

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic THOMAS HOUSE, Headmaster's House

and/or common Headmaster's House

## 2. Location

street & number W. Side Old Route 5, 750 Feet N. of Charlotte Hall School — not for publication

Road

city, town Charlotte Hall — vicinity of 1st congressional district

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

## 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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Veterans Home Commission

street & number Old Armory Building, 11 Bladen Street

telephone no. 301-341-1111

city, town Annapolis

state and zip code Maryland 21401

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber

street & number

folio

city, town Leonardtown

state

Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

file

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas House stands at the end of a long driveway on the west side of Old Route 5, approximately 750 feet north of its intersection with Charlotte Hall School Road in Charlotte Hall.

The frame house is 2 ½ stories high and five bays wide with a pitched gable roof and end chimneys. A one story porch raised on blocks and supported by square Doric posts extends across the east elevation and one third of the north and south elevations; the north side of the porch is enclosed. The house is covered with German siding painted white.

The eight paneled central doorway is flanked by narrow sidelights and a transom. To the right of the door are two 6/6 sash windows; to the left are another door and window. There is an entrance to the kitchen on the southwest corner of the house. On the west facade there are three windows on the second floor and an off-center door under a pyramidally roofed porch with square Doric posts flanked by two 6/6 windows.

The interior consists of a center passage with two rooms on either side of the stair hall. The large, high ceilinged rooms are plastered and have little woodwork other than a ceiling cornice and Greek revival trim around the door and window openings. The southeast room has an entrance to the porch as well as a simple strip of moulding running 1 ½ feet below the cornice. A fireplace with a corbelled mantel stands in the center of the north wall of the northeast room. A cupboard and bathroom span the hallway which connects the northwest room with the kitchen. The inside of the kitchen door is made up of beaded flush paneling.

The steep staircase rises from the south side of the stairhall and turns, without a landing, to the right. The staircase has a heavy, turned newel post and a stairrail with two turned balusters per step.

There are six rooms on the second floor, three on either side of the stairway. The stairwell itself is bounded by a tall wooden balustrade. A small staircase enclosed with narrow beaded vertical boards rises from the east side of the hall. All of the second floor rooms have identical Greek Revival trim around windows and doors although they lack the ceiling cornices. Most of the closets in the upstairs rooms are later additions and are finished with thin plywood. The wood floors are in good condition and most of the interior doors have beaded flush paneling.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM - 370

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas House is one of the largest and most architecturally significant residences in the village of Charlotte Hall and probably dates from the middle of the nineteenth century. The large proportions and the simple unadorned exterior appearance are typical of frame farmhouses from this period. The interior, with its modified Georgian plan and Greek Revival trim with ceiling cornice also indicates that the house predates the Victorian era. The beaded flush paneling on the inside of the kitchen door also suggests a mid-century date of construction. The house has been little altered since that time but is now in deteriorated condition.

The land on which the Thomas House stands was part of the original grant of land given to Charlotte Hall School in the eighteenth century and was described on the plan of Charlotte Hall as lots 32, 37, and 38, each lot containing 3/4 acres.<sup>(1)</sup> In 1836 these adjoining lots were leased to George Slye for 12 dollars a year <sup>(2)</sup>. In 1847 the land was sold as a leasehold to the Hammatt family for 400 dollars. The fact that the property was sold for 1000 dollars in 1860 (and for the same price one year later) indicates that a house was standing by that time. The house and property passed through several owners until 1956 when James and Gladys Thomas sold the property back to the trustees of Charlotte Hall School. From then until the school's closing in 1976, the house served as the residence of the commandant or headmaster of the school. In 1978 the house along with the rest of the school property, was acquired by the Board of Public Works and transferred to the Maryland Veterans Home Commission.

(1) Land Records of St. Mary's County, JH8-523, July 29, 1836

(2) Ibid

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM - 370

Land Records, St. Mary's County

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres (approx.)

Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry

organization Maryland Historical Trust

date September, 1984

street & number Shaw House, 21 State Circle

telephone 301 - 269 - 2439

city or town Annapolis

state Maryland 21401

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

CHAIN OF TITLE

THOMAS HOUSE

Survey No. SM - 370

Magi No. 19037033504

MRB 18 - 262                      July 31, 1978  
Grantor: Trustees of Charlotte Hall School  
Grantee: Maryland Board of Public Works  
Consideration: \$10 for all land recorded in DBK 183-269, in particular eight parcels of land in Charlotte Hall.

64 - 76                              July 10, 1956  
Grantor: James Thomas, Gladys Thomas (wife), Martha Thomas  
Grantee: Trustees of Charlotte Hall School  
Consideration: \$10 for two acres with building

EBA 7-28                            November 26, 1907  
Grantor:                            Harry Harrison, et al  
Grantee: Suzie Thomas  
Consideration: \$850.00 for dwelling, lot and other buildings

JJG 5 - 430, 431                  January 16, 1899  
Grantor: Henry Adams, Administrator for Sarah Slye  
Grantee: Sarah Harrison  
Consideration: \$600.00 for dwelling, lot and other buildings.

