

|   |
|---|
| Property Address 8835 Mt. Air Road, Faulkner, Charles County                              |
| Owner Name/Address Paul and Melissa Facchina, 8835 Mt. Air Road, Faulkner, Charles County |
| Year Built 1801   |

**Description:**

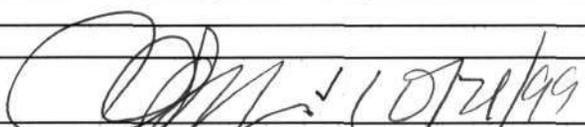
Mt. Air was previously surveyed by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1978 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the time of the previous survey, a 2-story, 5-bay wood frame, side-gable addition has been constructed to the south of the original house. In addition, a swimming pool and pool house has been constructed a short distance south of the house. There have been no other changes to the buildings mentioned in the previous survey form.

**National Register Evaluation:**

Mt. Air (NR-516) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December 1978.

**Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:**

The boundaries of Mount Air as recorded by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1978 consist of 178.22 hectares (440 acres), shown on Charles County Tax Map 64, Parcel 76 and Parcel 186. The boundaries encompass the land containing the historic house, buildings, and farmland, and part of the land historically associated with the property.

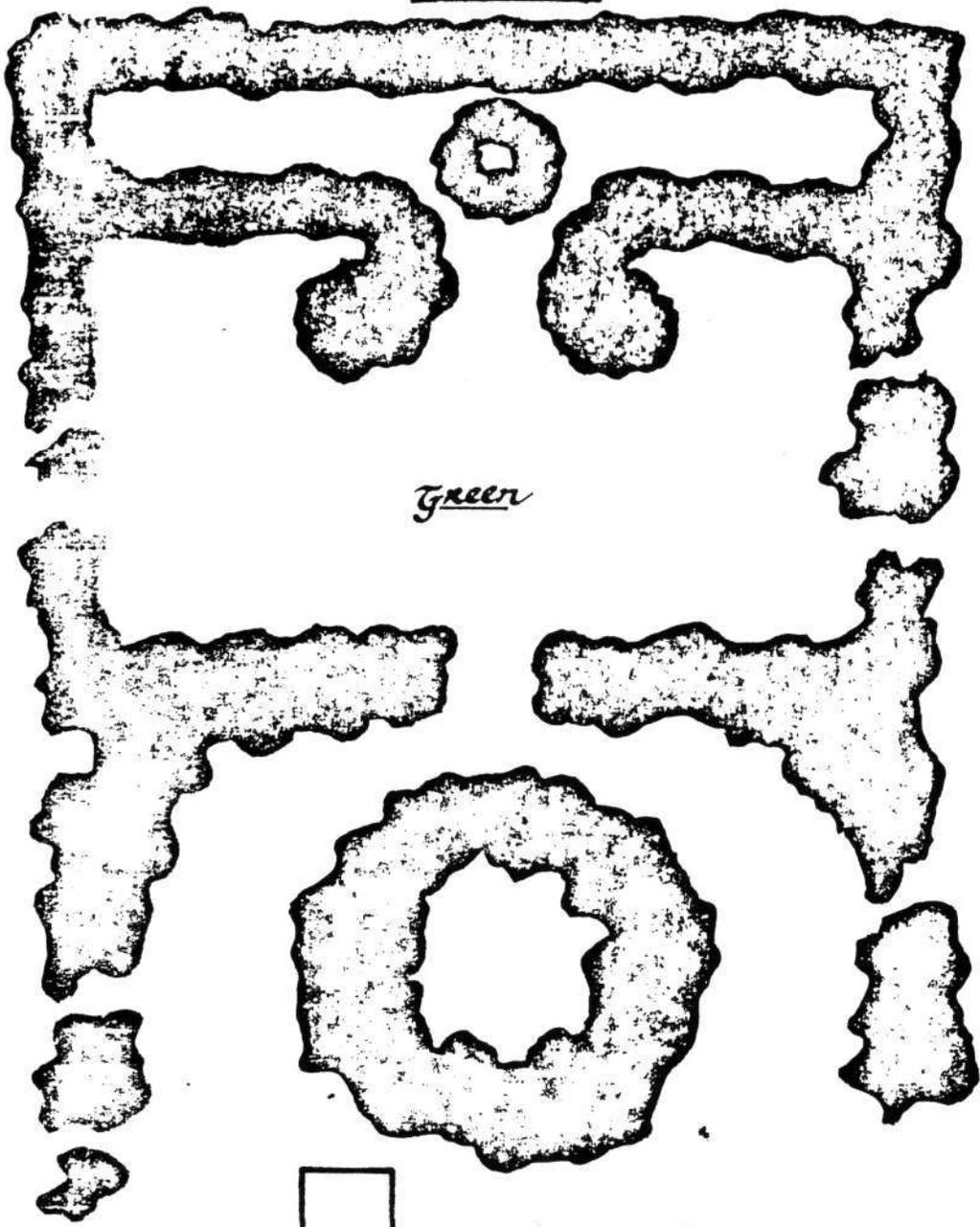
|   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>   |   |                               |
| Eligibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommended   | <input type="checkbox"/> not recommended  |                               |
| Criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | Considerations <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| Comments:   |   |                               |
| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>   |   |                               |
|    |   |                               |
| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services   | Date  | Reviewer, NR program          |
|   |   | Date                          |

Preparer:  
P.A.C. Spero & Company  
September 1996

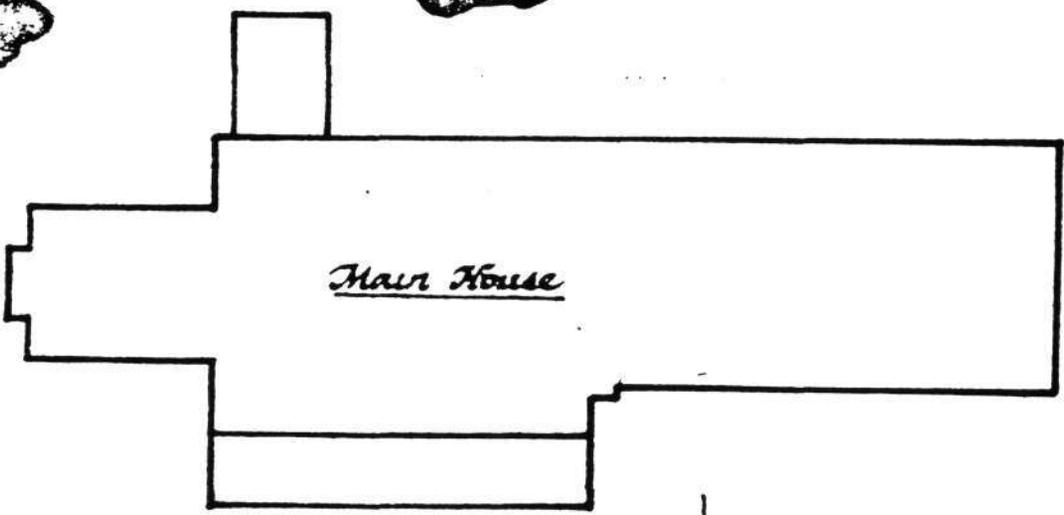
CH-65

ATTACHMENT # 3

Arbors



Green



Main House

↓  
River

PLOT PLAN OF THE BOXWOOD GARDEN AT: MT. AIR, FAULKNER, MD.

