

PH0365637

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 19 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MARSHALL HALL

AND/OR COMMON

Marshall Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

At the terminus of Maryland Route 227, 4.5 miles north of
its intersection with Maryland Route 210

CITY, TOWN

Bryan's Road

X

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Charles

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

XBUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

XPRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___OCCUPIED

XUNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

XNO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

X PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Star Enterprises Limited

STREET & NUMBER

Maine Avenue and 6th Street, SW

CITY, TOWN

Washington

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust/St. Mary's City Commission Archi-
tectural Survey of Tidewater Maryland

DATE

1971

___FEDERAL XSTATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN

St. Mary's City

STATE

Maryland 20686

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
XGOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED
___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Marshall Hall is located at the terminus of Maryland Route 227, 4.5 miles north of its intersection with Maryland Route 210, Bryan's Road, Charles County, Maryland. The house, commonly referred to as "the Mansion," is situated within the Marshall Hall Amusement Park, an extensively developed commercial enterprise that surrounds the house on the north, east, and west sides. The area directly behind and to the southeast of the house remains open and has lofty trees which shade the house, a remaining domestic dependency, and the Marshall family cemetery.

Although the oldest part of the house was built about 1725, the building today approximates its appearance in about 1800 with minor alterations of a later date. An impressive structure skillfully executed in Flemish bond brick, it is one and one-half stories in height beneath a steeply pitched gable roof.¹

The river front (north facade) of the 60 X 30 foot house is seven bays in length (see Figure 1). The first five bays from the west end constitute the original house of circa 1725; the two easternmost bays date from an extension of the house made in about 1760. On the first floor the original five bays consist of a center door flanked by two windows on each side. These windows and the door have splayed brick arches of rubbed and gauged brick, the bases of which are molded in a double-ogee pattern creating a highly decorative effect.² The five similarly spaced windows above have flat unornamented heads that are flush with the base of the roof cornice. All the windows have sash of two-over-two panes that are of Victorian vintage, although the windows themselves occupy the original locations. The doorway frames a modern door and transom and is now slightly narrower than it was originally.

The two first and second floor bays of the addition (a window and a door on the first floor and two windows above) also occupy the original locations and have two-over-two Victorian sash. The doorway frames a modern door and transom; the original width, however, is retained. An interesting feature on this elevation of the addition is the manner in which the bases of the window and door heads of the first floor were crudely chiseled out in an attempt to repeat the decorated flat arches of the four windows and door of the original house.

The rear elevation of the house is five bays long, with the first three bays from the west end marking the original house. The two first floor windows and center door of this part of the house have segmental arches of alternating stretcher and header brick. Those of the second floor are unornamented and flush with the base of the roof cornice. The first floor window and door on the addition are closely spaced together and

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Description, continued

occupy a former doorway, the arch of which is still discernible. Both first floor openings have flat arches while those of the second floor, like those of the older part, are unornamented and flush with the roof cornice. All windows on this elevation frame two-over-two Victorian sash.

Before renovation of the house in 1966, the west end displayed a large flush chimney decorated on its outside face by an arched blind panel extending up from about the middle of the gable to just below the corbeled chimney cap (see Figure 2).³ In 1966 the chimney stack was rebuilt above the gable peak and, though the panel was rebuilt, the arch was not. When first built, the west end was broken only by a very narrow closet window near the north end of the first floor and an even smaller louvered vent near the top of the gable. Of these two openings, only the attic vent remains, the closet window having been bricked up at an unknown date. At the present time, there are two second floor windows that replaced doors introduced when a veranda was added to the house in the late nineteenth century. The east end of the house is now devoid of any openings as the two windows originally near the north end of the first floor were later bricked up.

The steeply-angled, wood-shingled roof of Marshall Hall, broken only by three chimneys, accentuates the verticality of the house. A strong decorative element is provided by the pronounced flaring of the roof at the eaves. As far as can be determined, the roof has always been wood sheathed. Although the type of the first roof covering is not known, it probably consisted of short lengths of horizontally hung riven clapboards, a typical roof covering in this region during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This first covering was subsequently replaced by alternating coverings of round and butt end shingles. The present roofing of butt end shingles was applied in 1966.