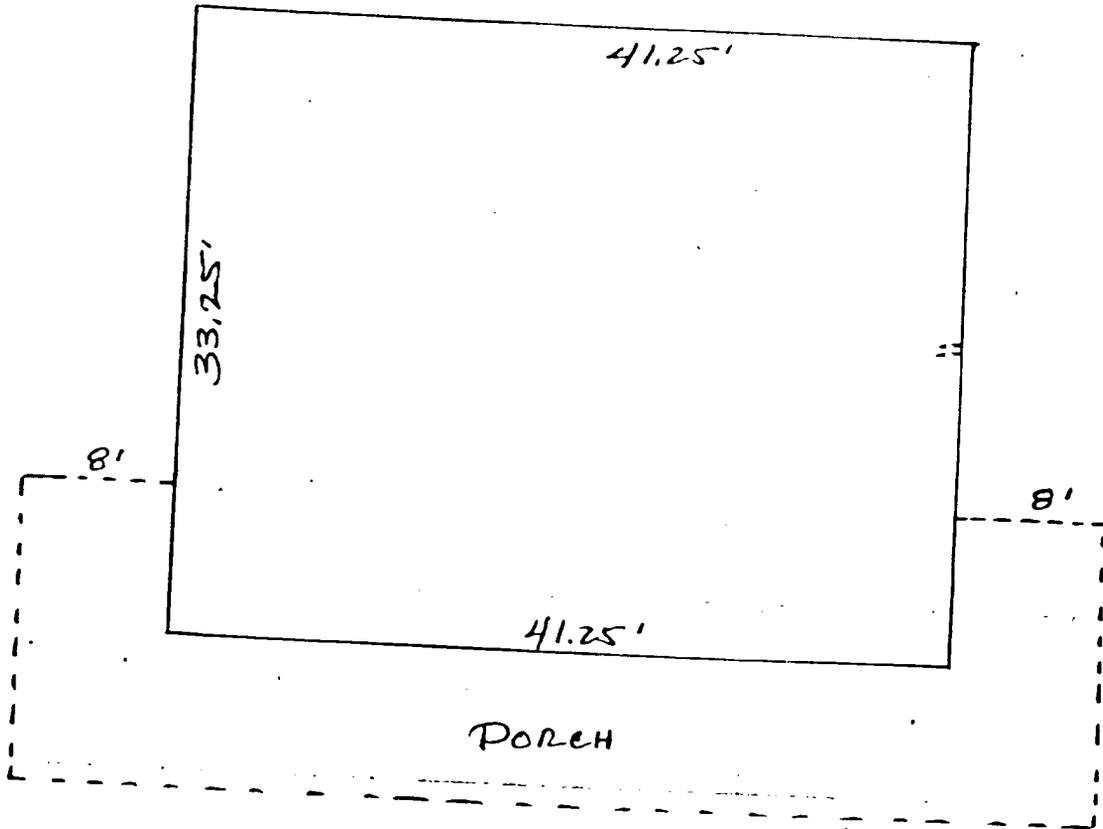
JTB 3 - 527                         1861  
Grantor: George H. Adams  
Grantee: Sarah Adams  
Consideration: \$1000 for "a certain house and lot in Charlotte Hall, same as deeded by Thomas Slye to Henry Blackistone to George Adams

JJB 3 526                            December 8, 1860  
Grantor: Mr. Blackistone, Trustee for Jane, Julia, Charles, Whittingham, George and Columbia Hammett  
Grantee: George Adams  
Consideration: \$1000

1-259                                 March 25, 1847  
Grantor: Thomas Slye, Administrator for George Slye  
Grantee: Mr. Blackistone, trustee for Jane, Julia, Charles, Whittingham, George and Columbia Hammett  
Consideration: \$400 for leasehold lot situated and lying in Charlotte Hall, Maryland with all and singular buildings

JH 8 - 523                          July 29, 1836  
Grantor: Trustees of Charlotte Hall School  
Grantee: George Slye  
Rent: \$12 a year for lots described on the plan of Charlotte Hall as 32, 37 and 38 each lot containing 3/4 acre.

BUILDING # 12 - THOMAS HOUSE



Scale 1" = 10'

New Veterans Home (1982)

aka Alumni Hall

Gymnasium Keech Hall  
(1922) (c.1935)

site of old  
Administration Bldg.  
(1927-1982)

New Academic  
Bldg. (1971)

17

Thomas House

12 ✓

SM-370  
c.1950  
brick  
house

11

10

4-gable  
house  
(private)



Dormitory  
(1960)

18

16 ✓

Academic  
Bldg. (1897)  
aka Old Classroom  
Bldg.

