

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Ellerslie; Coates Retirement

AND/OR COMMON  
Ellerslie (Preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Port Tobacco  
South side of Maryland Route 6, one mile west of NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Port Tobacco VICINITY OF First CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Charles CODE 017

**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 RESIDE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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"/> TRANSPORTATIC
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Watson M. Perrygo

STREET & NUMBER Ellerslie

CITY, TOWN Port Tobacco VICINITY OF Maryland STATE 20677

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street

CITY, TOWN La Plata, STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Situated in the midst of gently rolling lawns, Ellerslie is a physically commanding, two-story house of basic Georgian styling. Of frame construction, the house is five bays wide on both side elevations and has two exterior chimneys at each end. At the west end of the house is a one-story, two-bay frame wing. The house and wing are sheathed with lapped clapboards, and all of the windows have louvered exterior blinds. The roof of both parts of the house is of painted tin, on the main block replacing the original wood shingles.

The principal facade of the main block faces north. The entrance door, which has a double, eight-pane transom, occupies the center bay and is flanked on each side by two windows of nine-over-nine sash. The five second floor windows, each aligned with the opening below, all frame sash of six-over-nine panes. The two first and second floor windows closest to the west end are positioned closer together than those at the opposite end of this elevation and define the area of an earlier structure that was extensively remodeled and extended to create the present house.

At the main entrance door is a Federal-style, one-story pedimented porch with balustrades, slender tapered posts, and a vaulted ceiling that extends through the tympanum of the pediment. Built by the present owners circa 1965, the porch is of a design appropriate to the date and architecture of the house. The rear elevation repeats the fenestration and door location of the front; however, there is no transom over the door and a shed-roofed porch with turned posts and balustrade is centered across the middle three bays of the first floor.

At the east end of the house are two windows of six-over-six pane sash in the gable and a single first floor door located between the chimneys. The door is fronted by a brick stoop and steps with a wood balustrade matching that of the front and rear porches.

At the west end of the house is one six-over-six gable window and a single second floor window between the chimneys. At this end the southwest chimney is larger than the others to accommodate an additional flue servicing a kitchen fireplace in the west wing. The other three chimneys each service two fireplaces. All four chimneys are of brick construction and have stepped weatherings.

On both side elevations the eave cornices have ogee crown and bed moldings with the end boards shaped in the same profile. The house sits on high brick foundation walls with five grilled window vents on the front. A door near the west end of the south elevation provides access to a partial cellar beneath the main house.

The west wing, built circa 1968 on the foundations of an earlier structure of similar styling, has two windows of nine-over-nine sash in the north wall, one nine-over-nine window in the west end wall, and on the north side,

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

Ellerslie  
Charles County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

a window and door, the former with nine-over-nine sash and the latter a batten design hung on wrought strap hinges.

There is sufficient architectural evidence to indicate that Ellerslie began as a smaller structure, possibly built as early as the mid-eighteenth century, and was extensively altered and enlarged circa 1790-1820. The house as it exists today represents its plan and appearance following the completion of the alterations, although a few features of the original building can still be seen.

The north entrance door opens into a central hall that extends the full depth of the house. At the south end of the hall is an offset stair of rather unusual configuration. Approached from the middle of the hall, it begins for the first flight and landing in an area set back from the main side wall of the hall. The stair rises in three flights to the second floor and is completely enclosed. On the first floor to the left of the hall (facing south) is a spacious double parlor partitioned by a large doorway fitted with two folding, triple-leafed doors. To the right of the hall are two rooms, believed to be part of the original house. Although all of the first floor rooms are handsomely proportioned and detailed, the double parlors are particularly noteworthy. The two mantels have pilasters with fluted half-columns supporting a frieze with center and end panels decorated with bead-and-reel moldings. On the center block of each is a raised, molded urn with raised, molded swags decorating the frieze between the center and end blocks. Both mantels have a molded cornice shelf with beading (pearls) on the face trim. The remaining woodwork includes molded, one-piece window and door surrounds, beaded baseboards, and a molded, one-piece chairrail. When the house was restored in the late 1950s and early 1960s, pieces of elaborate plaster ceiling cornices were found in the walls and under the house. The existing cornices, installed during the restoration, are not as elaborate as their predecessors but are of an appropriate design and scale. The same ceiling cornice extends into the hall and two west rooms. In the hall the woodwork consists of wide door surrounds with two applied moldings, one positioned at the outer edge of the faceboard and the other closer in toward the door opening. Beaded baseboards and two-piece chairrails are essentially the same in the hall as in the two west rooms. The window and door surrounds in the west rooms are of two pieces and like the chairrails, are of a typical late 18th-early 19th century profile. The mantels in these rooms are fairly simple, with molded pilasters supporting a blocked frieze and molded cornice shelf. The only modern introductions to the first floor are kitchen facilities in the southwest room and a half-bath in a closet under the stair.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Ellerslie  
Charles County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

