

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Charles
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Araby

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 224 225  
Md. Rte. 425 & 224.

3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of/  
CITY OR TOWN: Mason's Springs CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

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

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. & Mrs. James A. Clive  
Adm. and Mrs. Frank Jack Fletcher (Telephone ~~734-4770~~ 743-5230)

STREET AND NUMBER: Araby Rd 4 Arby Hoad Box 68

CITY OR TOWN: Mason's Springs La Plata Indianlead STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

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: 21404 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Charles

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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 type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although late Federal in its exterior appearance, Araby is actually a mid-eighteenth century house that was extensively altered in the mid-nineteenth century. The initial stage was a one story, five bay gambrel roofed, Flemish bond brick structure. Two chimneys were enclosed within each end wall (east and west) and there is a moulded brick watertable at the base of all four elevations. The windows have gauged brick lintels and there was a wood, modillioned eave cornice. (A small section of this cornice is preserved under the roof of the existing, mid-nineteenth century, north elevation entrance porch.) The interior plan of this first stage, retained when the house was altered, consisted of four rooms and a short rear stair hall. This plan is fairly typical of Southern Maryland architecture dating from circa 1720 to circa 1780. The Great (southeast) Room has all four wall surfaces sheathed with fielded panels and has two shell alcoves flanking the fireplace. The reeded mantle in this room constitutes its only nineteenth century alteration. The other rooms have both paneled fireplace walls and dados and the fireplaces in two instances have moulded surrounds. The stair has simple, turned banusters and a black walnut rail.

In the mid-nineteenth century the roof was raised to a full two story height. The English bond brickwork of these wall extensions contrasts with the Flemish bond of the original walls, making the cornice line and the roof profile of this first stage easily discernable. The one decidedly Federal characteristic evidenced on the exterior is the bridging (or joining by a curtain) of the chimney stacks at each end. Other Federal period influences can be observed in the brick, denticulated eave cornice of both the front (south) and rear (north) facades and the short, projecting brick water lip over the main entrance door of the south facade where a flat roofed porch is believed to have stood.

At the west end of the house stands a frame hyphen connecting the house to a one story brick wing. Presumably the brick wing, positioned at a right angle to the main block, was initially used as a detached summer kitchen. The later hyphen contains a modern kitchen and a roofed porch with fluted columns and stone paved floor.

On the grounds are several interesting domestic dependencies, large plantings of boxwood, and an interesting rose garden. At a distance of approximately five hundred yards from the northeast corner of the main house stood an eighteenth century grist mill. Dating circa 1760-80 it was, until destroyed several years ago because of its proximity to a state highway, the earliest surviving example of this type of architecture in lower Southern Maryland. The stone foundation wall of this three story frame structure still exist, as does parts of the original machinery and the mill stones.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input 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

Araby was the home of William and Sarah Eilbeck who's daughter Anne married George Mason (also a Charles Countain), author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and builder of Gunston Hall in Virginia. It is believed that George and Anne made Araby their home until the completion of Gunston Hall and made lengthly, periodic stays here afterwards. Their son, William inherited Araby upon the death of his grandmother and it was for him that the nearby Mason's Springs was named. George Washington recorded many visits to Araby in his diaries, most of them occuring while visiting a nearby property he owned.

As a mid-eighteenth century example of vernacular domestic architecture Araby is important in that despite the major renovation previously discussed it retains a significant amount of original interior and exterior fabric intact. In a region where few examples of such structures have survived unaltered Araby is found to be of particular interest, most notably for its simple but sophisticated interior treatment, the preservation of various construction features, and as an example of a type of house erected by persons of a relatively high position within the socio-economic class levels of mid-and-late-eighteenth century Charles County.

Because of these aspects of its architectural merit and direct association with such historically prominent personalities as George Mason and George Washington it is felt that Araby deserves further attention through both academic study and historic preservation and stands today as an important physical lesson in both local, state, and national history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Charles County Land and Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Fitzpatrick, John C. (ed). The Diaries of George Washington 1748-1799.  
4 vols. reprint of the 1925 edition. New York: Kraus Reprint Company, 1971.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown and P. Dennis Brown. History of Charles County.  
La Plata, Maryland: n.p., 1958.

