SM-7

Sotterley

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.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

*Last Updated: 01-06-2004*
SM-7
SOTTERLEY
Hollywood
Private, open to public first quarter 18th century

The architectural evolution of this 1 1/2-story frame house is attributed to various members of the Plater family who lived here between 1730 and 1822, including George Plater, Governor of Maryland from 1790 to 1791. The original builder is thought to have been James Bowles.

The initial stage was one story in height and three bays in length at the river facade. The gable roof had no dormers, and there was a single interior chimney at each end. On the interior, the ground floor contained two rooms. The second stage of construction involved the addition of one room at the rear elevation which first gave the house its present "T" plan. Later alterations include the addition of a kitchen wing and the extension of the house at the opposite end; the front slope of the roof was raised to two stories, although the rear slope remained at its original angle.

Notable interior detail includes the Chinese Chippendale trellised stair in the main hall and the shell alcoves and other interior moldings of the present drawing room, attributed to Richard Boulton.

On the grounds are several interesting farm dependencies, including a rare 18th century brick necessary house, a brick stable or warehouse dated 1757 in glazed headers, and other 18th and 19th century structures.

(continued)
Sotterley is owned and maintained by the Sotterley Mansion Foundation, Inc. It is open to the public from June through October each year and by appointment during the other months.

Also see archeological listing.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, United States Department of the Interior.
For NPS Use Only
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: St. Mary’s

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Sotterley
AND/OR HISTORIC: Sotterley Manor, Sotterley Plantation, Resurrection Manor, Bowles' Separation, Bowles Plantation

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East of junction of Maryland Route #245 and Vista Road, 3 miles east of Maryland Route #235
CITY OR TOWN: Hollywood
STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24
COUNTY: St. Mary’s
CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>Religious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural | Government | Park | |
Commercial | Industrial | Military | Religious | Museum | House | Scientific | Transportation | Other (Specify) | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Sotterley Mansion Foundation, Inc.
President: (Mrs.) Mabel Satterlee Ingalls
STREET AND NUMBER: Sotterley
CITY OR TOWN: Hollywood
STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hall of Records
STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington
CITY OR TOWN: Dist. of Columbia
STATE: 11
CODE: 11

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Form 10-300
(July 1969)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
EASEMENT
SM-7

ST. MARY'S
Sotterley is located northeast of Maryland Route 245, three miles northeast of the intersection of Maryland 245 and Maryland Route 235 at Hollywood, Maryland.

Sotterley is a long one-and-one-half story, frame building, covered with wide, beaded clapboard siding and "Spanish brown" color wood shingle roof. It measures approximately 100 feet in length and is twenty feet wide. An ell is located on the west side of the building. A portion of the east facade is two full stories in height, an alteration from the eighteenth century. On all facades of the building are low porches, the east porch being the more imposing with square paneled columns supporting the roof, and Newcastle flagstone floor, probably those mentioned in the James Bowles' inventory of 1727. At the point where the ell meets the main house there is a square unlighted wood cupola. On the south end of the building is a passage and brick kitchen. Each gable is faced with brick.

The floor plan of Sotterley is unconventional in Maryland houses, though research has enabled the precise development of the house to be traced, beginning as a simple one-story, two-room dwelling sheathed completely with riven oak clapboards. Its original length was approximately forty-four feet. The ell was then added onto the west side of the building and was called the "new room" in 1727. Subsequent additions consisted of: a wing to the south with a passage and dining room, now (1971) one large room; the heightening of a part of the east facade; and then the major changes prior to the American Revolution. Those latter changes consisted of lengthening the house to the north by about fourteen feet thereby changing the placement of the original north wall approximately ten feet south. The resulting two rooms then became the stair hall and parlor. The old paneling was reworked for the stair hall and a new staircase with a Chinese trellis balustrade installed. The parlor was then completely paneled to a heightened ceiling in the style of the period.

The parlor has a flush paneled dado beneath the chair rail and railed panels above. The chimney breast has a mantel shelf supported on carved consoles, croisettes trim the fireplace and a panel above has a band of fretwork. Flanking the chimney are a pair of carved shells within rectangular paneled alcoves, also supported on carved consoles. The chair rail also has a band of fretwork. Each of the individual component parts of the parlor are well executed, but their relation to each other and the whole is grossly misunderstood.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

1970 State

Maryland Historical Trust
94 College Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The study, stair hall and sitting room are fully paneled to the ceiling in an earlier style. In the latter two rooms is a paneled summer beam. The mahogany Chinese Chippendale-style stair balustrade was installed by Richard Boulton, who was the architect for the nearby St. Andrews Church, St. Mary's County, constructed in 1767, and for "Bushwood," a St. Mary's County Georgian mansion destroyed by fire in 1934, which also had a Chinese Chippendale staircase balustrade.

