

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1970-12-30

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
**ST. JOHN'S**  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Fisher Road West, just west of the College Health Center**

CITY, TOWN **St. Mary's City** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

STATE **Maryland** COUNTY **St. Mary's**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **St. Mary's College of Maryland** Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN **St. Mary's City** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code **Maryland 20686**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **St. Mary's County Courthouse**

Liber #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Folio #: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER **Washington Street and Courthouse Drive**

CITY, TOWN **Leonardtown** STATE **Maryland**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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

This 52' by 20'6" farmhouse was constructed in 1638. Although modest by English standards, it was one of early Maryland's largest dwellings. Its central chimney, hall and parlor plan, brick fireplaces, lofts, and glazed windows marked it as a product of the transformation of English rural housing in the late 16th and 17th centuries. Unlike many later Colonial buildings, St. John's was supported by stone foundations.

This dwelling was constructed for John Lewger, Maryland's first Secretary. During the 1640s and again in the early 1660s, when Governor Charles Calvert resided in the house, St. John's was one of the Capital's busiest meeting places. Its rooms were used by the Provincial Assembly, Council, and courts.

About 1678, Governor Charles Calvert rebuilt the house for use as an inn. The cellar was repaired, wooden flues replaced with brick, and a small jettied chamber added over the front door. [The central fireplace was moved a few feet north at this time, to accomodate a stairwell just inside the front door in the south facade.]

Like most other St. Mary's City structures, the building became obsolete when the capital was moved to Annapolis in 1695. It was torn down about 1720. (See SM-232).

The site has been excavated by Dr. Henry Chandlee Forman and the St. Mary's City Commission. gws

Today, St. John's survives only as an archeological site. The two chimney foundations (the one to the north being newer and cutting through the older one to the south) and the outer foundation are exposed, as is the stone-lined cellar hole to the east. The site is covered with an A-frame of translucent, corrugated fiberglass, with two viewing portals in the south and east sides. Signs tell the story of the house and its various occupants. jlk



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