**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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 34' 50"	77° 07' 05"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 34' 41"	77° 06' 36"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	38° 34' 37"	77° 06' 39"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	38° 34' 38"	77° 07' 05"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 74 acres

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 Riyoire

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: March 13, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 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

Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date: March 30, 1973

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Araby		
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Charles	Mason's Springs
STREET AND NUMBER		
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection		
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Port Tobacco Quadrangle U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map	1966	1:24000
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.		

GPO 932-010

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Araby		
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Charles	Mason's Springs
STREET AND NUMBER		
425 & 244		
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of Md. Rte./		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Michael Bourne	1968	Maryland Historical Trust
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Southwest		

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

CH-11

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Araby		
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Charles	Mason's Springs
STREET AND NUMBER		
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of Md. Rte./		
845 & 244		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Michael Bourne	1968	Maryland Historical Trust
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Southwest		

GPO 932-009



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Charles County</b> TOWN <b>Mason Springs</b> VIGINITY STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>CH - 11</b>	
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER <b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Jack Fletcher</b> PRESENT USE <b>Dwelling</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Brick</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>		2. NAME <b>Araby</b> DATE OR PERIOD <b>c. 1720</b> STYLE <b>Colonial &amp; Federal</b> ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC <b><u>NO</u></b>	
<p>           "Araby" is a two-story brick building, five bays long and three bays deep. Originally, the house was a 1-1/2 story building. The second story was added in the mid-nineteenth century. The mid-nineteenth century brickwork is laid in common bond, beneath which the bond is Flemish. There is a basement and a molded water-table. Above the windows of the first floor level are lintels of gauged brick. The second floor level windows also have lintels, but the brick is not gauged. Above the door there is strange short, one brick, string course which presumably was the location of a nineteenth-century porch. The sash are of nineteenth century date and are 9 over 6 on the first floor and 6 over 6 on the second. There are louvered shutters throughout. The cornice is of brick and has dentils. There are double chimneys at each end and the roof is nearly flat between them. There is a frame hyphen and a brick wing. The hyphen contains a covered porch with fluted columns and large square paving stones. It also houses the kitchen. The windows of the brick wing have lintels of brick and 6 over 6 sash. The wing stands at a right angle to the main structure.         </p> <p>           The center door of the main section opens into a hall, now used as a living room. This room is panelled to the ceiling on four            (continued on page 2)         </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  <b>See Page 2</b>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <b>Michael O. Bourne</b> <b>Maryland Historical Trust</b>  DATE OF RECORD <b>March 14, 1968</b>	

walls and has arched cabinets on each side of the fireplace. The fireplace reeded mantel is of a later date than the panelling. The dining room is behind the hall. The other rooms have panelled fireplace walls and panelled dados. The staircase rises in a small passage between the two rooms to the rear. The staircase handrail is made of black walnut. There are several interesting out-buildings.

A Maryland Historical Society marker reads:

"

Araby

The widow Eilbeck, mentioned in Washington's Diary, lived here. Her daughter, Ann Eilbeck, married Col. George Mason of Gunston Hall, Virginia. Araby built about 1700.

