NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 any 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 Richland

other names Cheston, Robert Murray House; Thanksgiving Farm; AA-2358

2. Location

street & number 195 Harwood Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Harwood X vicinity

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 of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ 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 ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-13-07

State or 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 this property is:
- ☐ 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

☐ **B** Property 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

agriculture
architecture

Period of Significance

1893-1954

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A/

Architect/Builder

Noland, William Churchill /Noland and de Saussure

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 files (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
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

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		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2	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 Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

domestic/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival
late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls wood: weatherboard
roof asphalt
other

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

Richland (AA-2358)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 57.68 acres Bristol, MD quad

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

☒ 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 Sherri M. Marsh
Organization Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental and Cultural Resources date January 9, 2006
street & number 2664 Riva Road telephone
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation 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 Douglas and Maureen Heimbuch
street & number 195 Harwood Road telephone (410) 867-2995
city or town Harwood state MD zip code 20776

Paperwork Reduction 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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

Richland is located near the rural village of Harwood in southern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The house and barn are situated on a rolling and partially wooded 57.68-acre tract of land. The farm, not visible from the public right-of-way, is reached via a long winding drive extending from the south side of Harwood Road. Cultivated fields, barns and stands of trees associated with neighboring farms flank the private access road. The two-story, frame dwelling was built in 1893 using architectural plans prepared by the Roanoke-based firm of Noland and de Saussure. Stylistic influences reference both the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles. A mid-20th century frame dairy barn stands approximately 300' north of the house. Richland is in excellent condition. The house has experienced little alteration and retains almost all of its original fabric. The barn is also in very good condition. Richland is an active farm. Wine grapes are Richland's principal crop.

General Description:

Richland is a 2 ½-story, frame, hipped-roof, dwelling with clapboard-sheathed walls resting on a brick foundation. The house, encompassing an area of approximately 3,000 sq. ft., is visually and functionally divided into two original sections; specifically a principal front block and a rear service wing. A wrap-around porch distinguishes the main (south) section from the rear (north) service wing. A two-story, bay window projects from the east and west facades, near the intersection of the building's two sections. Three massive, corbelled chimneys pierce the steeply pitched roof and rank among Richland's most distinctive features. Two stacks are associated with the main block and one with the rear section. The overhanging eaves are open and expose simply decorated rafter ends. A gable-roof dormer window, located on the east and west side of the roof, illuminates the attic and further embellishes the roofline.

Richland has a fundamentally symmetrical design, although this fact is not readily apparent. The front façade and west, garden-side wall are almost mirror images of each other. The driveway approaches what appears to be the east side of the house. This is, in fact, the building's principal façade. The dwelling's orientation consciously de-emphasizes the primacy of this facade and gives a misleading impression of asymmetry. This treatment is a stylistic conceit whose purpose is examined in Section 8.

The house features three entrances. The primary entrance is located in the east wall, near the driveway, while the west door leads to the garden. The north door is located in the service wing and provides convenient access to the barn. The principal entrance is located in the east façade, beneath the porch and immediately south of the bay window. In a stylistic practice commonly

associated with Picturesque dwellings, the main entrance, while handsome, is not the building's primary focal point. Richland's main entrance features an elegant pair of glazed-and-paneled, oak doors. These doors do not open directly into the dwelling's living space, but into a small vestibule. Another second and more elaborate door is located at the end of the vestibule. This highly decorative, glazed and paneled, oak Dutch door provides access into the dwelling's foyer.

Size, decoration and compound nature distinguish the front entrance from that in the west wall. The west entrance is narrower and fitted more simply. Situated beneath the wrap around-porch, it contains a single, glazed-and-paneled door and an accompanying transom light. This opening communicates directly with the dwelling's parlor. The third entrance, protected by a small service porch, provides access into the rear (north) kitchen wing.

Original 6/6 and 6/1 double-hung sash windows, accented with wide surrounds, appear throughout the house. Single openings are used in the upper story of the main section and throughout the service wing. Windows are grouped in pairs in the south and west walls of the main block's first floor. Exterior window and door surrounds feature a drip cap, but are otherwise unembellished.

Richland's interior is remarkably intact and carefully maintained. Original trim work and doors remain in place throughout the house, and are of the type commonly found in building catalogues in the late 19th century. Window and door surrounds are moulded and feature bull's-eye corner bocks. The Colonial Revival style mantel in the front foyer is a replacement and the only obvious non-original feature. Original plaster walls are repaired and in excellent condition. Oak pocket doors separating the parlor and dining room are restored and glide easily to divide the two formal living spaces. The parlor and dining room display identical mantles. The mantels appear to be original to the house. The parlor fireplace now accommodates a wood stove, but the dining room fireplace remains intact.