The dining room was formerly smaller, consisting of a passage and room, as mentioned above. Its walls are now (1971) covered with a modern wall paper, the design of which was adapted from a design in Brighton Pavilion, Brighton, England. South of the dining room is a pantry and storage room. The latter is unusual in that it has a barrel-vaulted, plaster ceiling.

When the east porch roof was repaired in 1953, a pediment above the main east entrance was found as well as the original sanded finish, a finish that was used on Mt. Vernon, Virginia. Also some round-butt wood shingles painted "Spanish brown" were found. Some shingles and a part of the siding are on view to the public.

After Mr. Herbert Satterlee purchased Sotterley, he reconstructed the found chimneys and poured a concrete footing beneath the entire structure, stabilizing the old building but carrying away some clues as to its evolution.
The sources of Sotterley's significance are numerous. Sotterley is one of the few Maryland buildings that can be dated without question to the first quarter of the eighteenth century. The mid-eighteenth-century woodwork in the drawing room and stair hall must be classified among the finest pre-Revolutionary woodwork in the southern colonies. Sotterley's exterior river facade with its white columned portico and cupola gives the same effect, although a bit on a smaller scale, as Mount Vernon. The fact that the exterior was at one time rusticated adds to the similarity. The numerous out buildings--some of an early date--contribute to the creation of the atmosphere of an eighteenth-century plantation.

In 1960 the Historic American Building Survey of the United States Department of the Interior certified Sotterley, St. Mary's County, Maryland, as a building of architectural and historical significance "worthy of the most careful preservation." A house museum since 1961, Sotterley's history encompasses a Governor of Maryland, George Plater; a nineteenth-century owner who lost this plantation in a dice game to an owner of Stratford Hall; Herbert L. Satterlee, a member of America's most powerful financial circles; and Mrs. Mabel Satterlee Ingalls, a granddaughter of Mr. John Pierpont Morgan, founder of the banking house, J. P. Morgan Company.

Although not built until the eighteenth century the land on which Sotterley is located was a part of Resurrection Manor, a 4,000 acre tract patented in 1650 to Thomas Cornwallis, one of the outstanding men of seventeenth-century Maryland. In 1659 Cornwallis sold Resurrection Manor to John Bateman, a London merchant. After Bateman's death in 1663 Resurrection Manor had several seventeenth-century owners. A 1684 deed recording one of the land transactions mentions several buildings on the tract. However, these do not refer to Sotterley.

No building appeared until the eighteenth century after John Bowles bought 890 acres of Resurrection Manor. Six
years later Bowles had his tract resurveyed and named it Bowles' Separation. Bowles built the nucleus of Sotterley and erected several outbuildings. In addition to operating his plantation Bowles served on the Governor's Council.

In 1727 Bowles' three daughters who had all married Virginians inherited Bowles' Separation. Bowles' widow retained the right to life tenure on the property.

Two years after John Bowles' death his widow remarried. Her second husband was George Plater II (1695-1755). They lived at Sotterley. Plater served Maryland as a Collector of customs, a member of the Governor's Council and Secretary of the Province—the second highest office in the province. In 1753 Plater bought Bowles' Separation formally beginning the Plater period of ownership in the history of Sotterley. Upon his death two years later the plantation passed to his son George Plater III (1735-1792).

Of all the inhabitants of Sotterley George Plater III was perhaps the most distinguished. He received legal training at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. From 1767 to 1773 he was Naval Officer of the Patuxent River, a position previously held by both his father and grandfather. He represented St. Mary's County on the Council of Safety in 1776 and at the constitutional convention in Annapolis of the same year. From 1778 until 1781 Plater was a member of the Continental Congress. He then served in the Maryland Senate eventually becoming its presiding officer. While a Senator, Plater supported Maryland's ratification of the United States Constitution. In 1791 the legislature chose Plater to be Governor of Maryland, a position he held until his death on February 2, 1792.

