JOYCE BURGESS CANDLAND
12409 Over Ridge Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854

The RECORD

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc. October 1977

Watson M. Perrygo, President J. Richard Rivoire, Editor

FALL DINNER MEETING

The Fall Dinner Meeting of the Historical Society of Charles County will be held on Friday, November 4th at the Martha Washington Restaurant, Waldorf, Maryland. A cash bar will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner including steamship round of beef, ham and shrimp creole served at 7:30. Tickets are $8.50 per person. Reservations must be made by noon, Tuesday, November 1st. Please make checks payable to the Historical Society of Charles County and send to Mrs. Sarah L. Barley, RR 2, Box 2364 U, La Plata, Maryland 20646.

Dean Charles B. Leidenfrost, Cultural Resource Development Specialist with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, will speak on American Art of the late-seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with an emphasis on European influences.

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FRIENDSHIP HOUSE DEDICATION

On Saturday, October 22, 1977, Friendship House will be formally dedicated as the new headquarters of the Historical Society of Charles County. It has been a long awaited event, marking the completion of a project initiated over a decade ago, a project whose successful conclusion is directly attributable to the hard work and enthusiasm of those involved. The program, which commences at 2:15 p.m. at the site of the reconstructed building on the campus of the Charles County Community College (Mitchell Road, La Plata), will include music by the St. Mary's Star of the Sea Fife and Drum Corps and a Color Guard demonstration by Boy Scout Troop No. 1782, Nanjemoy. Gen. Orwin C. Talbot, Director of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, will deliver the dedication speech. All members of the Historical Society are invited to attend. A reception following the program will provide members and guests an opportunity to view the recently completed restoration.

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It was initially intended that this issue of The Record would be devoted to Friendship House, complete with photographs, articles on its historical associations and architecture, and a history of its move from Nanjemoy and subsequent reconstruction-restoration. Unfortunately there was insufficient time to collect the existing information and properly prepare it for publication.

Although previous issues of The Record have contained articles on various aspects of the project, few have adequately discussed the contributions of the Charles County Community College--the very important role it has played in bringing the project to fruitition and its reasons for becoming involved. Since the role of the College is a significant one, Dr. J.N. Carsey, its President, was asked if he would contribute a few paragraphs on this subject to the planned Friendship House issue. Despite the abandonment of the Fall issue as originally conceived, it was felt that the article submitted by Dr. Carsey, illustrating the relationship between the Society and the College and the latter's interest in other matters pertaining to local history, could be published independent of the other material.

Charles County Committee. The 1977-1978 survey will include the photographic, physical and historical documentation of approximately sixty pre-designated sites throughout the county.

In 1971 the Maryland Historical Trust conducted a general survey of historic sites in Charles County as part of their state-wide inventory. Essentially a "windshield survey," it provided such basic information as site location and, when possible, brief physical descriptions and historical data. Due to staff and time limitations the Maryland survey was never intended to be considered complete, but it did provide valuable information on literally thousands of sites throughout the state. Much of the data gathered on sites in the lower Southern Maryland and lower Eastern Shore counties was published in 1973. Printed in two volumns, the inventories have since been revised and expanded and are expected to be republished by early next year. Nevertheless, the county inventories still require further work; the Charles County survey itself is expected to take several years to complete.

Historic sites inventories, besides their requirement by state and federal law, offer a wealth of information to historians, architects, planners, students and laymen alike. In a rapidly growing area such as Charles County, for instance, where there are over three hundred sites of varying types and degrees of significance, the inventories are of particular use in

Although cemeteries are not ordinarily included in historic sites surveys, the gravestone of Edward Pye (d. 1801) near Glymont is an exception and deserves recognition and protection due to its high artistic quality.

THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE PROJECT

A College Perspective

By
J. N. Carsey-President

One of the strengths of the Maryland Community Colleges is local control which has led to a commitment of "service to the community." The Charles County Community College has addressed this commitment through a variety of educational programs developed as a response to community needs and through service projects not related directly to specific training needs. The "Friendship House" project is an example of the latter.

