

**Rock Hall**  
**CH-85**  
**Rock Point**  
**Private**

**Circa 1800-1825**

Rock Hall is a 2 ½ story, four bay Flemish bond brick dwelling that overlooks the Wicomico River near Rock Point. Constructed around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the dwelling is characterized by its side-gable orientation and is flanked by exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders and a corbelled cap. Dentil molding at the frieze adorns the boxed eave cornice. The dwelling is closely associated with Charleston (CH-64), the nearby home of St. Thomas Jenifer which was demolished in the last decade. Therefore, Rock Hall now represents the only known example of its kind to survive in Charles County. Although its history is not completely understood, the site is historically associated with the Lancaster family who, since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, have had extensive land holdings in the Rock Point vicinity.



---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-85

---

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

---

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Rock Hall is a 2 1/2 story Flemish bond brick dwelling that overlooks the Wicomico River near Rock Point. Constructed in the late 18th century and currently in the process of being restored, the dwelling is characterized by its side-gable orientation flanked by exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders and a corbelled cap. The roof is currently covered in imitation slate shingles and finished with metal ornamental "snowbirds". The eave cornice is boxed and adorned with dentil molding at the frieze. Most of the windows and doors are wood replacements. The exterior also features a simple stepped watertable. The house now stands on 5 1/2 acres of flat open meadow bordered by a shallow bank that extends to the Wicomico River.

The principal elevation faces the riverside to the east and includes four symmetrical bays. A replacement wood doorway with 8-light transom occupies the second bay of the first floor. First floor windows are 9/6 while second story are 6/6. The north gable elevation includes one attic story 4/4 window, two 2nd story 6/6 windows and a first floor without fenestration. The west or landside elevation has three bays, rather than four found on the principal elevation. The first floor is asymmetrical including 9/6 windows, while the above story is a symmetrical with 6/6 windows. The door is a modern wood replacement. The south gable elevation includes two doorways and a window asymmetrically found on the first floor and a window and doorway, previously accessing an addition, on the second floor. An attic window, neat the exterior chimney finishes the fenestration.

Standing just off the southwest corner of the dwelling is a 1 1/2 story reconstructed Flemish bond brick kitchen. This structure, presumably modeled on the original kitchen includes a massive exterior chimney with stepped shoulders and corbelled cap. The mortar throughout the structure has been raked. The riverside elevation includes three bays with a replacement plank doorway and two 4/4 windows. The north elevation has a 4/4 window on the first floor gable end below an attic story 2-light window. The landside has two 4/4 windows on the far end. Finally, the south elevation includes a single attic story 2-light window and a replacement doorway.

The interior floor plan of the main block consists of a large parlor on the north end of the dwelling opposite a dining room and stair passage on the south end. Although the dwelling has been gutted and is in the process of restoration, notable interior features include built in cabinets in the dining room, carved panel doors and staircase, and Victorian beadboard in the dining room ceiling. Construction features now evident include the presence of hewn and pit sawn timbers, as well as rose-head and hand-hammered forged nails. An unusual construction technique includes the first floor parlor ceiling joists running adjacent to the gable ends, extend beyond the partition wall by approximately two feet. These joists are secured to principal cross beams by pegged mortise and tenon joints. The second story plan includes a center hall dividing the north and south ends as well as a rear stair passage in the south east corner. The hall includes original floors while the rooms include a combination of 4" boards and 2 1/4 Victorian tongue and groove floor planks. The attic story reveals original random width plank floors. The pit sawn and hewn rafters are secured at the apex using bridle joints secured with pegs, collar ties are secured using half-lap joints reveal the roman numerals used by original craftsmen to organize the construction. Original doors for the house have been salvaged and are store in the attic.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-85

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** 1800-1825

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1800-1825

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Rock Hall is an important example of domestic architecture in Charles County dating from the first quarter of the 19th century. Associated with the Lancaster family, Rock Hall shows many similarities with the now demolished Charleston (CH-64), the home of St. Thomas Jenifer which stood just to the north. Rock Hall, however, is of masonry construction while Charleston had a wood frame.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. CH-85

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property 5.53

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Charleston is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 89, Grid 9, Parcel 155. Lot 2A.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 6/15/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

