

Capsule Summary
SM-89
William Chesley House
Charlotte Hall
Private

Circa 1800 and later

The William Chesley House is significant as a strongly contributing resource within the boundaries of the Charlotte Hall National Register district. Both the form and setting of the house are well-preserved. The distinctive form of the house is the result of a series of construction periods. Because the exterior of the house has been sheathed with modern materials and the underside of the house is not accessible, interior access is necessary for accurate dating of the structure.

The chain of title for the quarter acre tract shows that it was a leasehold property owned by the Charlotte Hall School Board of Trustees for many years. It appears to have been one of 120 lots surveyed by virtue of an 1803 Act of Assembly authorizing Charlotte Hall School to lay off a town by the name of Charlotte Ville. This may suggest that the Chesley House was not built on this site until after 1803.

In 1829, the Chesley House lot was leased as "Lot No. 3" to Thomas C. Reeves. Reeves was to occupy the property for a 99 year period at the rent of four dollars per year. In 1833, Reeves leased the lot to Henry Fowler. By that time it was improved by "one frame dwelling house, a shoemaker's shop attached thereto, one log meathouse and one log stable."

The family of Dr. John Richard Thomas Reeves occupied this house for much of the later nineteenth century. As a result, the house became known locally as the "Reeves House." Sometime prior to 1914, John and Henrietta Chesley purchased the lot. During the Chesley ownership of the house, the east room of the south wing served as the Charlotte Hall post office and as a small confectionery shop. Most of Mr. Chesley's customers were students who attended the Charlotte Hall Military Academy.

SM-89, William Chesley House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815.
Agricultural - Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Residence
Post office
Store

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common William Chesley House

2. Location

street & number Old Route 5 not for publicationcity, town Charlotte Hall vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Patricia Poffenbarger

street & number 511 Woodcliff Road telephone no.: 304-343-3883

city, town Charleston state and zip code WVA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber DBK 177

street & number folio 175

city, town Leonardtown state MD 20650

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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 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: 2

The William Chesley House is located on the west side of Old Route 5 in the village of Charlotte Hall in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house is situated close to the road and stands on a small lot completely enclosed by a white picket fence. Two very large trees stand on the east side of the house. One outbuilding stands on the property. The house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in a series of stages, the house consists of a central, one-and-a-half story main block that appears to date to the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. To the south extends a one-and-a-half story wing. To the north extend two one-story wings. The house is sheathed with modern beaded board siding and is roofed with wood shingles.

The east (main) elevation of the main block is pierced by a six-panel entrance door with a five-light transom. The door architrave consists of plain pilasters with a dentiled cornice. To the north, the wall surface is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. One gable roof dormer projects from the roof. The dormer is pierced by a four-over-four light window. This section of the house is finished with a boxed cornice. The southern one-and-a-half story wing is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. A gable roof dormer, lit by one six-over-six sash window, pierces the roof slope. A one-story wing, stepped back from the main block of the house, extends to the north. The wing is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. Between the main block and the north wing projects a brick chimney. The chimney is covered with stucco scored to imitate ashlar masonry.

The north elevation of the north wing is a flush gable end pierced by one shuttered six-over-six sash window on the first floor and one six-over-six sash window in the eave. To the west of the north wing is the flush gable-end elevation of an adjoining one-story structure. Probably the original kitchen, a large exterior brick chimney with a varying bond pattern of 5/1 and 7/1 stands against the north wall of this building. Extending across a portion of the north elevation of both wings is a shed roof addition sheathed with vertical board siding. This addition is pierced by a partially glazed door and one six-over-six sash window. A flat roof porch supported by square posts that rest on a brick floor extends north of the addition. The roof of the porch is finished with square balusters.

The west elevation of the kitchen wing is pierced by one six-over-six sash

SM-89, William Chesley House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

window with louvered shutters. Concrete steps on the west side of the wing lead to the basement below it. The roofline is finished with a boxed cornice. South of the kitchen wing and flush with the exterior wall of the main block is a shed roof infill pierced by a pair of six-light-over-one-panel doors. The main block of the house is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters, a four-light-over-three-panel door and an octagonal window. A gable roof dormer lit by a four-over-four sash window pierces the roof slope. The southern wing is pierced by two shuttered six-over-six sash windows. The roof slope is pierced by a gable roof dormer lit by a six-over-six sash window.