Photographs taken of Marshall Hall in the 1950's and 60's show a modillioned cornice with ogee crown and bed moldings decorating the front and rear elevations. This cornice, which probably dated from the circa 1760 alterations, was removed in about 1966 and replaced by a plain box cornice with standard moldings.

In 1966 the interior of Marshall Hall was renovated for conversion to offices. The basic plan was retained (see Figure 3), as

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Description, continued

well as a substantial amount of the original interior fabric, although the latter was hidden behind masonite paneling, lowered ceilings and wall-to-wall carpeting. By removing sections of the new wall covering and portions of the suspended ceiling, it was possible to determine the original appearance of the interior of the house.

The ground floor room configuration of the older, circa 1725 house consisted of four rooms with a short, centered, rear stair hall, a plan characteristic of Charles County architecture throughout the eighteenth century.⁴ The front entrance door opened into the largest (northwest) of the four rooms, which had walls completely covered with fielded panels, as well as heavily molded baseboards, chairrails and ceiling cornices, paneled window and door reveals, and a plastered ceiling. On the west wall was an expansive fireplace with rounded back, framed by a wide bolection molding. This fireplace was made smaller in size in the late nineteenth century and a new, Victorian-style mantel installed within the area framed by the earlier bolection molding. Flanking the fireplace on the north side is a shallow closet with paneled door and shelved interior. The closet was once lighted by a small window in its west wall which has since been bricked up and plastered over.

In the slightly smaller northeast room, the walls were decorated with paneled wainscoting, baseboards, chairrails and ceiling cornices. All of this woodwork, however, has been removed and its current whereabouts remain unknown. The wall areas above the wainscoting and the ceiling were plastered, first painted and then papered. The fireplace in this room has been completely covered, but the measurements of the chimney base indicate that it was about the same size as that in the northwest room. Flanking the fireplace in the northeast corner is a two-part cupboard with two sets of paneled doors. A door connecting the two front rooms was covered during the 1966 renovations.

The only early features remaining in the two rear rooms are the paneled window reveals and the two-piece window and door surrounds, all identical to those found in the two front rooms. The stair in the hall is probably original and winds up to the second floor from north to south along the west wall. It has a molded rail, square chamfered newel post, and turned and blocked balusters.

The second floor of the circa 1725 part of the house is divided into four rooms, two on each side of a full depth center

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Description, continued

hall. Almost no eighteenth-century elements remain other than the plan itself,⁵ but although the plaster and woodwork is of mid-nineteenth-century vintage, several interesting features do exist. One is the use of four tie beams extending through the house from front to back. Two of these define the hall partition walls and are partially exposed on the hall side of the walls. The other two are at the ends of the house and are hidden behind walls flush with the front of the chimney faces. (There were no fireplaces on this level at any time, a surprising fact considering the size of the building). A second feature worthy of note is the manner in which the ceilings of the two front rooms are about two feet higher than those of the two rear rooms and hall. This difference in ceiling height might have been provided to accomodate the several massive high post beds mentioned in early inventories of the house. Since the outside end walls of the two front rooms were flush with the front of the chimneys, natural closet space was provided on both sides of the chimneys. It is interesting that despite this available space only one of these areas was utilized, that on the south side of the fireplace in the northeast bedchamber where traces of a narrow ladderway to the attic were found.

The roof framing of the house employs common rafters braced by three sets of collars. The two lower sets of collars define the second floor ceilings; the third set is positioned a few feet down from the ridge line. The front and rear eaves were formed by morticing short spurs into the outside face of the wall plates. The flaring of the roof at this level was created by morticing the rafter ends into the upper face of the wall plates and running kick plates out from a short distance up the rafters down to the upper side of a board secured on top of the projecting spurs. To add greater strength to the eaves and relieve the pressure on the spurs, the tie beams of the second floor extend out from the wall plate the same distance as the spurs. The roof rafters themselves were erected in four sets with each set of rafters secured together by lapped diagonal and horizontal braces, all of which remain.

The addition of circa 1760 on the east end of the house was so carefully done that not even a seam in the exterior brickwork is easily detected. There is, however, a sufficient amount of interior evidence to document the fact that the east third of the house was built at least four decades after the erection of the original dwelling. Since passage between the two parts of the house was only

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Description, continued

possible from a single door, that in the east end of the southeast first floor room of the main block, with no connecting passageway at the second floor level, it is probable that the addition was built to provide a kitchen on the first floor and quarters for domestic servants on the second.

The initial plan of the addition included a large, full width front room that from all available evidence served as a kitchen (see Figure 3). The rear section of the first floor was a recessed porch, open to the outside by a wide arched doorway. The only early features known are that the north kitchen room had plastered walls, exposed beaded ceiling joists, a large fireplace on its east wall flanked by a window on each side, a door and window in its north wall, and a door and window on the south side. The kitchen floor might have been wood, as it is today, but it was probably paved with brick, as was the porch floor. In about 1800 the kitchen was remodeled to serve as an additional living area by plastering over the ceiling and installing new baseboards, chair-rails and a ceiling cornice. The fireplace was made smaller and a Federal-style mantel provided. The two windows flanking the fireplace were bricked up and two cupboards, each with two sets of paneled double doors, were installed in these areas. The porch was divided into two rooms and the former arched doorway filled in and a single door and window installed in its place. It is believed that the existing stair on the east wall of the southeast rear room was provided at this time, probably replacing a stair in the former kitchen room.

Although no alterations are thought to have been made to the second floor at this time, a change in room arrangement did occur eventually, probably in the late nineteenth century. The original room configuration of four chambers was later altered to two rooms and a stair hall. Although the use of tie beams as found in the older part was repeated when this wing was built, the center beam which initially defined a central through partition was partially removed when the full width front room was introduced. The beams at the ends were and are hidden behind plaster walls.

About thirty feet from the southwest corner of the main house and positioned at right angles to it stands a small, one-story brick building said to have served as the office of Dr. Thomas Marshall II, son of the builder of Marshall Hall. The brickwork

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Description, continued

suggests a building date contemporary with the circa 1760 addition to the house, but all other early features have been obliterated by Victorian-era alterations. About one hundred yards southeast of this building stood a large, mid-eighteenth-century brick stable and carriage house. Prior to its demolition in about 1966 to make room for a picnic pavilion, it was the only building of its type and date remaining on Maryland's western shore. It was an impressive building, notable for its size, Flemish bond brickwork, arched doorways and high gable roof (see photographs).

About one hundred yards east of the house is the Marshall family cemetery, a fenced burying ground containing about twenty-four known graves, half of which are eighteenth century. Most of the markers, large flat stones on brick bases, are in good condition and are legible.

¹Marshall Hall and Rich Hill (circa 1720-40) are the only two early eighteenth century houses in Charles County that are true one and one-half story buildings. In both buildings, the wall plates are seated evenly with the top of the second floor windows and the second floor ceilings are sloped on at least one side.

²The double-ogee patterned window heads of Marshall Hall are the earliest known example extant in Southern Maryland. Similarly fashioned window and door heads are also found on the east front of the circa 1730-35 west wing of Holly Hill, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

³A variation of this same feature is recorded by photographs of the Ross House, circa 1730-50 (demolished), in Bladensburg, Prince George's County, and Mill Point Farm, circa 1730 (demolished), in St. Mary's County. In the latter instance, however, there was a narrow channel extending up from a belt course at the eave level through to the top of the corbeled chimney caps.

⁴Marshall Hall retains the earliest recorded use of this plan. In Charles County alone there are no fewer than twenty-five houses of various types that utilize the same room arrangement; the latest known use of the plan is at the Old House on Boarman's Manor, a circa 1825-35, one story-plus-attic, frame dwelling near Bryantown.

