

BUTLER-COOKE TENANT HOUSE  
CH315  
Hughesville, Maryland  
Private

1880-1900

Though now abandoned and in derelict condition, this two-story, balloon frame house had been a rather fine dwelling when built. The facade has three bays, is sheltered by a shed porch, and the roofline is accented by a cross-gable pediment. Each of the two rooms downstairs was warmed by a fireplace, surrounded by woodwork of the neo-Georgian style. In its later years of occupation, in the twentieth century, the house was occupied by tenant families.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-10  
MAHI # 09103155624

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Butler-Cooke Tenant House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER End of second dirt road (Cooke Way), south side of Route 231,  
0.3 mile west of Junction 231 and Oakes Road.  
CITY, TOWN Hughesville  VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Storage Facility

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Melvin Cooke Telephone #: 301-274-3436  
STREET & NUMBER Rt. 1, Box 397  
CITY, TOWN Hughesville  VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20636

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse Liber #: MAP 162A  
STREET & NUMBER Folio #: P. 41  
CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This unpainted 2-story frame house stands atop a knoll, facing north past barns and corn cribs to the west, and looks out over corn fields that stretch for several hundred yards. The house is abandoned and is cluttered with "junk", and with farm materials and equipment still in use. Since the house was well-built originally, it has lasted this long; but it will soon give up its ghosts.

The house consists of a three bay facade (a door centrally located flanked by two windows) and is one bay in depth. On the eastern gable end, there is a window on each floor; whereas on the western, there are none, an arrangement that has not been explained. Along the entire facade was a shed porch. Like many large, late 19th century farm houses, the A-roof was crossed by a prominent gable pediment centrally located.

The skeleton of the house is balloon frame, is sheathed with milled weatherboards, and the framing members fastened by wire nails. The interior consists of two rooms downstairs and two upstairs, each warmed by a fireplace opening into it from the central chimney. The interior contains some rather fine woodwork; for example, the mantelpiece in the east room is of a neo-Georgian style probably milled near the turn of the 20th century. The large turned balustrade and newel post of the quarter turn stairway with winders in the west room is atypically elegant for a reported "tenant house." In fact, the costly woodwork indicates that this house was first built as a landowner's dwelling and later relegated to tenants.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	History
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1880-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Date of construction: The wire nails in the frame postdate this house to 1879. Local oral informants indicate that it is earlier than 1900, and occupied as far they remembered (c. 40 years) by black tenant families.

This house represents a commonplace transition in housing on farms. A large, well-built, fashionably appointed (for the era) house is constructed for the landowners. Over time, whether due to advancement or failure of their economic position, or due to changes in their tastes or housing needs, or to their demise by natural causes, the landowning family abandons their house and leaves it to a tenant family on the farm. Compared to the small roughly built log or frame houses in which most tenant families lived in the 19th century, this larger house marks a considerable improvement. But not having the money, nor sometimes the drive, the tenant family does not maintain the house, and it is abandoned once again. This time it might be used for storage until it becomes too dilapidated. Eventually, it collapses. This house is in that next-to-the-last stage.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