The south elevation of the kitchen wing is a flush gable end pierced by one six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters and a four-over-four sash window in the eave. The south side of the south wing is pierced by a four-light-over-two-panel door and a multi-light door which open onto a screened porch. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline of this flush gable end.

The interior of the house was not accessible. According to Eleanor Canter, who lived in the house in the early 1900s, the plan of the main block consisted of a side hall and single north parlor. Access to the single bedroom on the second floor was possible by means of a winder stair located at the end of the stair hall. From the hall, there was a step down into the south wing. This wing consisted of two rooms on both the first and second floors. From the north parlor of the main block, there were two steps down to the north wing. The wing consisted of one room on the first floor, used as a dining room, and a winder stair to the second floor bedroom. The bedroom was not accessible from any other room in the house. The one-room kitchen was attached to the dining room by means of a small passage. Although a window lights the eave of the kitchen, this space was not accessible.

The one outbuilding located on the property is a smokehouse that stands north of the house. The small structure is supported by a concrete slab and is sheathed with weatherboard siding. The pyramidal roof is covered with wood shingles. A vertical panel door hung on machine made metal hinges pierces the south elevation of the building.

SM-89, William Chesley House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Patricia C. Poffenbarger

FROM: William R. Chesley

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 177, folio 175.

DATE: April 3, 1972.

NOTES: Transfer of four parcels. Parcel 1 is .51 acres known as "The Hill" and part of JMM 11/285. Parcel 2 is 1 acre and part of JMM 11/285. Parcel 3 is .25 acres and the same as JMM 11/380. Parcel 4 is .25 acres and the same as JMM 11/286. Based on the descriptions of property given by the deeds in this chain of title, it seems most likely that the house stands on Parcel 4.

Parcel 1

TO: William R. and Emily D. Chesley

FROM: Mary E. Chesley, widow of Baltimore City.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 11, folio 285.

DATE: November 26, 1938.

NOTES: Transfer of 4 parcels including parcels one and two above. Parcel one is the same as EBA 10/524. Since "The Hill" is not listed as being in Charlotte Hall, it seems unlikely that this could be the Chesley House lot.

Parcel 2

TO: William R. and Emily D. Chesley

FROM: Mary E. Chesley, widow of Baltimore City.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 11, folio 285.

DATE: November 26, 1938.

NOTES: Transfer of 4 parcels including parcels one and two above. Parcel two is the same as EBA 12/259.

TO: Mary E. Chesley

FROM: John and Henrietta E. Chesley of Baltimore City

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 12, folio 259.

DATE: January 26, 1914

NOTES: Transfer of one acre in Charlotte Hall.

TO: Thomas C. Reeves

FROM: Julius C. Ticer

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber WTM 1, folio 363.

DATE: January 4, 1848.

NOTES: Bond of conveyance for a lot in Charlotte Hall bounded on the south by Henry Fowler's lot and on the north by the Tavern Lot now in the possession of Mr. N.W. Mariam containing one acre more or less and by Ticer purchased from the heirs

SM-89, William Chesley House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

of the late William Kilgour.

TO: Heirs

FROM: John Kilgour

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber GC 2, folio 131.

DATE: July 30, 1844.

NOTES: Devision of tract of land near Charlotte Hall "...whereon they now reside known by the name of Kilgour's Angle and Orrisfield except the two lots at the low end of the land, one the Tavern lot and the other lot between the Tavern and the lot I leased to Tho. D. Edwards during their several single lives and likewise the yearly rent of the corner lot now in possession of Tho. D. Edwards and the privilege of getting...**Item, I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved brother William Kilgour the one acre lot near Charlotte Hall between the Tavern Lot and the lot leased by me to Tho. D. Edwards to him...**Item, I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved daughter Jane Hagul Goldie Kilgour all the residue of my property..." The will of William Kilgour was probated in 1839 (EJM 1/396) before that of his brother John Kilgour. However, William's heirs would still have received the one acre property after John's death. There is no deed transferring the one acre lot to Ticer in the land records.

Parcel 3

TO: William R. Chesley and Emily D. Chesley

FROM: Lulu Todd Davis

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 11, folio 380.

DATE: March 27, 1939

NOTES: Transfer of a portion of a lot in Charlotte Hall being .25 acres.

TO: Lula Todd Davis

FROM: John A. Fowler and Josephine Pearl Fowler

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 19, folio 149.