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Description, continued

⁵In the mid-nineteenth century the south wall of the northwest bed chamber was moved back almost six feet. The head beam of the former partition wall was retained, but enclosed in a plaster casing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1650 William Marshall I (died 1673) received a patent of 500 acres in Prince George's County (later incorporated into Charles County), which he named "Marshall." It was this tract, combined with several others of lesser acreage, that formed the nucleus of what was to become by 1759 a 959-acre estate. It is generally believed that at least two generations of the Marshall family lived on the "Marshall" tract prior to the erection of the existing house. However, before construction of the house, which was built on a smaller tract acquired in 1727 and known as "The Mistake," Thomas Marshall I (1696-1759), grandson of William Marshall I, assured his ownership of the property by securing a deed from the last Emperor of the Piscataway Indian Nation, John Ackelahama, through the latter's "agent and attorney, Indian Robin R. Aquaw." Thomas Marshall I, responsible for the construction of the main house, its later east end addition and many of the major farm improvements, was also a successful import merchant, landing and selling goods at his own piers and warehouses at Marshall Hall. The inventory of his estate, and that of his wife Sabrina who survived him by nine years, are among the most extensive and detailed dating from mid-eighteenth century Southern Maryland.

Thomas Marshall II (1731-1801), who inherited his father's estate, was not only successful in maintaining their extensive and productive farms, but was also a man committed to the political welfare of his country. His name is read repeatedly in lists of representatives from Charles County attending various Continental Congresses and Provincial Conventions prior to and during the American Revolution. Thomas Marshall II also maintained a close personal relationship with General George Washington, whose Mount Vernon is within sight of Marshall Hall.

Thomas Marshall III (1757-1829) practiced medicine throughout the area and though blinded during the Revolutionary War, continued his profession until the time of his death. His son, Thomas Marshall IV (1796-1845), continued to manage the estate passed onto him by his father, by this time diminished somewhat both in size and economic stability. His son, Thomas Marshall V (1826-1903), suffered great financial losses as a result of the Civil War and was forced to sell the estate in 1866. The property passed through several ownerships until 1895 when the remaining 412 acres were

see continuation sheet #7

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland Historical Trust/St. Mary's City Commission 1971 Architectural Survey of Tidewater Maryland. Architectural drawings and data sheets, St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland.

Land and Probate Records of Charles County. Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Rivoire, J. Richard. Research notes & genealogical manuscripts. Faulkner, Maryland.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
NW A	18	31,732,0	4,283,700
SE C	18	31,760,0	4,283,680
NE B	18	31,750,0	4,283,810
SW D	18	31,740,0	4,283,600

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearce 4/14/76

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

10 MAY 1976
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/12/76

DATE

5-11-76

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Significance, continued

bought by the Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall Steamboat Company. By this time Marshall Hall had become established as a pleasure resort frequented by people from the Washington area who arrived and departed by steamboat, also making regular stops at Mount Vernon. The Victorian park structures, gardens, croquette and jousting greens, gazebos and park concession stands, intermixed with the mansion house and its once numerous dependencies, remained until the mid-twentieth century when most of the park structures and farm buildings were demolished. The property is now maintained as a modern amusement park, but its future as such is not to be long lived. In 1974 the U.S. Department of the Interior acquired Marshall Hall as part of the Piscataway National Park to preserve the view from Mount Vernon. Tentative plans by the National Park Service include the gradual phasing out of the amusement park and the restoration of the house.

Marshall Hall is the largest dwelling house in Southern Maryland to be documented as dating before 1740. Despite extensive alterations, it retains a surprising number of original features, many of which are the earliest datable examples yet recorded in Maryland. Such early features include the double-ogee window heads of the river front, the bolection molding framing the fireplace of the great room, the four-room plan which became a standard favorite in the region and continued in popularity until about the second decade of the nineteenth century, the story-and-a-half construction and unusual framing of the roof, and the arched blind panels decorating the chimney stacks. The east end addition itself is of interest for the original south doorway opening onto a recessed porch. It is for these reasons that Marshall Hall is invaluable for use in comparative studies tracing the architectural development of the region.

