NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AA-224

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Parkhurst**

other name/site number **N/A**

2. Location

street & number **1059 Cumberstone Road** not for publication n/a

city or town **Harwood** vicinity n/a

state **Maryland** code **MD** county **Anne Arundel** code 003 zip code **20776**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 3-1-01

Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet. _____
determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet _____
determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
removed from the National Register _____
other, (explain:) _____

Parkhurst	AA-224	Anne A del, MD
Name of Property	Site/inventory number	County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

X	private
	public-local
	public-State
	public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Metal: Tin

other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Parkhurst	AA 0224	Anne Arundel, MD
Name of Property	Site/inventory number	County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1848

Significant Dates

1848

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other: :
Name of repository:
Anne Arundel County

Parkhurst — Name of Property
AA 0224 — Site/inventory nimber
County and State

10. Geographical Data

reage of Property **6.27** acres

UTM References Deale, MD quad
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18-366260-4301750
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Byron A. Lee**
organization **Property Owner** date **March 2000**
street & number **1059 Cumberstone Rd.** telephone **410-867-0571**
city or town **Harwood** state **MD** zip code **20776**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

ɔntinuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title **Byron A. Lee**
street & number **1059 Cumberstone Rd.** telephone **410-867-0571**
city or town **Harwood** state **MD.** zip code **20776**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, ·hering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, ·ministrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description

Parkhurst was built in the plantation era in the years between 1848 and 1850. It is located on a knoll overlooking farm fields and woods leading to the West River and Cheapeake Bay. The original Gothic Revival style portion of the heavy timber frame dwelling retains its integrity. Additions made in the early 20th century give the front of the house a Neoclassical appearance and size that dominates the agricultural area in which it is located. A smoke house, built at the same time as the house, using similar construction methods; and a tobacco barn, built in the early 20th century, accompany the house.

Parkhurst is a private home located on the Cumberstone peninsula between the Rhode and West Rivers on the western shore of the Cheapeake Bay. It is located on a knoll overlooking the West River. The property on which it is built was originally patented in 1656 by Richard Ewen as Ewen-upon-Ewenton, later called West River Farm, then Cedar Park. The Cumberstone area contained four old estates; Cedar Park (ca. 1702) [illegible] the National Register, Tulip Hill (1756), a National Landmark, Ivy Neck (1787), burned in 1944; and Parkhurst (ca. 1850). Parkhurst is on its original site. The surrounding area is agricultural; served by a single, narrow, winding road to the end of the peninsula. The road runs on the same route as it did in the eighteenth century and the surrounding area has changed very little since Parkhurst was built. There are a few additional, widely scattered houses and even the field boundaries appear to be the same as they were surveyed in 1848. The house is set in a cultivated lawn with many old, large trees native to the area. The location and setting convey a strong sense of the agricultural life in the 19th century.

Parkhurst is a large, two-story, frame-constructed house with a complex floor plan, reflecting the evolution of the dwelling. The original Gothic Revival vernacular, center-passage, double-pile plan house was constructed in 1848-1850. Alterations and additions were made in the early 20th century giving the house a Neoclassical appearance. Facing Cumberstone Road, the front of the house (northwest elevation) is dominated by a Neoclassical pedimented portico, supported by four Ionic columns. The motif is repeated in smaller porticos on both sides of the house. The rear of the house faces southeast toward the West River. Centered on this elevation is a two-story, semi-hexagonal wing that was part of the original house. It is similar to the ca. 1805 addition made at nearby Cedar Park. The exterior walls of the house are covered with weatherboard siding. The cross-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal and is pierced at the eave level by two gable-roofed dormer windows on the facade (northwest elevation). The house features three sets of paired, chamfered brick interior chimneys, typical of the Gothic Revival style. An additional gable-end chimney serves the cooking fireplace in the kitchen wing. Sometime prior to 1917, the original detached, frame kitchen was joined to the main block. In 1927, Parkhurst underwent significant expansion and architectural changes, resulting in the present appearance of the house. However, the basic center passage, double-pile plan house remains.

The smoke house was built at the same time as the original house. It also is wood with weatherboard siding and is unchanged from its original construction except for replacement of wood shingles on the roof and, at some time, the installation of a concrete floor with a steel plate in the middle. The smoke

house is located at the back, southwest corner of the house about twenty-five feet from the kitchen wing. It is approximately 12 feet by 12 feet in the plan dimensions, about 10 feet high, with a hip roof about 6 more feet above the side walls. A 42-inch wood door is provided on the side toward the house. The door is 2 inches thick with 1 inch boards running vertically on the outside and horizontally on the inside.

