

Capsule Summary
SM-583
Belvidere Grave Site
Chingville Vicinity
Private

c. 1740's

The Belvidere Grave Site is located near the confluence of Poplar Hill Creek and the Potomac River in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The grave, constructed of irregularly fired brick laid in an English bond, was uncovered during an excavation. The grave or crypt measured nine feet-three inches by eight feet-six inches and was approximately four feet-six inches deep. The floor was laid in six-inch by six-inch brick pavers and a single row of bricks. Four steps descend down into the vault's floor. Four sets of skeletal remains were found in the crypt but the exact identity of the individuals remains uncertain. Other artifacts found included wrought coffin nails, pieces of wood from coffins, and a pair of scissors.

Preliminary research conducted by a nearby property owner has suggested that the remains might be members of the Major John Cambell or DeButts families. In the Reverend Ethan Allen's "Notes on the History of the Four Parishes in St. Mary's County," the Reverend Laurence DeButts is mentioned as dying on July 6, 1752 on his estate "Belvidere" located six miles northwest of St. George's Church located in Valley Lee, Maryland. Allen also notes that the Reverend DeButts had three sons John, Samuel, and Robert, and a daughter Margaret. DeButts was originally from Virginia and served Washington Parish in Westmoreland County in Virginia. In 1736, DeButts purchased land in the county. A seventeenth and/or eighteenth century domestic site is located to the west of the family crypt.

SM-583, Belvidere Grave Site
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Contact and Settlement Period, 1570-1750
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Religion

Resource Type

Category:	Site
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Family Crypt
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-583

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Belvidere Grave Site

2. Location

Belvidere Farm, 0.2 miles SE of int of Whirlwind and Beauvue Roads, 1 mile S on Belvidere Farm Road
street & number not for publication

city, town Leonardtown vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

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

name Belvidere Farm and Investments (POC: Richard Fritz)

street & number Rt 1 Box 108-1 telephone no.: 301-475-2066

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650-9626

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 449

street & number folio 441

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-583

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Belvidere Farm Grave Site is located approximately one mile south of Beauvue Road on the banks of Poplar Hill Creek and the Potomac River in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The site is situated on a small rise just north of a marsh. The site is presently wooded with 20 to 30 year old trees. The entire site was uncovered during excavations for a driveway.

The grave site is composed of a subsurface, square family funeral vault constructed of brick laid in the English brick bond. The exterior measurements of the vault are 9' 3" x 8' 6". Four brick steps, laid directly on the ground on the NW side, descend approximately 4' 5" to the bottom of the vault. The floor of the vault is lined with 6" x 6" brick pavers and a single row of bricks with faces that measure 4 1/4" x 8 1/2". The bricks are 3" deep and the brick pavers are 1" deep."

There is little indication as to what type of roof once covered the grave. Henry Miller, chief archaeologist at St. Mary's City, has suggested that it was probably vaulted.

Remains found in the vault suggest that up to four individuals were interred.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-583

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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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 Belvidere Farm Site is located near the confluence of Poplar Hill Creek and the Potomac River in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The grave, constructed of irregularly fired brick laid in an English bond, was uncovered prior to the construction of a right-of-way. The crypt measured nine feet-three inches by eight feet-six inches and was approximately four feet-six inches deep. The floor was laid in six inch by six-inch brick pavers and a single row of bricks. Four steps descend down into the vault's floor. Four sets of skeletal remains were found in the crypt but the exact identity of the individuals remains uncertain. Other artifacts found included wrought coffin nails, pieces of wood from coffins, and a pair of scissors. Preliminary research conducted by nearby property owner Richard Fritz has suggested that the remains might be members of the Campbell or DeButts family. In the Reverend Ethan Allen's "Notes on the History of the Four Parishes in St. Mary's County," the Reverend Laurence DeButts is mentioned as dying on July 6, 1752 on his estate "Belvidere" located six miles northwest of St. Georges. Allen also notes that the Rev. DeButts had three sons John, Samuel, and Robert, and a daughter Margaret. Debutts was originally from Virginia and served Washington Parish in Westmoreland County in Virginia. In 1736, DeButts purchased land in the county. A seventeenth and/or eighteenth century domestic site is located to the west of the family crypt.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-583

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 224.59

Quadrangle name Piney Point, Md-VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning and Zoning date 5-19-97

street & number 22740 Washington Street telephone 301-475-4662

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DICD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-99
514-7600

SM-583, Belvidere Grave Site
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 449, Folio 441

Grantee: Belvidere Farm & Investments

Grantor: Oliver R. Guyther

Date: December 28, 1988

Notes: The property consists of 224.59 acres and is called Belvidere Farm.

Reference: Liber 106, Folio 102

Grantee: Oliver R. and Betty M. Guyther

Grantor: George W. Calver, et ux

Date: June 25, 1951

Notes: Here the entire Belvidere Farm is listed as containing 452 3/4 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 18, Folio 486

Grantee: Margaret B. Wigginton (of Kalamazoo, MI)

Grantor: Ralph Cullinan and Mercedes F. Cullinan

Date: December 8, 1919

Reference: Liber EBA 12, Folio 367

Grantee: Ralph and Mercedes F. Cullinan

Grantor: Mary G. Mercer (of Philadelphia)

Date: May 11, 1914

Reference: Liber EBA 12, Folio 77

Grantee: Mary G. Mercer

Grantor: Comby R. Jones (of Philadelphia)

