

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

31  
1312232104  
HA-164

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

~~HA-1231~~

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ' Poplar Hill Farm of Cranberry Hall

AND/OR COMMON  
Poplar Hill (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
115 Poplar Hill Road

CITY, TOWN  
Aberdeen

STATE  
Maryland

VICINITY OF  
Second

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

COUNTY  
Harford

CODE  
025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mrs. Catherine V. Mitchell (Mrs. John S. Mitchell)

STREET & NUMBER  
727 Old Philadelphia Road

CITY, TOWN  
Aberdeen

STATE  
Maryland 21001

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Bel Air,

STATE  
Maryland 21014

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

HA-164

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Poplar Hill is a gambrel-roofed frame house, three bays in length and one and one-half stories high. Its principal entrance in the middle bay of its east front is flanked by a 6/6 window in each end bay. The west front is similar. The east entrance is sheltered by a one bay, shed-roofed porch, while a shed-roofed porch or piazza extends across the entire west front. Three shed-roofed dormers with 6/6 windows are on each side, and interior brick chimneys rise at each end. The house stands on a brick foundation laid in English bond. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles.

The structure corresponds to one described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records as Aquila Hall's dwelling. Owned by the heirs of John B. Hall, it measured 39 by 20 feet with a piazza 7 feet deep. It was a one story building of wood construction.

A one bay, two story, gable-roofed wing, apparently an addition of the late nineteenth century, adjoins the main house at the south end.

On the interior, a hall extends through the house in the middle bay. It contains an original open staircase which rises to the second floor in a single straight run with a few winders at the top. The moulded handrail is supported by turned newels and turned balusters, the latter rising from a closed stringer. There is a full handrail and a half-rail on the opposite wall. The space beneath the stair which contains the stair to the cellar is enclosed with fully raised paneling. It is accessible by a door under the winders at the west end of the hall. That door, with its fully raised panels, is somewhat unusual in that a single panel occupies the area usually divided into two small panels. The west exterior door is of six fully raised panels, sheathed internally with beaded boards applied on an angle slightly raised from the horizontal, their ends along the lock side of the door being slightly higher than their ends on the hinge side. The hinges are long, wrought-iron straps. Chairrail and a wood cornice surround the hall. The latter includes a bed moulding, soffit and fascia, and a crown moulding.

A single room flanks the hall on either side, each accessible through original, fully-raised, six-panel doors surrounded by moulded, two-plane architraves with ovolo backband. Each room has chairrailing and a cornice similar to those mouldings in the hall. The northerly room has a fully paneled north wall, consisting of a shouldered architrave fireplace surround on the slightly projecting, paneled chimney breast, a large closet to the west, and a cupboard to the east. The cupboard, enclosed with upper and lower pairs of paneled doors, has scrolled shelves and a half-round back.

The southerly room has had its paneling removed. Lines in the walls and ceilings and fragments of the top rail which remain in place suggest it resembled the northerly room.

The second floor plan is similar to the first and ornamentation is similar but simpler, with paneled doors, narrower architrave surrounds, chairrail, and architrave-surround mantels.

The cellar extends under the central hall and northerly room, suggesting that the house was built in two stages, both of them early. The wall between the hall and the southerly room is filled with brick nogging and exterior walls are presumed to be the same.

see continuation sheet

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Poplar Hill  
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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1

Description, Continued #7

Although exterior surfaces and some details have been changed through the years in the course of normal maintenance, they remain compatible with the original, and most interior details remain unaltered and unrestored.

**B) SIGNIFICANCE**

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Poplar Hill is one of the oldest houses still standing in Harford County where the essentially untouched survival of eighteenth century houses is rare. Probably built in the mid-eighteenth century, it is a gambrel-roofed, frame house showing the influence of Tidewater Maryland architecture rather than that of nearby Pennsylvania. The largely unaltered state in which the building has survived makes it a useful tool in the study of architectural history. The interior work is of good quality for the period, particularly the paneling in the parlor.

Poplar Hill Farm is part of the 1547-acre tract called Cranberry Hall, patented in 1694 by John Hall (1658-1737). In his will, Hall devised "all that part of the tract whereon I now live called Cranberry Hall lying on the east of the main branch of Mill Run" to his son Edward Hall. Another part of the Cranberry tract, that to the west of Mill Run, was devised to his son Parker. (Will 2/45, Hall of Records) When Edward Hall died in 1742, he left "all my part of Cranberry Hall" to his son John, who subsequently left part of this property to his son Edward Hall and part to his son John Beadle Hall, at his death in 1779. (Will, Box 6, folder 44, and Harford County Will AJ 2/276, Hall of Records)

In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment of Harford County, Poplar Hill is "described . . . as being in Harford Lower Hundred, owned by the heirs of John B. Hall, 39 by 20 feet, one storey, of wood construction, with a kitchen 20 by 18 of wood. The outbuildings, all measured, include quarters, a meat house, a corn house with shed, two stables, a grainery, a smith shop, and outhouse, and a stone grist mill 35 by 24 feet; his other assets included 22 slaves. Obviously his should be the dwelling of a prosperous planter . . . [and] not a humble dwelling, when compared to the majority. It was probably built in two stages: the center hall, with its staircase, and the parlor on the left, comprise one section, and a dining room of similar size on the right comprises the other. The two sections were built very close in time, for the details match. The kitchen, a gabled roof addition to the extreme right, was probably added but a century ago; the original kitchen was undoubtedly a separate building, perhaps . . . the basis of a small house which still stands beside the dwelling." (James Thomas Wollon, Jr., "An Early Dwelling Near Aberdeen," Harford Historical Bulletin, Number 7 (Spring, 1974), 27)

On C. P. Hauducoeur's 1799 "Map of the Head of the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River," the house is shown as Aquila Hall's, apparently the son of John B. Hall.