DATE: May 25, 1920.

NOTES: Transfer of a lot in Charlotte Hall being 3/4 of an acre, a portion of EBA 17/393.

TO: John A. Fowler

FROM: Walter A. Gebhart and Laura Gebhart of Baltimore City.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 17, folio 393.

DATE: November 11, 1918.

NOTES: Transfer of 2 lots being in and near Charlotte Hall on the east side of Three Notched Road known as "Log Hall" and being 10 3/4 acres and 2 1/10 acres and the same as EBA 13/502. Also a lot in Charlotte Hall on the west side of the road known as the "Shaw Lot," being .25 acres formerly improved by a warehouse since replaced

SM-89, William Chesley House
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

by a garage. This is a leasehold property subject to an annual rent of \$5 to the Trustees of Charlotte Hall School. See EBA 10/289-291.

Parcel 4

TO: William R. Chesley and Emily D. Chesley
FROM: Mary E. Chesley, widow, of Baltimore City.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 11, folio 286.
DATE: November 26, 1938.
NOTES: Transfer of .25 acres in Charlotte Hall.

TO: Mary E. Chesley
FROM: John W. Chesley and Henrietta E. Chesley
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 12, folio 246.
DATE: January 26, 1914.
NOTES: Transfer of .25 acres being the same as that described in JH 11/128.
Price: \$800.

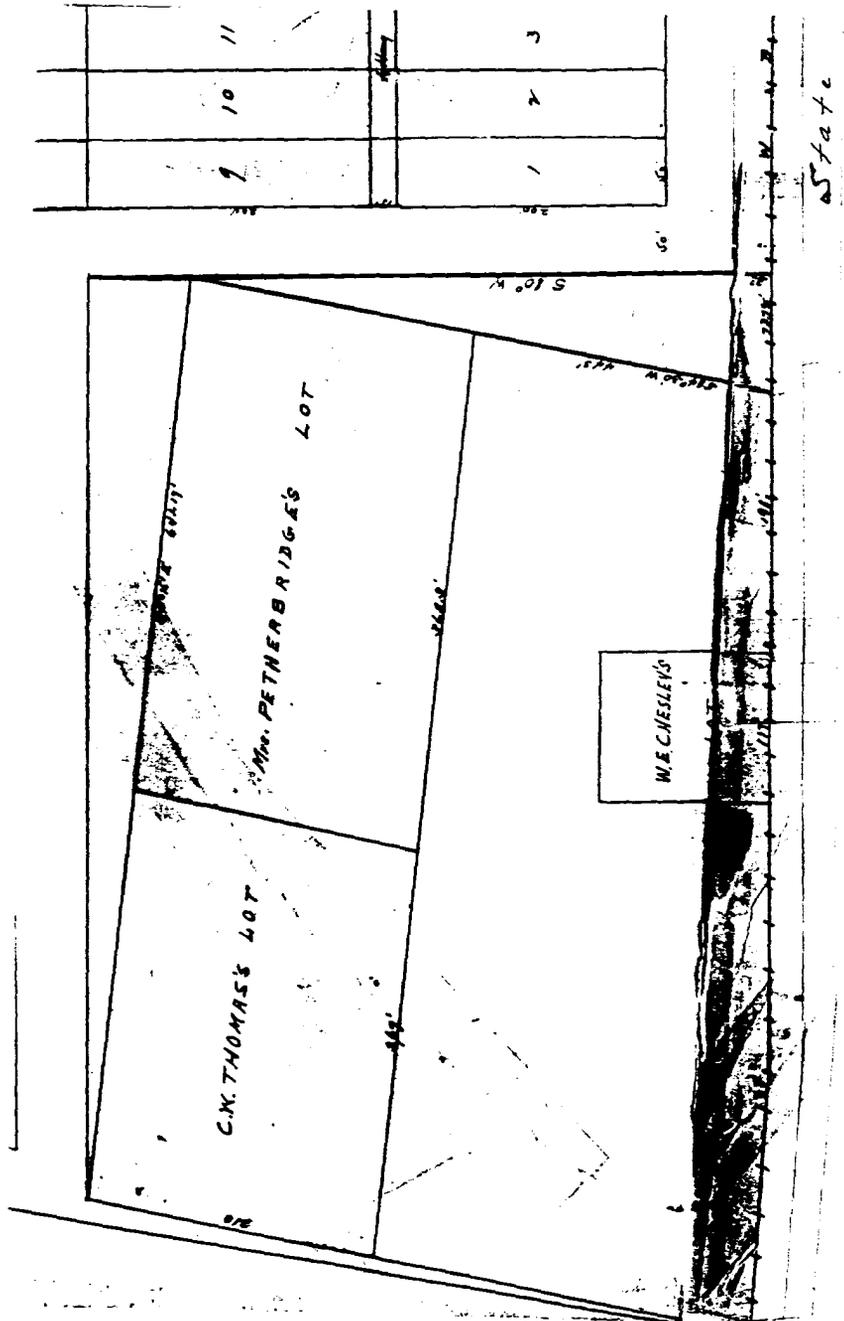
TO: Henry Fowler
FROM: Thomas C. Reeves
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 10, folio 9.
DATE: October 23, 1833
NOTES: Transfer of a leasehold lot in Charlotte Hall being Lot No. 3 and .25 acres and consisting of one frame dwelling house, a shoemaker's shop attached thereto, one log meathouse and one log stable.