The tobacco barn was built early in the 20th century. It is a bank barn with the southwest wall built into an earthen wall. The lower level has an earthen floor, contains stalls and opens to the northeast pasture. The upper level opens to the southwest such that wagons can pull up to the doors and easily unload tobacco directly to the upper level. There are provisions for hanging tobacco and small doors on all sides are used to allow air to circulate for tobacco drying. Rooms on the upper level are provided for stripping tobacco and for storage of carriages and sleighs. There is a ramp on the northwest side for access to the carriage room.

Original House. The description of the original house is based on several historic photographs at different ages of the dwelling. The house was built as a simple, two-story farm house in the shape of a cruciform. There was a center hall with rooms to the left, right and back on both floors. The kitchen was a separate room, located at the south corner (to the back and right as you face the house). The kitchen also was two stories high with a staircase from the kitchen to the servant's room above. The front (northwest side) had a single-story porch that ran the entire width of the house. The floor area of the house, excluding the porches and kitchen, was approximately 2500 square feet. The kitchen was about 340 additional square feet.

Wood building materials were used throughout the house, including exterior weatherboard siding and roofing shingles, except for the brick and slate used in the fireplaces, foundation and chimneys. The house was trimmed with decorative jig-sawn vergeboards at all the eaves and louvered shutters were installed at all the windows, except at three locations with groups of three windows.

Parkhurst was a simplified version of the Gothic Revival style that was popular in the 1840s and 1850s. The centrally-placed cross gable, the pointed-arch dormer windows, steeply-pitched, multi-gabled roof, the one-story porch, jig-sawn vergeboards and eave brackets, and three paired, chamfered chimneys are features characteristic of Gothic Revival.

The [illegible] constructed by joined timber framing cut by reciprocal sawing. The foundation is brick with large oak, [illegible] and walnut timbers forming the sill. The front and back timbers were laid first, then four cross members were notched and laid on the front and back sills. The four cross members are located at the sides of the house and at the two sides of the center hallway. All of these foundation members are 11" to 12" wide and 9 1/2" deep. The floor joists run across the four cross members, about 9" to 9 1/2" deep and 2 3/4" wide, of oak material and spaced about 24" apart. The floor joists are notched to about half of their depth as they cross over the cross members. The extension to the back (southeast) that forms the cruciform has sills 7-8" deep and 4" wide. All timber dimensions and spacings have significant variations. The walls are supported by 3" wide by 4" deep studs, placed about 16" apart, fit into the sills in regularly placed slots (drop-mortise joints). Diagonal braces were fitted to the studs with half-dovetail lap joints. The second floor ceiling joists are 7" deep and 3" wide, made of reciprocal-motion sawed oak, spaced 48" apart. The rafters are 4 1/2" deep and 2 3/4" wide reciprocal-sawed oak, spaced 48" apart. They are joined at the peak with wooden pegs through a bridle joint. Collar ties are nailed to each rafter pair. Roofing boards are 1 1/2" thick

and about 10-12" wide made of walnut. The roofing boards are nailed to the rafters, then the shingles nailed to the roofing boards. Modern cut nails are used throughout. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash; however in three locations the windows have a 2/2 double hung sash window on each side of the 6/6 windows. These three locations are on the second floor, center, front (northwest) and on each end (northeast and southwest sides) of the house. All windows are original, except for some replacement of individual panes. One pane in the southwest bedroom upstairs has scratched the initials "JFM, 1865". These are the initials of John Francis Mercer, the son of the original owner and builder of Parkhurst, Richard Sprigg Mercer. This son had been named after his great-grandfather, John Francis Mercer, the 10th Governor of Maryland.