The Halls were a prominent family in Harford and Baltimore Counties. Because the same first names were used over and over within the family, it

see continuation sheet



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Poplar Hill  
Harford County

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Bibliographical References, Continued #9

Woolon, James Thomas, Jr. "An Early Dwelling Near Aberdeen." Harford  
Historical Bulletin. Number 7, (Spring, 1974), 27.

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage, A History of Harford County,  
Maryland. n.p.: By the Author, 1967.



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Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Form Prepared By, Continued #11

Pamela James, Assistant Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401. (301) 267-1438.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: "Poplar Hill "

AND/OR HISTORIC: Poplar Hill Farm of Cranberry Hall

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 115 Poplar Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen

STATE: Maryland 21001 COUNTY: Harford

**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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>rented</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Catherine V. Mitchell, widow (Mrs. John S. Mitchell)

STREET AND NUMBER: 727 Old Philadelphia Road

CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen STATE: Maryland 21001

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of Court, Harford County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 S. Main St.

CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air STATE: Maryland 21014

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): GCB 273 p. 368

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

POPLAR HILL is a gambrel roofed frame house, three bays in length, one and one-half storeys high. Its principal entrance is in the middle bay of its east front and it is flanked by a 6/6 window in each end bay; the west front is similar. The east entrance is sheltered by a one bay shed-roofed porch, while a shed-roofed porch or piazza extends across the entire west front. Three shed-roofed dormers with 6/6 windows are on each side, and interior brick chimneys rise at each end. The house stands on a brick foundation, laid in English bond, and exterior walls are covered with wood shingles.

The structure corresponds to one described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records as Aquila Hall's dwelling, owned by the heirs of John B. Hall, 39 by 20 feet with a piazza 7 feet deep, one storey, of wood construction.

A one bay, two storey gable-roofed wing adjoins the main house at the south end, apparently an addition of the late nineteenth century.

Internally, a hall extends through the house in the middle bay; it contains an original open staircase which rises to the second floor in a single straight run with a few winders at the top. The moulded handrail is supported by turned newels and turned balusters, the latter rising from a closed stringer. A half-rail on the wall reflects the handrail. The space beneath the stair, containing the stair to the cellar, is enclosed with fully-raised paneling; it is accessible by a door under the winders, at the west end of the hall. That door, with its fully-raised panels, is somewhat unusual in that a single panel occupies the area usually divided into two small panels. The west exterior door is of six fully-raised panels, sheathed internally with beaded boards applied on an angle slightly raised from the horizontal, their ends along the lock side of the door being slightly higher than their ends on the hinge side. The hinges are long, wrought-iron straps. Chairrail and a wood cornice surround the hall; the latter includes a bed moulding, soffit and fascia, and a crown moulding.

A single room flanks the hall on either side, each accessible through original, fully-raised six-paneled doors, surrounded by moulded, two-plane architraves with ovolo backband. Each room has chairrailing and a cornice similar to those mouldings in the hall, and the northerly room has a fully-paneled north wall, consisting of a shouldered architrave fireplace surround on the slightly projecting paneled chimney breast, a large closet to the west, and a cupboard to the east. The cupboard, enclosed with upper and lower pairs of paneled

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. 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) Unknown

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 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

One of the oldest houses in the county, its one and one-half storeys with a gambrel roof relate it to others in the Chesapeake Bay region. It was the dwelling of a prosperous planter for in spite of its relatively-small size, it was enriched with the best detailing of the period.

The property was the residence of John Beadle Hall, (1749-1790), son of Captain John\*of Cranberry, a prominent local figure in the Revolution, whose grandfather, John Hall patented the original tract of Cranberry in 1694. It probably was the residence of earlier members of this family, which, along with its relatives, the Pacas, was the most influential family in Harford (prior to 1773, Baltimore County).

Although the exterior surfaces and some details have been changed gradually through the years in the course of normal maintenance they remain compatible with the original and most interior details remain unaltered, unrestored, and unquestionably authentic.

\*Hall  
(Information from deeds mentioned in Item 5)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Land Records, Harford County Courthouse,  
Bel ~~air~~ Air, Maryland.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36	29	38
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76	10	34
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: FOUR

Acreage Justification:

Nature of house and outbuildings and surrounding  
woodland would make it appropriate to designate four  
acres for its protection.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Frederick J. Viele, Chairman, Harford County Committee, MHT, assisted by Mr. James T. Wollon,		DATE
ORGANIZATION: architectural description. Mr. Jon H. Livezey, Attorney, Item No. 8, 10, 5		September 1 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: 237 Cooley Mill Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Havre de Grace	STATE: Maryland 21078	

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

doors, has scrolled shelves and a half-round back.

The southerly room has had its paneling removed; lines in the walls and ceilings, and fragments of the top rail which remain in place, suggest it resembled the northerly room.

The second floor plan is similar to the first and ornamentation is similar, but simpler, with paneled doors, narrower architrave surrounds, chair rail and architrave-surround mantels.

The cellar extends under the central hall and northerly room, suggesting that the house was built in two stages, both of them early. The wall between the hall and the southerly room is filled with brick nogging, and exterior walls are presumed to be the same.

Although exterior surfaces and some details have been changed gradually through the years in the course of normal maintenance they remain compatible with the original and most interior details remain unaltered, unrestored, and unquestionably authentic.