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

J.R. RIVERS, JAN. 1978

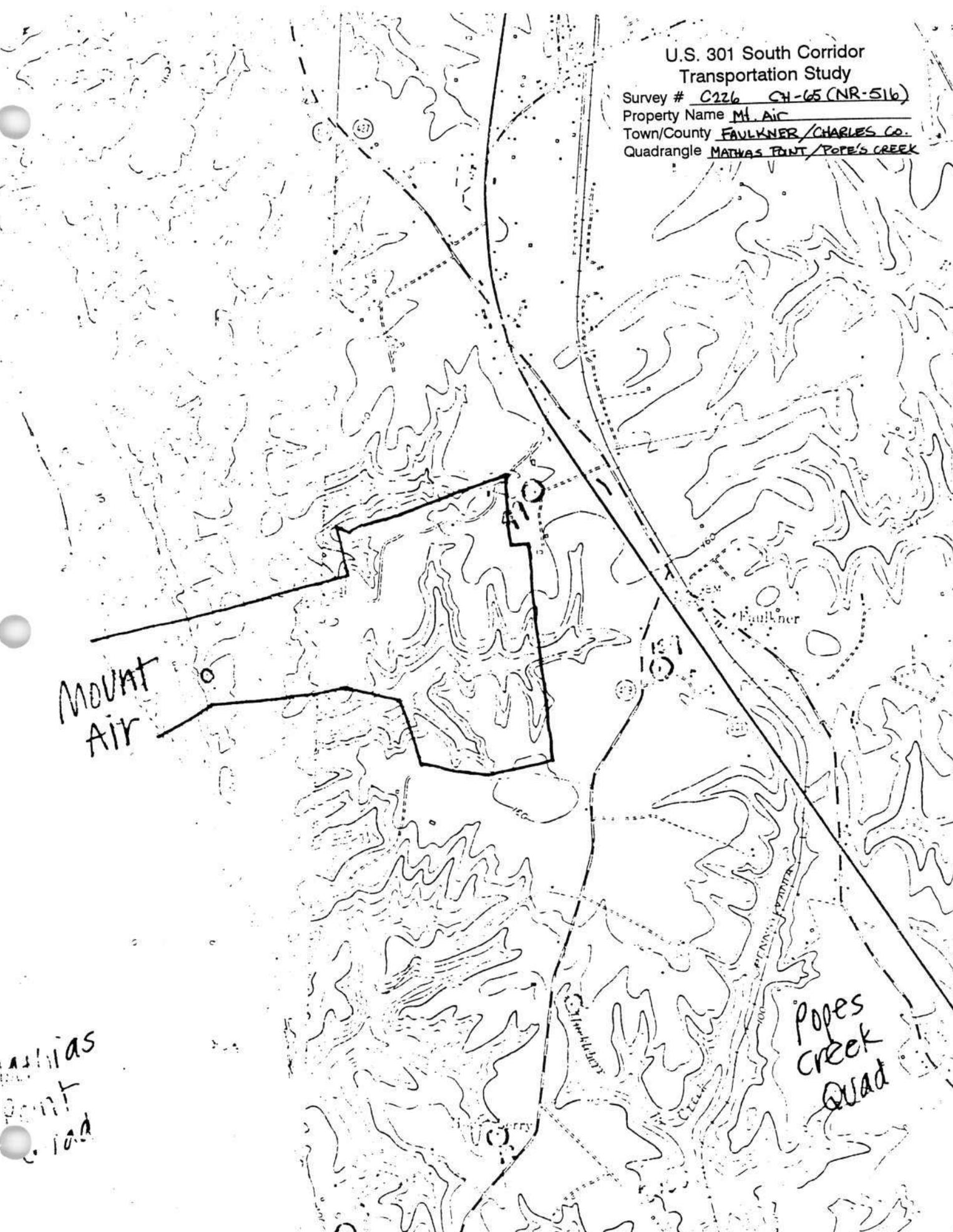
U.S. 301 South Corridor  
Transportation Study

Survey # C226 CH-65 (NR-516)  
Property Name Mt Air  
Town/County FAULKNER / CHARLES CO.  
Quadrangle MATHIAS POINT / POPE'S CREEK

MOUNT  
AIR

MATHIAS  
POINT  
QUAD

Popes  
Creek  
QUAD





- 1 CH-65
- 2 Mt. Air Charles County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay 9/96
- 4 P.A.L. Spero and Company, 40 West  
Chesapeake Ave., #412, Baltimore, MD,  
21204
- 5 8835 Mt. Air Road East elevation  
of house West view
- 6 1 of 4



1 CH-65.

2 Mt Air ~~view~~ Charles County, MD

3 Bryan McKay, 9/96.

4 P.A.L. Sporo and Company. 40 West  
Chesapeake Ave, #412 Baltimore MD  
21204. ~~1-3~~

5 8835 Mt Air Road West end North  
elevations of house Southeast view

6 2 of 4



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2. Mt. Air Charles County, MD

3. Bryan McKay 9/96

4. P.A.C. Spero + Co. 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, #42,  
Baltimore, MD 21204

S 8835 Mt Air Road West and  
South elevations of house Northeast  
view

6 3 of 4

CAUSINE MANOR

1649

KNOWN AS MOUNT AIR SINCE 1801  
A GRANT OF 1000 ACRES TO  
NICHOLAS CAUSINE, ESQUIRE  
WITH COURT, LEET AND COURT BARON.  
ERECTED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF DESCENDANTS OF LORDS OF THE MD. MANORS  
OCTOBER 1971

1. CH-65
2. Mt. Air Charles County
3. Bryan McKay 9/96
4. P.A.C. Spencer & Co., 410 W. Chesapeake Ave,  
#412 - 501 - 1115 - 1004
- 5 8835 Mt Air Road, ~~South~~  
marker, South View
- 6 4 of 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**
 HISTORIC Mount Air; Causine's Manor; Cockshut;  
 The Addition; Matthews' Purchase

AND/OR COMMON

MOUNT AIR (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**
 STREET & NUMBER Terminus of Mount Air Road, two miles west of U.S. Route 301,  
 six miles south of La Plata

CITY, TOWN

Faulkner

 VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. J. Edward Burroughs, Jr.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Mount Air, P. O. Box 24

CITY, TOWN

Faulkner

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

20632

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Charles Street

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 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

Mount Air is located at the south terminus of Mount Air Road, on the west side of U.S. Route 301, one mile northwest of Faulkner and six miles south of La Plata in Charles County, Maryland. Approached by a winding private drive one and one-half miles in length, Mount Air commands a superb view of the lower Potomac River. Situated high above the water on the crest of a ridge the house faces south, overlooking low lying fields and the confluence of the Potomac and Port Tobacco Creek. On the opposite side the house faces onto a formal boxwood garden, rolling meadows, fields and woodland.

