information drawn from the application for National Register status compiled by R. Rivoire, and Mt. Aventine Preservation Study by Barton Ross and Associates LLC.



Mt. Aventine... *The West Wing*

The Friends of Chapman State Park are working on a plan to use the west wing, a main interpretative area of the mansion, with focus on the foodways of the period of private occupancy of the house. Evidence suggests that the wing has always served as the kitchen as the house evolved.

PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR 2017		
Creating a working kitchen space for the house for use and demonstrations	Restoring the original 1800's hearth and fireplace to the extent possible.	Creating a museum display of kitchen technology for the period of occupancy between 1800-1984.

Work is underway, and volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Mount Aventine is open Sunday afternoons during the park season, April through October, and when special events are scheduled. Details are on the website at www.friendsofchapmansp.org.



Pictured: West Wing restored. The inset depicts the West Wing with paint removed showing the cut and dressed stone construction and the fieldstone foundation.

The Fishery at Chapman Point



The original record books of George Chapman document the daily catches from the fishery from 1814 to 1824, including the number of American shad and herring caught and sold, and the market value of the transactions. Additional entries include the names of the purchasers and boat captains. The validity of the books is supported by the fact they are cited in contemporary lawsuits over payments to the fishery.

Yearly shad catches at Chapman Point ranged from 27,939 to 180,755 fish, while the numbers of herring caught and sold ranged from 343,341 to 1,068,932. The estimated catch per haul was 800 shad in late March, 2,250 in mid-April, and 1,200 per haul in late May. During the 11-year period almost one million shad were taken.

(Massmann, W.H., Chesapeake Science, 1961 2:76)

Pictured: Haul Seining along the Potomac River continued well into the 20th century. This picture was taken at the mouth of Nanjemoy Creek in 1905. Frederick Tilp Collection, Calvert Marine Museum.

Inset: Watercolor depiction of Shad caught at Chapman Point in the 1800's. "Fish and game of the State of New York / (by S.F. Denton, J.L. Ridgway and L.A. Fuertes)," courtesy of Fordham University Library, Digital Hudson Collection.



Indigenous Cultural Landscape Study Area

WE SPEAK FOR THE LANDS AND WATERS

Francis Gray, Piscataway Conoy Tribal Chair and member of the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission

The Earth Mother is a living entity. The Potomac, Patuxent and the Chesapeake are three of her major arteries. The Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, Occoquan, Piscataway, Port Tobacco, Wicomico, Mattaponi, and many others are the veins that complete her circulatory cycle. *Our Earth Mother gives us life!*

The western shore of the Chesapeake, from the Patapsco through the Potomac watersheds, up to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, are the native lands of our Piscataway Conoy ancestors. Many of the rivers and creeks within our ancestors' traditional homeland remain in perpetuity as they continue to be identified with historical Algonquian language based names. When we hear their names in the news or drive across the concrete bridges that stretch from bank to bank, we are reminded of the many stories passed on to us throughout our 14,000 years of history.

In 2013, Preservation Maryland placed 12 indigenous landscapes, also known as the Indigenous Cultural Landscape, in six Maryland counties on its Maryland Endangered List, including the Nanjemoy and Mattawoman watersheds.

While Preservation Maryland's definition of indigenous landscapes were more general than the concept, Preservation Maryland nonetheless recognized the area as deserving of consideration in the face of urban and suburban development. Although modern development in the Nanjemoy watershed has been limited, the Mattawoman faces considerable pressure given that Waldorf, an unincorporated but urbanized jurisdiction in



Chicamuxen Indigenous Landscape



Mattawoman Watershed



Chicamuxen Watershed

Charles County, partially drains into the Mattawoman. Therefore, this project represents one of the first efforts to address Preservation Maryland's 2013 findings, and in so doing, the project is part of an ongoing effort by the Piscataway Conoy Tribe to raise awareness of our communities, the landscapes of our ancient and modern-day homeland, and the potential threats to those landscapes. Even as these landscapes are considered potentially threatened, they are also recognized for their vast potential for educational enrichment, heritage/cultural tourism, and economic development.

In 2013, the Maryland Historical Trust provided funding to the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium to develop a Piscataway Indian Heritage Trail for educational and economic development purposes. Working with Piscataway Indian communities, the Heritage Area has developed a master plan for the trail, which was completed in late 2016. This regional effort can be a valuable resource to identify the Piscataway Indigenous Cultural Landscape.

Historically, the dominate society, through its archeologists, anthropologists, sociologists, and historians, have attempted to describe our ancestral culture through their academic stovepipe lenses. Their assessments of our culture have always been based upon a Eurocentric value system or a capitalistic view that the natural world is full of resources that are placed upon this earth for man to exploit. In partnership with many federal, Maryland State, county and local organizations, we have jointly developed a plan entitled, "Through Piscataway Eyes" (TPE), an educational self-driving and self-guiding trail. This will be our opportunity to speak to the sons and daughters of the immigrants to this land and attempt to present another perspective as to how all can relate to the Earth Mother in terms of perpetuating her many gifts for the future needs of the unborn, as opposed to the vast consumption based mentality of exploitation of our natural resources in a driven buyer's market.

It has been said by many generations before us that "we live in interesting times". This has never been more applicable for our people living today. This is the first occasion in over 400 years that we have had the opportunity to inform the immigrants from outside of Turtle Island (North America) about our culture. TPE will communicate to the non-Indian world aspects of the Piscataway Conoy culture and history from 14,000 years ago through the modern day.

TPE is OUR VOICE! The Piscataway Conoy People, through the use of multi-media display formats, will communicate a relationship to the land and waters that

is built upon a life-giving and sustaining world vision. A combination of signage, artifacts, art, quotes, and oral history will enhance the various parks and sanctuaries that are managed by our TPE partners in Charles, Prince Georges, Calvert, and St Mary's Counties. TPE will highlight the dreadful, life-altering choices our ancestors had to consider:

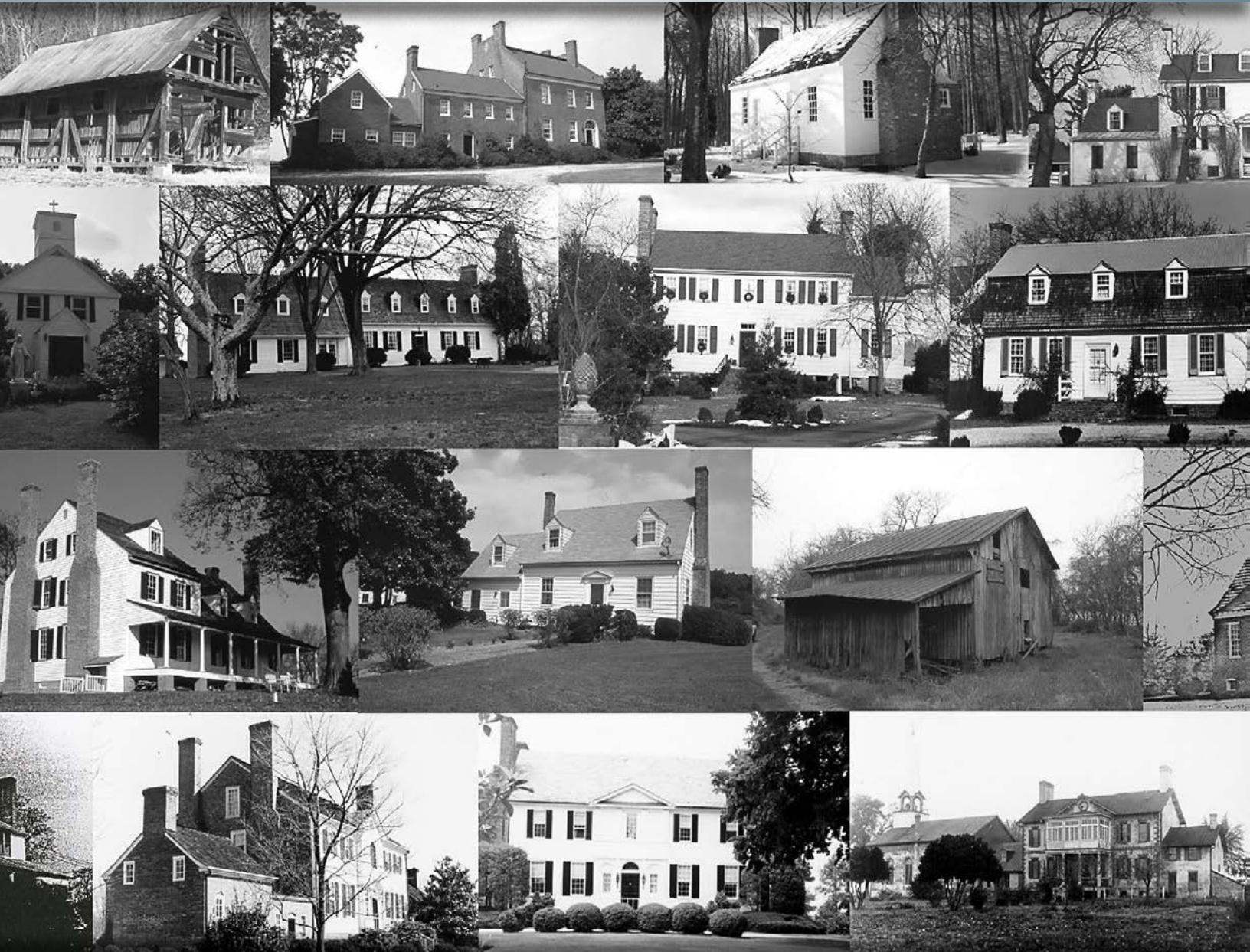
- Do we engage in a war with the European colonial immigrants to protect our way of life, and possibly experience a similar disastrous outcome as our Powhatan neighbors to the south?
- Do we abandon the remains of our buried ancestors and migrate away from our traditional homelands to a location and fate unknown?
- Do we extract ourselves from our exceptional productive waterfront village locations and relocate to more remote, less desirable habitation areas?

TPE will present those options and inform visitors to our partner sites about the decisions made and the impacts of each to our Tribal community. These TPE site exhibits will be complementary of each other and not redundant. As we begin to migrate from a TPE planning document into the implementation phase, please visit our TPE partner sites and begin to experience Southern Maryland from the Piscataway Conoy Tribal perspective!



Commemorating the First Native American Saint St. Kateri at St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco

Are you a preservationist?



Where are the places
that hold stories about
who we are and
where we have been?

The interactive story mapping project “Charles County – Preservation Matters” is a way to share your efforts ... great and small ... to preserve and celebrate cherished local historic places. Post your own photos and experiences and inspire others to become preservationists too!

To get started simply visit:

www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/HistoricPreservation

Working for Preservation

This summer, the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management was again fortunate enough to host two interns, Andrew Olmsted and Kathleen Seay.

A native of Charles County, Andrew recently graduated from the University of Richmond with a degree in History/Classical Civilization and Archaeology. Taking advantage of his strong research and writing skills, Andrew tackled historical research in the Port Tobacco Historic District this summer. He reviewed available information on known archaeological sites and selected the former 1860 Port Tobacco Jail site, located behind the Port Tobacco Courthouse. Andrew met with local historians, docents, and town residents to gather information and insight about the site. He then conducted historical research and even examined artifacts from a recent archaeological excavation there. At the end of the summer Andrew drafted and formally presented his findings to a panel of stakeholders who were impressed with all that he was able to accomplish in such a short time. This information will be invaluable moving forward as the Port Tobacco Historic District continues to develop as a heritage tourism hub in Charles County. Look for Andrew's full article on the Port Tobacco Jail in the next issue of Preservation Matters!

Kathleen Seay was charged with developing a "Story Map" using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). A story map is an interactive mapping program that can be used as a powerful tool to showcase historic sites and preservation efforts in Charles County. The goal of the project was to develop an interactive mapping program that would allow citizens to post their own favorite historic places worthy of preservation. It's both a celebration of our most recognized historic places and a call to appreciate and preserve the lesser known treasures in our own backyard.

Kathleen is also from Charles County. She is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland College Park's Art History/Landscape Architecture and Management Program and is currently enrolled in the graduate program for Historic Preservation at Goucher College. She also works part-time at the Charles County Public Library. Kathleen's interest and experience in public outreach was invaluable to this project.

It was truly a delight to work with such talented young professionals and we look forward to all of the great preservation work they will undertake in the years to come!





JOHN GRINDER HOUSE RISING FROM THE ASHES

Michael Fleming

On January 19, 2014, a fire erupted in the attic of the 19th century Grinder farmhouse, a quaint brick structure near Smallwood's retreat in Smallwood State Park.

Damage to the roof and hand-hewn rafters was extensive, although the structure and most of the interior remained intact (see photo on next page). Since the fire, the home has been vacant and additional damage resulting from neglect has occurred. In 2016, the Department of Natural Resources announced plans to demolish the Grinder farmhouse. The Charles County Historic Preservation Commission requested that those plans be delayed to allow time for stakeholders like the Friends of Smallwood State Park to explore the historic significance of the property and opportunities for adaptive reuse.

As research uncovered, this unassuming structure has an interesting history. In 1868, Mr. John Stoddart, a relative of General William Smallwood, sold a parcel of land around Smallwood's Retreat to John Grinder of Washington, D.C.

John Grinder was a brickmaker, and operated a yard on the corner of First and K Street Southeast, Washington, D.C. which he established in 1847. Born in Baltimore in 1812, he grew up in south Washington near a glass house, which was the first trade he learned. John Grinder did well as a brickmaker. He submitted a proposal for \$6873 worth of bricks to be used at the Washington Navy Yard in 1855, and delivered 10,500 paving bricks for the United States Military Asylum the following year, in addition to providing the brick for construction of many structures around the city. He owned several pieces of real estate in the District, and accepted \$12,237 for one of his parcels of land that was needed for the new library in 1886. He sold other land to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company later that year. His obituaries report his net worth at the time of his death between \$30,000 and "several

hundred thousand dollars.” With the success of his brickyard, John Grinder purchased real estate and land in and around the District, including farmland in Charles County.

John Grinder had only one male heir, a nephew, who he trained as an apprentice at an early age. Edward Marshall Grinder learned the brick maker’s trade from John, working in the D.C. yard and rising to manager by 1861. He kept that position until 1867, while also serving as a private in Owen’s Company of the D.C. Calvary during the Civil War. Shortly after John bought the tract of land in Charles County, Edward moved to the county with his wife Hannah and three children to manage the former Mattawoman Plantation.

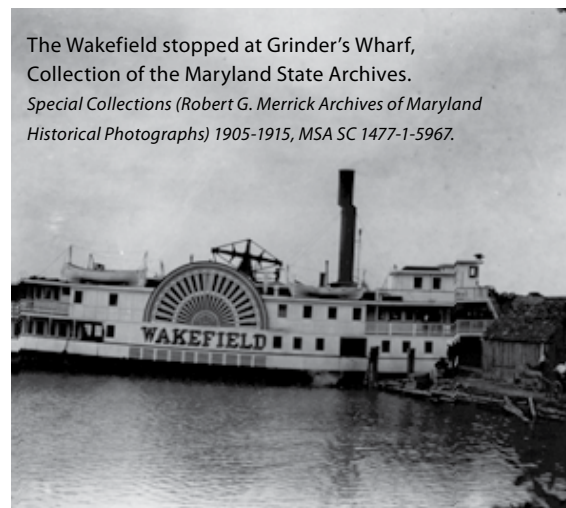
Edward Grinder was an active citizen in Charles County. As early as 1870, John Grinder, as the property owner, started receiving payments from the county for building and maintaining public roads—work that was certainly performed by Edward, since John was actively running the brickyard and lived in Washington, D.C. Those payments were also recorded in 1873 and 1874; payments for the same work in 1881 and 1882 were to Edward Grinder, as the property was transferred to him in 1879. In 1872, Grinder sought 30 wood cutters through the Port Tobacco Times, to clear part of the land, offering to pay them by the cord, depending on the type of tree. The Port Tobacco Times records him as a newly registered voter in the Nanjemoy District in 1873.