On the second floor, which has a center hall and four bedrooms, the woodwork is basically the same as that of the two first floor west rooms. A small room at the south end of the hall has been converted into a bathroom. A door at the south end opens onto a stair leading to a commodious but unfinished attic.

The one-room west wing is accessible from the first floor southwest room, and its floor level is several feet lower than that of the main block. At the east end is a large cooking fireplace remaining from the earlier wing that occupied this same location.

Immediately south of the house are several buildings of architectural significance, three of them moved here from other locations in the county. The most important of the dependencies is a small barn, formerly a combination granary and mill, known as the "Old Friendship Barn," believed to have been built on its original location in the late 17th century. It is the oldest known and recorded building of its type in the state. The other outbuildings include a smokehouse (now a tool shed) with a pedimented roof that extends out from the face of the front wall, and a pyramid-roofed dairy. Both are believed to date from the 18th century.

To the west of the north entrance drive is the site of what appears to have been a frame house with exterior chimneys. Believed to date from the 18th century and possibly the predecessor of the existing house, little surface (exposed) evidence remains to indicate its original appearance other than that it was a fairly substantial structure. Between this site and the main house are several graves marked by fieldstones. These are traditionally said to be Indian graves, but it is just as likely that they are the graves of the slaves who lived on and worked the property.

Ellerslie is a rectangular-shaped tract of land with the house and dependencies located toward the south end of the property. The house sits in the center of spacious lawns that gently fall toward the north, south, and west sides. The north, south, and west borders of the property are densely wooded, effectively shielding the house from the main road to the north and a subdivision flanking it on the south and west sides. A cleared area east of the house allows it to be clearly seen from the Port Tobacco Heights subdivision; however, cedars and other trees have been planted in this area that will eventually shield the house from view. The grounds proximate to the house are

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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Ellerslie  
Charles County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

landscaped with a variety of flowering trees and shrubs. To the west and north sides are large shade trees, several of which are over 200 years old. Two magnificent lombardy pines in front of the house rise to an extraordinary height, towering over the tall house.

CH-24

# 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"/> 1600-1899	<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"/> 900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Attractively maintained, architecturally distinctive, and historically significant, Ellerslie is one of Charles County's most important historic landmarks. Built in the late Georgian style with Federal interior decorations, it is one of the best preserved examples of late 18th century architecture in lower Southern Maryland. Its long association with two of Southern Maryland's most political and socially prominent families serves to further establish its regional landmark status.

The existing fifty-two acres known as Ellerslie were originally part of a tract of land called Coates Retirement. The tract was surveyed several times and patented to Bartholomew Coates during the period 1661 to 1673. Coates died in about 1673, and in 1674 the patent was finally awarded to his widow, Mary Coates. Following her death the property passed into the ownership of her heirs, William and Thomas Coates.

By 1720 the property had been declared in escheat and a new warrant for resurvey, followed by a patent for 500 acres, was awarded to Dr. Daniel Jenifer, a prosperous and influential gentleman who amassed extensive landholdings throughout Charles County. For over 100 years Coates Retirement remained in the possession of the heirs and descendants of Dr. Jenifer, including his son, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, a nationally prominent political figure who served as a member of the Continental Congress from 1778 to 1782 and signed the Constitution of the United States for Maryland in 1787. Coates Retirement passed from the hands of the Jenifer family in 1835 when it was sold to Henry Brawner. It was during Brawner's ownership that the property was renamed Ellerslie. In 1854 the property was acquired by Walter H. J. Mitchell from the estate of Henry Brawner's widow. Mitchell, a Jenifer descendant who lived at Linden (NR) near Port Tobacco, was a locally prominent political figure who made an unsuccessful bid for Governor of Maryland in the late 1850s. A graduate of Yale College, he was actively involved in legal and political affairs and maintained close affiliations with many nationally important political figures until his death in 1869. Ellerslie, containing about 700 acres, remained in the Mitchell family until 1957 when it was sold to Howard N. Bowie. During Bowie's ownership the property was broken into smaller parcels that were sold off individually. The present owners purchased the house and remaining fifty-two acres from Bowie in 1958.

