SM-37-1

St. Mary's College Historic District; Anne Arundel Hall

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 09-12-2018
Property Name: Anne Arundel Hall
Address: 47407 Old State Road
City: St. Mary's City
Zip Code: 20686
County: Saint Marys
USGS Quadrangle(s): Saint Marys City
Property Owner: State of Maryland
Tax Map Parcel Number(s):
Tax Map Number: 63
Project: St. Mary's College of Maryland DOES Agency: St. Mary's College of Maryland
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham
Date Prepared: 3/6/2007
Documentation is presented in: Fausz, J.F., Monument School of the People: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary's College of Maryland, 1840-1990. St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD (1990); St. Mary's College of Maryland, Board of Trustees Records (1947-1964).
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended

Criteria: Considerations: Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: St. Mary's College of Maryland
Inventory Number: SM-37
Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff: yes Name: Lewis and Sager Date: 4/20/2005

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

Description:
Anne Arundel Hall is a sprawling two-story Georgian Colonial Revival academic building with multiple one-story wings. It is set back from Old State Road with lawns in front and to the southeast side, and paved parking lots at each end. Many mature trees and foundation shrubs surround the building, and a walled memorial herb garden stands at the rear between Anne Arundel Hall and Margaret Brent Hall.

Anne Arundel Hall is constructed of concrete block and faced with salmon-colored brick veneer. The brickwork is ornamented with a header belt course around the second floor and flush flared stretcher lintels above the windows. The building façade also has white-painted wood trim. A projecting brick water table surrounds the foundation. A deep molded wood cornice runs around the entire building. Windows throughout the building are mostly original six-over-six double-hung wood sash, most of which are sheltered by aluminum storm sash. Embedded in the brickwork beneath many windows are horizontal HVAC grilles.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW
Eligibility recommended
Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: Considerations: Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
Date
Reviewer, National Register Program
Date
The main block of the building consists of a two-story, seventeen-bay wide brick building with a mansard roof. The roof’s lower slopes are clad in slate tile, and feature metal snow dogs and several oculus vent dormers. A large, off-center brick chimney rises from the flat top section of the roof. The roof is drained with a box gutter and round, aluminum downspouts that run through the cornice.

The primary façade, on the southwest side, has a full-height, gable-front, three-bay, slightly projecting center pavilion containing the main entrance. The gable has a full return and its interior is faced with stucco and painted white above the return. The first-floor entrance is recessed within a Greek Revival surround with single-paneled side pilasters supporting a deep tripartite entablature. The double-leaf doors are six-panel replacement doors surmounted by a five-light horizontal transom. Three single windows occupy the second floor of the pavilion. Six bays of single windows are located on each side of the center section, plus single six-paneled doors at ground level. The sides of the main block are five bays deep, with windows located on the second floor only. The rear of the building is fifteen bays wide with a flush center section containing a triple grouping of windows.

One story wings with flat roofs flank the northwest and southeast ends of the main building. The flat roofs have plain concrete parapet caps. Each wing is three bays wide and nine bays deep, and both project one bay beyond the plane of the main block’s front and rear façades. Two window openings in the northwest wing have been infilled with brick. This wing also has an original rear entrance which retains its original wood and glass door.

At the rear of the main block is a one-story, six-bay, flat-roofed perpendicular hyphen connecting to a taller one-story hip-roofed wing that is parallel to the main block. This wing, originally built as a library, is three bays deep and six bays long, with taller windows than on the main block. Most windows have a six-over-nine double-hung sash fenestration pattern, and this wing also lacks storm windows. A modern commercial glass door has been installed at the rear southeast corner of the library wing. The hyphen has two entrances near its junction with the main block. An older door on the northwest side features sidelights and opens to a ramped sidewalk and the herb garden area. A newer door on the southeast side of the hyphen leads to a covered raised wooden walkway that connects Anne Arundel Hall with a modern prefabricated classroom trailer situated at the southeast rear corner of the main block.