A wide, open-string staircase located in the north corner of the foyer provides access to the second and third stories. Jig-sawn decorations embellish the stringboard. The square, oak newel post is deeply fluted and the attenuated balusters turned. The steamed and bent banister gracefully negotiates turns as the stairs ascend to the upper floors. Stair landings are situated adjacent the bay window. This arrangement provides a source of light and sense of spaciousness to an otherwise confined area.

A second stairway, located between the front block and service wing, is less elaborate and provides access to a room identified on architectural plans as "servants room". In keeping with common practice, door and window surrounds in the service wing are less elaborate than those

employed in the main part of the house. Doors, however, are consistent throughout both sections of the building. The attic level is finished space, with walls sheathed with unpainted beaded board.

Richland, now known as Thanksgiving Farm, retains almost all of its original fabric and is in an excellent state of preservation due to the systematic repairs carried out by the current owners in 2003-2004.

A mid-20th century frame dairy barn is associated with Richland. Located immediately in back (north) of the house, the barn has a gambrel roof covered in standing seam metal. A small cupola is centered on the ridgeline. The barn appears sound and in a good state of repair. In addition, a heavily modernized 2-story frame dwelling is located on a separate parcel of land, approximately 1,300 ft. west of the main house. This house, which is under separate ownership, appears to date to the 19th or early 20th century. It stands on property historically associated with Richland and is possibly a former tenant house.

Summary Statement of Significance:

Built in 1893, Richland is the elegant rural dwelling constructed for Anne Arundel County gentleman farmer Robert Murray Cheston (1849-1904) and his wife, the former Mary Murray (1859-1943). Richland is significant under Criterion C for its architectural merit. Richland is the work of a recognized master and remarkable as the only known late-19th-century rural Anne Arundel County dwelling definitively associated with a specific architectural firm.[1] The house was constructed according to plans prepared by the Roanoke, Virginia based architectural firm of Noland and de Saussure.[2] The firm's principal and founder, William C. Noland, later became one of Virginia's most celebrated architects. Richland's design freely mixes elements from both the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles. Nineteenth-century architects and builders frequently combined these two contemporaneous styles, and Richland is an excellent example of this architectural hybridization. The property derives additional significance under Criterion A for its historical associations with agricultural practices in Anne Arundel County during the late 19th century.

The period of significance, 1893-1954, begins with the construction date of the house and ends with its sale out of the Cheston family.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Cheston Family and Richland

Richland was built in 1893 for Robert Murray Cheston and his wife, the former Mary Murray.[3] The fourth son of physician and gentleman tobacco farmer, James Cheston, Jr., Robert was born in southern Anne Arundel County in 1849 at his father's plantation, Hawthorne Ridge.[4 5] Both Robert Murray Cheston and his wife, the former Mary Murray, descended from area's landed, tobacco-growing elite. Historically the Chestons, Murrays and their allied families were part of the privileged planter class that dominated Chesapeake society and politics during the Colonial Period, and remained very influential throughout most of the 19th century.[6 7]

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[1] Anne Arundel County Historic Site Survey Files, Office of Environmental and Cultural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland.
[2] "House for Robert M. Cheston, West River, Maryland" Noland and de Saussure, architects Roanoke, Virginia (undated).
[3] Anne Arundel County Commissioners Tax Assessment Records, District 1 (1876-1896). Maryland State Archives.
James Cheston, *The Cheston Genealogy, Descendants of Richard Cheston* (Albuquerque: private printing, 1995), 94.
[5] Hawthorne Ridge is located in Harwood, approximately 2 miles west of Richland. It is listed in the Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey as AA-213 and is on file at Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental and Cultural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland.
[6] Byron Lee, *The Mercers of Parkhurst* (Harwood: private printing, 1998), 9.

This group's position at the top of the region's social hierarchy was based almost exclusively on wealth derived from tobacco. Compared to cereal crops, tobacco was (and remains) a very labor-intensive plant and most members of the planter class achieved and maintained their preeminent position through the use of slave labor.[8] In fact, slave ownership was integral to the plantation system and historians generally reserve planter status to those men and women owning at least twenty slaves.[9]

The cultural legacy of tobacco and the region's planter class is well documented.[10] The most visible legacy is expressed in the great architectural masterpieces found throughout Tidewater Maryland and Virginia. Many outstanding examples are located within the boundaries of Anne Arundel County. Three properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one National Historic Landmark directly associated with the Chestons or related families are located within 5 miles of Richland. Twelve more National Register properties and another National Historic Landmark stand within 10 miles of the same. While most of these additional properties lack an immediate connection with the Cheston family, they do share a cultural association in that they were constructed by wealthy tobacco planters, tobacco merchants, or in some other way related to the tobacco industry.[11] Constructed in the later part of the 19th century, Richland is one of southern Anne Arundel County's last architectural expressions of tobacco planter wealth.

