

MAGI # 0900555404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE (The Bryan Farm)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER East side of Maryland Route 227 (Marshall Hall Road)

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road  VICINITY OF Marshall Hall CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

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	<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"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Johnson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Locust Grove P. O. Box 142

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road VICINITY OF STATE, ZIP CODE Maryland 20616

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 156  
Folio #: 445

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



# DESCRIPTION

CN-55

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7: Description:

Locust Grove is situated at the north end of a private road approximately one and three-tenths miles in length that is entered from the east side of Maryland Route 227 (Marshall Hall Road), about one-half mile south of the terminus of Route 227 at Marshall Hall.

The two-story center section and a one story, formerly detached kitchen constitute the oldest parts of this rambling frame house, with various additions dating from the early and mid-nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century.

Three bays in width and retaining most of its exterior sheathing of beaded, random width clapboards, the two-story main block was initially of a side hall-single parlor floor plan with a brick, exterior chimney at the east end. A one story, shed-roofed porch extending the full width of the north, front elevation appears to be an original feature, as do the nine-over-nine pane sash windows of this same elevation. The entrance door and transom is framed by an entablature of simple classical styling that was probably added at a later date. Most of the original interior woodwork of the first floor hall and adjacent parlor is of a simple, basic design typical of rural farmhouses of this period, although the parlor mantle, later relocated to another room, is of somewhat more sophisticated early-Federal styling. The kitchen, located about twenty feet east of the main block and positioned at a right angle to it, may initially have been connected to the house by a hyphen or breezeway. While the north end chimney of the kitchen is contained within the building, the back wall of the chimney base, its stepped shoulders and narrow stack, is exposed and framed by the exterior siding, an unusual feature for this area. Charleston, built by Daniel Jenifer in about 1830, is the only other house in Charles County known to have a chimney end of similar design. The kitchen chimney houses a low, arched fireplace opening with a built-in oven above, the latter fitted with an iron door.

It is believed that the original house was enlarged in the early nineteenth century by a one story, shed-roofed addition with an exterior chimney at the east end that was built across the south side of the main block. This extension provided a second, rear parlor and additional hall area. A one story, one room wing, later raised to two stories, was added to the east chimney end of the main block at this same time. Containing a fireplace connected to the east chimney of the main block, and a narrow winding stair in the northeast corner, the east wing had a shed-roofed porch at the east end (later enclosed) connecting the house to the kitchen. A circa 1870 photograph of Locust Grove shows the house to have included at that time the two story main block and the one story east and south additions. Few alterations of the house occurred between circa 1870 and its purchase by the present owners in 1949 except the enlargement of the east wing by a shed-roofed addition on the north side, and

(The Bryan Farm)

#7: Description

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the installation of a bay window (since removed) on the south side of the south addition. Alterations and additions made subsequent to its acquisition by the present owners include the raising of the east wing to two storys and the renovation of the kitchen, the enclosing of the porch connecting the house to the kitchen, the addition of a two-part west wing basically similar in design to the renovated east wing, and construction of a detached, one story apartment off the west end that is positioned at a right angle to the house.

Located within 200 feet of a high bank and the shoreline of the Potomac River, Locust Grove has a superb view of George Washington's home, Mt. Vernon, on the opposite side of the river. About 250 feet east of the house is a small cemetery containing the graves of two members of the Webster family and Eleanor (Bryan) Cawood.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CH-55

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 checked="" 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#8: Statement of Significance:

Locust Grove began as a two-story, three-bay frame house with a semi-detached kitchen wing at the east end. Believed to have been built in about 1800, it was enlarged in the early nineteenth century by one story additions at the east end and across the south side of the main block. Subsequent additions include a mid-nineteenth century shed across the north side of the east wing, and a mid-twentieth century, two-part west wing. Early details include attractive Federal-style mantles, nine-over-nine pane window sash, and beaded, random width exterior siding. Both older parts of the house, as well as the south addition, retain their original exterior chimneys. Although most of the kitchen chimney is contained within the building, the rear wall of the chimney, including its stepped shoulders and narrow stack, is exposed and framed by the exterior siding. This same chimney contains a low, arched fireplace and a built-in oven.

The oldest parts of Locust Grove were probably built by Josias Marshall, who inherited the property, then 250 acres, from his father, Thomas Marshall, Jr., the latter a nephew of Thomas Hanson Marshall I of nearby Marshall Hall.<sup>1</sup> The 250 acres owned by Josias Marshall consisted of a 150 acre tract made up of parts of Carrick, The Pasture Enlarged and The Mistake. The original tracts were acquired by William Marshall II, grandfather of Thomas Marshall Jr. Although they were subdivided into smaller parcels, a major portion of the acreage passed from William Marshall II to his son, Thomas Hanson Marshall I and remained in the ownership of several generations of Thomas Hanson Marshalls as part of the vast Marshall Hall estate. The remaining 100 of Josias Marshall's 250 acres was part of a tract called Charley that was granted to Randolph Hanson (the name is sometimes given as Randle Hinsen) in 1663.<sup>2</sup> The 100 acres of Charley descended to Josias Marshall from his great-grandmother, a daughter of Randolph Hanson and the wife of William Marshall II.<sup>3</sup>

In 1820 William Washington Webster (died 1835 and buried at Locust Grove) purchased for \$4,800.00 the 250 acres of Josias Marshall's estate from Washington Francis Lancaster and his wife, Priscilla Maria Beale Lancaster, Marshall's daughter and heir.<sup>4</sup> The Websters, who enlarged the earlier Marshall house, lived on the property until 1849 when Mary Webster, widow of William Webster, sold the remaining 228 acres, by then referred to as Locust Grove, to Oliver Norris Bryan.<sup>5</sup>

A bachelor whose family had lived in the Marshall Hall area since the late-eighteenth century, Oliver N. Bryan lived at Locust Grove and devoted most of his adult life to farming, often employing new and often experimental agricultural techniques. His broad range of interests extended into other sciences as well. Many of his writings on the subjects of botany, ornithology, pisciculture and geology, as well as records of his archeological investigations of local Indian burial and village sites, are preserved in the collections of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Appointed by the Governor

of Maryland in the late 1880's as a delegate to a Farmer's Convention in St. Louis and once a greenback candidate for Congress from Maryland's Fifth District, Bryan is said to have been a man of "kindhearted Christian manner, although he, like others, had enemies made because of his fearlessness in expressing his convictions."<sup>6</sup>

Following Bryan's death in 1891, Locust Grove, also known as The Bryan Farm, passed in ownership to his nephew, George R. Bryan, son of Oliven N. Bryan's brother, Richard W. Bryan. In 1925 the property was surveyed and subdivided into four parts and distributed among the children of George R. Bryan.<sup>7</sup> In 1926 the property was sold by the Bryan heirs.<sup>8</sup> The present owners purchased the house and 86 acres in 1949.<sup>9</sup> Easements on the farm and surrounding lands are now held by the Department of the Interior as part of the Piscataway National Park that was established to preserve the view of the Maryland shoreline opposite the Potomac River from Mt. Vernon.

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Footnotes:

1. Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland. Liber IB#13, folio 394.
2. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Patents: Liber L#5, folio 434.
3. Ibid. Wills: Liber WK#3, folio 210. (See also Deed IB#13, folio 394)
4. Land Records, Charles County. Liber IB#13, folio 394.
5. Deeds: Liber WM#3, folio 320.
6. Charles County Public Library. Scrapbook of clippings from the Maryland Independent newspaper. 1887-1894. Obituary of Oliver Norris Bryan, July 17, 1891.
7. Land Records, Charles County. Liber WMA#45, folio 443.
8. Ibid.
9. Liber PCM#88, folio 491.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

July, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

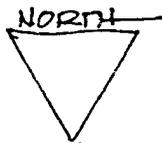
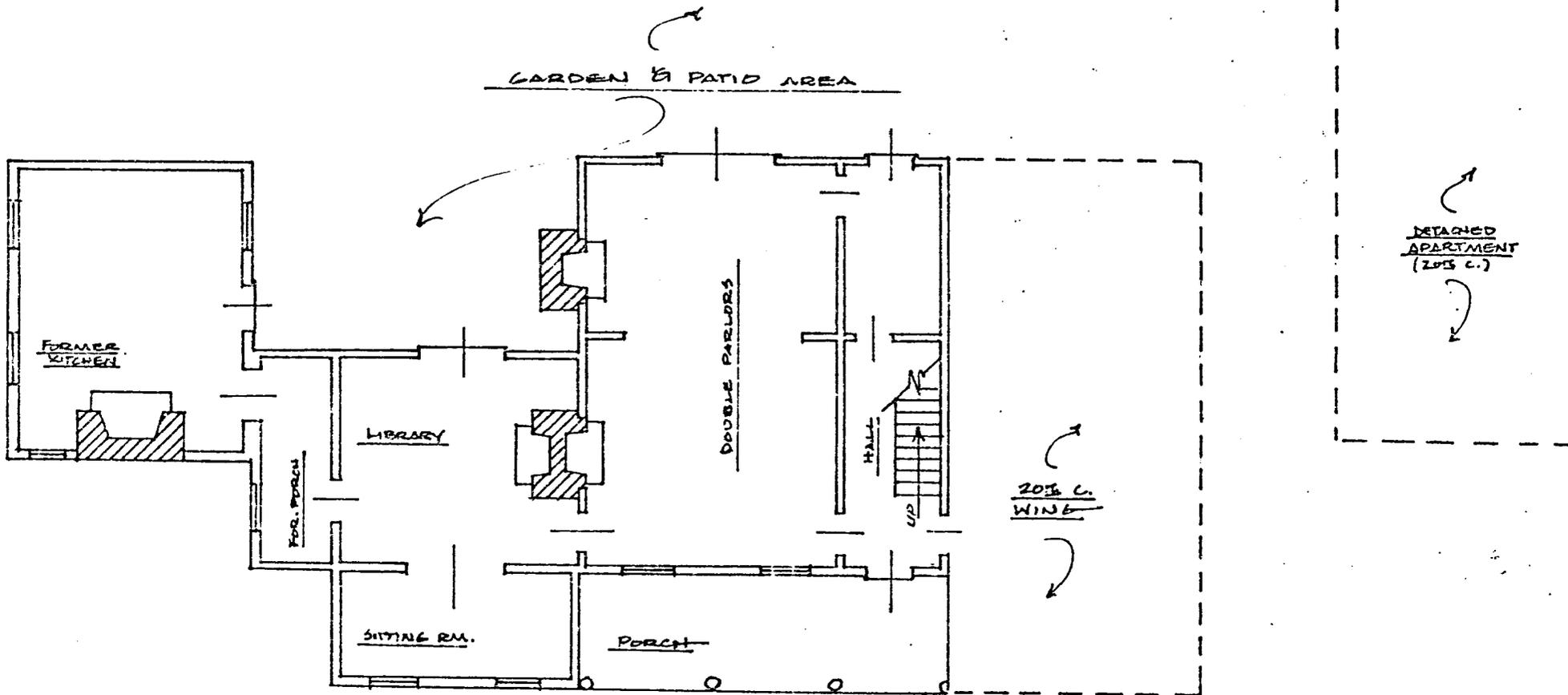
STATE

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



CHAS-55  
LOCUST GROVE (The Bryan Farm)  
 J. R. Rivoire, July, 1980  
 Approx. scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"