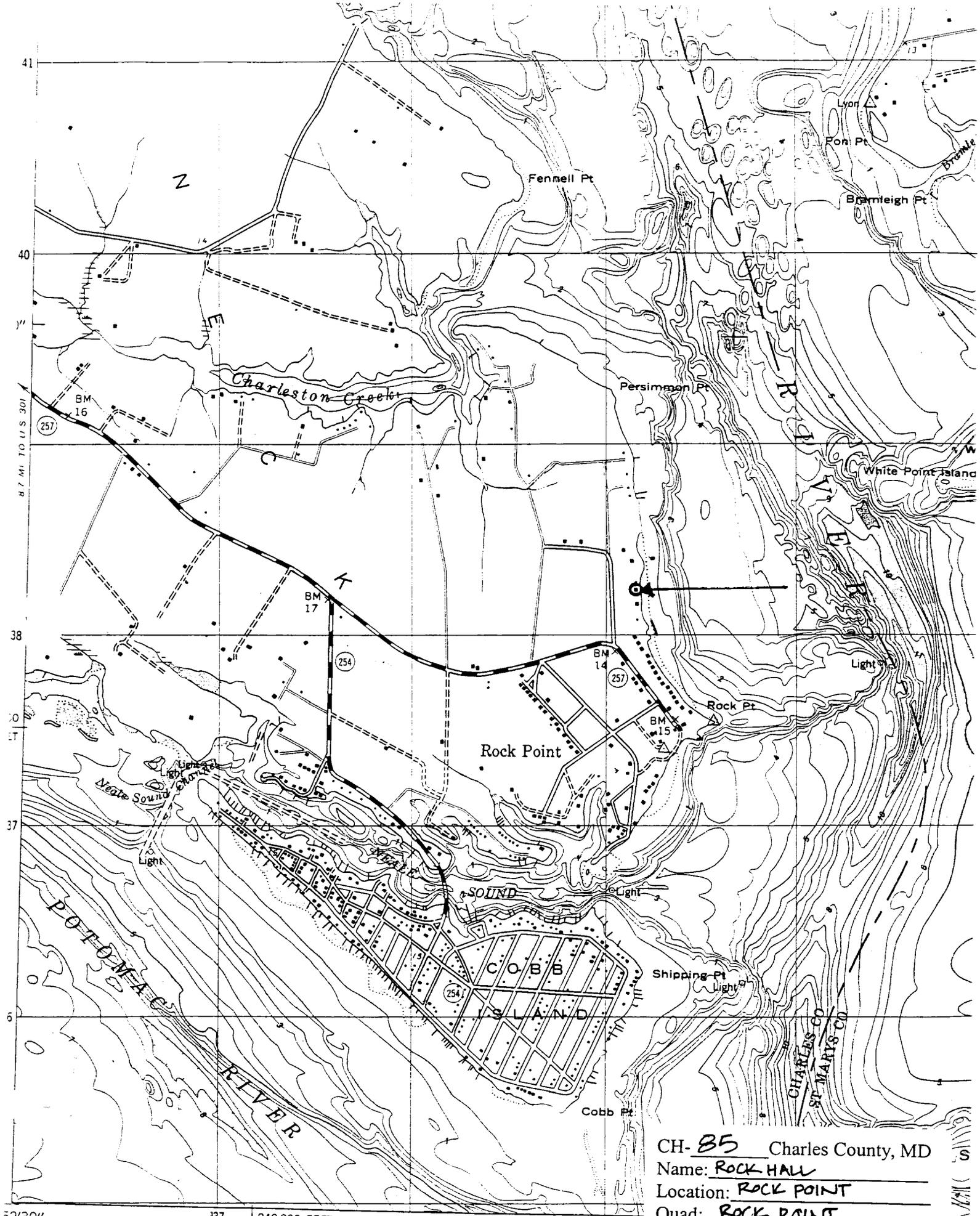
city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600



CH- B5 Charles County, MD  
 Name: ROCK HALL  
 Location: ROCK POINT  
 Quad: ROCK POINT



CH-85

ROCK HALL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LANDSIDE ELEVATION

30F8



CH-85  
ROCK HALL  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HARDY

6/2002  
MD SHPO

BUILT-IN CABINET, LOOKING W

4 of 8



CH-85  
ROCK HALL  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY  
6/2002  
MD SHPO

RIVER ELEVATION, LOOKING W

1 of 8



CH-85  
ROCK HALL  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HARDY  
6/2002  
MD SHPO  
NORTH ELEVATION  
2078



CH-85  
ROCK HALL  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY  
6/2002  
MD SHPO

2ND FLOOR HALL FRAMING FROM 1st floor

5 of 8



CH-85

ROCK HALL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

STAIR, LOOKING E

60F8



CH-85

ROCK HALL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

2ND FLOOR, LOOKING N

BoF8



CH-85

ROCK HALL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

~~2nd~~ <sup>2nd</sup> floor, looking South

TOP 8

N. R. FIELD SHEET

CH 85

0900855504

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: Spearman Lancaster House  
AND/OR HISTORIC: (ROCK HALL)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Rock Point  
CITY OR TOWN: Issue  
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"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>storage</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Spearman Lancaster  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: Rock Point STATE: Maryland CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Courthouse  
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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" 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

The front, which faces E and the Wicomico River, is protected by a one storey porch of definite Victorian design and is broken by 3 windows and 1 door with 4 windows on the second floor. The rear wall is the same and the only opening in either gable is by a door in the south gable leading to the kitchen, and two small attic windows ea. end.

The main block is of brick with the roof design "A" <sup>beam</sup> ~~pane~~ with the ridge running N to S. At each end there is a double flue chimney with free standing stack and stepped hips. The front entryway or hall runs 1/2 the length of the house towards the S ~~end~~. Doors from the hall give access to the Great Room and dining room. The stairs rise along the front wall to the second floor, ~~the~~ a few short steps to an off center landing then to the third floor. The second floor has a center hall with two rooms to the north and one to the south - the same is true for the third. On the first floor the ~~Main~~ <sup>main</sup> "parlor" is 1/2 the length of the house and the full depth. The dining area is 1/2 the length and 1/2 the depth from the rear or W wall.

Though the house has deteriorated somewhat due to its present use much of the hardware and mouldings seem intact. All the doors are Cross and Bible design and the mantles are made up of various reeded and fluted squares and pillars.

The kitchen is off the dining area from the SW corner of the house. On the interior is a large fireplace flanked by a door - the attic is reached by a ladder and has a fireplace flanked by small windows.

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                              | 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                             | 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.)

[Empty area for Statement of Significance]

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:  
J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



CH 85 ~~A. 19~~ 70' 10" P. 73

CH-85

ROCK HALL

155



SPEARMAN LANCASTER HOUSE, CHARLES

EDMUND. CT 185

gpk  
12-69