The property history indicates that the main residence, with the exception of a more recent kitchen addition, was built in 1801, a construction date based on historical evidence and its overall design and interior detail. Traditionally, the house is said to have begun as a much smaller dwelling, possibly one of the two frame dwellings mentioned in a 1798 property assessment.\*

Mount Air is basically a regionally typical Federal-style house, but the central block is unique among numerous other examples in Southern Maryland in that it is actually three stories rather than two, having two framed stories over an exposed brick basement. Laid in common bond, the basement is thinly stuccoed and painted white, fully exposed on the south side and most of the ends, and nearly fully exposed on the north. The basement windows, rather than being full-size sash type which the height of the walls would allow, are small, rectangular openings with wood barred grills, positioned flush to the top of the walls and aligned with the openings above.

Above the basement the house is three bays wide. The front and rear double-leafed entrance doors with transoms occupy the first bays in from the west end. Overall, the central block is well-proportioned, the large windows (12-over-12 on the first floor, 8-over-12 on the second and 12-over-8 in the gables) in harmony with the wide expanses of wall area. The garden side entrance is fronted by what appears to be an early, if not original, one-story portico with deep stairs, balustrades, and a pedimented roof supported by four turned and tapered columns. On the south (river) side the house is fronted by a three-story galleried porch. Although of recent origin (it was added to the house by the present owner), it replaced a similar porch of two-story height.

Among the many interesting architectural features of the central block is a double chimney with pent at the east end, partially covered by the east wing. At the basement level the chimney has two separate bases. On the main floor they are joined above an arched doorway and on the second floor they are fully joined, having small closets in the space provided by the connecting wall. Above the tiled weatherings of the chimney and shed roof of the pent the chimney again separates into two free-standing stacks.

\* If an earlier building was incorporated into the existing structure there is little conclusive evidence remaining; however, certain features, such as irregular seams in the brickwork and a slight difference in the scoring of the masonry between the east wing (believed to be the original house) and the existing main block do suggest the possibility. Nevertheless, such scant evidence is insufficient and in order to solve the "mystery" of its conjectured evolution a great amount of the existing interior fabric would have to be removed, revealing the information necessary for an accurate analysis.

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Mount Air  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

Flanking the central block are two wings, both thought to be original to or possibly earlier than the main section. The two-bay west wing is two stories high, with one frame story over a one-story brick basement. At the exposed end stands a single exterior chimney. The east wing in its original form was a near duplicate of the west except with a higher pitched roof. Along its north wall it retains an early, shed-roofed porch. When the house was restored circa 1931-52 by Captain and Mrs. George Pegram, a one-story kitchen-service addition was made to the wing that partially extends into the porch. When this addition was made one of the turned Doric columns at the east end of the porch was removed and the remaining three repositioned. In later years, as other improvements were made, a small area at the west end of the porch was enclosed to provide a small half-bath off the north drawing room. The remaining porch area was remodeled into a small sun porch. Two of the original porch columns remains however. During the Pegram restoration the roofs of all parts of the building were repaired and resheathed, and all of the exterior siding was replaced with wide, beaded boards. The present owner installed the existing louvered shutters and made other minor improvements.

The handsome exterior of Mount Air is an appropriate introduction to its fairly sophisticated interior. The room configuration of the main first floor of the central block consists of a twelve-foot wide side hall to the west and two large drawing rooms to the east. A door in the west wall of the hall opens into the single room of the west wing, now the library. A door to the left of the fireplace in the south drawing room opens into the principal room of the west wing, now used as the dining room. A door to the right of the dining room fireplace opens into the later wing, housing a modern kitchen, combination service room and informal eating area, pantry and the cellar entrance. (See attached plan.)

The woodwork in the hall and double drawing rooms of the main block represents an interesting mixture of types. In the hall and south drawing room the woodwork, including molded baseboards, molded chairrails and crossetted three-piece window and door surrounds, are skillfully executed in yellow pine (the paint has been removed from most of the woodwork in these two rooms). Crowning the walls are plaster cornices. In the north drawing room the woodwork is of a much simpler profile, similar to that in the present library. There are no crossetts to enhance the window and door surrounds nor is there a ceiling cornice. The two-piece chairrail is also less refined in profile. It is said that before the Pegram restoration the interior of the north drawing room reflected a number of changes brought about by a nineteenth century owner, who had the room partitioned, intersecting a window, to enclose a corner stair that preceded the existing hall stair. The contrast in the woodwork between the drawing rooms and the absence of a ceiling cornice in the north room may be attributable to these nineteenth century alterations.

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Mount Air  
Charles County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The south drawing room is highlighted by an excellent mantel with stop fluted pilasters supporting a frieze of alternating flutes, carved ropes and beads. End blocks above the pilasters have carved sunbursts framed by carved beads and ropes. The bedmolding of the cornice shelf has pierced fretwork in alternating circles and diamonds below a reeded band. Also notable is a large, arched doorway between the drawing rooms that frames two triple folding doors below a traceried fanlight. This doorway is remarkably similar to that dividing the two drawing rooms of West Hatton, a circa 1790 brick house also in Charles County (CH-39). All of the first floor doors are of a six-panel design and equipped with wrought hinges and brass-rimmed box locks. Alterations to this level include the replacement of the two original south windows with a large triple window (the same windows and sash were reused in the new work and the third window is a reproduction of the originals) and the addition of a doorway to the left of the north drawing room mantel (reusing an old door removed from somewhere else in the house). The Pegrams installed the present hall stair, stylistically of the 1830-50 period; it replaced the earlier and much altered corner stair that was located in the north drawing room.