The interior of the building features painted concrete block walls. The primary hallways have dropped acoustical ceilings and tile floors, and retain original buff-colored ceramic tile wainscoting along the lower portions of the walls. Some original hallway door openings are intact, while others have been infilled. Some original doors and moldings remain. Some original classrooms and many offices remain intact, but many of the interior’s larger spaces have been reconfigured with new interior partitions as office suites or smaller rooms. Newer c. 1990s partitions are drywall with a single row of square fixed windows at the top to permit light from outer offices to penetrate the inner areas. Perhaps the most intact area in the building is the former business studies wing at the southeastern end, which still retains much of its original room configuration. A few restrooms have also been preserved largely intact with original tile floors and stone stall partitions with wood doors. More modern facilities, such as the women’s restroom on the first floor at the center, reflect more recent changes. A two-story stairwell with iron balustrades is located at each front corner of the main block, with exit doors in front. In the hyphen, a large original archway is still visible at what was once the entrance to the library wing. This arch was infilled with modern wood doors c. 1970, and the double-height library now houses two floors of offices.

History:
St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded in 1840 as a "Monument School" in honor of Maryland's founders, who had established the first colony at St. Mary's City in 1634. The school, which was originally named St. Mary's Female Seminary, opened in 1844 on a seven-acre parcel of land next to Trinity Church. This land was purchased from William and Mary Parish of
the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Seminary was unusual for being a public women's boarding school offering a high-quality liberal arts education comparable to that offered by private seminaries, and its remote location in southern Maryland made its survival a struggle for many years.

In the early 20th century, the Seminary upgraded its curriculum to that of a high school, and in 1926 included a junior college division as well. The institution was renamed St. Mary's Female Seminary-Junior College. In 1935, it was reorganized to include only the last two years of high school plus a two-year junior college program, giving students the option of two- or four-year courses. It was accredited as a four-year high school-junior college in 1940 by the Maryland State Department of Higher Education. St. Mary's remained a small single-sex institution but its future as a post-secondary school remained precarious and an overly critical state commission report in 1947 even recommended its closure.

Energetic new leadership was provided in 1948 by the arrival of Anna May Russell to assume the presidency of St. Mary's Female Seminary-Junior College. President Russell promptly dropped "Female" from the school's name and began the difficult task of improving the junior college division and getting the school on track to earn full accreditation from the Commission of Higher Education of the Middle Atlantic States. This would bring the school more in line with national trends in higher education, as well as provide better higher educational opportunities for the swelling postwar population of St. Mary's County. A more long-term goal of hers was to upgrade the school to a four-year baccalaureate institution, and the initial improvements undertaken to solidify the junior college were viewed as key building blocks that would eventually help the school make this challenging leap in status.

In early 1951, the College made its first major land acquisition since its initial purchase of seven acres in 1844. A parcel of approximately 3.5 acres east of the original campus was purchased from school trustee J. Spence Howard and his wife Jeannette to provide the school with room to expand. At almost the same time, the St. Mary's Seminary Junior College successfully obtained a $500,000 appropriation from the State of Maryland to construct one or more buildings. Records of the Board of Trustees had mentioned the dire need for a new classroom building as early as 1947. To attain accreditation for the junior college division, the school needed to improve its physical plant with modern academic buildings and attract a more highly qualified faculty. The $500,000 appropriation of 1951 was spent largely to construct a faculty residence, Margaret Brent Hall, and a large classroom building, Anne Arundel Hall. In 1959, after some years of enrollment fluctuations, the addition of male commuter students and an evening division, and the acquisition of more land, the junior college division finally gained full accreditation. The high school division was dropped in 1960 and the school was renamed St. Mary's Junior College.

Within the following decade, under the continued direction of President Russell, the school expanded rapidly into a fully coed four-year baccalaureate college known from 1964 onward as St. Mary's College of Maryland. Between 1956 and 1969, it acquired 274 additional acres and added numerous buildings in a new area of campus east of Rt. 5. It became coed in the fall of 1965 and converted to a senior college in 1967. In 1992, it was designated Maryland's Public Honors College, and has retained its distinguished academic reputation to the present time.