Of equal importance is the association of the house with one of Southern Maryland's most socially prominent and affluent families. Contemporary records indicate that Marshall Hall was the largest brick house standing in Charles County between 1710 and 1740. The family itself was the third wealthiest in the county in the 1730's. Both private and public records relating to the house and the Marshall family are remarkably complete and provide a highly interesting insight into the life and times of a prosperous landowning family in eighteenth-century Southern Maryland.

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Addition to the Description

Buildings and other structures standing on the ten acres nominated with Marshall Hall and not discussed in the nomination form consist of a number of post-1940 amusement park structures. These include: several concession stands, a roller coaster, a ferris wheel, a bumper car ride, a fun house, several amusement arcades, a twister, a restaurant, several ticket booths, a picnic pavilion, rest rooms, the pier and the main office. All of these are slated for demolition in the next several years.

Addition to Owner of Property

The National Park Service was given Congressional authorization to purchase the Marshall Hall property in 1974. They are, as of this date, in the process of acquisition, but do not yet hold title to the entire acreage. They do, however, maintain an easement control over the property.

JRR:pmj

5/3/76

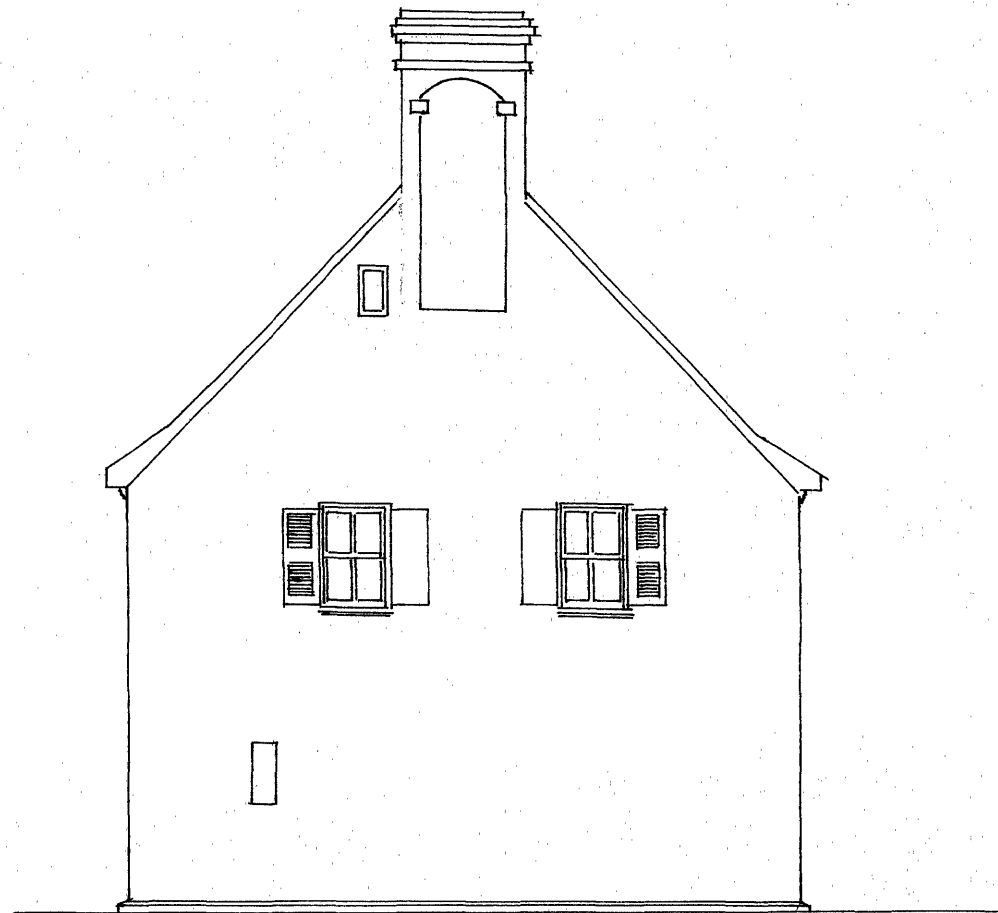


• Marshall Hall "Mansion"
North Elevation, Front
scale: $\frac{1}{8}$ in. = 1 ft.