It was most likely Edward that built the brick farmhouse that survives within Smallwood State Park, along with Grinder’s Wharf and Grinder’s Mill. The mill was probably built first, as it is mentioned as a local landmark in the Port Tobacco Times as early as 1871; the first mention of Grinder’s Wharf in the paper is an advertisement for the Steamer Mattano in 1883, although the listing of wharves and wharf agents for the Mattano lists E.M Grinder as the agent at Grinder’s Wharf a year earlier. Additionally, Edward served as a judge in 1881 for the Grand Tournament and Ball at Glymont, and in 1883, he was named as a trustee for Public School No. 6 in the county, along with Alex Franklin and T.D. De Lozier.

In about 1886, Edward Grinder took over his uncle’s brickyard in Washington, D.C. John Grinder had lost his wife about four years earlier, and his mental and physical health was starting to wane. Edward turned over operation of the farm to his new son-in-law, John Wesley Carpenter, and eventually moved with his wife and younger children to D.C. It is believed that during this transition there was a short time that Edward continued to live in Charles County and commuted to D.C. via the regular steamships that docked at Grinder’s Wharf. John Grinder died in 1892, and his estate and affairs were passed to Edward. In a series of stories on prominent business leaders in D.C., “The Washington Critic” stated in 1887 that Edward employed over 30 hands and produced the “best class” bricks for paving and construction. The Carpenters would eventually take ownership of the farm, keeping it in the family until 1945.

The house that Edward Grinder lived in still stands within Smallwood State Park, overlooking the relocated Jenkins tobacco barn behind the reconstructed home of General Smallwood. It continued to be used as a residence by the State Park Service after the Carpenter family sold the farm and it became Smallwood State Park. Although Grinder’s Wharf only remains on maps, due to erosion of the bank along Mattawoman Creek, a portion of the mill is still standing on private property just outside of the park boundaries. The first memorial to mark the burial spot of General William Smallwood (since replaced) was made and placed there by Edward’s uncle, Adam Grinder, who revered the General and wanted it marked for future generations.

In December 2016, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources agreed to delay demolition until further research and fundraising could be completed. The Friends of Smallwood State Park have started plans for reuse of the property and are currently seeking grant funding to stabilize and repair it. Preservation Maryland graciously provided a grant to the Friends of Smallwood State Park to undertake building stabilization as an important first step. For more information on the status of this project or to get involved, visit www.SaveGrinderHouse.org.



The Wakefield stopped at Grinder’s Wharf, Collection of the Maryland State Archives. Special Collections (Robert G. Merrick Archives of Maryland Historical Photographs) 1905-1915, MSA SC 1477-1-5967.

Architectural Field Notes

What Makes the John Grinder Farmhouse Unique

Nicole Diehlmann

Despite its unassuming presence, the Grinder House is the sole 19th century brick example of a vernacular dwelling for a family of modest means in Charles County, and one of only a small number of extant vernacular houses of any construction type.

Simple, relatively small dwellings, which housed farm workers, watermen, and other residents of modest means, were once common in the Charles County landscape; however, these important reminders of Charles County's agricultural past are rapidly disappearing due to abandonment, neglect, and a lack of recognition of the role they played in Charles County's history.

Brick houses are not common in Charles County. From colonial settlement through the twentieth century, local builders preferred to build structures out of wood. Only two brick houses have been documented in the county that date between 1865 and 1900—Thainston (CH-51) and the John Grinder House (CH-359). Thainston was constructed by the wealthy Mitchell family, and like earlier brick houses in Charles County, was constructed in a high style with fine finishes. In contrast to these earlier brick structures, the John Grinder House is unique in the county, in that it is the only one built in a vernacular style and plan. The structure's relatively modest size and vernacular hall-parlor floor plan with a winder stair in the corner align it much more closely with the simple frame

tenant houses constructed for farm workers, than with the homes of wealthy landowners. Similar vernacular hall-parlor plans with corner stairs existed at the John Henry Kelly House (CH-736) and Charles Sweetney House (CH-735), both of which are frame tenant houses. Unfortunately, both of these structures have been demolished. The roof framing in the Grinder House, which was severely damaged in the fire, reinforces the vernacular nature of the building. The roof trusses consist of rough logs that are only cut on the edges that need to be finished, such as the bottom edge where lath was attached. The building's brick façade is an anomaly in Charles County. Typically, small hall-parlor plan houses would have been of frame construction, not brick; however, because the Grinder family owned a brickyard in Washington, D.C., they had the resources to construct their property in brick, not wood. While the other 19th century brick houses in the county represent the homes of the wealthy planter class, the Grinder House is the sole 19th century brick example of a home for a family of more modest means.



The Grinder House is also significant for its association with the locally prominent Grinder family, as well as for its association with the trend of decreasing farm sizes and agricultural diversification in Charles County after the Civil War. Despite damage from the 2014 fire and various minor alterations in the 20th century, the Grinder House embodies the characteristics of its type, period and method of construction. The form of the house and its setting in the landscape still convey its historical function and associations. Despite the recent fire damage and minor alterations over its 150-year history, the John Grinder House is still sound and representative of its original character.



Friends of Smallwood State Park

The Friends of Smallwood State Park is a non-profit group dedicated to supporting the programs and services of the park through tours and hands-on programming.

For more information or to get involved, visit the Friends of Smallwood Park on Facebook.

HONORS TO THE DEAD.

A Monument for ex-Governor Smallwood, of Maryland.

Mr. Adam Grinder, of this city, is having prepared a handsome monument to the memory of Major General Smallwood, who was Governor of the State of Maryland in 1785. It will be erected over his remains, which are interred on the old family estate, in Charles county, Maryland, near the Mattawoman creek, and a short distance from Glymont. This old homestead was purchased a few years ago by John Grinder, of this city, and is at present occupied by Edward Grinder, a brother of the owner. When it was ascertained that the bones of General Smallwood were buried, where he had lived and died, and that nothing of a permanent character marked the spot except an old walnut tree, Mr. Adam Grinder, who loved and revered the memory of the old revolutionary hero, decided at his own expense to erect to his memory a suitable and substantial obelisk. This work of art is now being executed, in this city, by Mr. Ellsha Bradley, and promises to be a superior piece of monumental architecture. The base is of granite, two feet high; the pedestal of Seneca brown stone, eight feet high, and on this will rest a white marble column 19½ feet in height. The pedestal will bear a suitable inscription appropriate to the subject. It is contemplated to have the work completed and placed in position on the Fourth of July next, on which occasion it is proposed to have the unveiling ceremonies, in which it is expected that the Maryland officials will take an active part.