The outbuildings at Ellerslie include several that were moved here and

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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(Rev. 10-74)

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Ellerslie  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

**SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

restored in recent years. All of them are noteworthy examples of early farm dependencies of which fewer and fewer representative examples remain. Of particular significance is a 17th century barn, believed to be the oldest structure of its type in Maryland.

The existing property encompasses several building sites, the most easily discernible being that of a frame house located several hundred yards northwest of the present house. It is believed by some that this house preceded the existing one and may have been the home of Dr. Daniel Jenifer. If so, it was possibly the boyhood home of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer. If such could be documented it would establish this as one of Maryland's more important historical archeological sites. It is also possible, however, that the oldest part of the existing house was built by either Dr. Jenifer or one of his sons including, conceivably, Daniel of St. Thomas. Since Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer spent most of his later life at his plantation, Stepney, in Annapolis and had disposed of most of his landholdings in Charles County before his death in 1790, it is unlikely that he had anything to do with the renovations which occurred here. Nevertheless, the association of the Jenifer family with the property and the architectural interest and integrity of the house and dependencies easily establish its significance on both a local and regional level.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brown, P. Dennis. History of Charles County, Maryland.  
La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary Commission.  
1958, pp. 93, 94.

Land and Probate records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES					
A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**J. Richard Rivoire**

njm/1km

ORGANIZATION

DATE

**May 15, 1978**

STREET & NUMBER

**P. O. Box 132**

TELEPHONE

**(301) 645-1144**

CITY OR TOWN

**La Plata**

STATE

**Maryland 20646**

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER**

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

DATE

**CHIEF OF REGISTRATION**

CH-24

Form No 10-300a  
(Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

Ellerslie  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 5

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.