In the first half of the 19th century many Maryland farmers started to abandon tobacco and traditional mono-crop agriculture in general, in favor of cereal and grain. These crops were less labor intensive and better suited to mechanized farming. As a group, however, Southern Maryland's tobacco farmers resisted many of these changes and tobacco remained the dominant crop through most of the 20th century.[12] Consequently, the region's large-scale, slave-dependent, tobacco planters, were especially affected by the emancipation of their bound labor force.

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[7] T.H. Breen, *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), 41.
[8] Rhys Issac, *The Transformation of Virginia: 1740-1790.* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1982), 169.
[9] John Michael Vlatch, *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993), 7.
[10] See Rhys Issac, *The Transformation of Virginia: 1740-1790* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1982) and Arthur Pierce Middleton, *Tobacco Coast: A Maritime History of Chesapeake bay in the Colonial Era* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984)
[11] Donna Ware, *Anne Arundel's Legacy: The Historic Properties of Anne Arundel County* (Annapolis: Anne Arundel County, 1990), 23.
[12] Michael Bourne and others. *Architecture and Change in the Chesapeake: A Field Tour on the Eastern and Western Shores* (Annapolis: Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998), 8.

The Chestons were apparently among the region's more "progressive" farmers. At one time Robert Murray Cheston's father and grandfather owned a substantial number of slaves but by 1850 they had manumitted more than two dozen. By the time Robert was one year old, his father retained only four, probably domestic, slaves.[13] Dr. Cheston made substantial investments in farm machinery, hired labor and diversified his planting.[14] While tobacco remained the principal crop at Hawthorne Ridge at least until the 1880s, the number of acres planted in wheat and corn -- crops better suited to mechanized farming--increased. In 1850, the year after Robert Cheston's birth, Hawthorne Ridge produced 42,000 pounds of tobacco, 1,000 bushes of corn and 500 bushes of wheat. The property was valued at $35,000. By1860 the tobacco yield was down to 35,000 pounds while corn and wheat production had risen to 3,000 and 2,900 respectively. The property's assessment increased to substantially to $45,000.[15] This reorganization, whether prompted by a moral imperative or simple economics, reduced the family's reliance on a bound labor force and as a result left the Chestons in a less vulnerable position after the abolition of slavery.

The effects of the Civil War, however, are clearly seen in the 1870 agricultural production statistics. In 1870 tobacco production at Hawthorne Ridge plummeted to 10,000 pounds and wheat and corn yields decreased to 800 and 1,500 bushels respectively. The assessed value declined by more than fifty percent to $20,000. While this represents a very dramatic decrease in value, Dr. Cheston apparently fared better than some of his immediate neighbors who experienced decreases in property values amounting to more than seventy percent.[16] Southern Anne Arundel County, like most of the agrarian south, entered a period of severe economic depression.

In 1880 the 38-year-old Robert was residing with his family at Hawthorne Ridge, having returned from Philadelphia where he had briefly lived with his brother, Dr. Daniel Murray Cheston. While his father, Dr. Cheston, appears in the 1880 population census as "farmer" and "gentleman" no occupation is ascribed to Robert, but presumably Robert assisted his ageing father in the management of Hawthorne Ridge.[17]

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[13] Freedom Records, Anne Arundel County Owner Index, 1785-1867. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.
[14] U.S. Agricultural Production Schedules, Anne Arundel County Maryland, Election District 1, West River Post Office (1850-1880). Maryland State Archives.
[5] Ibid.
[16] This figure is based upon a comparison of select values for Anne Arundel County, District 1 farmers listed in both the 1860 and 1870 U.S. Agricultural Production Schedules.
[17] U.S. Federal Population Census, Anne Arundel County, District 1, West River Post Office,1880. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1887, two years after the death of his father, Robert married his cousin, Mary Dorsey Murray. Robert and his new bride resided at Hawthorne Ridge until his mother's death in 1891.[18] In 1892 Robert and Mary purchased a nearby 332-acre tract of land propitiously named "Richland" for $14,000 from the estate of John D. Kremelberg.[19] Later that year Cheston engaged the firm of Noland and de Saussure to design a stylish new home for him and his wife.[20] The house was completed in 1893 at a cost of approximately $4,000.[21]

Buildings reflect the place and time in which they were constructed and give visual cues about the larger society that created them. While Robert and Mary Cheston grew up in a world of antebellum wealth and privilege, they married, built their home and lived most of their lives amidst a political, economic and cultural landscape irrevocably changed by the social upheaval of the Civil War and the technological advances of the Industrial Revolution. Their lives, expectations and, consequently, home and farm were therefore much different than those of their forbearers.