Date: September 30, 1913

Reference: Liber JJG 5, Folio 1

Grantee: Comby R. Jones

Grantor: Albert Pancoart, exec of William H. Pancoart

Date: November 16, 1897

Notes: William H. Pancoart died on June 18, 1896

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 588

Grantee: William H. Pancourt

Grantor: Charles H. French

Date: July 3, 1891

SM-583, Belvidere Farm Grave Site
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 586
Grantee: Charles H. French
Grantor: Sarah A. R. and Richard D. Cox
Date: July 2, 1891

Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 123
Grantee: Sarah A. R. and Richard D. Cox
Grantor: Margaret A. and James C. Hires
Date: August 19, 1887

Reference: Liber JFF 9, Folio 129
Grantee: Margaret A. and James C. Hires
Grantor: George E. Beebe
Date: May 25, 1886

Reference: Liber JFF 4, Folio 220
Grantee: George E. Beebe
Grantor: Jacob Dubois
Date: 1880

Reference: Liber JAC 3, Folio 275
Grantee: Jacob Dubois
Grantor: Peter W. Crain and Benjamin Gwinn Harris, trustees of Thomas W. Gough and Jacob Dubois
Date: December 8, 1868
Notes: As the result of a circuit court case between Johns Hopkins et al vs Thomas W. Gough et al, Benjamin Gwinn Harris and Peter W. Crain are appointed trustees by the court. They in turn sell the property to Jacob Dubois. The case between the two parties appears in the Land Commission Records, Liber JAC A, Folio 281. The property is referred to as "Belvidere Woodland."

Belvidere Farm
Grave site

$4\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 3$

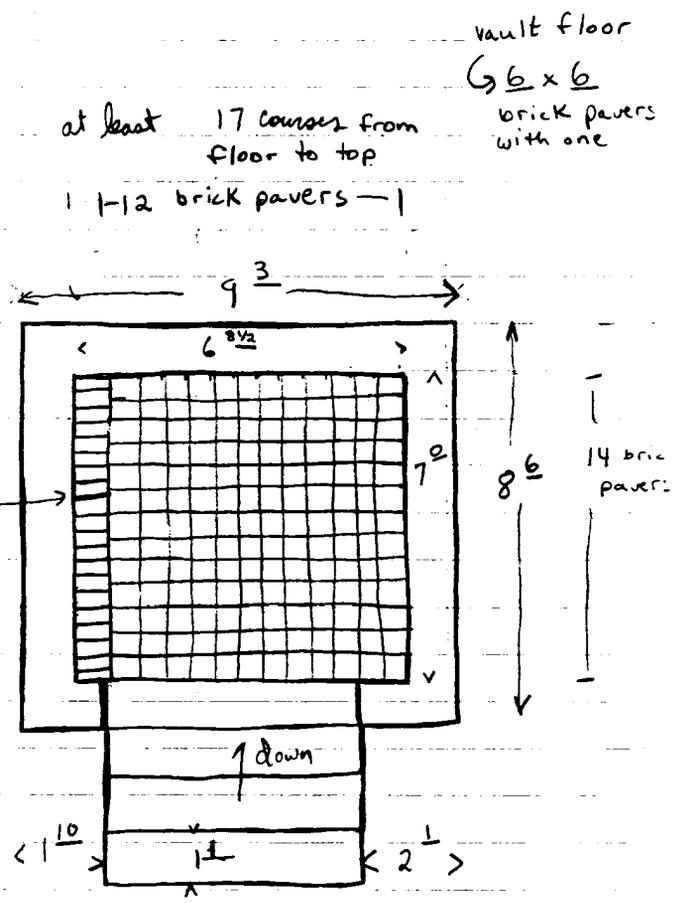
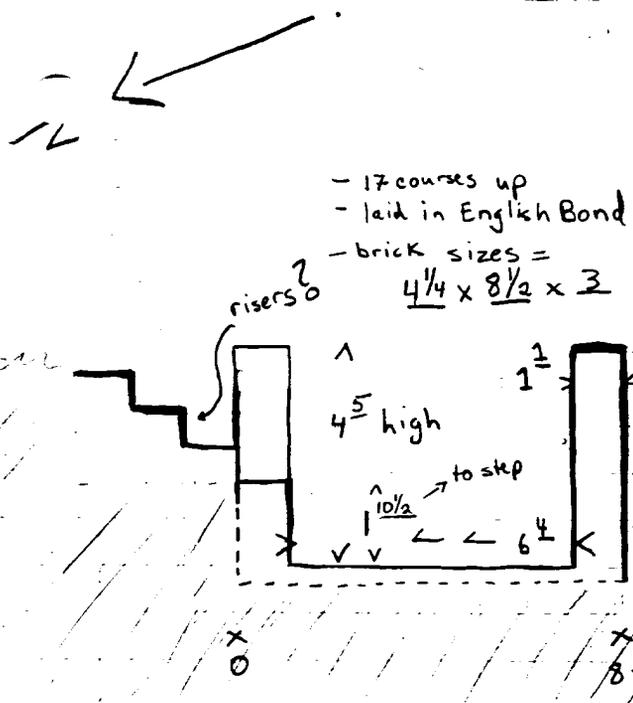
SM-583

Whirlwind Road Vicinity

Piney Point Quadrangle

4

- remains of 4 people found
- 2 ⇒ loose pavers found = supports for caskets
- 1 thick plank
- wrought coffin nails (67 nails)
- scissors found
- 4 steps to floor
- 3 steps laid directly on ground
- Bricks laid in the English Bond at least 17 courses high
- brick sizes $4\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2} \times 3$
- pavers $6 \times 6 \times 2$





SM-582

Belvidere Farm Grave Site

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Rancetta

March, 1997

Md SHPO

Looking SE

1 of 2



SM-582

Belvidere Farm Grave Site

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Rancetta

March, 1997

W. J. SNPO

Looking N

2. of 2