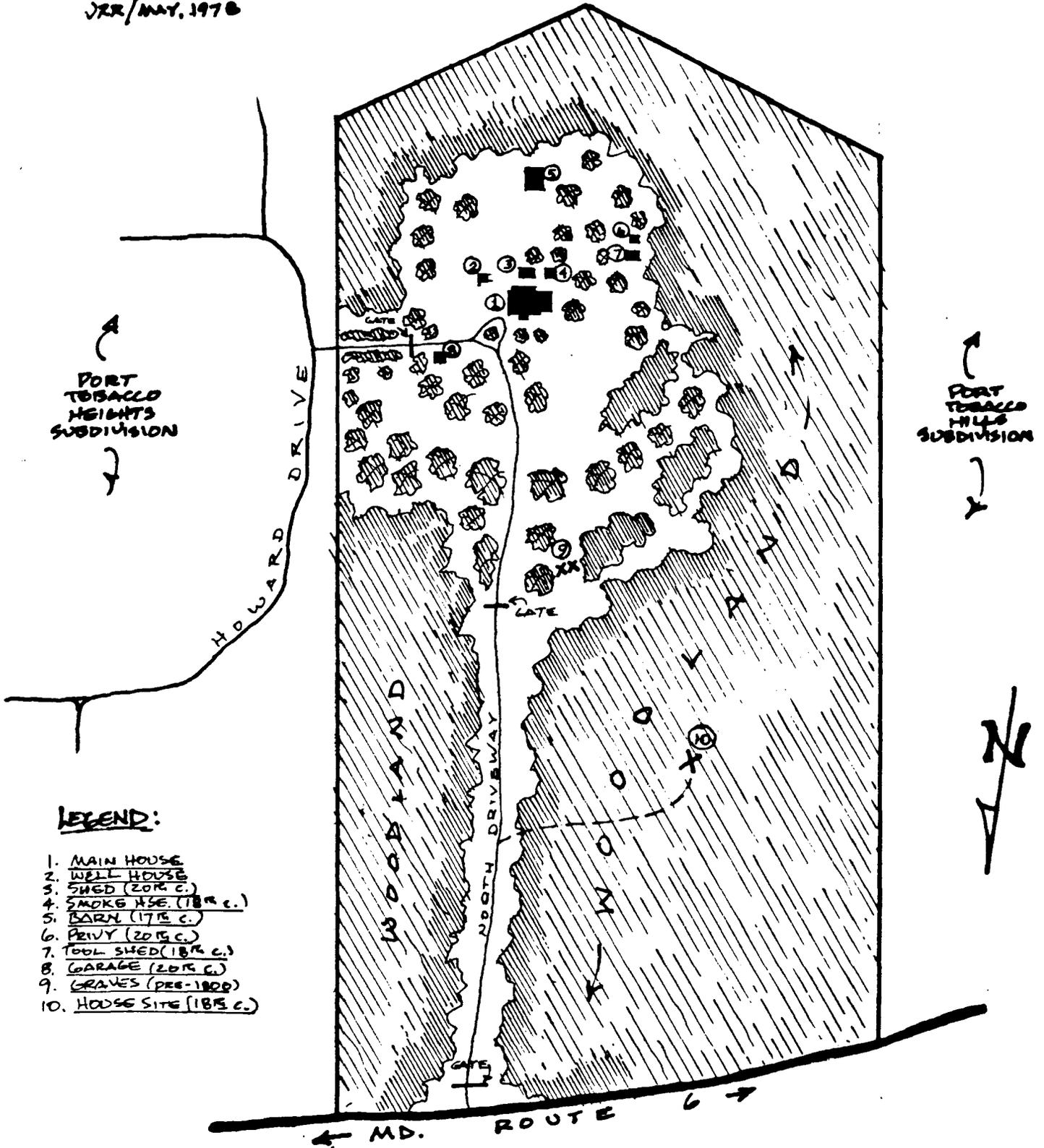
The 52 acres nominated is a rectangular shaped tract of land bounded on the north by Maryland Route 6, on the east by Howard Drive and the Port Tobacco Heights subdivision, and on the south and west sides by Port Tobacco Hills subdivision.

ELLERSLIE  
CHARLES CO., MD.