While Richland was built as the home of an affluent tobacco farmer, it is quite different from the house at Hawthorne Ridge or any of the region's antebellum gentry houses. Richland's break with regional vernacular building practice contributes to the building's significance. Richland embodies many important changes in building practice and technology taking place in the much of the United States in the later part of the 19th century. The introduction of the railroads, the availability of mass-produced building components, combined with the emergence of the professional architects and published building designs marked the end of purely regional architectural traditions. After the Civil War new construction increasingly shed its local flavor and began to reflect national stylistic trends and building technologies.[22] Richland, with its fashionable Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style affinities, architect-designed plan, balloon frame construction, and use of stock building components, clearly embodies these significant building trends.

On an individual level, Richland's construction represents Cheston's personal success over the social and economic challenges facing Southern farmers in the post-war era. Richland's size and elegance reflect a period of renewed prosperity after a protracted period of depressed property

[18] Harry McIntire, *Annapolis Maryland Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1979, 131.
[19] Anne Arundel County Land Records. Liber SH 40, Folio 413, Maryland State Archives. Annapolis, Maryland.
[20] "House for Robert M. Cheston, West River, Maryland" Noland and de Saussure, architects Roanoke, Virginia (undated). While the plans are undated, William Churchill Noland's papers at the Virginia Historical Society show that he moved to Roanoke, Virginia in 1891 and formed Noland and de Saussure in 1892. Noland dissolved this partnership in 1893 and moved to Richmond.
[21] Anne Arundel County Commissioners Tax Assessments.
[22] Michael Bourne and others, eds., *Architecture and Change in the Chesapeake: A Field Tour of the Eastern and Western Shores* (Crownsville: Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1998), 9.

values and reduced crop yields following the Civil War. The farm, valued in 1896 at a substantial $21,796, principally produced tobacco and wheat.[23] Unfortunately there are no agricultural production schedules for this period so a detailed examination of Richland's operation is not possible. Still inferences can be made. Federal population census records indicate crops were not cultivated by Cheston directly, but through the efforts of tenant farmers and paid laborers.[24] The dwelling's plan includes dedicated space for servants' quarters, which indicates the house was built for a family of wealth and status. At Richland Cheston established himself as an independent gentleman farmer and lived in a manner consistent with his heritage. His home, however, reflected a very different society than that into which he and his wife were born.

Sadly, Robert and Mary Cheston lived at Richland for a little more than a decade. Robert died of pneumonia in1904 and was interred at Christ Church in Owensville. According to probate records, Robert left substantial debts, including an outstanding mortgage. In the absence of children, Mary sold the farm to a Cheston cousin and retired to Ivy Neck, the West River plantation where she was born. Mary resided there until her death in 1943.[25] Various members of the Cheston Family owned Richland until its sale to Francis Taliaferro in1954.

Richland and William Churchill Noland

Original architectural plans indicate Richland's design is the work of Roanoke-based architectural firm, Noland and De Saussure. While numerous architect-designed dwellings were built in Annapolis during this period, Richland is the only 19th century Anne Arundel County building outside of Annapolis to be definitively associated with a specific architectural firm.[26] [27] How a rural Anne Arundel County farmhouse came to be associated with an architectural firm based more than 275 miles distant remains uncertain, but circumstantial evidence links the Cheston family to the firm's principal architect, William Churchill Noland. It seems very likely that Noland received the commission through social connections.

An interesting coincidence is the fact that William Churchill Noland studied at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. This private school was also the alma mater of one of Robert

[23] Anne Arundel County Register of Wills, Inventory of Robert M. Cheston, September 5, 1904. Maryland State Archives.
[24] U.S. Federal census records, District 1, West River Post Office, 1900. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland
[25] Harry McIntire, *Annapolis Maryland Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1979, 94.
[26] Miller, Marcia and Orlando Ridout, V, eds. Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide. Annapolis: The Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1998.
[27] Anne Arundel County Historic Site Survey Files.