On the second floor of the main block are three bedrooms, two modern baths, a stair hall and a second stair leading to the attic. The attic contains two bedrooms and storage closets. Its rooms and the attic stairs were probably added by the Pegrams during the restoration of the house, but may have replaced an earlier arrangement. Each of the three bedrooms and the main hall of the second floor have molded baseboards, chairrails and crossetted window and door surrounds similar to the first floor woodwork. The northeast bedroom mantel, the more refined of the two on this level, has fluted pilasters and a fluted frieze.

Returning to the main first floor hall, a door in its west wall opens into the present library, the woodwork here consisting of two-piece window and door surrounds and two-piece chairrails. The ogee ceiling cornice in this room appears to be a later introduction, as do two arched cupboards with fluted pilasters and molded keystones that flank the west end mantel. The mantel, with its crossetted surround, plain wood frieze and molded cornice shelf, appears to be original.

The door opening into the dining room from the south drawing room is framed on the dining room side by the archway bridging the double chimney of the main block. Framing the arch is a molded surround with keystone. On the inside walls of the arch are small wine and storage cupboards with paneled doors hung on early hardware. On the opposite end of the room is a mantel similar to that in the library. To the left of the mantel is a cupboard with an arched, foliated door and shaped interior shelves. During the Pegram restoration the two south windows of the dining room were replaced with one triple window. As in the south drawing room the old woodwork and sash were reused, adding one set of reproduction sash.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 3

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

Except for a partition dividing the area below the main hall into two rooms, and the addition of the utility rooms below the old north porch of the east wing and the newer kitchen wing, the cellar rooms repeat the configuration of the rooms above. Two of the rooms, the one below the library (west wing) and the one below the south drawing room, have fireplaces. A third and larger fireplace, later reduced in size from its original dimensions but retaining an early crane for hanging cooking pots, is located beneath the present dining room. The two doors opening out from the original basement area are of twentieth century date, but have early hardware, including wrought-strap hinges and drop bars. Some of this hardware, particularly the decorated drop bars, while probably of the same vintage as the house, closely resembles Pennsylvania-German iron work and may have been introduced to the house during the restoration. Except for what was probably the winter kitchen beneath the present dining room there is little surviving evidence to indicate the original function of the different rooms. It is likely they served a combination of uses, including storage rooms and quarters for house servants.

The principal feature of the grounds immediately adjacent to the house is the formal boxwood garden. Made up largely of an English variety of this ornamental bush, it has been allowed to grow to impressive size; however, the original planting arrangement is still clearly evident. Oriented toward the two windows of the north drawing room (indicating that the boxwood was planted at the time the present house was built), the garden is arranged with a large circle in the foreground (south end) bordered by a line of boxwood on each side that turn toward each other north of the circle and return and run north to frame a rectangular grassy green. At the north end of the green is a second rectangle of boxwood, which has two centered ends that curve inward toward the green. In the center of the rectangle is a small circle of boxwood. Behind the last line of boxwood is a small frame arbor that provides a visual focal point from the house and marks the north end of the north-south axis of the garden.

It is interesting that the present height of the boxwood is about even with the top of the north foundation walls of the house. Being elevated as the house is enables a viewer in the north drawing room to look down and over the garden and easily discern its formal plan. It is as if the architect-builder of the house and garden planned the house to be elevated to achieve a proper view of the garden.

Mount Air, as for almost all of its recorded history, is a working farm. In addition to the main house, a garage and a garden house, it has a number of large tobacco barns and equipment sheds and related buildings, about half of these located proximate to the house and the others scattered about the rest of the farm. In addition to the farm-related buildings there are six tenant houses, four located near the entrance to the farm and the other two within view of the main house. One of the tenant houses, the last of the four as you enter the farm,

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

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

appears to be an early nineteenth century log structure and, if so, is probably the oldest of the remaining farm dependencies.

The driveway, paved and maintained as a county road for about one-half mile of its length, passes through rolling woodland for almost all of the remaining mile. Views of cultivated fields and farm buildings are glimpsed only at the beginning and the end of the driveway. The driveway and all of the buildings on the farm are maintained in excellent condition.

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                          | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <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 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 1801

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Luke Matthews

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Air, with its superb situation, early boxwood garden and unique form is one of Charles County's most important privately owned cultural assets. It has the only known boxwood garden in lower Southern Maryland of its dimensions and age to retain its original formal plan. Although there are many historic houses situated along the river and offering expansive water views, few can rival that of Mount Air. The architecture of the house is from all indications unique among its contemporaries in age and basic design: actually a three story structure, two stories over an elevated basement, it has an unusual, three-part plan that includes a Federal-style main block with flanking wings. These two features, plus the double chimney with two-story arch and third story connecting pent at one end of the central block, have no known regional counterparts. A fourth significant detail is the handsome interior woodwork, locally among the best of its type, and remarkably complete. The recorded history of Mount Air unites the house and property with Charles County's earliest history and most prominent families, thus contributing a fifth distinction.

The present 405 acres are composed of parts of several tracts of land known historically as Cockshutt, The Addition and Matthews' Purchase. The largest of these and the one with the earliest recorded history is Cockshutt, surveyed in 1649 for Mary and Jane Cockshutt and granted to them in right of their deceased father, John Cockshutt (d. 1642), a prosperous joiner who had immigrated to the colony with his family in 1641. The grant, encompassing 1,200 acres, was given the same name as a tract held by John Cockshutt in St. Mary's County on which the family apparently resided until the time of their mother's remarriage to Nicholas Causine circa 1644. The 1,200 acres, described as lying on the east side of the Potomac between Cedar Point and the head of Port Tobacco Creek, was contiguous to a 1,000-acre grant awarded that same year to Nicholas Causine and named Causine Manor. By 1653/4, the date of Causine's death, the family was residing on the Charles County property, although the location of their dwelling house remains unknown. Nicholas Causine's will was probated in 1656, naming as his heirs his step-daughters, Mary and Jane, and two sons, Ignatius and Nicholas. Jane Cockshutt, daughter of John, married Thomas Matthews, a prominent 17th century landowner active in the governmental affairs of the colony and prominently affiliated with the Jesuits. Thomas and Jane (Cockshutt) Matthews had a son, William, who before 1721 came into possession of a portion of Cockshutt.

William Matthews, son of Jane and Thomas, died in about 1724/5, leaving to his son, Luke, his dwelling plantation and other real estate. Luke, by his will probated in 1734, left Cockshutt to his son, Jesse Matthews, who in 1760 requested a resurvey of Cockshutt, excluding any part of the property bordering the Potomac and Port Tobacco Creek that might have washed away. The survey showed the property to include only 100 acres, a rather astounding reduction from the original grant but not too surprising considering that many early grants were made without a surveyor actually

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(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

visiting the site. Jesse, who had married into the wealthy and influential Pye family, died in 1775, leaving as his heirs his wife and an infant son, Luke Francis Matthews. By the terms of his father's will Luke Matthews was bequeathed Cockshutt and The Addition.