The interior finish is relatively plain. Wood crown moldings are installed in each of the four rooms downstairs in the old part of the house. The crown moldings in the living room appear to be original, Cavetto shaped, with dimensions of 4 inches vertically and 6 inches horizontally. The crown moldings in the other rooms appear to be newer, are 5 inches in both dimensions and are Cyma Recta shaped. In these same four rooms the windows have wood panels from the window bottom to the floor moldings. The window wood panels were constructed in place, using a center panel surrounded by plain 4 inch boards with 1-1/2 inch molding between the boards and center panel. The windows have 6 inch plain boards running vertically. The window and door heads in these four downstairs rooms are topped by pediments also constructed in place using plain boards and molding. Upstairs rooms in the original portion of the house have plain board surrounds for doors and windows. The floor moldings are 8 inch plain boards, with a 2 inch molding between the board and the wall. The fireplaces in the living room (southeast) and dining room (south corner) are slate throughout. The mantel has a curved shape with the narrowest dimension at the 1/4 and 3/4 length and rounded corners. The fronts of the fireplace have grooved, simple designs in four locations with a hemispheric shape at the top. The fireplace in the music room (northeast) has a wood mantel and front. The mantel is rectangular and the front pieces each have a convex shape. The three fireplaces upstairs in bedrooms have a wood, rectangular mantel with concrete fronts, free of ornamentation. The cooking fireplace in the kitchen is entirely original brick with a 6" by 7" oak mantle, probably not original. The floors in all of the original house, except the kitchen, are pine boards with widths from 4 to 7 inches, predominantly 5 inch and 6 inch. Walls and ceilings are lath and plaster. Ceilings are 10 feet high. Doors are 7 feet by 3 feet and two inches thick with four panels on each side. Two sliding doors are provided between the living room (southeast) and front hall (northwest). Each door is 38 inches wide, 8 feet, 3 inches high and 2 inches thick with five panels on each side.

Smoke House. The smoke house uses the same joined timber construction method as the original house. The foundation is four 10" by 8" timbers supported at the corners by bricks. The walls are weatherboard siding nailed to vertical supports, 2 1/4" by 4" in the front and 4" by 4" in the sides, spaced about 11 inches apart. Each corner post is about 8" by 8" joined at the top by four timbers, one on each side. The front and back timbers are notched and pinned to the two side timbers. Three supporting timbers (7 1/2" x 1 1/2") are notched as they pass over the side timbers then extend out about 12" to form the support for the roof rafters and the eaves. Roof support for the roof rafters and eaves in the front and back are provided by 2" x 4" supports inserted into holes cut in the front and back timbers. Modern cut nails are used throughout the frame

The roof is wood shingle and has a center hole at the peak with a removable post inserted through the hole.

Tobacco barn. The barn is 50 feet long, 40 feet wide and 14 feet from the foundation top to the roof eaves. It is on a concrete foundation with concrete pillars running underneath two supporting frames that run length-wise, dividing the barn into three bays. The pillars are 13" x 10" and 7 1/2 feet tall supporting 10" x 8" beams. Floor joists are 10" x 3" spaced two feet apart. Every other floor joist consists of a pair of the boards. Each bay frame has six vertical members running from the floor to the roof and five horizontal members, none at the floor level. Roof joists are spaced 2 feet apart. The collar ties are spaced 4 feet apart. Tree limbs are used to support the tobacco and are supported on the collar ties. All wood is pine, circular-sawed and all joints are butted and nailed with wire nails. Floor and siding board width varies from 4" to 13". The roof is galvanized metal.

House Changes Before 1917. Historic photographs show that the separate kitchen is attached to the house by single story additions. The roof of wood shingles is covered by standing seam metal (probably tin). The single story additions add two rooms, but do not change the original house.

House Changes in 1927. Changes made at this time were significant and transformed the front of the house to its present Neoclassical appearance. Changes to the original section of the house were minimal. The changes were made by the Wells family who had purchased the property in 1914. The single level porch on the front was replaced by a two-story portico supported by four 27-inch diameter Ionic columns and two small porches were added on the front at each end of the house using smaller Ionic columns. The room to the right as you face the house (west corner) was extended to form a large dining room about 31' by 16'. At the back of the house (east and south corners) the cruciform shape was filled out by additions on both sides of the back room (southeast room). On the east corner, a room and a sleeping porch were added at each of the two leve[illegible] corner, a second level was added at the back of the house beside the kitchen second floor, [illegible] space became another bedroom and two bathrooms. A utility room was added on the ground floor at the back of the house off of the kitchen wing. The total floor area in the house was now about 4100 square feet. Balloon framing was used in these additions.