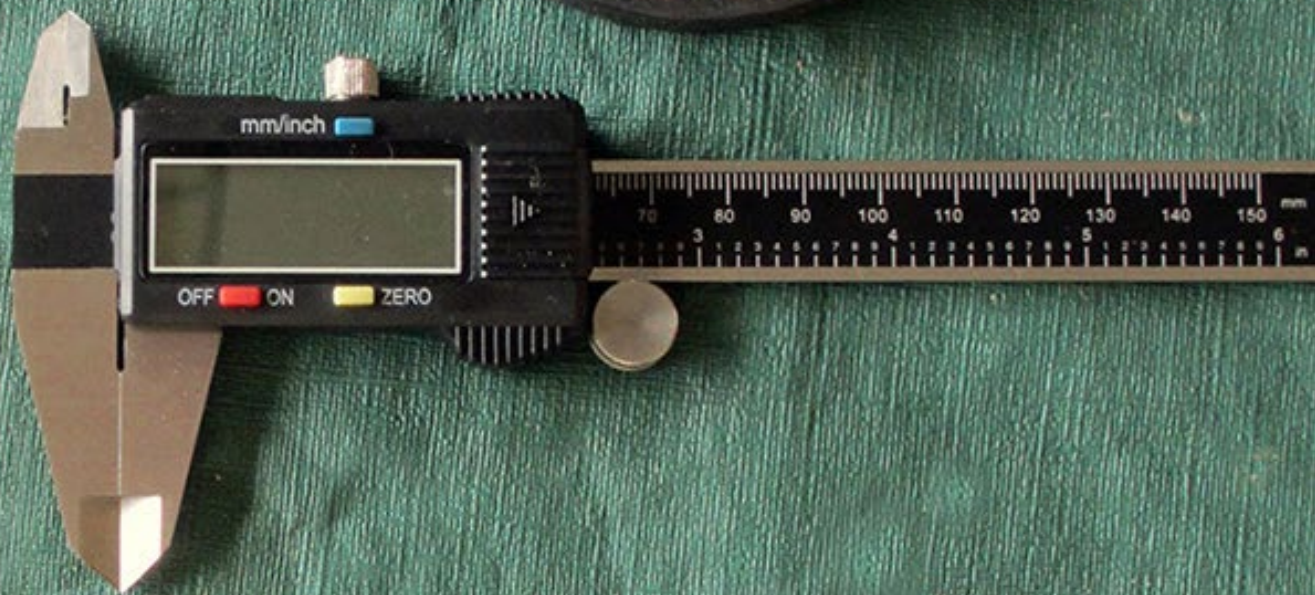
THE HISTORY OF GENERAL SMALLWOOD

in connection with the revolutionary war is a bright page in Maryland's record of that period. Shortly after his battalion was mustered into the Continental service at Annapolis, Md., they became a part and parcel of Washington's meagre forces. Being more fortunate than other troops in procuring uniforms, they presented quite a soldier-like appearance, and consequently were taunted as holiday and not fighting men. It is true that they were raw recruits, but at the first opportunity given to show their mettle they acquitted themselves so handsomely as to win a personal compliment for the general-in-chief. All through these memorable years of battle, carnage, strife and struggle General Washington found General Smallwood a reliable support, and when called upon ever ready to lend all the assistance in his power to aid his chief and help the cause in which they were engaged.

When the war closed the State of Maryland rewarded him for his noble and constant service by electing him

TO THE HIGHEST OFFICE

within her gift, a position that he filled with honor and dignity, and won the esteem and respect of all with whom he came in contact. On retiring to private life he settled on the old homestead, where he remained until death summoned him to that roll-call to which sooner or later all must answer. It seems strange and unaccountable that the remains of a man noted in his life for inestimable worth, and enjoying the universal homage of the public, should be permitted to lie unmarked even in the obscure corner of a field, forgotten by the world. It would seem but fitting and just to the memory of such an eminent man that the State should ere this have testified its love and veneration for him by giving the repose of his dust suitable and conspicuous recognition. But it appears that this deserving compliment has been left to one man, whose generosity and love of justice exceeds his avarice, and who performs a deed that will redound to his credit a hundredfold. The least, then, the State of Maryland or its representatives can do is to unite with Mr. Grinder on the Centennial day of unveiling the statue, and by their presence testify their appreciation of him who has gone.



View from a Dune, across the Water and the Centuries

James G. Gibb

Life atop a small sand dune overlooking Pomonkey Creek was good 2,500 years ago. From the creek's water and marshes, a small group of Native American households procured food and fiber: fish, shellfish, and birds from the creek, and deer, beaver, berries, bark, and reeds from its margins.

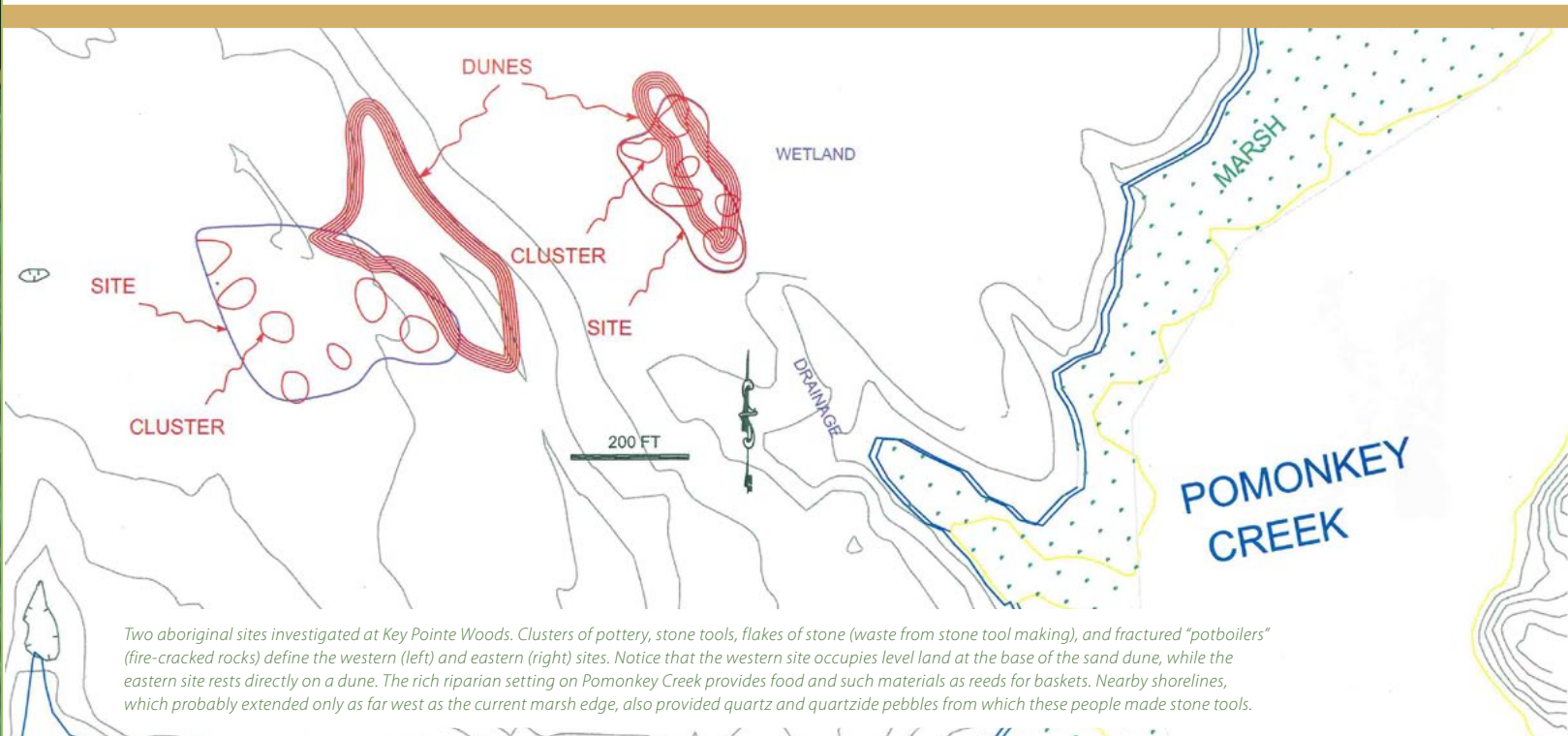
From the west came cooling breezes off of the Potomac River and beds of clay from which these people made pottery. Also from the banks of the Potomac they collected quartz and quartzite pebbles from which they made stone tools and "pot-boilers" (heated stones placed in pots of stew to bring the contents to a boil).