Murray Cheston's brothers. This fact, while notable, may be little more than a coincidence as the two men matriculated at different and there is no evidence they knew each other.[28]

The Confederate Navy provides another possible connection between the two families. In 1861 Commodore Isaac Mayo of Anne Arundel County famously wrote to Abraham Lincoln to resign from the U.S. Navy, and subsequently accepted a commission with the Confederate forces. William Noland's father, Callender Noland also served as a U.S. Naval officer. The elder Noland was also a tobacco planter, slave-holder and staunch supporter of "states' rights". Like Mayo, the disaffected Callender Noland resigned his office with what he called the "old U.S. Navy" to accept a commission with the Confederacy.[29]

Correspondence written in the 1890s between William Noland and his mother, Mary Berkeley Noland, repeatedly mention visiting and receiving letters from members of the Mayo family. While there is no mention of Commodore Mayo or anyone with a name matching the Commodore's children, Mayo is a rather unusual name. This, the Commodore's residency in Anne Arundel County, and the families shared military history lead to speculation about a connection.[30]

Another possible link is the that fact both the Noland and Cheston families had close relatives in Philadelphia. Both Robert Cheston and William Noland briefly lived in Philadelphia, though not simultaneously. The families' shared similar backgrounds so it is quite possible that they socialized with some of the same people. Noland moved from Philadelphia to Roanoke, Virginia in 1891. Despite his relocation, Noland continued to associate principally with upper class Philadelphians who, like he, had moved to Roanoke in search of professional opportunity. His correspondence indicates many of his early commissions came from his old Philadelphia connections.[31]

In 1892 Noland formed a short-lived partnership with Horace and Rene de Saussure. Noland and de Saussure operated for a little more than a year.[32] It is the brevity of this partnership that enables us to ascribe a date to Richland's otherwise undated plan. In 1893 Noland dissolved the partnership and moved to Richmond. It is in Richmond, particularly as the principal in Noland and Baskerville, that Noland achieved professional prominence and lasting celebration. The

[28] Cheston, 94.
[29] William C. Noland Papers, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.
[30] Lee, Byron A. The Mercers and Parkhurst. Harwood: private publishing, 1999.
[31] William C. Noland Papers.
[32] Dotson, Paul R., Jr. *"Magic City" Class, Community, and Reform in Roanoke, Virginia: 1882-1912*. Ph.D Dissertation, Louisiana State University, 2003.

Virginia Society AIA annually pays tribute to his legacy with the presentation of an award named in his honor.[33]

Next to Thomas Jefferson, William Churchill Noland (1865-1951) is arguably Virginia's most celebrated architect.[34] His contemporaries described him as "an architect of great talent" and his work as "sophisticated and literate". Noland and Baskerville's Beaux Arts and Classical Revival public buildings perfectly represented the ideals of the then-popular City Beautiful Movement. His peers compared him favorably with Thomas Jefferson. So much so that in 1902, at the height of the "City Beautiful Movement", his firm was selected in to add wings to Jefferson's Virginia Capitol Building. Noland's1906 design for Richmond's Second Baptist Church was even heralded by one of his more enthusiastic supporters as "a corrected version of Jefferson's Capitol".[35]

Richland's design dates to the early part of Noland's long career. The understated elegance and ornamental restraint of this private residence contrast with the very elaborate classically inspired public buildings that later earned Noland's firms acclaim. Richland's design features both Colonial and Picturesque style elements, particularly those associated with the Queen Anne style. In this regard Richland is typical of the Queen Anne style's early period when, according to James Massey, "Colonial features cropped up more or less randomly on Queen Anne-style houses".[36]

Richland's Colonial Revival style elements include 6/6 sash windows, distinctive dormers and, contrary to first impression, a symmetrical design. In contrast, the projecting 2-story bay window, massive, decorated chimney stacks and wrap-around porch are Queen Anne style derivations. The steeply pitched hipped roof is associated equally with both idioms.[37] In essentials Richland resembles a less elaborate version of the English Queen Anne style cottages designed by English architect, Richard Norman Shaw. Shaw was one of the English Queen Anne style's pioneers and foremost practitioners. Richland's basic form is not unlike Shaw's design for West Wickham House in Kent, England.[38]

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[33] Wells, John E. The Virginia Architects: 1835-1955, a Biographical Dictionary, Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1997.
[34] Simms, L. Moody. "William Churchill Noland: Richmond Architect", The Richmond Quarterly, Vol 3. Richmond: Richmond Literature and Historical Quarterly, 1981.
[35] Ibid.
[36] James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America: The Old House Journal Guide to the Architecture of American Homes* (New York: Studio Books, 1999), 127.
[37] Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991), pp. 139,262.
[38] Mark Girouard, *Sweetness and Light: The Queen Anne Movement, 1860-1900* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977), 32.