House Modernization in 1972. The modernization involved the portions of the house added to the original house in 1927 and the separate kitchen. The modernization was done by the Klinefelter family who had purchased the property in 1971. The kitchen, utility room and the room between the original house and the separate kitchen were updated by replacement of the floors, walls and ceilings. New porch floors and column bases were installed. Repairs to the floor area under the dining room section that was added in 1927 also were made. Decorative jig-sawed vergeboards were removed because of their deterioration. Upstairs, a bedroom added in 1927 was changed to install a closet and bathrooms added in the 1927 addition were updated.

House Changes after 1972. The first floor sleeping porch added in 1927 was glassed-in and a ceramic tile floor installed. A mud room was added at the kitchen door facing Cumberstone Road. The design of the porch carried on the motif of the house exterior. The front column bases were again replaced. These changes were made by the Lee family, current owners of the property.

Smoke House Changes. The smoke house has not been changed since its construction except by periodic renewal of the wood-shingled roof.

Tobacco Barn Changes. The board siding and some of the boarding framework on one side of the barn was replaced in the early 1980s to repair damage caused by a fallen tree.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Parkhurst was constructed in the years between 1848 and 1850 by Richard S. Mercer and is an example of the vernacular farmhouse built in the mid-nineteenth century in Anne Arundel County. The survey of the Parkhurst land was done in 1848; Richard, his wife and first child were living in the house in 1850 according to the census of that year. The agricultural census of that year also records that Richard Mercer had a viable farm operation with a total value of $7000. Richard also stated in an 1851 deposition that he had recently completed building Parkhurst at a cost of $4000. The house was built on a part of the old West River Farm that had been 1477 acres in the late 1700s. Parkhurst was 277 acres of land in 1851. The cruciform house plan, the Gothic Revival features, and the joined timber construction of the original house reflect the period of its construction; however the semi-hexagonal section at the rear of the house was somewhat unusual. The replacement in 1927 of the single story porch by extension of the center gable to form a portico supported by four 27-inch columns and the two small porches at the front (northwest) corners of the house in the Neoclassical style also represent the popular style of that time in our history. The combination of the Neoclassical front with the Gothic Revival features, such at the pointed-arch dormer windows, the multi-gabled roof and three pairs of chamfered chimneys gives the house an imposing appearance in its agricultural setting. The three completely different and important architectural styles located in the small Cumberstone area represent a vertical cut through the history of tobacco plantations. Tulip Hill is one of the finest eighteenth century Georgian houses in the United States; Cedar Park is the oldest surviving earthfast constr[illegible]d house in Maryland and Virginia; and Parkhurst is an example of the simple mid-nineteenth century far[illegible] near the end of the plantation era. Parkhurst meets National Register Criteria C in the area of arc[illegible] a vernacular mid-nineteenth century farm house conveyed by the physical features of the house's style, form, design, workmanship and materials that are readily apparent in both its interior and exterior.

Prominent Families Associated with Parkhurst.

Mercer Family. The Mercer family was associated with the construction of the original house. They were important and influential in the nation and in Maryland from the end of the Revolutionary War to the end of the Civil War. They had links to many important families, historical events and historical properties. These links are described in the summaries of the more prominent members of the family below.

Richard Sprigg Mercer (1823-1873). Richard was the first owner and builder of Parkhurst. His family home was in nearby Cedar Park. He was the third son of John and Mary Swann Mercer. He married Emily Josephine Coxe in 1847. She was from one of the old Philadelphia families that made their fortune in real estate and mining. Shortly after his marriage he started building Parkhurst. The land (186 acres) was given to him by his Aunt Margaret Mercer after the death of Richard's father in 1848. Emily purchased an additional 91 acres in 1851 so that they operated a farm of 277 acres. Richard operated Parkhurst until his death. His main crop was tobacco; he reported growing 10.000 lb.. in 1850 and 15,000 lb.. in 1860. The assessed value of Parkhurst in 1860 was about $22,000. Richard had an interest in the military. He was appointed a Captain in the Army in 1846 and attempted to raise a volunteer company without success. He is listed as a private in the Confederate Maryland line, Company B, early in the Civil War. He went to Virginia during battles outside

Richmond, but did not receive an appointment as an officer and returned home. He and Emily had six children.