There were, no doubt, times during which living was not good; exceedingly cold winters created ice barriers between fishermen and their prey, and protracted winters reduced or destroyed yields of nuts, wild barley, goosefoot, amaranth, and other plant foods gathered by the community. Droughts reduced the availability of game animals as well as that of plants. The people of Pomonkey Point centuries ago developed strategies that helped them live comfortably in times of abundance, and to survive when forces beyond their control, such as extreme weather, created scarcity. The archaeological deposits we encountered are so ancient that we lack a direct connection between the people who created them

and the Pomonkey or Paumunky peoples, a sub-tribe of the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy, whom we know from the historical records were residents of the area. This is a limitation of archaeology. To learn how these people lived, we turn to archaeology and the traditions maintained by Native American peoples in the region today.

During planning of the Key Pointe Woods residential subdivision, a team of archaeologists undertook two investigations. The first, in the late summer of 2013, surveyed that portion of the property that would be disturbed by construction, about 40 acres. The team excavated 500 shovel test pits, each 15 to 16 inches in diameter and up to 30 inches deep, at 65-foot intervals across those 40 acres. Diggers shoveled the sandy soil into portable screens; screeners sifted the soil and collected artifacts into bags labeled with the unit number. Diggers then recorded depths, colors, and textures of the soils

Continued on next page 



Two aboriginal sites investigated at Key Pointe Woods. Clusters of pottery, stone tools, flakes of stone (waste from stone tool making), and fractured "potboilers" (fire-cracked rocks) define the western (left) and eastern (right) sites. Notice that the western site occupies level land at the base of the sand dune, while the eastern site rests directly on a dune. The rich riparian setting on Pomonkey Creek provides food and such materials as reeds for baskets. Nearby shorelines, which probably extended only as far west as the current marsh edge, also provided quartz and quartzite pebbles from which these people made stone tools.



View from a Dune – Continued from previous page.

before backfilling the holes. The results included identification of several archaeological sites, most of which previously had been recorded, but poorly defined. Two of those sites, dating roughly between 900 and 300 B.C.E., were within or near areas that would be cleared for construction.

The archaeological team returned to the two sites in May 2014 to conduct more intensive work. This time we excavated shovel tests, but spaced them more closely together (25 feet apart) and we mapped them using a surveyor's instrument. Using the artifact counts and weights recovered from each shovel test, and with detailed mapping, we were able to describe the boundaries of each of the two sites and clusters of artifacts suggesting where individual households lived.

Well, here's what we learned. The eastern site, the one overlooking Pomonkey Creek, occupies an ancient sand dune that likely formed during a climatic period geologists call the Sub-Boreal—a stretch of dry, warm conditions between 5,000 and 2,800 years ago when vegetation had become sparse and winds moved loose sands and silts considerable distances. These aren't beach dunes; they are dunes that formed in what was an interior upland site sandwiched between two creeks. Those dunal sediments buried innumerable early sites and

created landforms on which later peoples lived. This new climate likely accounts for the concentration of sites dating to the Sub-Boreal Period around large streams and rivers like Pomonkey Creek where people could reliably find water and food. The dune occupied by Native Americans during the period archaeologists call the Early Woodland (1250 B.C.E.-50 CE) is about 3 feet high and stretched about 250 feet from north to south and 100 feet east to west. The western site occupies a flat area in the central part of the peninsula and is bounded on the east by a somewhat longer (300 feet) and higher (4 feet) dune. Both dunes orient about nine degrees west of north. Were both dunes still forming when Native Americans occupied them? Or did they seek out these well-drained landforms adjacent to rich riparian resources? We don't know...yet. We do know that the dunes are much reduced in size by farming over the last 350 years, and particularly by motorized plowing over the past century. They also are closer to the creek now than when they were occupied as sea level has risen over the last three millennia and continues to do so.

The two sites have much in common, despite their slightly different settings. Shovel testing and the analysis of spatial distributions—how the artifacts are spread, or concentrated,

across the site—revealed six clusters on the eastern site and seven on the western, each cluster about 65 feet in diameter. If each cluster of pottery, stone tools, debris from stone tool making, and fractured potboilers represents a separate occupation, then we might be looking at a series of households—groups of related individuals cooperating in building shelters, gathering and preparing food, hides, and plant fiber, and raising children. Both yielded pottery that can be dated, by reference to finds that were dated through carbon-14 tests at other sites, to the middle part of the Early Woodland Period. The few stone dart tips recovered also date to that period, with two exceptions: a Late Archaic (3750 to 1250 BCE) dart point found deeply buried in the eastern dune, and a triangular Late Woodland (950 to 1600 CE) point near the surface. A pottery sherd dating to the Late Woodland was also recovered. Stone tool making at both sites involved crushing quartz pebbles and using the resulting flakes as cutting and scraping implements. The dart points and a few well-shaped stone knives may have been made on the two sites as well, but flakes of freshly broken quartz probably served well for most tasks, the flakes simply discarded upon completion of the task or dulling of the edges.

The principal difference between the two sites manifests in the relative proportions of pottery and stone tool wastes: flakes of stone are proportionately more common on the eastern site and pottery is more common on the western site. Why the difference? We don't know, but we can hypothesize. (A suspicion that can be rigorously tested is a hypothesis; one that cannot be tested is a guess and has little value in science.) The two occupations may well have been separated in time, either by seasons or years. That is to say, the eastern site may have been occupied at one time of the year to use seasonally available resources, such as fish and shell fish during

the spring and summer, or migratory fowl during the spring and fall. People living 500 to 1,000 feet farther west may have occupied that site during the winter in an area protected from the wind, while still maintaining access to a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial resources. Alternatively, these two settlements may have been separated by years, even decades or centuries, and represent different points in the history of a single people, or related peoples.

We can test these hypotheses by recovering evidence of houses (specifically, patterns of wooden posts still seen in the deeper soils, despite deterioration of the wood centuries ago). We can look for the hearths, or fireplaces, that might yield charred wood whence we can derive carbon-14 dates and identities of the species of trees used for fuel. Careful processing of the soils from these hearths and storage pits might reveal evidence of animals eaten (bones) and plants collected or even cultivated (fossil pollen, or burned seeds). Carbon dates could reveal that the sites are different parts of a seasonally shifting settlement or are widely separated in time. Animal and plant remains could reveal different seasons of occupation. These possibilities remain unrealized, but the preservation of both sites effectively saves them for future research, research undertaken by well-trained, well-informed scientists, hopefully assisted by a well-engaged, curious public.

Note: Key Pointe Woods is a 226 acre, 26 lot subdivision in the Bryans Road area. The engineer is Tim Lessner of Lorenzi, Dodds & Gunnill. Archaeologist Jim Gibb is under contract to document cultural resources potentially impacted by the development. As a result of these efforts, subdivision design and historic landmark designation will ensure these sites are protected moving forward.






RECOVERING LOST LANDSCAPES AT RICH HILL

Esther Doyle Read, Charles County Archaeologist and
Matthew Cochran, Field Director, The Ottery Group

On a sunny day in January, Tim Horsley of Horsley Archaeological Prospection pushed ground penetrating radar across the front lawn of the Rich Hill house. Beyond the house, near the stable ruins, the Ottery Group crew was busy excavating small archaeological shovel test units. All this activity was focused on one thing, how the landscape changed through time as the families living here added and subtracted buildings, gardens, fences, and driveways and created a multi-layered landscape, some of which is currently buried beneath the surface.

Funding for the project was supported by the Maryland Certified Local Government program, which is administered by the Maryland Historical Trust.