PLOT PLAN

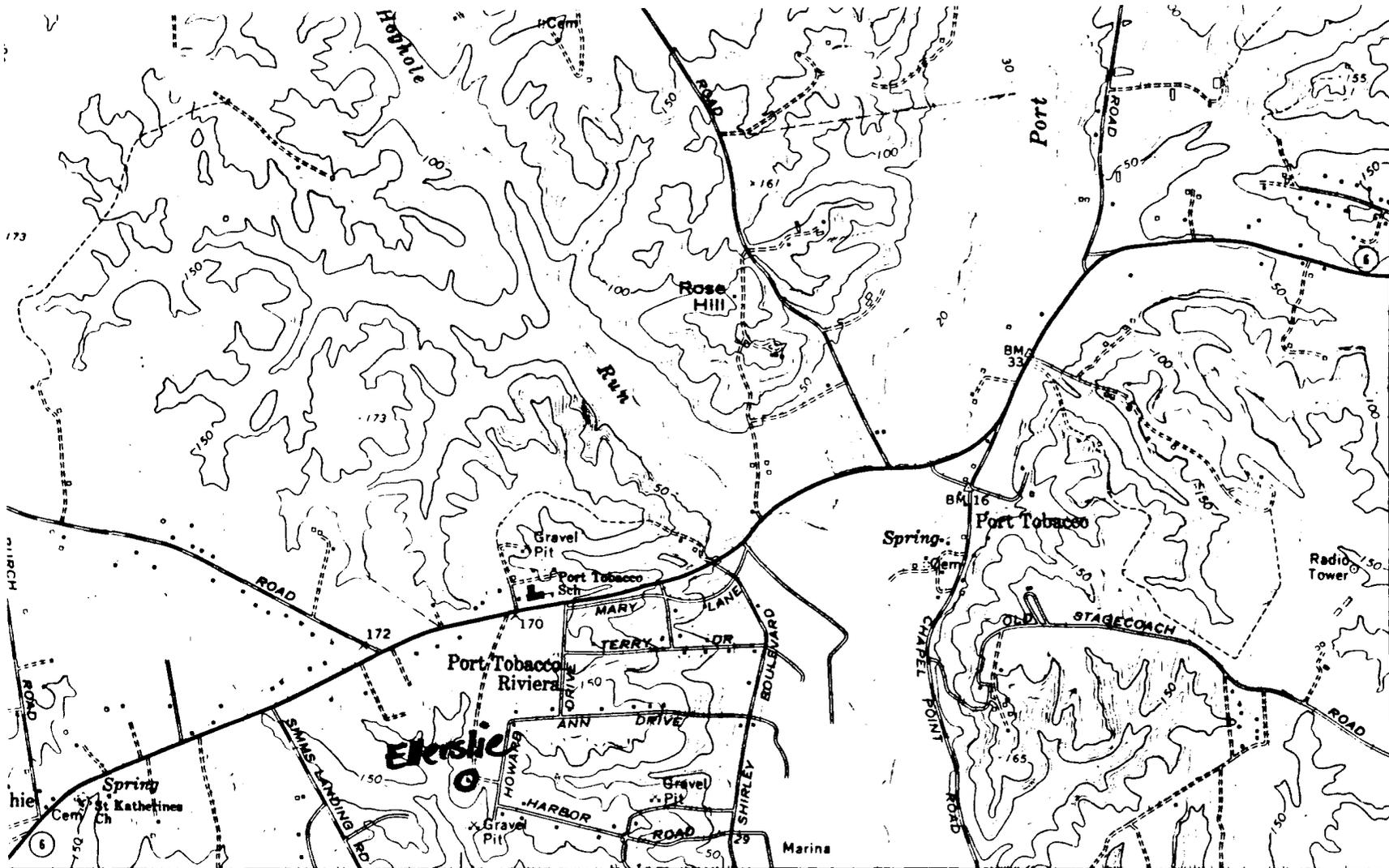
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
JRR/MAY, 1978

← PORT TOBACCO HILLS →



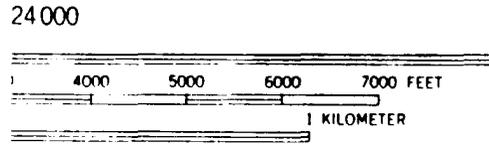
LEGEND:

- 1. MAIN HOUSE
- 2. WELL HOUSE
- 3. SHED (20R C.)
- 4. SMOKE HSE. (18R C.)
- 5. BARN (17R C.)
- 6. PRIVY (20R C.)
- 7. TOOL SHED (18R C.)
- 8. GARAGE (20R C.)
- 9. GRAVES (PRE-1800)
- 10. HOUSE SITE (18R C.)



4266  
LA PLATA 15 MI  
CHARLOTTE HALL 15 MI

WELCOME 2.9 MI. / ANJEMOY 13 MI  
721 2'30" 323000m E. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1968 77° 00'



CH-24

VAL 10 FEET  
SEA LEVEL  
ET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
XIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
PPROXIMATELY 2 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty - - - - -
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- State Route

38° 30'  
77° 00'  
(POPE'S CREEK)  
5850 N. NW

PORT TOBACCO, MD.  
SE/4 INDIAN HEAD 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3830—W7700/7.5

1966

AMS 5561 II SE—SERIES V833

AL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
RVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CHAS-24  
ELLERSLIE (Coate's Retirement)  
Port Tobacco  
Private

circa 1790

Ellerslie, a two-story frame house with a formal five bay facade and two exterior chimneys at each end, is one of the most formal and attractive of the remaining large houses in the county dating from the Federal period. Of particular note is its enclosed off-set stair in the center hall and attractive woodwork, the latter including sophisticated Adam-style mantels in the double parlors. Fragments of elaborate plaster cornices and trim found when the house was being restored indicate that it once possessed a very elegant interior. A kitchen wing at one end is built on the foundations of an earlier structure destroyed many years ago. Among Ellerslie's many interesting dependencies, several of which were moved here from other locations in the county and restored, is the seventeenth century Old Friendship (Gwither) Barn (CHAS-202).

Ellerslie stands on land patented by Bartholomew Coates before 1672 and named Coates Retirement. From 1720 to 1835 it was owned by the wealthy and politically prominent Jenifer family, including Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Signer of the U. S. Constitution. In 1854 the property was acquired by Walter H. J. Mitchell, a prominent political figure and land speculator who lived at nearby Linden (CHAS-48). Ellerslie remained in the Mitchell family until 1957.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NR CH-24

CHAS-24

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY PAGE #0400245204

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ELLERSLIE (Coate's Retirement)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of MD. Rte. 6, 1 mile west of Port Tobacco (On Howard Drive?)

CITY, TOWN

Port Tobacco

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Watson M. Perrygo

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Ellerslie

CITY, TOWN

Port Tobacco

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 137  
Folio #: 260

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**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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**

Ellerslie, restored by its present owners in the late 1950s and 1960s, is a handsome frame house combining Georgian and Federal details.

The principal facade faces north and has a transomed entrance door flanked by two windows of 9-over-9 sash to each side. At the second floor level above are five windows of 6-over-9 sash. The front entrance is sheltered by a one-story pedimented porch of Federal design with tapered posts, balustrade and arched ceiling. The porch was built in the mid-1960s. The rear elevation repeats the door location and fenestration of the front except that the door is positioned to the right of center. Covering the three middle first floor bays is a one-story shed roofed porch with tapered posts and balustrade. At both ends of the house stand two exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders and free-standing stacks. At the west end there is a single gable window and one second floor window between the chimneys. At the opposite end there are two gable windows and a first floor door, the latter fronted by a brick stoop and steps. The house is built on high brick foundation walls and has exterior sheathing of random width lapped boards and a tin roof. Extending out from the west end of the house is a one-story wing that was built in the late 1960s on the foundations of an earlier kitchen.

The main, north entrance door opens into a center hall with an enclosed, off-set stair at its south end. To the left of the hall are double parlors connected by two triple leafed folding doors. To the right of the hall are two smaller rooms, the northwest rooms used as a dining room and the adjoining room, smaller than its companion due to the positioning of the stair, converted for use as a kitchen. Both west end rooms have woodwork of a basic late-eighteenth century profile; the woodwork of the hall and double parlors is, however, somewhat more formal. Of particular note are the parlor mantels decorated by fluted half-columns and a shelf and frieze decorated with bead and reed moldings and Adamesque urns and swags. On the second floor is a center hall, four bedrooms, and a small room at the front of the hall. An enclosed stair at the south end of the hall leads to a commodious but unfinished attic.

When Ellerslie was restored fragments of elaborate plaster cornices and trim were found, indicating that the house at one time possessed a remarkably rich and sophisticated interior.

There are several dependencies of note, three of which have been moved here from other locations in the county and carefully restored. The most important of these is the seventeenth century Old Friendship (Gwither) Barn (CHAS-202). Also located on the property is the sit  
(continued on attached sheet)

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      C. 1790                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ellerslie, a two-story frame house with a formal five bay facade and two exterior chimneys at each end, is one of the most formal and attractive of the remaining large houses in the county dating from the Federal period. Of particular note is its enclosed off-set stair in the center hall and attractive woodwork, the latter including sophisticated Adam-style mantels in the double parlors. Fragments of elaborate plaster cornices and trim found when the house was being restored indicate that it once possessed a very elegant interior. A kitchen wing at one end is built on the foundations of an earlier structure destroyed many years ago. Among Ellerslie's many interesting dependencies, several of which were moved here from other locations in the county and restored, is the seventeenth century Old Friendship (Gwither) Barn (CHAS-202).

Ellerslie stands on land patented by Bartholomew Coates before 1672 and named Coates Retirement. From 1720 to 1835 it was owned by the wealthy and politically prominent Jenifer family, including Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Signer of the U. S. Constitution. In 1854 the property was acquired by Walter H. J. Mitchell, a prominent political figure and land speculator who lived at nearby Linden (CHAS-48). Ellerslie remained in the Mitchell family until 1957.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Ellerslie is located on a 47.95 acre tract of land identified as parcel 63, Map 43 of the Charles County Tax Maps (revised Jan. 1976).