John Francis Mercer (1757-1821). He was the grandfather of Richard Mercer and lived at nearby Cedar Park (West River Farm). He was a Lt. Col. during the Revolutionary War, a member of the Continental Congress from Virginia, a member to the Constitutional Convention from Maryland, a U. S. Congressman from Maryland and the 10th Governor of Maryland. John Francis Mercer opposed the centralizing character of the Constitution and voted against it. He also opposed the War of 1812. Letters between he and Washington, Jefferson and Monroe are preserved in the Library of Congress. His wife was Sophia Sprigg who inherited West River Farm from her grandfather, Richard Sprigg, Strawberry Hill, Annapolis. They had two surviving children.

John Mercer (1788-1848). He was the father of Richard Mercer. John Mercer was a Major in the US Army for a short time, fought in the defense of Baltimore in 1814, and was later aide-de-camp for Major General Winfield Scott. He operated the West River Farm and lived at nearby Cedar Park for most of his life.

Mary [illegible] Mercer (1797-1864). She was the mother of Richard Mercer. Her father was Thomas Swan[illegible] in Alexandria, VA; their country home was Morven Park, near Leesburg, now on the Nat[illegible]gister. Her great-grandmother was Mary Mason, the sister of George Mason, author of the U. S. Bill of Rights. Mary Mercer lived at Cedar Park and was closely associated with Parkhurst, referring to it and Richard's family frequently in her letters. In addition to Richard she had 9 other children, two of which were sons serving as officers in the Confederate Army. Mary operated West River Farm for 16 years after her husband died. Her account books and recipes from the 1840s have been preserved and show her to be a busy and efficient plantation owner's wife.

Margaret Mercer (1791-1846). Margaret was the aunt to Richard Mercer, the daughter of John Francis Mercer. Margaret gave the land to Richard for Parkhurst. She was highly educated, opposed slavery and became an educator at a Cedar Park school, one in Baltimore and finally at Belmont, near Leesburg. She acted as a hostess when President Monroe visited Cedar Park in 1818. She became well-known for her anti-slavery and women's education views. As recently as 1998 there was an attempt to name a school in Leesburg for Margaret Mercer.

Thomas Swann, Jr. (1806-1883). He was Richard Mercer's uncle, the brother of his mother. Thomas Swann, Jr. was President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Mayor of Baltimore, 33rd Governor of Maryland, and a U. S. Congressman from Maryland for ten years. Margaret S. Mercer, the daughter of Richard, stayed with Thomas Swann, Jr, during his later years in Washington and acted as his hostess while he was Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. A diary documenting a year of Margaret's life at Parkhurst and in Washington has been preserved.

William R. Mercer (1827-1917). He was Richard's brother. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1847, serving as an officer in US Navy ships until his resignation in 1859. His wife's sister, Elizabeth Chapman, married Timothy Bigelow Lawrence from Boston. Timothy Lawrence died in 1869 and left Elizabeth without children and one of the wealthiest women in the U. S. Elizabeth built a house for William and his wife in Doylestown, PA and educated his children. The Mercer complex in Doylestown,

consisting of the Mercer museum, the Monravian Pottery and Tile Works, and Fonthill, a unique mansion, now a museum, were built by William's son, Henry.

Lucy Mercer (1891-about 1960). Lucy was the granddaughter of Richard's older brother, Thomas, and the daughter of Carroll Mercer. She became famous for her affair with F. D. Roosevelt, documented in the biographies of FDR. Carroll spent a lot of time at Parkhurst since his mother died when he was quite young. There are letters talking about his being tutored there and diary entries about his extended visits. Carroll became a major in the US Marine Corps., but left quite early in his career to participate in society in Washington, DC. His wife was Minnie Tunis, an heiress and "easily the most beautiful woman in Washington Society" and to be invited to the Mercer home "was a social distinction that qualified one for admission to any home".

Wells and Kirkpatrick Families. The Wells and Kirkpatrick families are associated with the Parkhurst house changes made in 1927. They owned the Parkhurst property from 1914 to 1971. Dr. George Miles Wells and his wife were from Wayne, PA The doctor died in 1917 and his wife, Mary Lane Wells (1856-1936), continued to own Parkhurst until 1935. During that time she purchased an additional 98 acres of land that had been owned by William R. Mercer, for a total of 376 acres. The changes made to the house to add the Neoclassical columns and porches at the front and to expand the house in the cruciform corners were made by Mrs. Wells.