With respect to spatial arrangement, one of Richland's most remarkable features is the seeming lack of a principal façade and front door. This de-emphasis is completely contrary to Colonial and Colonial Revival style architectural ideals, in which the front entrance provided a visual focal point.[39] Richland's primary entrance is located adjacent the bay window on the east-side wall, where it is partially obscured by the building's deep wrap-around porch. Only a somewhat wider and more elaborate door distinguishes this entrance from the secondary entrance in the dwelling's west façade. In addition, both the primary and secondary entrances lead directly into formal living space, rather than a passage or hallway, as would be expected in a Colonial or Colonial Revival style building.[40]

Architectural historians view buildings as semiotic expressions designed to communicate cultural messages and values. According to Alan Gowan's theory, Richland's lack of a conspicuous front entrance is in keeping with then current architectural ideals. According to Gowans "high Picturesque mansions consciously denied visually public access with entrances hidden in swathes of veranda". "The inconspicuous entrance" he continues "reflected the private function of a home and a tendency toward a totally private use of interior space."[41]

Gowans states that Picturesque styles, such as Queen Anne, appealed to a post-Civil War bourgeoisie "somehow compelled to display how untrammeled they were" and proclaiming "that within there dwelt a rich, materially successful citizen."[42] Given Robert Cheston's background of early privilege, followed by the difficulties he faced as a tobacco farmer in the post-War South, it is easy to believe he wanted to project an "untrammeled" image.

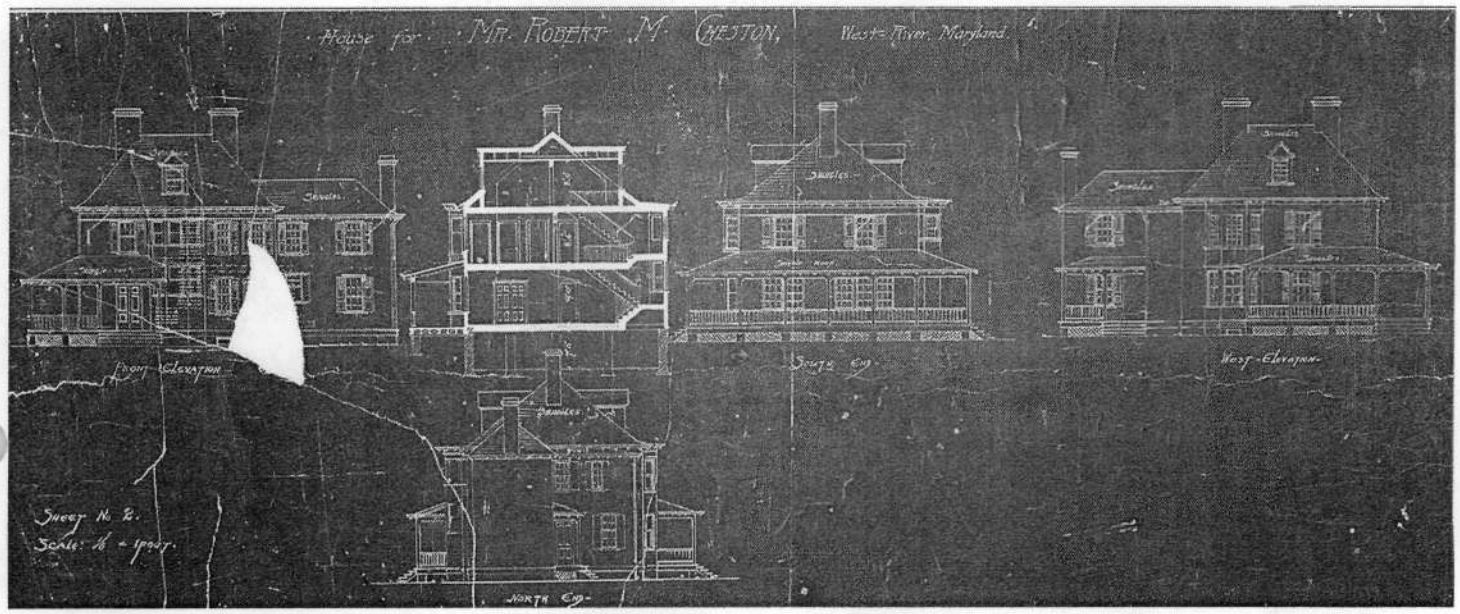
Francis Taliaferro and RTKL

In 1954, the Cheston heirs sold the property to architect Francis T. Taliaferro. The firm established by Taliaferro, along with Archibald Rogers and Charles Lamb, grew in the latter half of the twentieth century to become the architectural and engineering design giant, RTKL.[43] Founded in Archibald Rogers' Annapolis basement in 1949, this concern grew into one of the largest firms of its type in the world. Notable early projects included Harundale Mall in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Constructed in 1958, this was the east coast's first enclosed shopping mall.[44]