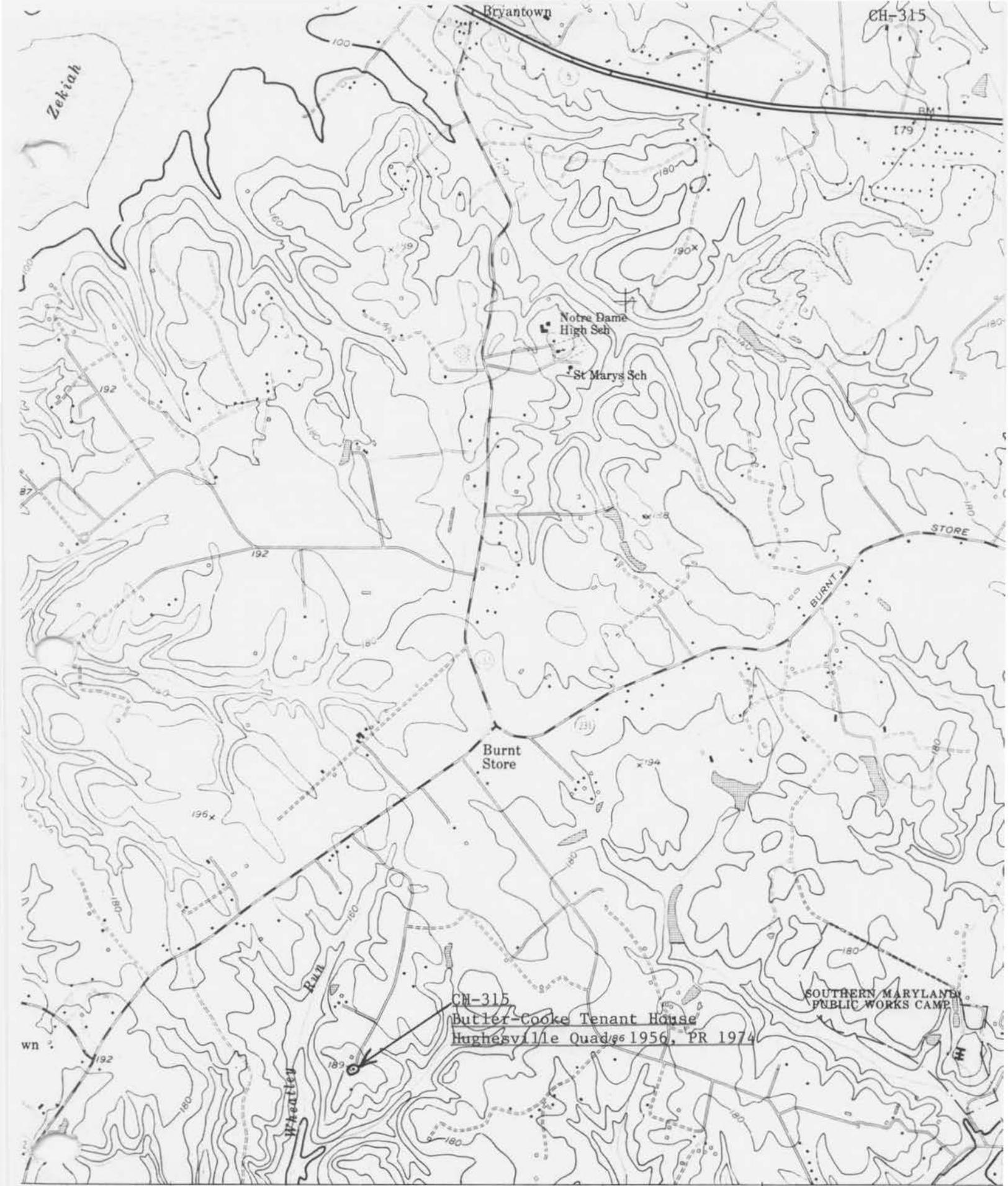
Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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



CH-315

Zekiah

Bryantown

Notre Dame High Sch

St Marys Sch

Burnt Store

CN-315  
 Butler-Cooke Tenant House  
 Hughesville Quads 1956, PR 1974

SOUTHERN MARYLAND  
 PUBLIC WORKS CAMP

OLIVERS SHOP 1.3 MI  
 6.7 MI TO MD 234

1840 000 FEET

339

50'

341

(CHARLOTTE I  
 5660 IV N

SCALE 1:24

Army Map Service  
 published by the Geological Survey  
 and USC&GS

Map in part compiled from aerial photographs





BUTLER - COOKE  
TENANT HOUSE

Hughesville, Md.

Cooke children (white)  
with friends

CH 315 2/77 GWM



BUTLER - COOKE  
TENANT HOUSE  
HUGHESVILLE, MD.  
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION  
CH 315 2/77 GWM



BUTLER - COOKE  
TENANT HOUSE

Hughesville, Md.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

CH 315 2/77 GWM