Anne Arundel Hall was built in 1954 as a modern academic building, containing classrooms for different subjects, faculty offices, a library (rear wing), a business education wing (southeast end of first floor), and a home economics wing (northwest end of first floor). The second floor originally housed more offices, science classrooms, an art studio in the front center, and biology and chemistry laboratories along the rear. The building was designed in 1953 by James J. Baldwin, AIA, of Washington, D.C. in collaboration with Laurence P. Sangston, Principal Architect of the Maryland Department of Public Improvements (DPI). Its construction was overseen by T.R. West, District Engineer of the Maryland DPI. A cornerstone containing wood from the Wye Oak was laid in 1953. The library was housed in the rear wing, while the art, science, home economics, and business classrooms, studios, and labs were in the main block. Anne Arundel Hall was dedicated in 1954, along with Margaret Brent Hall.
Anne Arundel Hall has housed a number of both academic and administrative functions over the years, including the college bookstore. The library was moved to the newly completed Baltimore Hall in 1969, and its former space in Anne Arundel was renovated as a two-story office suite. Some original classrooms remain, but the school no longer offers secretarial or home economics courses, and the science laboratory facilities were moved to newer buildings on the east side of campus by the 1990s. Many of the larger rooms in the main building were renovated at this time, with several large classrooms being partitioned into department office suites. Anne Arundel Hall now houses several administrative offices of the College, including Academic Programs and Services, the Registrar, and Residence Life, as well as classrooms and faculty office space for the Psychology, Educational Studies, and Philosophy-Religious Studies disciplines.

Significance/Justification:
Anne Arundel Hall was the second of two major buildings constructed in the early 1950s under the tenure of President May Russell in the beginning stages of the St. Mary's Seminary-Junior College expansion. It is located on a parcel that was the school's first major land acquisition since its founding, and is the newest and biggest of the three extant large academic buildings on the west campus. It was the school's first nonresidential academic/classroom building and provided a significant modern facility to upgrade the campus and expand the school's academic programs. The spacious new laboratories and studios were a significant improvement over previous cramped quarters. Anne Arundel Hall was built in a fairly nondescript early 1950s interpretation of Georgian Colonial Revival style, which was popular for academic and public buildings from the early 1900s into the 1960s. Its exterior is relatively well preserved, with renovations including insertion of HVAC vents, replacement of most doors, infill of a few windows, and construction of wheelchair ramps in the rear hyphen area. The interior has been more extensively renovated to suit changing academic and administrative needs.

Although Anne Arundel Hall retains much of its exterior integrity, it has little distinctive or unique architectural character and is quite typical of its construction period. Therefore, Anne Arundel Hall does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, it is the most prominent of the two 1950s buildings completed as the first major phase of the school's expansion from a struggling high school-junior college into today's honors baccalaureate institution, and visually, it harmonizes with the early-to-mid-twentieth century Classical Revival character of the original campus.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _______ Eligibility not recommended _______
Criteria: _______ A _______ B _______ C _______ D Considerations: _______ A _______ B _______ C _______ D _______ E _______ F _______ G
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services __________________________ Date __________________________

Reviewer, National Register Program __________________________ Date __________________________
MIHP # SM-37-1
Anne Arundel Hall
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's County, Maryland
Katherine Farnham
Feb. 9, 2007
MD SHPO
Primary facade, view to E
#1 of 15
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Anne Arundel Hall
St. Mary's College of Maryland
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MD SHPO
Side context view from Rt. 5, looking NW
#3 of 15
Anne Arundel Hall
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's County, MD
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MD SHPO
View of main block rear at hyphen at library wing to W
#4 of 15
MIHP# SM-37-1
Anne Arundel Hall
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MD SHPO
Rear view of building at wing, to SW
#5 of 15
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Rear view of rear wing, hyphen + main block, to SSW

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Anne Arundel Hall
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View of side of side wing, to S
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Anne Arundel Hall
St. Mary's College of Maryland
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Feb. 9, 2007
MD SHPO
View of side of primary facade, to E
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Anne Arundel Hall
St. Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's County, MD
Katherine Farnham
Feb. 9, 2007
MD SHPO
View of main block facade, to NE
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Anne Arundel Hall
St. Mary's College of Maryland
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Katherine Farnham
Feb. 9, 2007
MD SHPO
Detail view of main entrance, to NE
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Anne Arundel Hall
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Detail of rear of library wing, typical window, to SW
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Anne Arundel Hall
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MD SHPO
Primary 1st floor corridor, view to NW from center
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Anne Arundel Hall
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MD SHPO

Arbor on 1st fl. of main block, former academic classroom, view to S.

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Typical renovated interior space, 1st fl. NW wing, view to SW
#14 of 15
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MD SHPO
Southeast corner stairwell, view to SW from 2nd fl. landing
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