TO: Thomas C. Reeves
FROM: President and Trustees of Charlotte Hall School
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 11, folio 128.
DATE: July 17, 1829.
NOTES: Lease of a lot in Charlotte Ville designated as Lot No. 3 in Charlotte Ville being .25 acres "...beginning at a stake fixed in the ground on the east side of ____ Street and running thence north 16 degrees 30 minutes west 90 feet then south 73 degrees 24 minutes west 121 feet then south 16 degrees 30 minutes east 90 feet then with a straight line to the beginning..." for 99 years commencing on the first day of January in 1829 for the yearly rent of \$4.

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8.4 Significance

Portion of the plat "Charlotte Hall Subdivision" dated July 1, 1920.

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 1, folio 183.



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St. Mary's County
8.6 Significance

Ms. Canter, the former Charlotte Hall postmistress, remembers much about her life as a child here. She vividly recalls the trains that would pass in front of the house next to the picket fence. Often, the engine would remain parked just outside of her family's home as passengers disembarked at the Charlotte Hall platform. On other occasions, the passenger cars would be parked in front of the house as freight was unloaded at the platform.

After the Canter occupation of the property, the Alvey family lived here. Sometime prior to 1914, John and Henrietta Chesley purchased the lot. During the Chesley ownership of the house, the east room of the south wing served as the Charlotte Hall post office and as a small confectionery shop. Most of Mr. Chesley's customers were students who attended the Charlotte Hall Military Academy.

S M -89
CHESLEY HOUSE

18th and 19th centuries

Charlotte Hall

Private

This small three-part frame house has a one-story, two-bay main block with a steeply angled gable roof. The entrance is at the east end. The center section is three bays in length and 1½ stories in height and is somewhat lower than the first. At the west end stands an exterior chimney that is now partially enclosed by a later one-story, one-bay frame addition. To one side of the house stands a small detached kitchen with an exterior stone and brick chimney.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior, as part of the Charlotte Hall Historic District.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME

COMMON: *Chesley House*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Old Route 5*

CITY OR TOWN: *Charlotte Hall*

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: *Washinton Street and Courthouse Drive*

CITY OR TOWN: *Leonardtwn* STATE: *Maryland*

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for bibliographical references.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA CHARLOTTE HALL QUAD

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Bourne

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: 8-70

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

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

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

New Veterans Home (1982)

aka Alumni Hall

Gymnasium Keech Hall
(1922) (c.1935)

site of old
Administration Bldg.
(1927-1982)

New Academic
Bldg. (1971)

Thomas House

4-gable
house
(private)

c.1950
brick
house

(Chesley)
Chelsey House (c. 1800, private)

(SM-89)

Dormitory
(1960)

Academic
Bldg. (1897)
aka Old Classroom
Bldg.

