

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rich Hill, The Griffith House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Adventure

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Maryland Route 299

CITY OR TOWN:
Sassafras

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| STATE Maryland | CODE 24 | COUNTY: Kent | CODE 029 |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious | Rectory for Episcopal Church | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
~~Multiple ownership~~ 1981 New Owners Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lewis

STREET AND NUMBER:
Contact: ~~The Reverend James O. Reynolds, "Rich Hill"~~

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Warrick Post Office, Kent County | STATE: Maryland | CODE 24 |
|---|--------------------|------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cross Street

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown | STATE: Maryland | CODE 24 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE: Maryland | CODE 24 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| |
|--------------------|
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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rich Hill, on the north side of Maryland Route 299, 0.2 miles northeast of the intersection of Maryland Route 299 and Maryland Route 290 at Sassafras, is in a location where this mid-eighteenth-century Georgian-style elaborate dwelling is an enigma. Built as a status symbol by Alexander Baird, a "tobacco planter turned builder," who in his day was a prominent member of the community, the house during the twentieth century has been converted into the Episcopal Rectory for nearby St. Augustine Parish, Cecil County, Maryland.

The dwelling, Rich Hill, is owned (1971) by the Vestry of St. Augustine Parish, St. Augustine Church, Chesapeake City, Cecil County, Maryland, and is occupied by the Rector of St. Augustine Church, The Reverend James O. Reynolds.

Rich Hill, "The Adventure," was built by Alexander Baird soon after the land was patented to him in 1753. The five-bay, two-and-a-half story, brick building has a two-story, brick kitchen wing on the northeast gable end. The southeast facade overlooks a lawn as well as a driveway and cultivated field crops on both sides of the main road to Sassafras.

The original, eight-paneled entrance door is surmounted by a five-light transom. The door frame, similar to all the frames and sashes throughout the house, is not original, dating after the mid-nineteenth century. The central door in the northwest facade has been lowered and does not have a transom due to the interior stair arrangement. Each doorway originally had flanking seats, each partly set into the brick exterior of the building. The northwest facade, having been restored to its original appearance, has irregular fenestration above the basement: three windows on the first story, two windows on the second story and a smaller opening at the level of the staircase landing.

Above the stone foundation, with galleting below the basement windows, is English bond brickwork between the sills and the molded water table. The remainder of the brickwork is Flemish bond, interspersed on the northwest and southwest sides by glazed headers at random.

All the openings support segmental brick arches with the exception of the flat-arch on the attic windows. The lintels on the northwest facade of the main block and the southeast facade of the kitchen wing have alternate glazed headers in a vertical pattern in the brick lintels.

The kitchen wing is laid in Flemish bond with the glazed headers on the southeast facade in reverse to the main block. The thin coat of (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) patented 1753, built soon afterwards

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Alexander Baird, for whom "The Adventure" was patented in 1753, was of local importance as a successful tobacco planter and an active member of the vestry of Shrewsbury Parish (1755-1792) in Kent County. During his lifetime he acquired approximately 2500 acres of land near Head of Sassafras, now the Sassafras River, where he lived, owned a grist mill and a saw mill as well as the wharf, later called "the public landing," from which the crops were shipped to market. In 1782 we find his name among the subscribers to Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland.

In October of 1746 he married Elizabeth Ellis. Of their eleven children six daughters lived to maturity and married members of the Keene, Hanson, Johns and Stoops families. At the time of Alexander Baird's death, "The Adventure" passed to his daughter, Ann Baird Stoops. Elizabeth Stoops, daughter of Ann Baird and Jonas Stoops, later married Charles Thomas of New Castle, Delaware, who became the Governor of Delaware in 1830.

The farm was sold in 1839 to Joseph Griffith, who changed the name to "Rich Hill." The Griffith family owned surrounding farms which had previously been owned by Alexander Baird. Their farming endeavors prospered and the sons built homes on the adjoining early tract, "Morton," the latter patented in 1670.

Since the late nineteenth century it has been used as a house for tenant farmers until it was acquired for the Vestry of St. Augustine Parish, Cecil County, as the rectory. Since its acquisition in 1968, the house has been preserved and restored. It is occupied in 1971 by the Reverend James O. Reynolds, Rector of St. Augustine Parish, Chesapeake City, Cecil County, Maryland.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust,
 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland

Hanson, George A., Old Kent. Regional Publishing Company,
 Baltimore, 1967 (orig. 1876).

Kent County Wills & Land Records, Kent County Courthouse,
 Chestertown, Maryland.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | 39 ° 22 ' 10 " | 75 ° 48 ' 38 " | | | | | | |
| NE | 39 ° 22 ' 18 " | 75 ° 48 ' 24 " | | | | | | |
| SE | 39 ° 22 ' 08 " | 75 ° 48 ' 15 " | | | | | | |
| SW | 39 ° 22 ' 01 " | 75 ° 48 ' 27 " | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **64 acres**

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Jan. 18, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

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 Orlando Ridout IV
 Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland
 Date January 19, 1972

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

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
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| STATE | |
| Maryland | |
| COUNTY | |
| Kent | |
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(Number all entries)

Rich Hill, The Griffith House

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

stucco covering the northeast gable hides the brickwork. On the northwest facade is a modern screened porch.

