

CH-29

Efton Hills

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

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH 29

0900295304

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	"EFTON HILLS"
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Doncaster Grayton Road (MD 6)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Grayton (Nanjemoy vicinity)			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Charles	

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME:			
Janet Coy			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Doncaster Grayton Road (MD 6)			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Nanjemoy	Maryland		

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Charles County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
La Plata	Maryland		
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	State <input type="checkbox"/>	County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Efton Hills" is a two storey frame house of the 1820 - 1840 period. Five bays in length it has a center door flanked by two windows on either side. One room in depth it has a large south room, center hall with hanging stair, and a room at the N end. On the second and third(or attic level)there are two rooms each. Both firstand second floor room have fireplaces the first floor S being the largest.

The floors, doors, mouldings, mantles are all of early Victorian appearance. There are light plaster medallions on the ceilings of the first floor rooms the most interesting being in the S room.

There is a enclosed porch and addition onto the rear (E) wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☒Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

"Efton Hills" is credited with being the birthplace and home of Admiral Raphael Semmes of Civil War fame, though this could be disputed. It was a Semmes home but it's more likely that Raphael was born in another earlier house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. Richard Rivoire		
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Historical Trust	DATE
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	Annapolis	STATE Maryland CODE

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Paul Dennis Brown

1958 The History of Charles County, Maryland.

La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc.

TERCENTENARY YEAR 1958

127

Charles Riddle, William F. Bowling, L. M. Southerland,
and P. A. L. Contee.

Not all the Charles County men served in this battery as we also find individuals like Basil Spalding who ran away from school and enlisted in the Confederate Cavalry in 1862 when he was just a boy of 17. He served to the end of the War in Mosby's Raiders. After the war, Mr. Spalding lived at Green Park near Pomfret until his death in 1929.

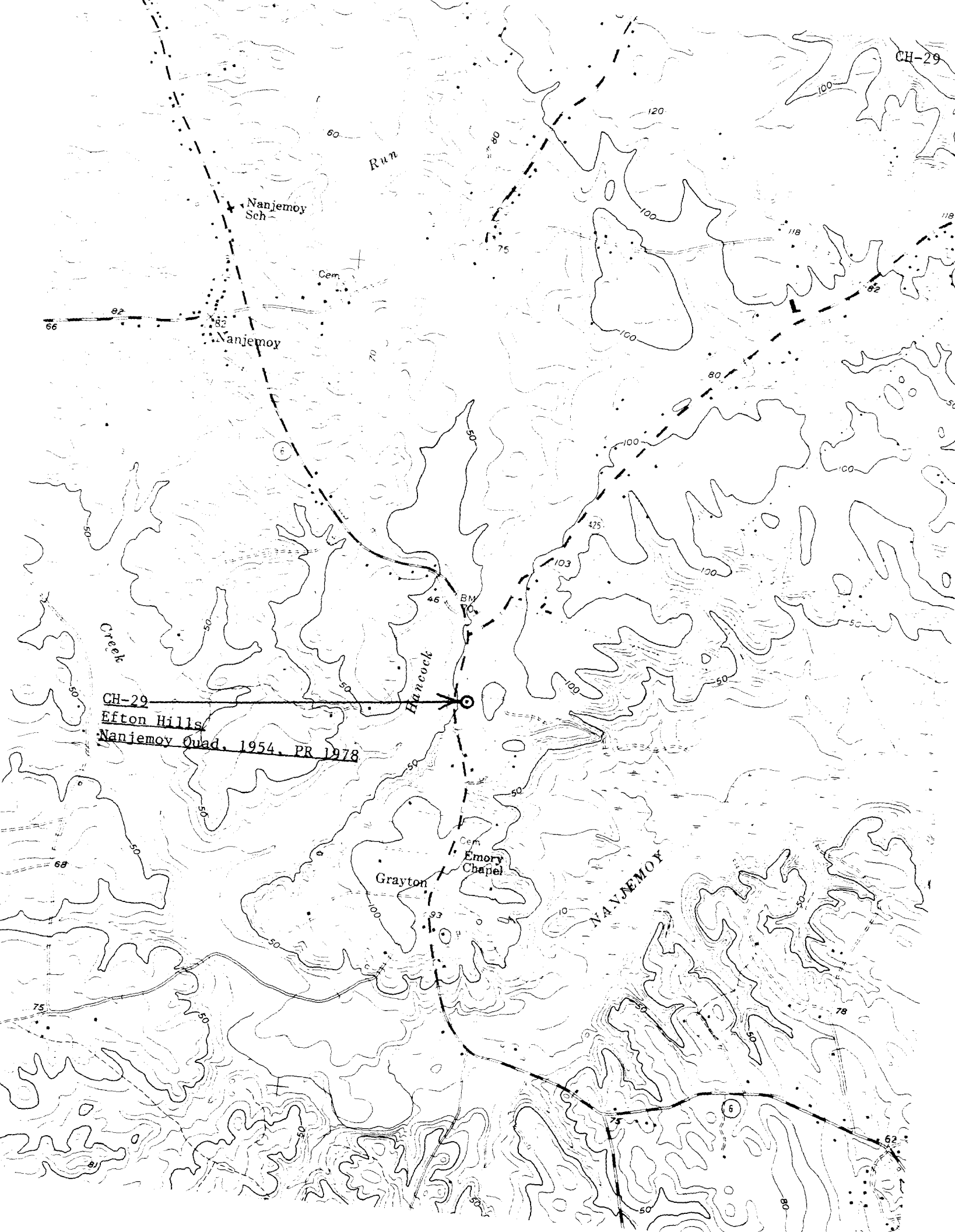
Perhaps the most famous of all Charles Countians to serve in the Confederate cause was Admiral Raphael Semmes. Semmes was born at Efton Hills near Nanjemoy in Charles County in 1790. He was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy 1826. While waiting for his orders, he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1837 and served with distinction in the Mexican War. In recognition of his services in the Mexican War, a resolution was passed by the General Assembly of Maryland that thanks and congratulations of the Legislature were tendered to him for his gallant conduct during the war with Mexico and they recommended him to the favorable consideration of the Executive of the National Government for promotion.

In 1861, Semmes resigned from the United States Navy and immediately entered the Confederate Navy. He was put in command of the noted Confederate raider "The Alabama" which, in a cruise of three years, did more damage to Union shipping than any single ship in the Confederate Navy. The "Alabama," most formidable of the Confederate Privateers, destroyed an estimated eight to ten million dollars worth of United States property.

After the War, Admiral Semmes settled in Mobile, Alabama, where he practiced law and devoted himself to literary pursuits until his death in 1877.

The feelings of the people in the County in regard to the Union side may be seen in their response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. In 1862, there was one volunteer





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CH-29

Efton Hills

Nanjemoy Quad. 1954. PR 1978

Hancock

Emory Chapel

Grayton

NANJEMOY