Luke Francis Matthews probably spent much of his boyhood at the home of his step-father, Joseph Simms. By the year 1800 he had married a distant cousin, Rose Causine, and acquired additional lands, including Matthews' Purchase in 1799. In 1801 he had the three contiguous properties, Cockshutt, The Addition and Matthews' Purchase, resurveyed into one tract and named it Mount Air.

It is likely that Luke Matthews built the existing house between 1794, the year of his twenty-first birthday, and 1801, a period of measurable financial prosperity. The house was not standing at the time an assessment was made of improvements on the property in 1798 as the only two dwellings listed included one plank house measuring 28 x 18 feet, with one chimney, a porch and 7 windows, and a smaller frame dwelling 16 feet square. It is the smaller of the two that tradition says is the oldest part of the present house, now the main part of the east wing. However, the assessments were fairly detailed in their descriptions of the improvements, new and old, and it is likely that they would have mentioned the brick chimney with its two fireplaces as well as the one-story brick basement since both features would have substantially increased the value of the building.

Luke Francis Matthews died in 1815. (His tombstone, discovered broken, with others, in the abandoned family cemetery, was repaired, and moved to a new location near the boxwood garden.) At his death Luke left one-third of his estate to his widow, but also directed that when his son, George Matthews, attained the age of 21 the estate was to be sold and the proceeds divided among his three children.

Accordingly, in 1822 Mount Air's 654 acres were sold to Judge Robert Digges. Digges held the property until 1857 when he sold it to his brother-in-law, James Neale, who with his sisters ran a girls' school here.

It was during Mr. and Mrs. George Stevenson's tenure of ownership (beginning 1917) that restoration of Mount Air was initiated. Subsequent owners, Captain and Mrs. George C. Pegram, continued the restoration and were largely responsible for turning the house into the showplace it is today. The present owners purchased the house in 1952.

The association of Mount Air with the earliest history of the county and several of its most prominent families is recorded in Martha Sprigg Poole's "Mount Air, The Story of an Early Maryland Estate."\* In discussing Cockshutt she says:

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

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16. No. 10-300a  
16. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

.....Cockshutt was associated with the Triumvirate who ran Charles County from its beginning until the eve of the Protestant Revolution. Henry Adams, Thomas Matthews and Ignatius Causine, staunch Catholics all, were continuously on the Bench, the Assembly, acting as coroners or sheriffs, trustees or in other positions of authority.

The Matthews family was equally prominent in Charles County's political and social development from the 17th century through the early 19th century. In the late 18th century three Matthews women, cousins of Luke Matthews who spent their early years on Matthews' Purchase, established Mount Carmel Monastery near Port Tobacco, the first Carmelite Monastery in America. The brother of two of them was the first native born American to be ordained to priesthood and became a president of Georgetown College.

In reviewing the history of the property it is clear that the remaining 405 acres, consisting of the essential parts of the three contiguous properties Luke Matthews resurveyed and named Mount Air, is an important aspect of Mount Air's significance. Almost all of the original cultivated acres continue to be farmed and the park-like woodland is being maintained.

A thirty-year easement has been given to the Maryland Environmental Trust on much of the undeveloped land surrounding Mount Air, consisting of about 1,500 acres and including the original Causine Manor grant, as insurance against development of an adverse nature for at least the next half-century. Hopefully, similar safeguards will be instituted to continue the preservation of Mount Air itself.

\* Martha Sprigg Poole. "Mt. Air, The Story of an Early Maryland Estate," The Record (The Historical Society of Charles County, Maryland), Winter Issue, 1971.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 405.40 acres

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

|   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Historian

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 132

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

1 km

DATE

December, 1977

TELEPHONE

(301) 645-6537

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CH-65

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |
|------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED         |
| DATE ENTERED     |

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Mount Air  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 7

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary Commission, 1956. p. 8, 19, 20, 32.
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- Wilson, Everett B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions and Other Early Houses. New York:  
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- Land and Probate Records of Charles County, Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.
- Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Charles County.

CH-65

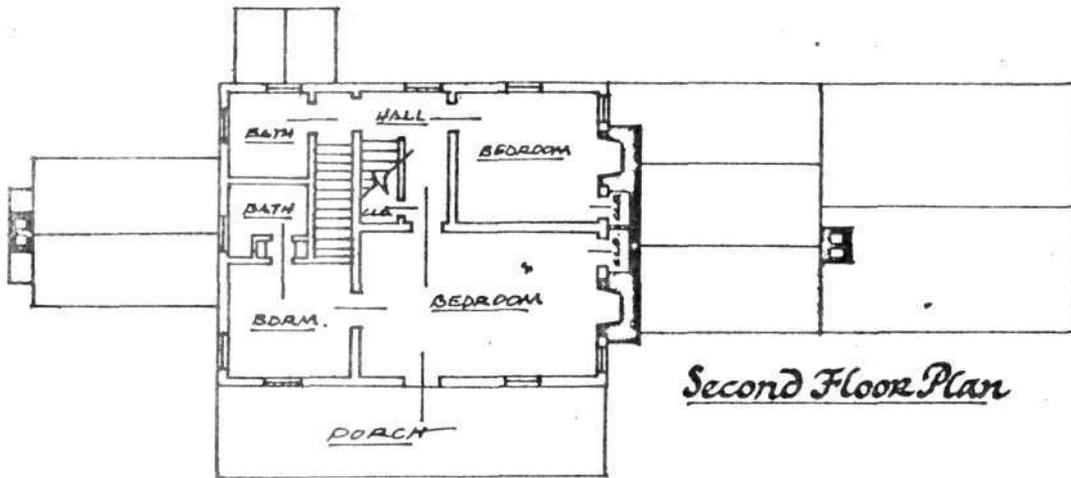
ATTACHMENT # 2

ROOM CONFIGURATIONS  
OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL  
FLOOR LEVELS OF \_\_\_\_\_