The interior cornices, chair rails and baseboards are intact as well as a paneled chimney breast over each fireplace opening. The turned balusters on the closed-string stair conforms with the early character of the woodwork.

The front entrance of Rich Hill faces the public road, Maryland Route 299, and looks across the road to open fields. The sixty-four acres designated will protect the immediate area surrounding the house and the vista to and across the public road.

#9. REFERENCES continued

Kent County Wills & Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Kent County Chancery Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
scale: 1:24,000
1953 UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

K-127

(CECILTON)

MIDDLETOWN, DEL. 7.4 MI.
WARWICK 3.5 MI.

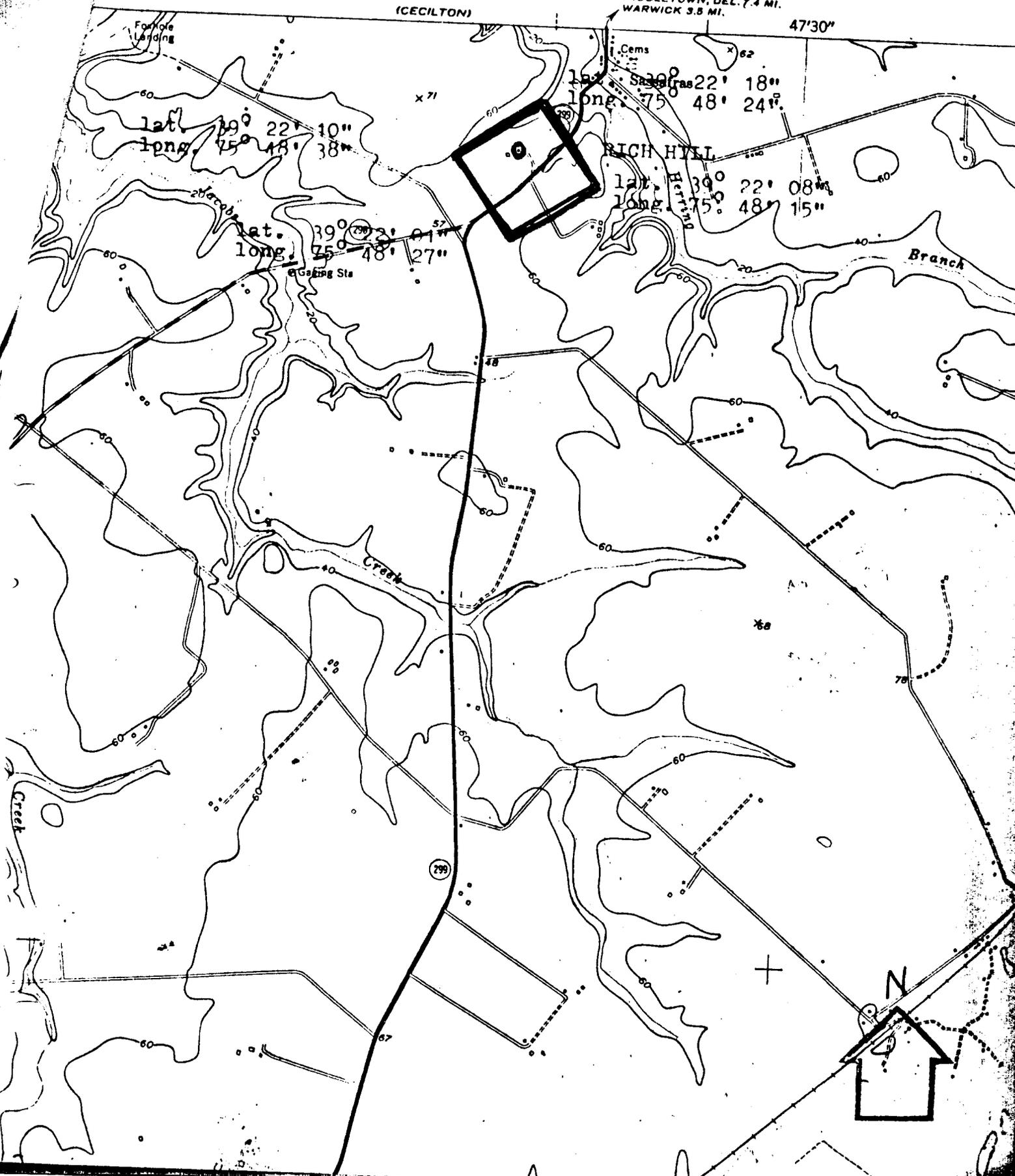
47°30"

lat. 39° 22' 10"
long. 75° 48' 38"

lat. 39° 22' 18"
long. 75° 48' 24"

lat. 39° 22' 01"
long. 75° 48' 27"

RICH HILL
lat. 39° 22' 08"
long. 75° 48' 15"





78

K-127 RICH HILL
KENT COUNTY