(SM-86)
White
House (1803)

Dent Memorial
Chapel (1884)

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

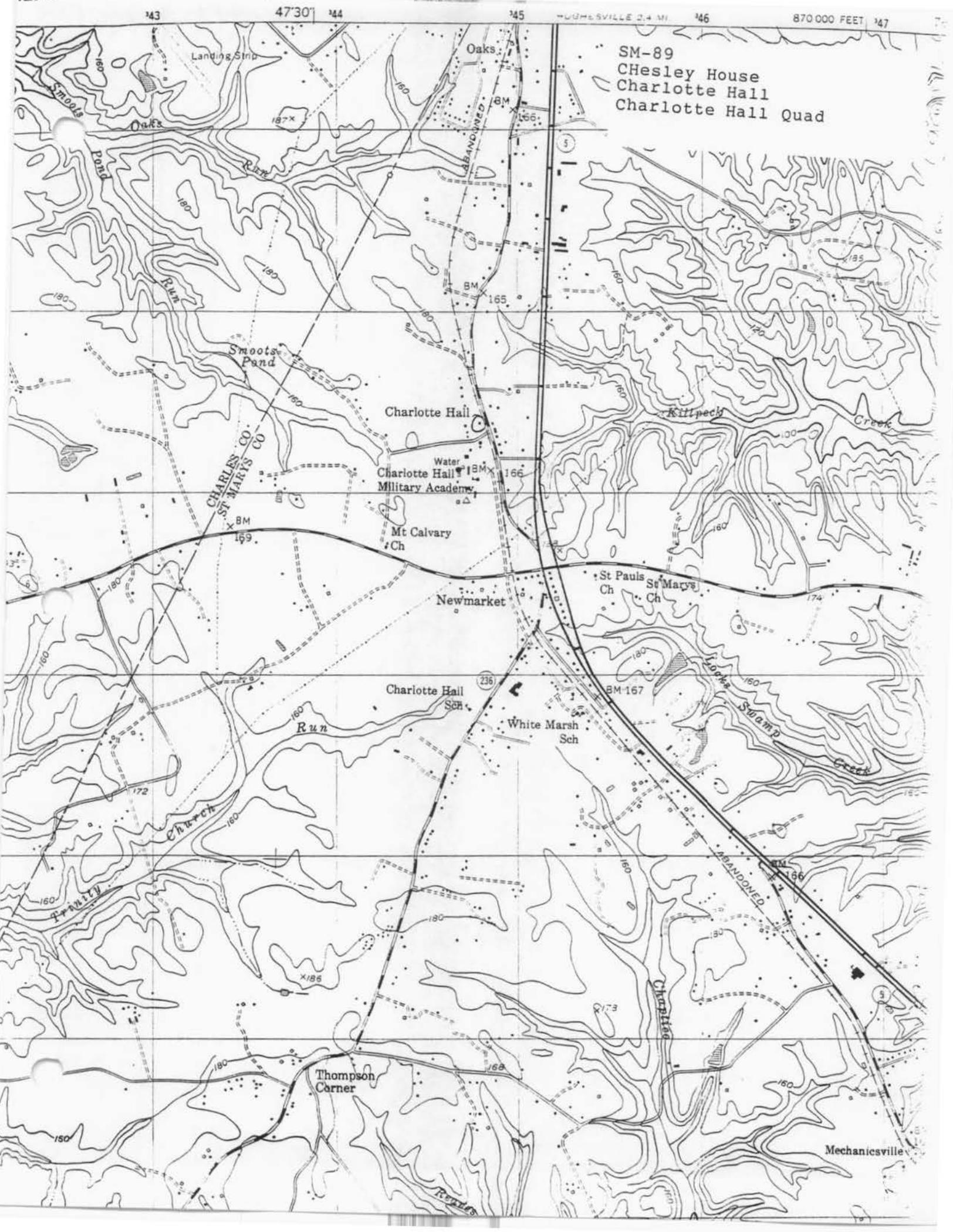
3
c.1960
brick house

Briscoe
tenant house

CHARLOTTE HALL

3/6/84 KEK

SM-89
 Chesley House
 Charlotte Hall
 Charlotte Hall Quad



SM-89, William Chesley House
St. Mary's County
8.5 Significance

HABS photo entitled "Frame House at Charlotte Hall," photographed by E. H. Pickering and dated December 1936.