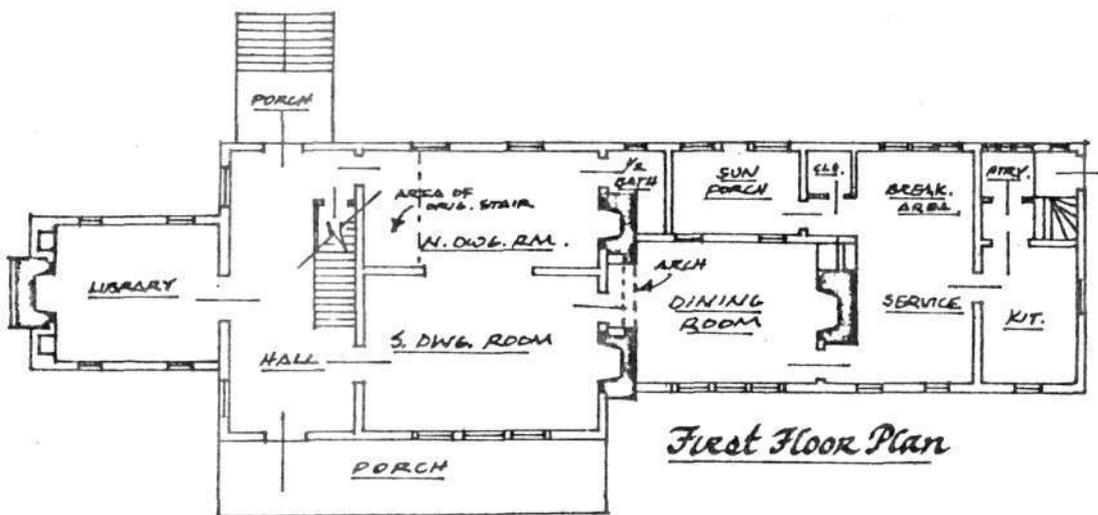
Mt. Air, FAULKNER, MD.

BRICK . . . . . [Symbol]  
FRAME . . . . . [Symbol]

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE; J.R. RIVOIRE  
JAN. 1978



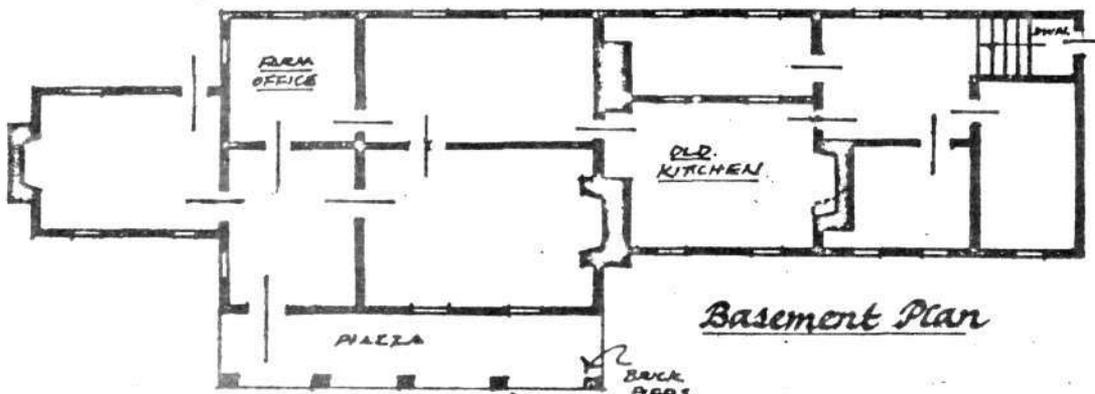
Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



BRICK SCREEN/PLM. SUPPORT



Basement Plan

BRICK PERS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH 65

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE:           |      |
| COUNTY:          |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

**1. NAME**

COMMON: MT. AIR

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: MT. AIR ROAD

CITY OR TOWN: FAULKNER

STATE: MD.      CODE:      COUNTY: CHAS.      CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(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: <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>               | Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>                    | Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>                                       |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/>  | Both <input type="checkbox"/>                | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>                                     |
|  | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> |  | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                   |
|  | In Process <input type="checkbox"/>          |  |   |
|  | Being Considered <input 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:

STREET AND NUMBER: MT. AIR

CITY OR TOWN: FAULKNER      STATE: MD.      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CHAS. CO. COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: LA PLATA      STATE: MD.      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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

This is a 3 part frame dwelling in a excellent state of preservation. The main block is at the center and is 3 bays in length at the 1st. + 2nd. level with the door at the W. end. This arrangement is also true at the rear with the exception that the 3 bays at the 2nd. level are all windows.

The roof plan is "A" frame with the ridge running E to W. At the E gable end are double chimneys with a two storey pent between.

The facade is at the S and has a magnificent view of the Potomac River and is protected by a massive 2 storey porch with a pedimented roof.

The house is flanked at each gable end by a 1 storey wing with a single chimney at their exposed gable ends. The E wing has been lengthened placing the original chimney  $\frac{2}{3}$  the distance down (E) of the roof ridge.

Sitting on high brick foundations (full cellar) with exterior entrance below the front porch directly beneath the front door. The clapboard is wide and beaded but appears recent.

Magnificent boxwood gardens highlight the already beautifully kept grounds.

The main front and rear doors are double with 5 lite overhead transomes. The W. gable chimney, <sup>cap</sup> of the W. wing has been heightened.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. 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) 1740

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal                              | Education <input type="checkbox"/>    | Political <input type="checkbox"/>      | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>  | Religion/Phi-                           | 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-                           | _____                                    |
| 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.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE   | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds  | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |        | 0 ' "  | 0 ' "                   |  |
| NE   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |        | 0 ' "  | 0 ' "                   |  |
| SE   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |        | 0 ' "  | 0 ' "                   |  |
| SW   | 0 ' "                   | 0 ' "                   |        | 0 ' "  | 0 ' "                   |  |

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *J. R. Rivoire*

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: *3/1970*

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

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ 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