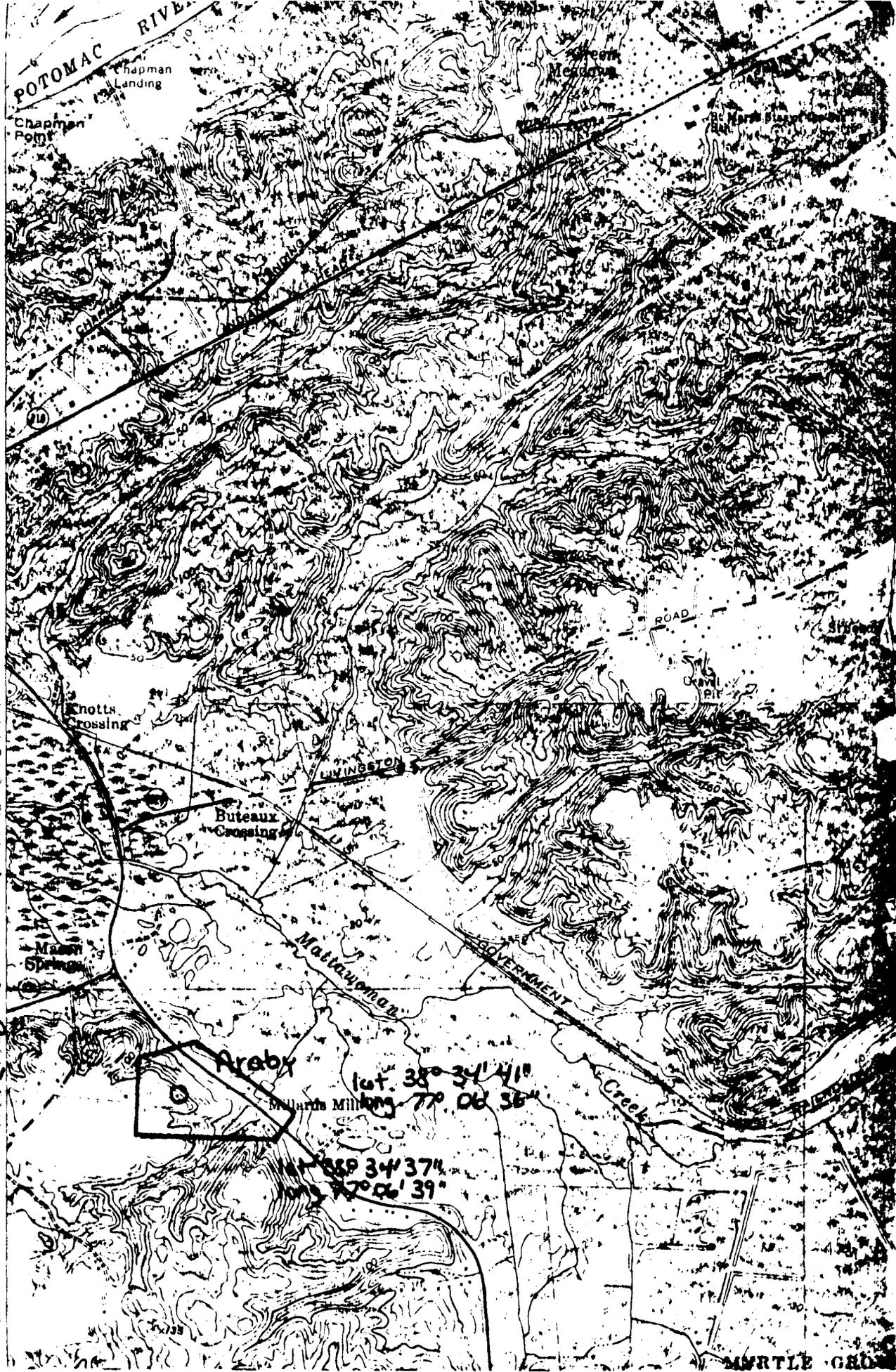
Item 8: Published Sources

Forman, Henry Chandler

Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland,  
1934 - page 72

Wilson, Everett B.

Maryland's Colonial Mansions and other Early Homes,  
1965 - page 210



4276

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

35'

4271

CH-11

lat 38° 34' 60"  
~~long 77° 07' 05"~~  
 long 77° 07' 05"

lat. 38° 34' 38"  
 long. 77° 07' 05"

Arabx  
 Millards Mill

lat. 38° 34' 41"  
 long. 77° 06' 36"

lat. 38° 34' 37"  
 long. 77° 06' 39"

MURTLER GED



~~SM 47~~ WESTON ARABY CH-11



ch 11 p. 60 39%

~~SM-17~~

WESTON ARBY CH-18

Charles County

D

Please Credit to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
2525 Riva Road  
Annapolis, MD. 21403