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE		J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION	DATE	Charles County Planning Commission	November 1977
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	Charles County Courthouse	645-6537
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	La Plata	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

Continuation of #7 (Description)--ELLERSLIE

Page 2

of Coate's Retirement, believed to have been built by Dr. Daniel Jenifer, father of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Signer of the U. S. Constitution.

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNA-POLIS, MD. 21404

**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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: ELLERSLIE

AND/OR HISTORIC: Coates Retirement, Brawner Town

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: W. side of State Rte. 6 approx. 1 1/2 mi. W. of Port Tobacco

CITY OR TOWN: Port Tobacco

STATE: Maryland CODE:      COUNTY: Charles 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"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <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 checked="" 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: Watson Perrygo

STREET AND NUMBER: Ellerslie

CITY OR TOWN: Port Tobacco STATE: Maryland CODE:     

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata STATE: Maryland CODE:     

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input 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

ELLERSLIE is a rather imposing Georgian residence two storeys in height with an "A" frame roof and possesses two chimneys at each gable end (exterior).

The facade ( N. elevation) is five bays in length: center door flanked by two 9/9 windows to each side. The large door possesses an over light and single flanking side light. The pedimented porch at the main door has a center vaulted ceiling and the one storey two bay kitchen wing to the W. end is a reconstruction using the original foundation dimensions (?).

The main block appears to have been built in two parts judging from interior details and 1st. floor joist placements. That portion to the W. of the center hall including the present kitchen and dining room circa 1740 and that portion E. of the hall 1790-1810 (double parlor).

The hall is divided by a fluted keystone arch with a boxed in stair at the extreme S. end. Most of the original mouldings are intact, however, the mouldings of the dining room (including cornice) and some hardware are replacements-though of the period in design. The floor of the upstairs SE bedroom is also a replacement.

The clapboarding of the exterior is a mixture of the restored original and replacements. The S. elevation (rear) of the main block has a three quarter farm porch. All chimneys are of great height, exterior, and possess free standing stacks. The stack of the SW chimney is slightly larger than the other three as it contains a third flue (kitchen fireplace).

Besides a few interesting out buildings-all of which have been restored-there is presently being reconstructed and restored a seventeenth century barn which was moved here from its original site, "Old Friendship Manor," on Nanjemoy Creek.

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

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

ELLERSLIE was originally owned by the Jenifer family and it is highly possible that Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was born and lived here rather than at the nearby "Retreat".

Ellerslie was one of several dwellings that stood within a small sixty to 100 acre area. One dwelling was a two storey log structure that is said to have been the home of Dan. of St. Thos. Jenifer's Father but which has long since been destroyed. The present owner has several infra red aerial photographs which show many foundations.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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	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: *Rourke, J. Richard*

ORGANIZATION: *MHT* DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: *Annapolis* STATE: *Md.* 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 \_\_\_\_\_



*Spivone*

Big Shots  
MAY, 1978

CHAS-24

POST-A-PHOTO  
U.S. Patent No. 3,875,661

Post Card

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**Kodak**

paper and equipment used  
to produce this picture.

*Ellerslie, N. Front*



Ellerslie  
CHAS 24

Dependencies

Murdoch  
1978



Ellenslee  
CHAS-24

Drawing  
Room Model

J. R. W. W. W.  
1978



Elkville  
THAS-24

Recon Dairy

Sturivore  
1978

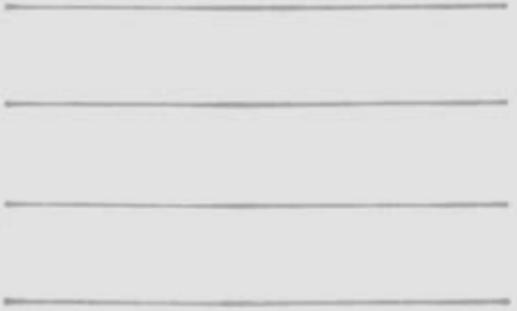


861  
MAY 1978

Big Shots  
MAY, 1978

**Kodak**

paper and equipment used  
to produce this picture.



**POST-A-MINUTE**  
U.S. Patent No. 3,875,861

Post Card

PLACE  
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5 most  
View from  
(CHAS-24) Elerslie