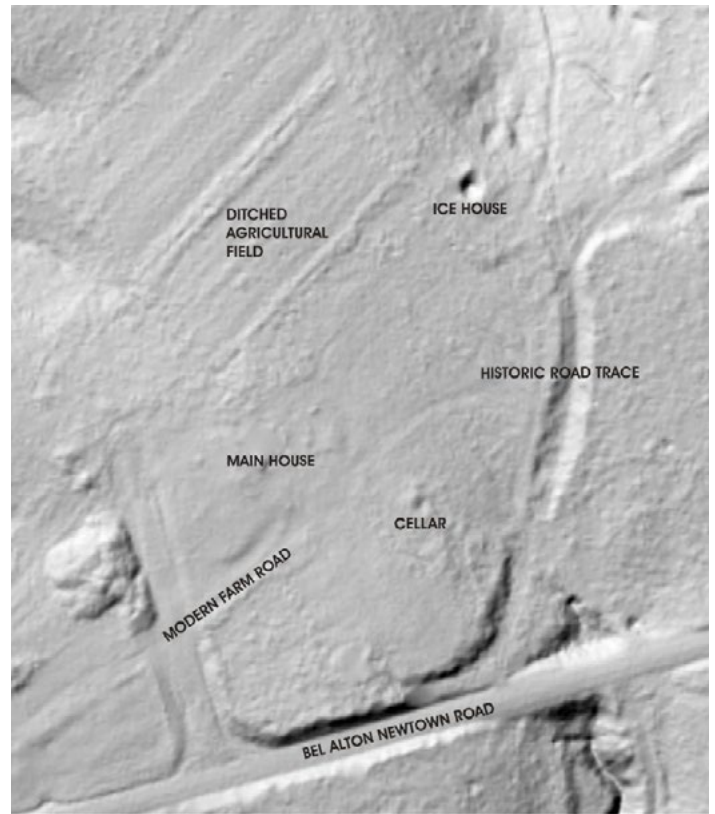
The history of Rich Hill is as complex and layered as the landscape. Today, when you stand at Rich Hill you are looking at the culmination of thousands of years of activity. Native Americans once camped here. During the 17th century, the Lomax family lived near here. The family and their tenants farmed the land into the early 18th century. The last Lomax owner left the property in 1713 and it was bought the following year by Dr. Gustavus Brown. In 1729, Brown and his wife Frances built the standing house at Rich Hill. They also had a home near Nanjemoy known as Middleton, and they owned two farms in Scotland, the country of Brown's birth. The latter allowed Brown to style himself as Laird of Mainside and House Byers. The Browns had 12 children, nine of whom survived childhood. After Frances Brown died, Brown married Margaret Black Boyd and had two more children with her, both of whom also survived into adulthood. The house at Rich Hill provided space for this large family, while the land surrounding it was worked by slaves, who raised tobacco and other crops. When Brown died in 1762, a list of everything he owned on his two Maryland plantations included 41 slaves, some of whom lived at Rich Hill.

After Brown died, Rich Hill was inherited by his eldest son, the Reverend Richard Brown, who was married thrice and had ten children. Rev. Brown was also a slave owner, as were his son and later a nephew who inherited the estate. The Browns sold the house in 1807 to the Cox family, who would become famous for their association with John Wilkes Booth after the Lincoln assassination. Booth hid on the farm for several days until he could be smuggled out of Charles County and into Virginia. Few people realize that four generations of the Cox family lived at Rich Hill and that they too changed the landscape, as did the numerous families of slaves who labored for them. During the 20th century, the main occupants of the farm were tenants. The Garner family lived at Rich Hill and ran a dairy farm. The Todd and Watson families were tenants in the 1970s. We know very little about other tenant families that lived here.

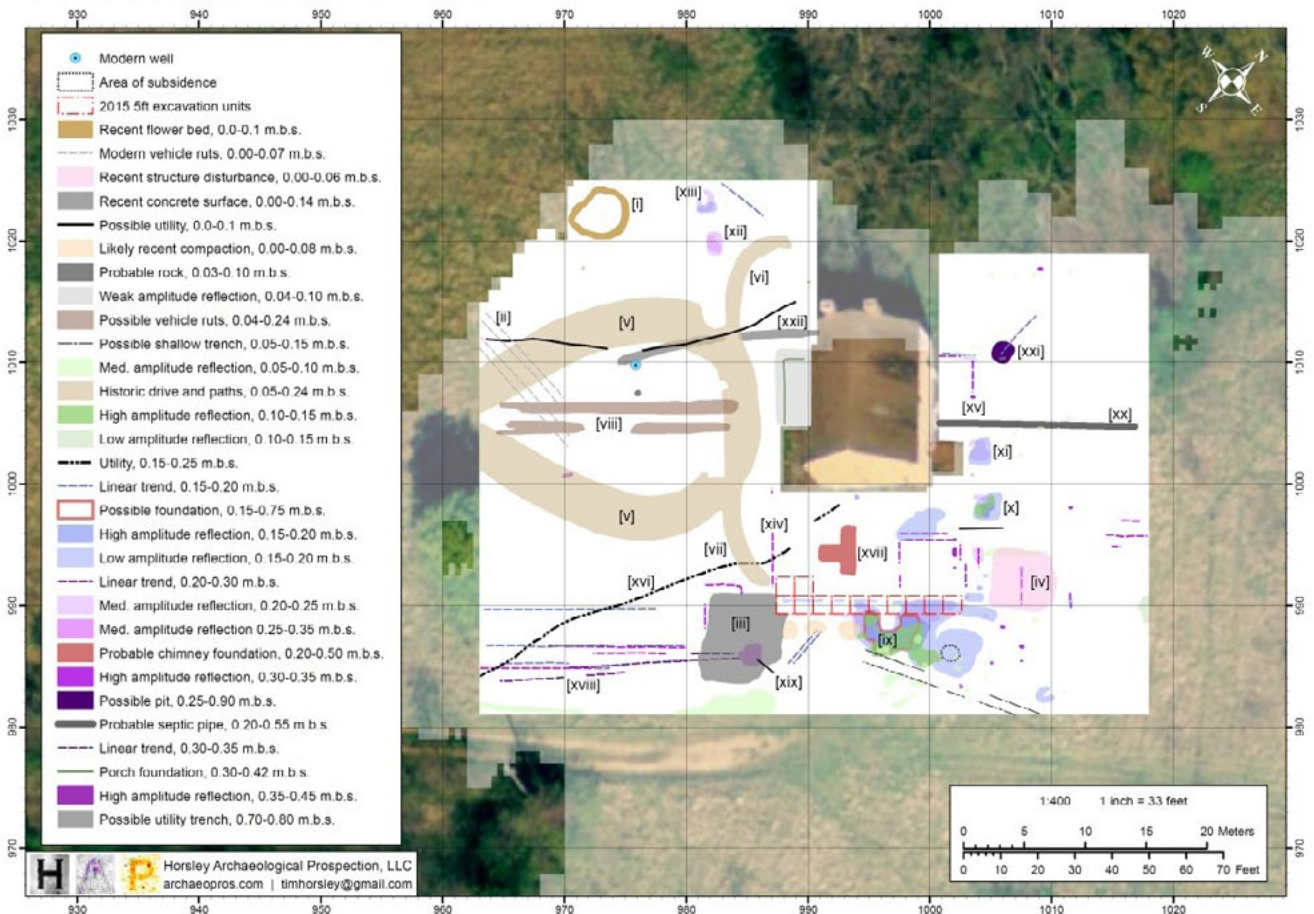
Rich Hill – Continued from previous page.

Rich Hill was the home of wealthy landowners, enslaved African Americans, and tenants. It was an active farm producing tobacco and corn, and later, dairy products. The Browns and the Coxs displayed their wealth through their use of the landscape. We suspect the Browns did this with the house and possibly with a landscaped garden surrounding it. The Coxs added a new pent chimney and a dining room wing to the house, changing it from a formal structure into a more informal farm house. We suspect that they changed the landscaped gardens into less formalized space. Several generations of slave families also created distinct landscapes around their quarters.

The landscape today is very different from what existed in the past. Only the house is still standing. In 1830, there were at least 76 individuals (68 of whom were slaves), living at Rich Hill. Where are all the outbuildings that supported the people, housed the farm animals, and stored the crops? Missing today are the privy, kitchen, dairy, and smoke and ice houses, the barns, stables, and other farm buildings. Where were these buildings in relation to the house and how do we locate them?



Rich Hill, Charles, County, MD. January 23-26, 2017.
 Figure 18. Interpretation of all significant GPR anomalies.



Pictured top: Former buildings and landscape features uncovered as part of the investigation will guide future restoration efforts and ensure important resources are protected. Pictured below: Lidar mapping at Rich Hill highlight previous structures on the landscape by illuminating an area with a laser light. This type of investigation helps us understand the landscape using non-invasive techniques.



Over the past three years, archaeologists, historical researchers, and volunteers have worked to uncover the forgotten landscape at Rich Hill. We started by looking at topographic maps and old photographs. A circa 1900 photograph shows three outbuildings along one side of the house. By scaling the known size of the house to the house in the photograph we were able to extrapolate where these outbuildings probably stood. In April 2015, we uncovered their foundations as part of a project to map them and provide protection for them during restoration of the house. We excavated 11 test units, recovered over 4,000 artifacts, and exposed the foundations of the dining room wing added by the Cox family and a second building of unknown function.

In 2016, we used LiDAR (*pictured on pg. 32*) maps to guide a pedestrian survey of the property. LiDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, uses light from a laser system mounted on an aircraft to measure changes in the topography of the earth. We noticed several square anomalies on the map, one of which turned out to be an ice house foundation hidden in the woods. Three other anomalies by the house lined up with buildings shown on old topographic maps. These included a foundation and two areas that might be building locations. We believe the foundation is a smoke house that is depicted in a mid-20th century photograph of the farm.

The recent investigation in January 2017 used a combination of geophysical survey and shovel test pits (STPs) to locate buried features associated with former landscapes. The geophysical survey included magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) (*pictured above is Tim Horsely, Horsley Archaeological Prospection, conducting ground penetrating radar*). Magnetometry measures magnetism in the soil, which changes when the ground is disturbed by human activity such as digging a foundation. GPR works like other radar systems, which use sound waves to detect objects. If a wall or pit is buried under the ground, the sound waves produced are of different lengths than those from the surrounding soil. The geophysical survey located several buried anomalies including a possible barn in a field near the house and a circular formal driveway in front of the house. Numerous other buried archaeological deposits are suggested by the more expansive magnetometer results. Several linear areas located in an open field behind the house suggest the location of yet more outbuildings.

STPs were excavated around the house in January. These were placed at regular intervals of 15 meters and were excavated to verify anomalies found during the geophysical survey and to locate landscape features. There were 38 STPs excavated,

Continued on next page 

View of a former foundation revealed during the 2015 excavations. This wing served as a dining room during the Civil War.



Rich Hill – Continued from previous page.

and 31 of these produced historic period artifacts. A total of 990 artifacts were recovered in the STPs, most of which were 18th and 19th century domestic and architectural artifacts. We noted some patterns in the location of artifacts. Ceramics dating to the early 18th century construction of the house were found near the front entrance; oyster shells and animal bone related to a possible kitchen midden (or garbage dump) were found near the possible smoke house foundation; and nails related to an 18th or 19th century barn identified during the geophysical survey were found in the area pinpointed by the survey. The soil and artifact deposits also gave us clues to the differing uses of the landscape. Deposits around the house showed old yard surfaces strewn with kitchen trash, suggesting heavily used domestic work yards. However, the soil deposits around the possible 18th or 19th century barn were virtually devoid of artifacts. This may indicate use of the area as agricultural work yards.

A small number of Native American artifacts were recovered in 2015 and 2017. These represent a small encampment that dates to the transitional Late Archaic Period, or about 4850 to 4350 B.C. Most of these artifacts are related to the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools.

Houses are a physical manifestation of Charles County's history. They act both as markers of and witnesses to history. Houses, however, are not solitary entities as they are set within landscapes that add context and setting to the buildings. Often, when we look at a landscape we view it and think of it as a singular construction frozen in place and time. Yet, we know that houses and landscapes change over time. Some

changes are dramatic, a building burns down or is razed. Often the change is slow and imperceptible, playing out over an extended period. These minor changes are often viewed as disturbances, somehow obscuring or altering a singular past event. Archaeology views change as a marker of time, rather than viewing change as a disturbance.

Rich Hill was home to families of Native American, plantation owners, slaves, and tenants, yet it is best known for a singular event, the night John Wilkes Booth and co-conspirator David Herold arrived at Rich Hill and roused the family out of bed. Colonel Cox hid Booth and Herold on his farm until the two could cross the Potomac River into Virginia. A single serendipitous event overshadowed Rich Hill's history and forever tied it to the Lincoln assassination. Viewed in the long term, the history of Rich Hill is more than a single event; it embodies the development of Charles County over thousands of years.

Archaeology conducted at Rich Hill over the last three years has begun to tease out some of its historical nuances. As we go to press, plans are in place to explore the kitchen midden discovered last January so that we may link it to the family group that created it and begin to talk about the household. This will enable us to see the people who inhabited the landscapes rather than one singular historic event.



Mary Swann, pictured here later in life, was a teenager when John Wilkes Booth arrived at Rich Hill in 1865. Landscape investigations can tell us more about Mary and others who lived and worked at Rich Hill, but left few written records of their experience.



Community Planning Corner

Beth Groth

The Community Planning staff and the Historic Preservation Commission continually review development applications for potential impacts to cultural resources, including preliminary subdivision plans, site plans, final plats, and demolition permits, to name a few. On a daily basis, we work with applicants to document, preserve, and protect historic resources such as structures, archaeological sites, and historic viewsheds. One example of this is the Waldorf Motel. While the structure was demolished in early 2017, one of the signs for the motel office was saved and will now reside at the Old Waldorf School. The developer of the property attempted to salvage the larger Waldorf Restaurant sign; however, the sign was too large and too fragile to be removed intact.

As another example, a local transportation company is expanding their operations and will be demolishing a tobacco barn on their property. The Community Planning staff requested that the barn be appropriately documented by a qualified architectural historian prior to demolition. The significance of the tobacco barn was not sufficient to require



Sandi Middleton of Old Waldorf School accepts the Waldorf Motel Office sign from Matt Kelly of Greenberg Gibbons (right) and Garry Henderson of Whiting-Turner (left).

preservation, but the history that was documented for the property was very interesting and is now recorded for future generations.

The Community Planning staff also worked with the owners of a property that is adjacent to the historic Samuel Mudd House in Charles County. The owners subdivided a lot for family members to build a new home on. In order to protect the viewshed of the historic home on the adjacent property, staff worked with the owners to record a forest conservation easement between the two properties that will be planted with a variety of trees and shrubs to provide buffering and screening for the Mudd House.

This is just a sampling of projects that were reviewed over the last year with successful outcomes for cultural resources.

Historic Preservation

IN CHARLES COUNTY



Pictured from left to right: Beth Groth, Denise De Lozier Grote, Michael Fleming, Esther Read, Francis Gray, Sheila Geisert, Cathy Thompson, Grayden Hays, Wayne Wilkerson, Nicole Tompkins-Flagg, Pat Turner, Luke Turner (child), Tina Lohr, Beth Turner, Steve Lohr, Derek Turner, Ruby Turner

2017 Preservation Awards Event

The Charles County Historic Preservation Commission hosted the annual Preservation Reception and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 18th, 2017 at Smallwood State Park.

The Historic Preservation Award is presented annually to an eligible individual, business, organization, or project that deserves recognition for outstanding achievements in historic preservation. Awards are presented in two categories:

The **Preservation Service Award** recognizes outstanding achievement in and support for furthering the aims of historic preservation in Charles County, including: education, research, development, planning, advocacy, and community leadership.

The **Preservation Project Award** recognizes excellence in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as the adaptive reuse of historic structures.

For more information on Historic Landmark Designation, Applications, and the Historic Preservation Commission, please call 301-645-0684 or email GrothB@CharlesCountyMD.gov.



Preservation Award Spotlight

Bowling Green: a Bryantown Beauty

Since its original construction circa 1800, the farmhouse at Bowling Green in Bryantown has been continuously owned and occupied by members of the same, extended Charles County family. In 2014, its owner Joseph C. Posey passed away at the age of 90. Joe Posey lived in the home his entire life and beginning in 1972, was its sole occupant. Upon Joe's death, the home was passed down to his nephew Pat Turner and then immediately to Pat's son and daughter-in-law, Derek and Beth Turner. The renovation, carried out in 2016, is the most extensive work done to this home since it was heavily reconstructed in the Victorian style around 1875. It ensures that life at Bowling Green will remain a family tradition. Derek and Beth will raise their children there, and the home will continue to host nearly 100 extended family members during celebrations at Christmas, Easter, and other holidays.

The team at S.D. Lohr Custom Homes began its work in March 2016, and the Turner family has been enjoying life in the home since September 2016. The project included major utility upgrades as well as modern kitchen and bathroom renovations. Original floors were maintained throughout the home — repaired, sanded,

refinished, and left exposed. The original fireplaces and hearths, where needed, were repaired, and the original mantles were reinstalled. The original windows remain on the front of the home and on the first level of the rear of the home. Inconspicuous storm windows have been added to each to improve energy efficiency. The home includes countless antiques and family heirlooms that will remain in the home for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The Restoration of Bowling Green is an excellent example of how an old house can be given new life and continue to serve as an anchor for celebrating place and family connections for generations to come.



Preservation Award Spotlight

Crabb Cemetery – Preserving Ancient Remains

The Crabb family cemetery located in what is now the Davenleigh subdivision is the burial ground for four members of the prominent Crabb family. The Crabbs were merchants, planters, and members of the colonial Maryland legislature and the ledger stones date to the early 18th century.

The Crabb cemetery had lain derelict for decades. In 2016, the subdivision now named Davenleigh got underway. The cemetery was protected from destruction when placed in the subdivision's open space and a wooden fence was erected around it to demarcate the cemetery boundaries. Yet, inside the fence, the cemetery largely remained a wilderness.

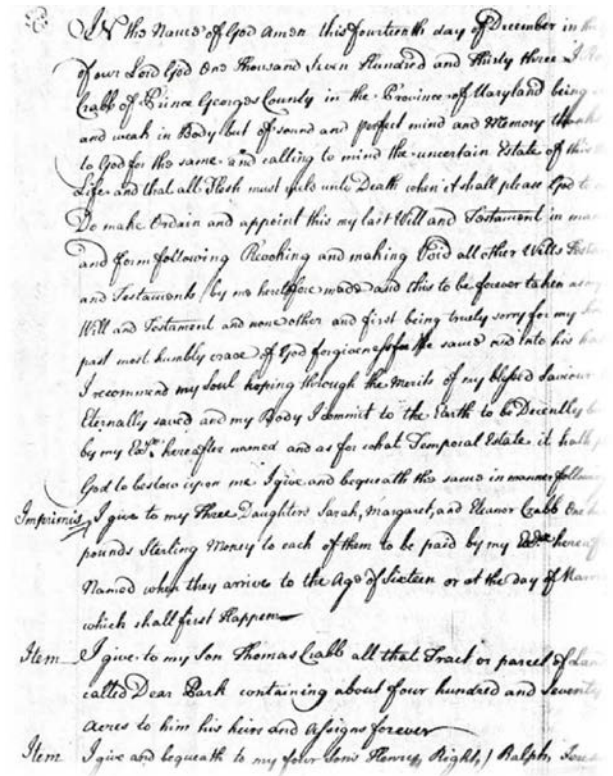
On a weekend in August 2016, Grayden J. Hays, a Boy Scout, working on an Eagle project and his crew of 22 reclaimed the Crabb cemetery by removing weeds, vines, and logs hauling away six truckloads of debris. The grave stones, which were once completely covered with dirt, are now in plain sight and can be easily accessible. A couple of the logs from the fallen tree were arranged into seating places for visitors. Grass seed was also spread throughout the site and lightly worked into the soil.

Hays and his crew did an excellent job of reclaiming a forgotten piece of not only Charles County history, but Maryland history. Mr. Wilkerson is also to be commended for allowing the reclamation of this important early cemetery to take place. He made himself available and supplied the grass



seed for the project. At all junctures he was accommodating and realized the value of this project from both a service standpoint as well as a preservation standpoint.

The cemetery, which is the earliest documented private burial ground in Charles County, while once a jumble of brush, is now a pleasant and tranquil place to visit. The outcome was more than satisfactory, it set an example for what can be done for small historic cemeteries and sites all over the county.



Portion of Will

Preservation Award Honorable Mention

Market Overton Cemetery

The Charles County Historic Preservation Commission also presented a Preservation Honorable Mention to Tyler Quick for his efforts to preserve the Market Overton cemetery in Bryans Road. This historic cemetery is located on the grounds of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior at Bryan Roads, MD. The cemetery is part of a historic property known as Market Overton. The cemetery, standing approximately 100 yards from the road, includes approximately eight stones associated with the Dement family. Most stones date from the first quarter of the 19th century. Tyler's Eagle Scout project was to erect suitable fencing around the cemetery to help prevent



further deterioration by hindering movement through the grounds. Together with a team he assembled, they installed 200 feet of black aluminum fencing around the fence and completed general cleaning of the grounds.

ARE YOU A HISTORIC PROPERTY OWNER?

You may be eligible for the Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.



Homeowner Tax Credit

Administered by Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)

Did you know homeowners can earn a state income tax credit for renovating historic homes? The tax credit offers homeowners of single-family, owner-occupied residences up to 20 percent of eligible rehabilitation costs. Tax credits may be used for repairs such as:

Roof Repair and Replacement	New Storm Doors/Windows
Chimney Repair and Lining	Masonry Repointing
Window Restoration	Floor Refinishing

Eligibility: Buildings must be certified as historic, defined as having at least one of the following designations:

- Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- A contributing resource within a National Register Historic District.
- A locally designated structure or contributing resource to a local historic district that MHT determines to be eligible for the National Register.

The credit is capped at \$50,000 in a 24-month period and projects must have a minimum of \$5,000 of eligible expenses to qualify. Applications are accepted year round; MHT review runs approximately 30-45 days.

For more information, contact Megan Klem.

Megan.Klem@Maryland.gov • 410-514-7688
http://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_homeowner.shtml

MHT also administers a Small Commercial Tax Credit for income producing properties.

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES...

ROSE HILL	BURCH HOUSE	MT. AVENTINE	TIMBER NECK FARM
LA GRANGE	ELLERSLIE	PLEASANT HILL	THE EXCHANGE
HABRE DE VENTURE	WAVERLY	ROSEMARY LAWN	SPYE PARK
ST. THOMAS MANOR	CRAIN'S LOT	CEDAR GROVE	MCPHERSON'S PURCHASE
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE	LINDEN	COMPTON HOUSE	BRYANTOWN TAVERN
THE RETREAT	THE LINDENS	MT. BLEAK	EVERGREEN
ARABY	THAINSTON	JOHN REEDER HOUSE	OLD WALDORF SCHOOL
STAGG HALL	MT. CARMEL MONASTERY	DR. MUDD HOUSE	BEL ALTON HIGH SCHOOL
CHIMNEY HOUSE	ACQUINSICKE	RICH HILL	EUGENE CHANEY HOUSE
SARUM	OAK GROVE	LOCUST GROVE	
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEWPORT	GREEN'S INHERITANCE	OAKLAND	
TRUMAN'S PLACE	MT. AIR	MAXWELL HALL	