

CHAS-206
WICOMICO FIELDS
Mt. Victoria
Private

early 18th century

A historic and architecturally interesting house unfortunately altered by later additions totally unsympathetic to its original design, Wicomico Fields is one of Charles County's earliest brick buildings.

Of Flemish bond construction with chamfered watertable, large flush gable chimneys, and three bays wide on both side elevations, Wicomico Fields is thought to be fairly representative of the type of home built by fairly prosperous landowners and merchants of the early eighteenth century. Early features included small windows that were substantially increased in size to their present dimensions in the early 19th century, and a four room floor plan with two cater-cornered first floor fireplaces. Although no original woodwork remains there is an attractive stair of a late 18th-early 19th century design.

Wicomico Fields was initially surveyed for Thomas Smoot in 1666, but in 1697 was formally granted to Notley Warren, eldest son of Captain Humphrey Warren, Gent., who had previously established his seat at nearby "Frailty" (Society Hill, CHAS-37). Throughout most of the 18th and early 19th centuries, the property was owned by John Courts and his descendants. Courts acquired the property from the heirs of Notley Warren in the early 18th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-206

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI #09102065104

1 NAME

HISTORIC

WICOMICO FIELDS

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Hatton Road

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Victoria

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Peter Q. Nyce

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Wicomico Fields

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Victoria

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 57

Folio #: 225

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE
Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although greatly altered in recent years, Wicomico Fields is one of Charles County's earlier examples of Colonial architecture. Located close to the shore of the Wicomico River, it faces directly downriver to its junction with the Potomac, certainly a strategic location for a colonist dependent on the river for transportation and communication.

The architecture of Wicomico Fields, called "Nyce Manor" by its present owners, suggests a construction date within the first half of the eighteenth century, and a comparison of this building with dated early eighteenth century structures indicates that it may have been built as early as the first quarter of that century.

A modestly scaled, one-story, Flemish bond brick structure, three bays wide on both side elevations, it has a steeply pitched gable roof and large flush gable chimneys at each end. An examination of the window and door openings indicates that the doors occupy original locations, as do the windows, but that the latter openings have been substantially enlarged from their original dimensions. Other exterior features include a low, chamfered watertable that in some areas is below existing grade. At each end of the house stand remarkably ugly one-story additions, a reflection of its use for the past few decades as a summer house.

The interior room configuration of the original house included two south rooms with a stair hall and small "office" to the rear. The two smaller rooms have cater-cornered fireplaces, while the main front room had a large fireplace on its end wall (this is possibly a later alteration). The only early woodwork is an attractive stair of early 19th century styling that rises along the north outside wall of the northeast room. All of the rooms have 20th century woodwork framing the doors and windows. The baseboards, however, might be late 18th or early 19th century. In recent years the northwest first floor room was altered by the installation of a small bathroom in this area. When the bathroom was added, a small window was cut through the wall close to the right side of the north door of the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A historic and architecturally interesting house unfortunately altered by later additions totally unsympathetic to its original design, Wicomico Fields is one of Charles County's earliest brick buildings.

Of Flemish bond construction with chamfered watertable, large flush gable chimneys, and three bays wide on both side elevations, Wicomico Fields is thought to be fairly representative of the type of home built by fairly prosperous landowners and merchants of the early eighteenth century. Early features included small windows that were substantially increased in size to their present dimensions in the early 19th century, and a four room floor plan with two cater-cornered first floor fireplaces. Although no original woodwork remains there is an attractive stair of a late 18th-early 19th century design.

Wicomico Fields was initially surveyed for Thomas Smoot in 1666, but in 1697 was formally granted to Notley Warren, eldest son of Captain Humphrey Warren, Gent., who had previously established his seat at nearby "Frailty" (Society Hill, CHAS-37). Throughout most of the 18th and early 19th centuries, the property was owned by John Courts and his descendants. Courts acquired the property from the heirs of Notley Warren in the early 18th century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Wicomico Fields is located on a 230 acre tract of land identified as parcel 2, Map 84 of the Charles County Tax Maps (revised January, 1976).

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Riivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	MD.
COUNTY:	Chas.
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Wiconico Fields

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: MD. CODE: COUNTY: Chas. CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER: Wiconico Fields

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: MD CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Chas. Co.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: LaPlata STATE: MD. CODE:

ACREAGE APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wicomico Fields is a charming dwelling of brick construction ~~has~~ one and one-half storeys in height with an A frame roof framed by massive interior gable chimneys.

Three bays in length its transomed center door is flanked by a single window of 6/6 pane sash to each side. Its peaked dormers are regularly spaced and contain windows of 6/6 pane sash.

It appears that the present owners have made every effort to make the house look "new". Besides painting the house white and adding ridiculous elongated shutters to the door they have added wings of absolutely no architectural merit (or ^{arch.} relevance) to each end. If it weren't for the massive chimneys, moulded water table, and eighteenth century character of the middle section the house would pass easily as a 20th century reproduction flanked by "ficky-tack" wings.

An effort should be made soon in the area of ^{an} architectural study before this early eighteenth century dwelling is horribly, completely, and irreversibly damaged by its owners.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Blank area for the Statement of Significance.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(This section is mostly blank with some faint, illegible text visible through the paper.)

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Rivory, J.R.

ORGANIZATION: MHT DATE: 3/71

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____



CHAS-206

WICOMICOFIELDS

View From SW JRRivoire, 1978