(SM-86)  
White  
House (1803)

15

13

Dent Memorial  
Chapel (1884)

Chelsey House (c. 1800, private)

← OLD ROUTE 5 →

? 1  
SM-267  
PRINCIPAL'S HOUSE  
(Headmaster's house)

4.  
2-story  
frame house  
(c. 1880)

6.  
19th C.  
frame house  
(semi-private)

7 ✓  
8 ✓  
Mattingly  
House

9 ✓  
Davis  
House

10  
Briscoe  
House  
(c.1825,  
private)

5.  
late 19th C.  
frame house  
(semi-private)

I.R.S.  
Bldg.

Youth Services  
(private ?)

2

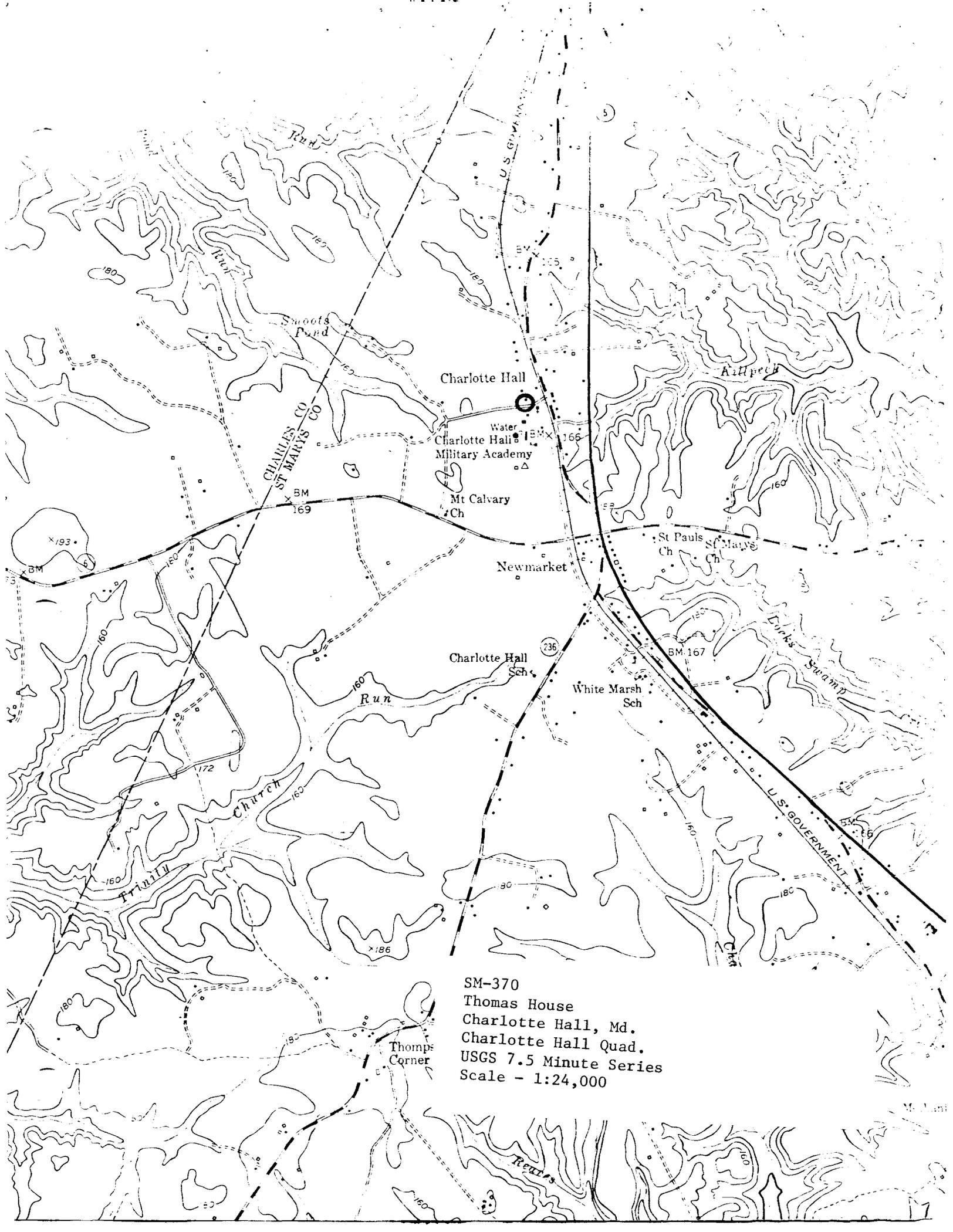
TO NEW Rte 5

3  
c.1960  
brick house

CHARLOTTE HALL

3/6/84 KEK

SM-370  
Briscoe  
tenant house



SM-370  
Thomas House  
Charlotte Hall, Md.  
Charlotte Hall Quad.  
USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
Scale - 1:24,000



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

Door on West Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

SW Corner

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

View through Porch looking South

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM-370

Thomas House  
Charlotte Hall, Md.

West elevation

Geoffrey Henry

Negatives at MHT

7/84



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

NE Facade

Geoffrey Henry      7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

W. Facade

Geoffrey Henry        7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM-370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte, Maryland

East Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

South Facade

Geoffrey Henry      7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

Detail of SE Corner of Portico

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte, Maryland

SE Elevation

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust