

CH-1

Rose Hill

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 11-21-2003

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| STATE: Maryland | |
| COUNTY: Charles | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rose Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rose Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Port Tobacco

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24** COUNTY: **Charles** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Colonel and Mrs. Frank B. Wade

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rose Hill, Rose Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Port Tobacco** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Charles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN: **La Plata** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____
COUNTY: _____
ENTRY NUMBER _____
DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

[see continuation sheet]

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rose Hill is located on the west side of Rose Hill Road, north of the intersection of Maryland Route 6. The intersection is approximately two miles west of La Plata, Maryland.

Rose Hill is a five-part, Georgian-style dwelling house. Its two-story central block has side walls of frame, brick nogged and sheathed with modern beaded siding. The gable-ends are of brick, each with a pair of exterior chimneys.

The brickwork throughout is laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers.

The central block is five bays long and, in addition to the regular fenestration, the north facade has narrow sidelights flanking the central entrance. The windows have nine-over-nine sashes on the first story and six-over-six on the second story.

The two brick hyphens are short in length and have pent roofs. Their south walls are nearly flush with the south walls of the main block and wings. The one-story brick wings have single interior chimneys on their end walls. The segmental arches of the hyphens and wings have alternating glazed headers. The present kitchen wing (east) is a restoration; the winter kitchen was located in the cellar of the main block. The west wing was the office of the builder of Rose Hill, Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown.

The south facade of Rose Hill which overlooks Port Tobacco Creek, has the more elaborate detailing. The central doorway on the south is set within an open pedimented pavillion with flush siding. A bulls-eye window is located within the pediment which extends above the cornice line of the main block. A Palladian-style window on the second story is located above the south entrance. The south door is similar to the north door, but is wider and more elaborate. It is enframed with Roman Ionic pilasters and a traceried fanlight.

Early boxwood in formal pattern fills the south lawn which has several terraces, known locally as "falls," which descend in levels toward Port Tobacco Creek.

Rose Hill was in a ruinous condition in 1930, but was restored during the mid-twentieth century ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Ryerson.

The area of ~~sixty-four~~^{68.2} acres has been designed to protect Rose Hill which stands on the crest of a ridge, surrounded by a field with a barn nearby. An approach through a wooded area terminates near the house. The front of the house looks south, over lawns and garden; and further overlooks the descending

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[see continuation sheet]

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) fourth quarter 18th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>medicine</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rose Hill was the home of Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown (1747-1804) who was a physician and friend of George Washington as well as an avid horticulturist and landscape architect. Dr. Brown was called to Washington's deathbed at Mt. Vernon, Virginia, to act as one of the medical advisors.

Dr. Brown was an outstanding Charles Countian who holds an important place in the history of eighteenth century Maryland. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and returned in 1768 to practice in his native county. With the coming of the American Revolution, his medical practice widened to include soldiers of the Continental Army. Although always involved in medicine--he was an early (1776) advocate of smallpox inoculations and a founder of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland (1799)--his interests extended to other fields as well. He served as a Charles County judge, as a county representative to the Maryland convention that ratified the Constitution, and as a member of the Board of Visitors at St. John's College in Annapolis. His garden at Rose Hill was widely known for its decorative, medicinal, and culinary plants.

After the Revolution, Dr. Brown bought four contiguous tracts near Port Tobacco which he consolidated and had resurveyed in 1784. Sometime after the 1783 tax assessment, he built Rose Hill and laid out its gardens.

Olivia Floyd, a descendant of Dr. Brown, lived at Rose Hill with her brother and sister in the mid-nineteenth century. During the Civil War, her sympathy for the South led her into espionage activities for the Confederacy. Her most famous escapade occurred in 1864 when Union troops searched Rose Hill while she was in possession of a secret message for Jefferson Davis. It concerned the pending extradition of Confederate raiders from Canada, where they had sought refuge, to the United States.

In spite of a thorough search, the soldiers missed the andiron which was Miss Floyd's hiding place for the message. The next day she hid the message in her hair and transported it to a

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles County file. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md. Committee on History, Theme and Memorials, Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission. "Maryland Remembers A Guide to Historic Places and People of the Civil War in Maryland." Hagerstown, Maryland: Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission, 1961.

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: the author, 1934.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

[see continuation sheet]

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 38° | 31' | 14" | 77° | 02' | 02" |
| NE | 38° | 31' | 32" | 77° | 01' | 37" |
| SE | 38° | 30' | 20" | 77° | 00' | 46" |
| SW | 38° | 30' | 10" | 77° | 01' | 54" |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **605.2 acres**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE: |
|--------|------|---------|-------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William Morgan, and Nancy Miller, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **July 24, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland 21401** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 24, 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Maryland | |
| COUNTY | |
| 'Charles | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

Rose Hill

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Historic American Buildings Survey

1969 federal x

Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

code 11

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

slope of the ridge to Port Tobacco Creek and the site of an ancient, now nearly abandoned, town and port.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Confederate signal station on Popes' Creek. The message was relayed to Richmond in time to save the raiders from a trip to federal prison.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, contined

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul Dennis. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary, Incorporated [1958].Newman, Harry Wright. The Maryland Semmes and Kindred Families. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1956.



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ROSE HILL