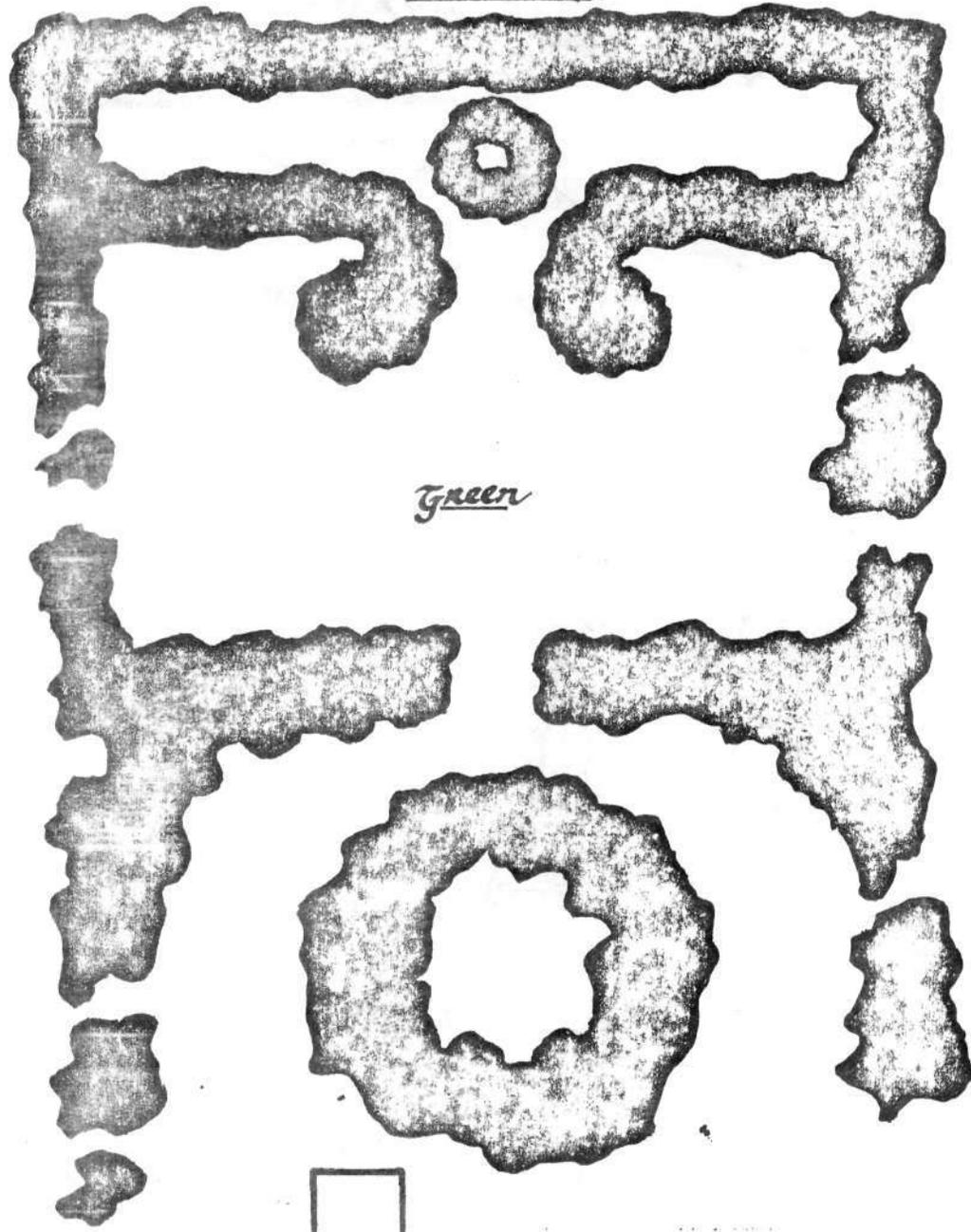
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

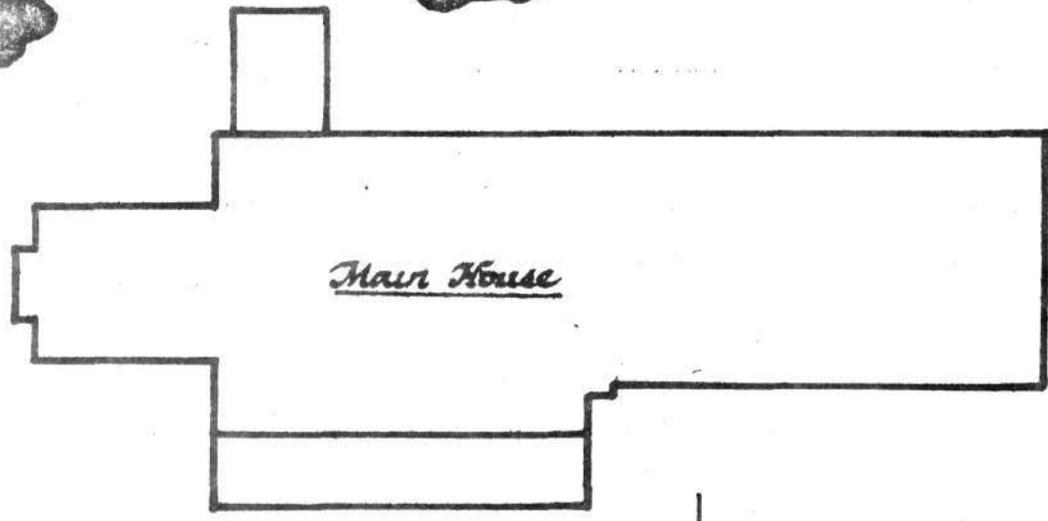
CH-65

ATTACHMENT # 3

Taboo



Green



Main House



River

PLOT PLAN OF THE BOXWOOD GARDEN AT: Mt. Airy, FADLYNER, MD.

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

J.R. RIVERS, JAN. 1978.