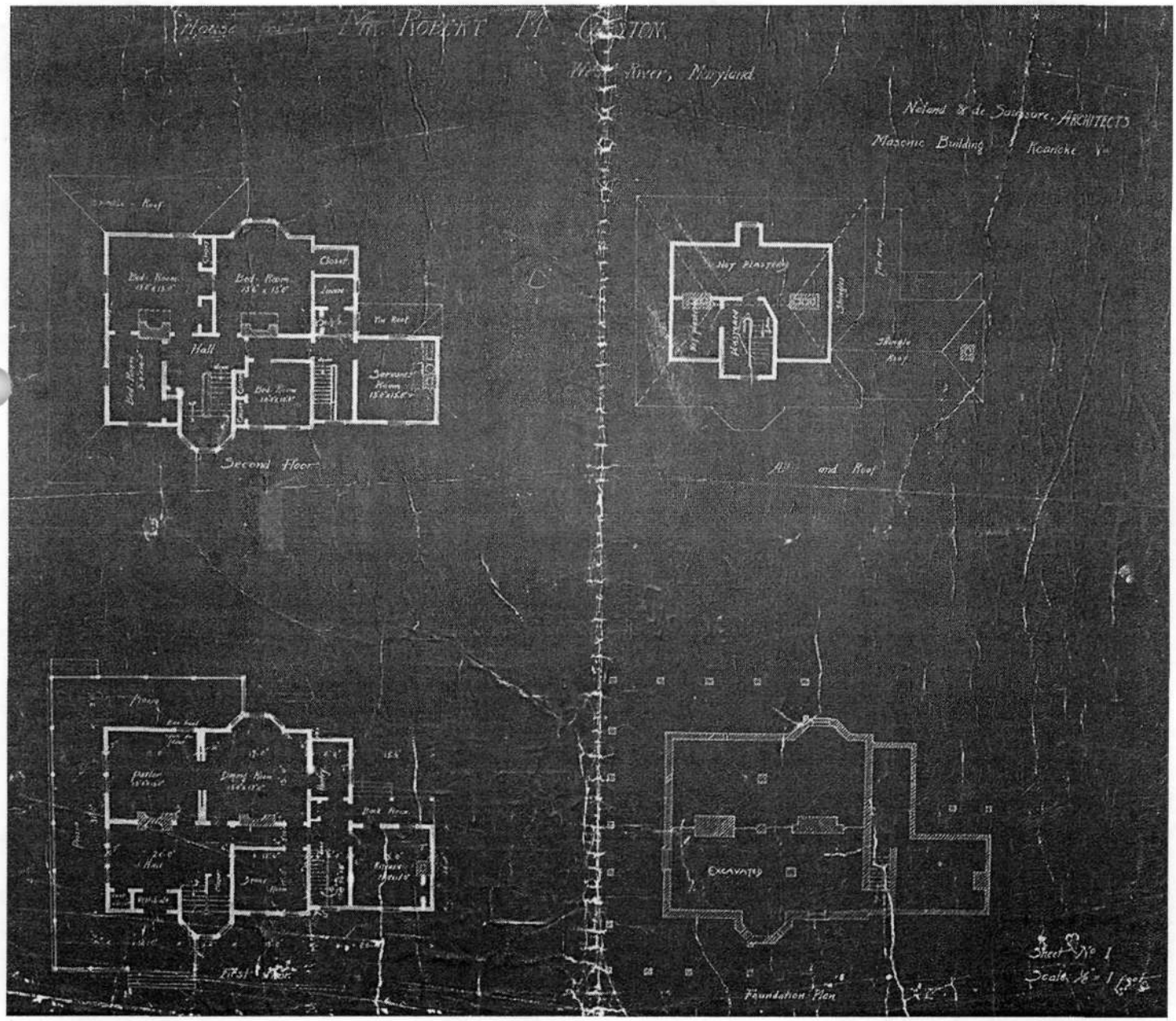
[39] McAlester and McAlester, 139.
[40] Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression* (New York: Harper Collins, 1993), 61.
[41] Ibid, 176.
[42] Ibid, 174.
[43] Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber 7612, Folio 776. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.
[44] Anne Arundel County Historic Site Survey File AA-994), Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental and Cultural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland.

Since then RTKL has carried out large-scale building and urban design and redesign projects throughout the country and around the world. In 2004 RTKL received the contract to construct the Beijing International Sport and Exhibition Center, which will house the 2008 Olympics.

Francis Taliaferro lived at Richland, which he renamed Thanksgiving Farm, during a critical period in the firm's growth and rise to prominence.



The above is a copy of the original architectural drawing for Richland now in the possession of the building's current owners, Douglas and Maureen Heimbuch.



The above is a copy of an original architectural drawing of the dwelling now in the possession of the building's current owners, Douglas and Maureen Heimbuch.