Judge and Mrs. William Kirkpatrick. Mary Steuart Wells Kirkpatrick, the daughter of Mary Lane Wells, purchased Parkhurst in 1935 and added an additional 35 acres in 1938 for a total of 411 acres. The Kirkpatricks lived in Easton, PA. and used the house as a summer home until about 1958 when he retired and they moved to Parkhurst permanently. William Kirkpatrick was a former U. S. Congressman from Pennsylvania and served as a federal judge in the United States Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He was Chief Judge from 1933 to 1958. One of their sons, Miles Kirkpatrick (1921-1998), was the Federal Trade Commission Chairman in the 1970s. The Parkhurst property, except for 20 acres, was sold to the Smithsonian Institute to be used as part of the Environmental Research Center after the death of Mary Lane W[illegible] 1968 and Judge Kirkpatrick in 1970.

Su[illegible] Parkhurst is architecturally signifiant both for its original Gothic Revival, joined timber constru[illegible] house and for the subsequent Neoclassical changes made in 1927. The two outbuildings, the smoke house and tobacco barn, represent the building practices of the time in which they were built. The principal families associated with building and changing Parkhurst included governors, US congressmen and a federal judge with their lives linked to other National Register houses and important historical events. In the years of 1848-1850 when Parkhurst was carved out of the old West River Farm (later Cedar Park) the entire area of south Anne Arundel County was agricultural and primarily engaged in growing tobacco on plantations. The thought that slavery might end was remote. Richard Mercer probably thought that by securing 277 acres of land and building a fine house he had secured his future and that of his family. Yet, just eleven years later he and two of his brothers from Cedar Park had joined the Confederate Army. The plantations in the Cumberstone area supported the Confederacy by supplying contraband over water. All of the homes; Tulip Hill, Cedar Park and Parkhurst; were subjected to searches by Federal Officers looking for contraband. Thus, Parkhurst represents the beginning of the end of the plantation era in Anne Arundel

County. Parkhurst stands on the same wooded knoll, served by the same old, winding road and in the same agricultural setting as it did at the time of its construction.

Verbal Boundary Description

BEGINNING at a point on the South side of Cumberstone Road at the same beginning point in the deed dated November 19, 1971 and recorded among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in Liber 2450, folio 814. THENCE running from said beginning point so fixed leaving said road with bearings referred to Maryland Grid North and running South 35 degrees 45' 50" East 135.78 feet and South 38 degrees 05' 40" East 308.28 feet. THENCE with the South 44 degree 34' 40" West 516.17 feet. THENCE running North 32 degrees 49' 59" West 155.76 feet to an iron pipe. THENCE North 15 degrees 03' 59" West 148.75 feet to an iron pipe and South 72 degrees 22' 17" West 110.18 feet to intersect with the Southeast side of said Cumberstone Rd. THENCE with the same and with a curve to the left having a radius of 311.94 feet and an arc length of 39.43 feet to a point located at the beginning of the North 00 degree 51' 50" West 120.24 feet. THENCE running along the Southeast side of Cumberstone Rd. North 00 degrees 51' 50" 120.24 feet. THENCE North 03 degrees 36' 20" West 168.48 feet to a point of curve. THENCE with the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 94.63 feet, a chord of North 26 degrees 53' East 93.16 feet for an arc length of 97.41 feet to a point of tangency on the Southeast side of said road. THENCE still continuing with said road North 55 degrees 52' 20" East 176.44 feet to a point of curve. THENCE with the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 71.24 feet, a chord of North 89 degrees 45' East 80.45 feet, for an arc length of 85.49 feet to a point of tangency on the Southwest side of said road. THENCE with the Southwest side of said road South 55 degrees 52' 20" East 55.47 feet to a point of curve. THENCE with an arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 85.00 feet and a chord of South 63 degrees 57' 35" East 23.92 feet for an arc length of 24.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

Th[illegible]ximate 6.27 acres in this property which includes the dwelling. the smoke house, the tobacco bar[illegible]tures that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity and convey the pro[illegible]ic setting are being nominated for the National Register. This acreage represents the center of operations and authority for the plantation era farm, Parkhurst.

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DEALE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5761 IV NW (ANNAPOLIS)

AA-224
PARKHURST
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

18-366260-4301750

AA-
224

(map 26) AA-34-T-a
"Parkhurst"
West Elevation

Amh 11-74.

AA-224

(map 26)

AA-34-T-a
"Parkhurst"
East Elevation

amh 11-74

AA-224

(map 26) AA-34-T-a
"Parkhurst"
South Elevation

amh 11-74