CH-65

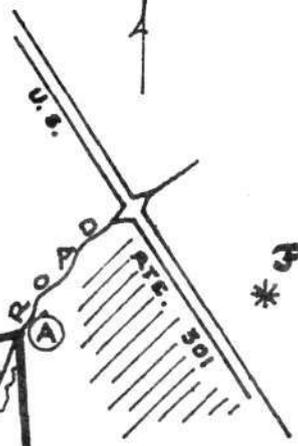
CCOR VOLNE NECK

PORT TOBACCO RIVER



Causine Manor

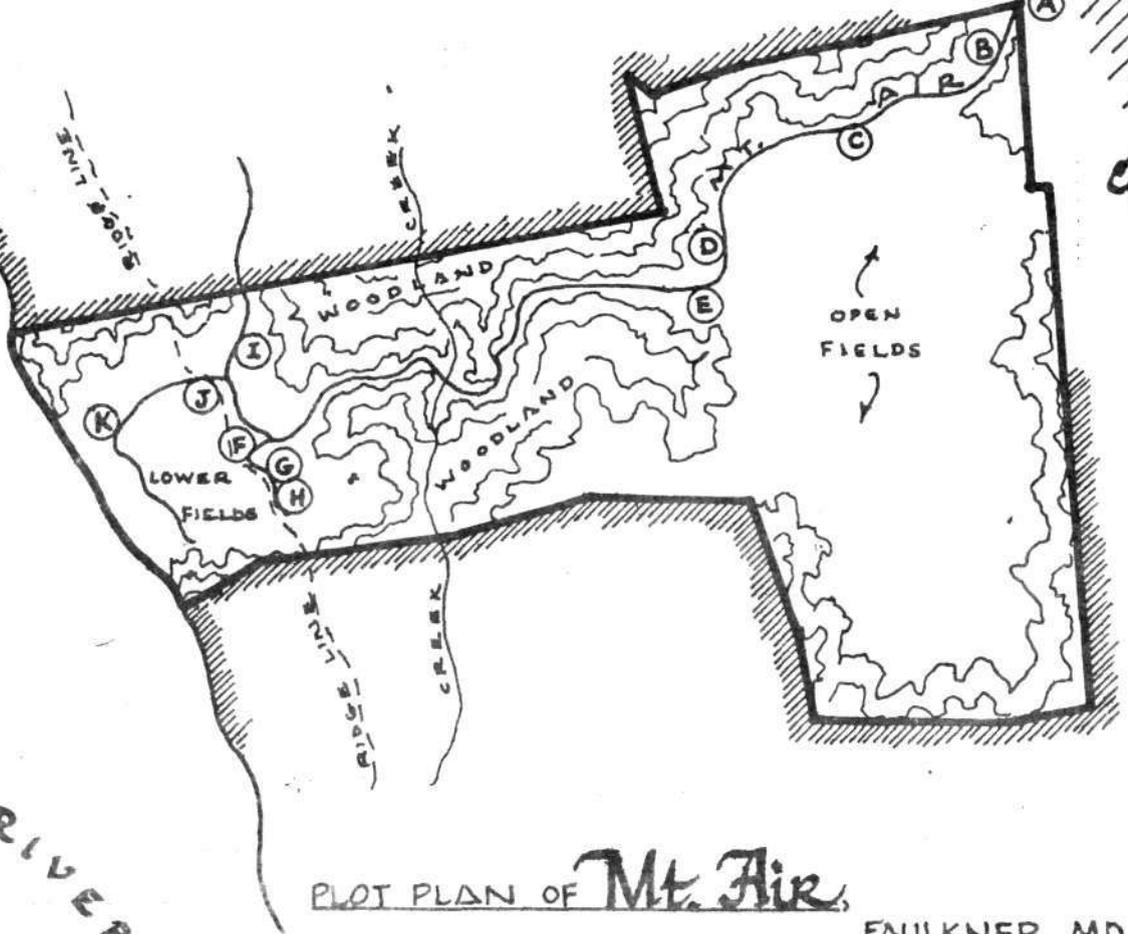
LaPlata



Faulkner \*

ENVIRONMENTAL

Equality



Legend:

- A. ENTRANCE GATES
- B. TENANT HSE. 2015 C.
- C. " " "
- D. " " "
- E. " " , 1915 C.
- F. TENANT HSE. & BARNS
- G. MAIN HSE. & GARDEN
- H. GARAGE & BARN
- I. LG. BARN
- J. TENANT HSE., 2015 C.
- K. BARNS

- WOODLAND
- ADJ. LANDS HELD IN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST.
- LAND ZONED COMMERCIAL

POCDMAC

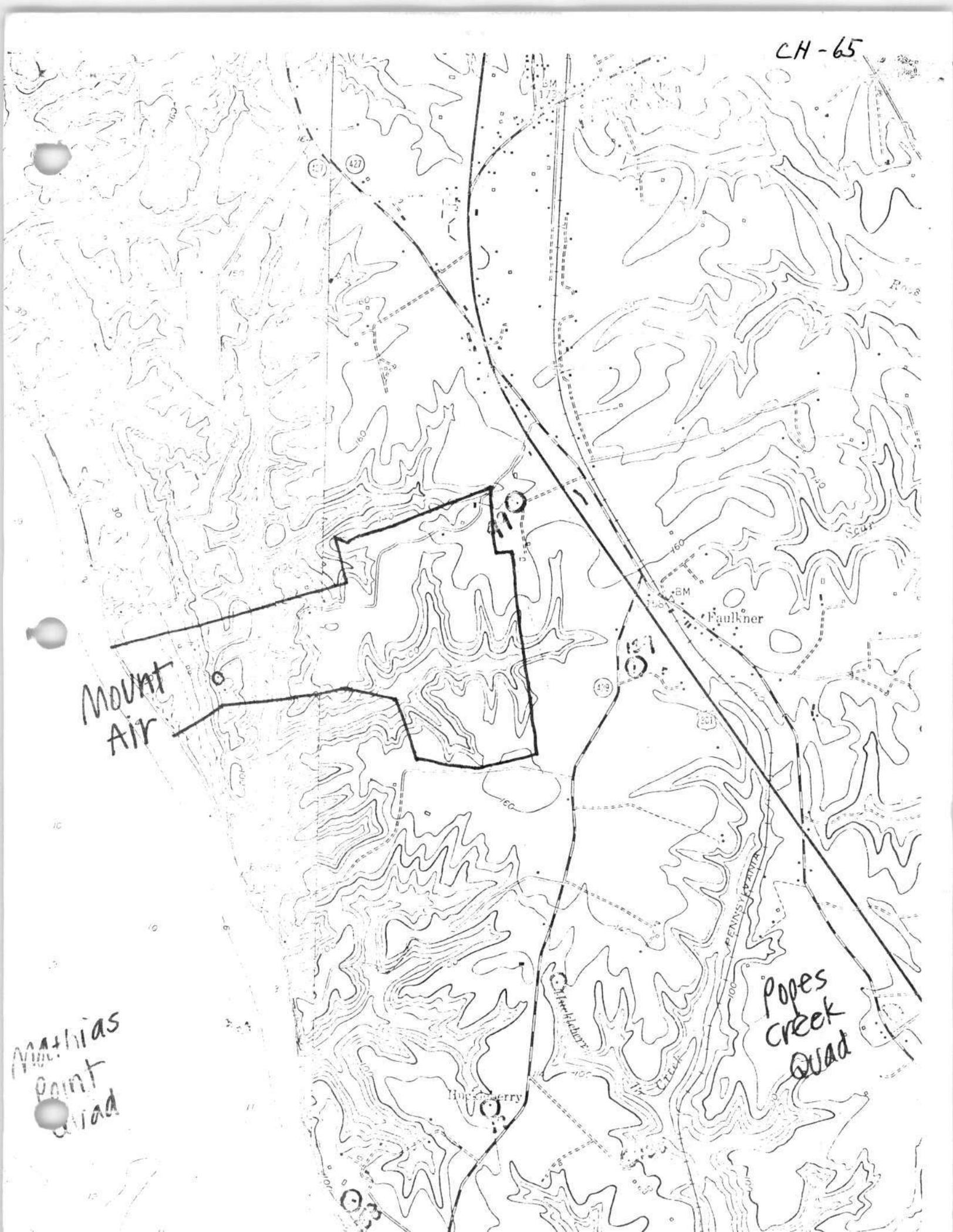
RIVER

PLOT PLAN OF Mt. Air

FAULKNER, MD.

SCALE: 1/2" = 600'

DR. RIVORE  
CON./1978



MOUNT  
AIR

Mathias  
Point  
Quad

Popes  
Creek  
Quad

Paulkner

Hessberry

PENNYSYLVANIA

Creek

BM 177

BM 150

419

410

427

413