MARSHALL HALL
Charles County, Maryland

J. Richard Rivoire 1975

north elevation (drawing)

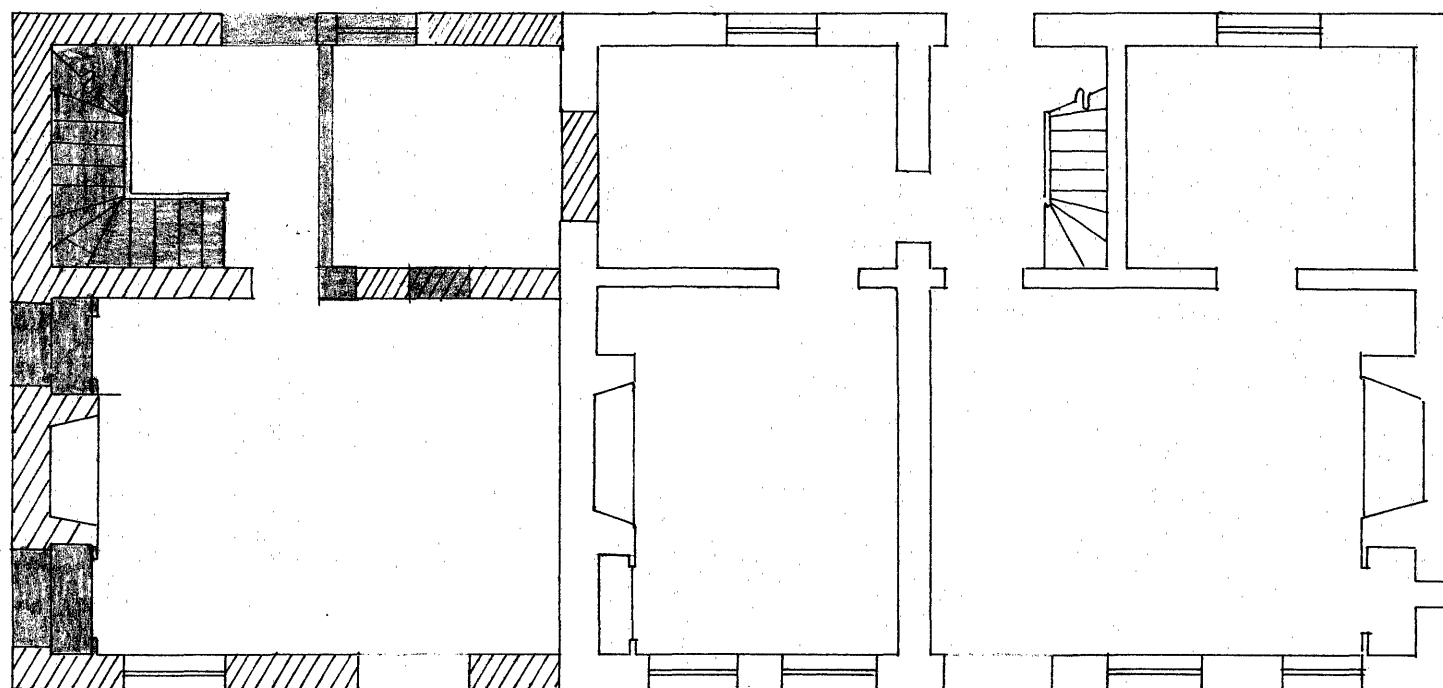


Marshall Hall "Mansion"
West End Elevation
scale: $\frac{1}{8}$ in. = 1 ft.

MARSHALL HALL
Charles County, Maryland

J. Richard Rivoire 1975

west end elevation (drawing)



❖ Marshall Hall "Mansion"
GROUND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN ❖

Co. 1727  Co. 1750  Co. 1800 

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



MARSHALL HALL
Charles County, Maryland

J. Richard Rivoire 1975

ground floor plan (drawing)