Governor Plater named his plantation Sotterley after Sotterley Hall, Suffolk, England, the ancestral home of the Plater family. Governor Plater adopted the name as early as 1776. In addition to giving the plantation a new name he extensively renovated and enlarged Sotterley. His additions included the Chinese Chippendale staircase and the shell ornamentation in the drawing room, designed by Richard Boulton. After Governor Plater's death, his son George Plater IV inherited Sotterley and at his death it was inherited by his son, George Plater V.
George Plater V squandered most of his family's holdings through debts and gambling. He lost Sotterley, it is believed, in a dice game to his mother's step-brother, William Clarke Somerville (1790-1826). According to legend, Plater, mortally ill with pneumonia, dragged himself from his cousins' house where he was living through the rain to die at Sotterley. His body was found in one of the outbuildings.

William Clarke Somerville sold Sotterley soon after winning it. He also disposed of his own family plantation, Mulberry Fields, preferring to live at his Westmoreland County, Virginia estate, Stratford Hall.

The next owner, Thomas Barber, willed Sotterley to his daughter, Emeline Dallam Briscoe in 1826. She and her family remained at Sotterley for sixty years. The property was sold at auction to the Reverend John Briscoe. He was a friend of the Right Reverend Henry Yates Satterlee, the instigator of the creation of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul in Washington, D.C. Satterlee, a sometime visitor to Sotterley, persuaded his cousin, Herbert L. Satterlee, to buy the plantation after Briscoe's death.

The new owner, Herbert L. Satterlee (1863-1947), was an influential New York lawyer and son-in-law of Mr. J. P. Morgan, Senior. Satterlee studied the history of Sotterley, restored and renovated it. He accumulated 1,550 acres of land in St. Mary's County in an attempt to recreate the original boundaries of Resurrection Manor.

Satterlee's family, as did the Platers, had ancestral ties with Sotterley Hall, Suffolk, England. Members of the Satterlee family lived at Sotterley Hall, from the time of the Norman Conquest until the War of the Roses. In 1471 the Satterlees were expelled and the Platers, or Playerts, took over the English house. Satterlee's purchase of Sotterley, St. Mary's County, in a round about way, reversed the fifteenth-century eviction of his family.

Herbert L. Satterlee's daughter, Mrs. Mabel Satterlee Ingalls, inherited Sotterley in 1947. Mrs. Ingalls donated the plantation to the Sotterley Mansion Foundation, Inc., which maintains the property as a house museum.
Sotterley

#9. REFERENCES continued


McKenna, Marian. "Sotterley, St. Mary's County." Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. XLVI. (September 1950), 173-188.


St. Mary's County Land and Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.


Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Maryland From the Earliest Period to the Present Day. 3 vols. Baltimore:

(4 of 5 continuation sheets)
#9. REFERENCES continued

John B. Piet, 1879.

"Sotterley St. Mary's County Maryland." Pamphlet, n.d.
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland, April 1970.
William Morgan, Maryland Historical Trust, 1968.
Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, July, 1971.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 360.8 acres

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

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<th>CODE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [X] Local [ ]

Name: Orlando Ridout IV
Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland
Date: January 6, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:
Keeper of The National Register

Date: __________________________
Sotterley, a working plantation since the early 18th century, was the home of the Bowles, Plater, Briscoe and Satterlee families. Sotterley continues to be operated today as a working plantation and to be lived in occasionally by members of the Satterlee family. It is opened to the public from June to October.

Sotterley was the home of George Plater III, sixth Governor of Maryland.

Attached is a brochure telling the history of Sotterley, which includes many beautiful illustrations of this historic and gracious plantation.
A collection of historic occupational zones lies under the front lawn of Satterley. Test pits revealed remains of early driveways, foundations of outbuildings and trash disposal areas. A large domestic trash dump of the 19th century (or possibly earlier) exists here.
Drumcliff

The relationship between the two datums is variable.

Depth curves and soundings in feet—Datum is Mean Low Water.

The mean range of tide is...

Shoreline shown represents the approximate line of Mean High Water.

Contour interval 10 feet.

National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.
SM-7
Sottley
East Jersey
Soberly, St. Mary's County
JM-7
SM-7
Sutterley
West Parade &
5. Addition
SM-7
Sotterley
West Facade
& rear wing
SM-7
Sotterley Interior
stair hall, Chinese Chippendale balustrade
SM-7
Sotterley
Interior
Stair hall
Chinese Chippendale balustrade
Spira
Sutlerian
1st edition

Chill almost in parlor N wall
Sotterley 5M-7
Necessary 1968
Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County, Maryland