

S.M. -96

BIRCH HANGER

~~Forest Hill~~ Mechanicsville

Private

mid-19th Century

circa 1850-60

This two-story, "L"-shaped frame house was probably built by ~~Martin Burrage (circa 1818) and was later (circa 1850) remodeled~~ by Judge Mark Chunn who married Elizabeth Burrage.

The main block is three bays in length at the main facade with a three-bay rear wing. The bracketed cornice of the main block extends onto the rear wing and has gable returns. At each end of the main block and the end of the wing stand single exterior chimneys. An originally detached one-story frame kitchen with large chimneys has been connected to the main block by a one-story frame hyphen.

1900965504

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Birch Hanger

AND/OR HISTORIC:
~~Birch Hanger~~

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On West side of Old Baptist Church Road, two and one half miles South of Maryland Route # 5 Mechanicsville

CITY OR TOWN:
Mechanicsville

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>		No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: **Colonel Thurston H. Baxter (United States Air Force Retd) Mrs Mina O'Bryan Baxter**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Birch Hanger

CITY OR TOWN: **Mechanicsville** STATE: **Maryland** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Mary's County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: CODE:

INSTRUCTIONS

MARVIN BRAUNWEN

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main house built about 1817--18 by Martin Burrage was was renovated by Judge Chunn just prior to his marriage to Anne Matilda Dent in 1850.

The old corn house and the present kitchen have the same dimensions as those listed in the 1798 U.S. Tax Records for Birch Hanger. The kitchen which has a large walk in fire place with two old cranes in it originally stood separate from the main house. Behind the walls of the curtain connecting the two structures are painted outside clap board walls. Portions of this area are brick nogged.

The present owners have, in the restoration of the old house, used appropriate materials such as old random width pine floors, antique locks etc. of the period.

The cemetery is located on a hill at the end of the garden to the West of the house. The known graves have been registered with the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

An interesting old chesnut log cabin has also been carefully restored. It is the only remaining one of the many early cabins known to have been on the property.

An effort has been made to reproduce the gardens of the period using all of the historic old roses found on the place as well as native trees and shrubs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	Early Land Grant
Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The original home site and largest portion remaining intact of an early Land Grant.

A tract of 664 acres granted by Charles Calvert April 20, 1672 to Benjamin Solly, Gent, to complete the thousand sixty four acres due him was named Birch Hanger. (Hanger taking the old English meaning of "wooded declivity")

The original parchment signed by Charles Calvert is in the present owners possession and a typewritten copy is enclosed.

It is assumed that Benjamin Solly died because he defaulted in his semi annual payments and the Patent went to Clement Spaulding who held it for a short time.

Benjamin Solly's heirs recovered the property through court action and then frittered away most of the Birch Hanger holdings as Tax Records show. The parcel of land left was just over two hundred acres when it was acquired by Martin Burrage shortly after 1800.

Martin Burrage was apparently a man of some means according to his will, probated in St. Mary's County May 20, 1821, leaving Birch Hanger, all of his slaves, silver etc. to his wife Elizabeth.

Mark Chunn married the Burrage daughter who was also named Elizabeth and they acquired Birch Hanger upon the death of her mother.

In 1855 Mark Chunn bought one hundred acres of the original grant bringing Birch Hanger up to 313 acres more or less. (Liber JTB2 Folio 67 St. Mary's Co.)

After the death of his first wife Elizabeth, Judge Chunn married Anne Matilda Dent of Charles County. In 1870 he bought the inheritance rights from the children of his first marriage (Liber JAC 5 Folio 215 St. Mary's Co.) and upon his death Birch Hanger went to Annie Dent Chunn.

She married a Prof. Wingate and Birch Hanger became a private school for boys "Prof. Wingate's School for Boys" or "Birch Hanger College" in 1872 and continued as a school until shortly before Wingates death in 1907.

Mrs Wingate sold Birch Hanger in 1912 (Liber EBA 10 Folio 339) and after passing through several hands it was acquired by the present owners. (Liber CBG 30 Folio 451 St. Mary's County)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Birch Hanger Was Shown on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage in 1964, 1965 & 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

MECHANICSVILLE 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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *Thurston H. Baxter*
Col. Thurston H. Baxter

ORGANIZATION: **St. Mary's Co. Historical Society** DATE: **27 Dec. '69**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Birch Hanger**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mechanicville** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Birch Hanger 5M-96

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Birch Hanger SM-96

Kitchen wing from SW

3
3
3



Birch Hanger SM-96

View from East

Thurston H. Baxter

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