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Geographical Data

UTM References:

Bristol, MD quad

A: 18-358392-4303972
B: 18-358597-4303843
C: 18-358475-4303365
D: 18-358331-4303355
E: 18-358329-4303609
F: 18-357770-4303587

Verbal Boundary Description:

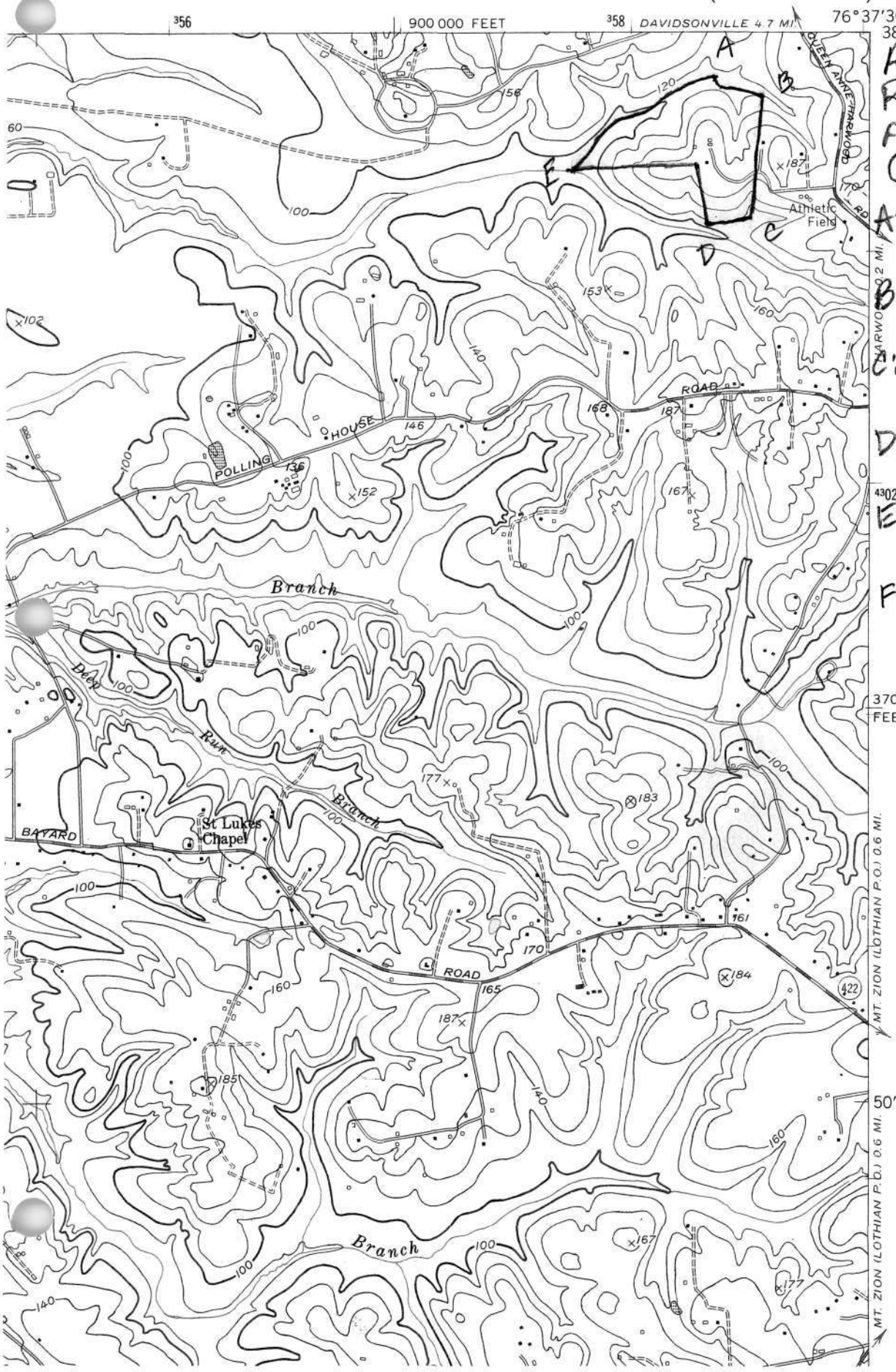
The nominated property is shown on Anne Arundel County tax map 63, lot 17, parcel 21, and described in Anne Arundel County deed Liber 10810, Folio 464.

Boundary Justification:

The entire parcel is historically associated with the property and contributes to the resource's environmental setting.

BRISTOL QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5661 I NE (SOUTH RIVER)



AA-2358
RICHLAND
ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY, MD

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