William Chesley House
St. Mary's County, Maryland

HABS

41



SM- 89

William Chesley House

St. Mary's County, June 1995

MD SHPO

E. Hughes

1/4

NE Elevation



SM-89

William Chesley House

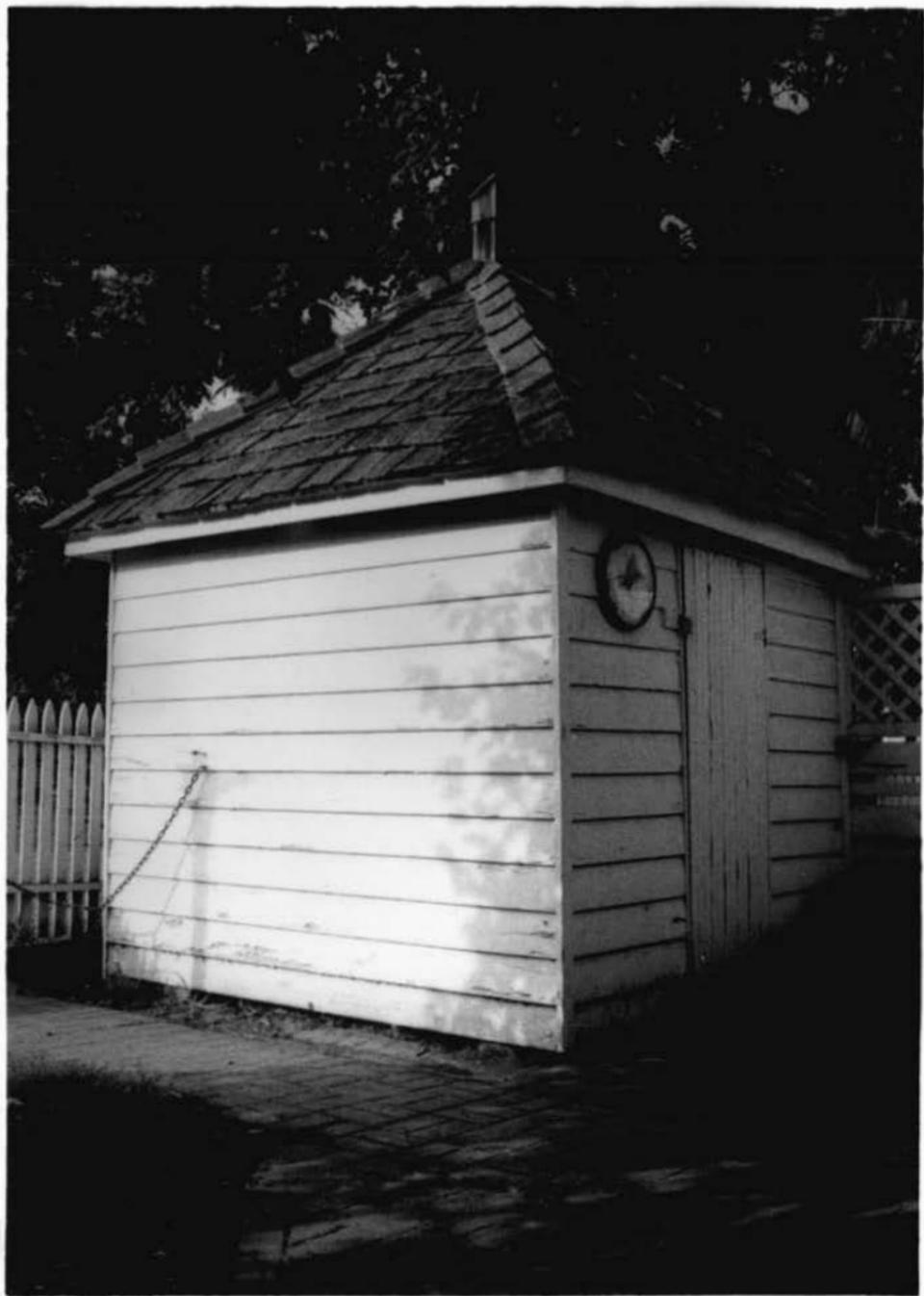
St. Mary's County, June 1995

MD SHPO

E. Hughes

$\frac{2}{4}$

NW Elevation



SM-89

William Chesley House

St. Mary's County, June 1975

MD SHPO

E. Hughes

3/4

SW Elevation



SM-89

William Chesley House

St. Mary's County

June 1995

MD SHPO

E. Hughes

4/4

East side of house - Eleann Canter and
brother.

Courtesy Eleann Canter.



SM-89

(IN CHARLOTTE HALL NR HISTORIC DISTRICT)

NE ELEVATION

CHESLEY HOUSE, CHARLOTTE HALL
ST. MARY'S CO.

JAN 10 1988

12/73