It has proven to be a particularly rewarding project because it exemplifies how two separate organizations can complement each other when the spirit of cooperation is there.

The Charles County Historical Society had the house and a strong desire to have it reconstructed somewhere in the county. The Charles County Community College had ground, an around-the-clock security system and available utilities. The Board of Trustees of the college and The Historical Society were willing to cooperate and thus the marriage.

To understand why the project went as smoothly as it did, it might be useful to trace the college's sense of purpose in relation to local history.

As early as 1968 I recommended to the Board of Trustees that they include the following statement in their Policy Manual:

> "The Board of Trustees and the College administration have joined together in a project of developing within the College framework, a Local History Center. This Center will begin by gathering materials and expertise in Charles County history, but plan eventually to expand to include Southern Maryland history."

They adopted this policy enthusiastically. My reasoning was (and still is) that, since the college is the only institution of higher education in the county it should move systematically toward becoming the center for scholarly local historical research.

This led to the inclusion of some space in the Learning Resources Center (opened this year) which we have named "The Southern Maryland Room" and which we hope will eventually house sufficient documentation and resources to serve future scholars adequately in their pursuit of local historical research.

It is my plan that within the next decade we will find a way to endow "chairs" for one or more historians who can work full-time on the task of documenting our rich local history and who also could develop a series of courses or seminars on Charles County history for the citizens of our county. Each year we wait to comprehensively document out local history, the more difficult a chore that becomes.

The college is blessed with a Board of Trustees with vision. Mr. Louis Jenkins has provided leadership as Chairman since 1968 and Mrs. Louise Mudd has worked diligently on a number of subcommittees related to our local history projects.

The Historical Society, led by Watson Perrygo and George Dyson has shown a will and determination on the Friendship House project for which all Charles Countians should be grateful.

Let's all hope the marriage prospers and begets more exciting projects in the years to come.

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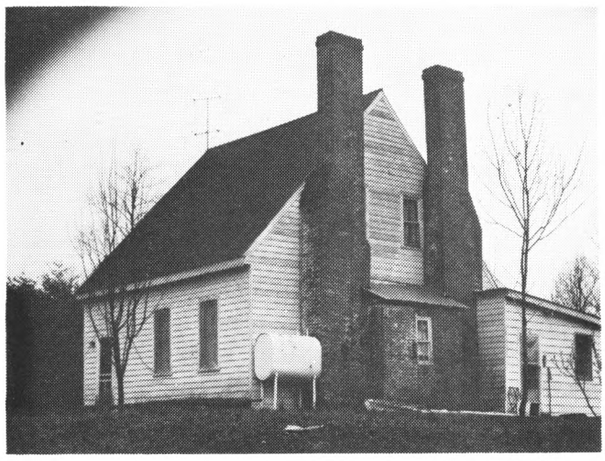
HISTORIC SITES SURVEY BEGINS

The Charles County Commissioners and the Maryland Historical Trust recently entered into a one-year contract to conduct a survey of historic buildings, structures and sites in Charles County. Scheduled to begin November 1st, the survey will be carried out by an architectural historian working directly under the county Planning Department, with assistance from the Maryland Historical Trust and its



The Cooksey House, (above) and "The Exchange" (page 3) are among the types of small traditional houses that will be recorded as part of the survey.

recognizing which sites or groups of sites are of specific interest and to initiate means for their protection and/or preservation.

For more information on the Charles County survey contact Mr. Mark R. Edwards, Survey and Inventory Coordinator, Maryland Historical Trust, Shaw House, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401, or Dr. Lloyd S. Bowling, Chairman, Charles County Committee, Westwood Manor, RD No. 1, Box 284A, Charlotte Hall, Maryland, 20622.

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NOTES

The Southern Maryland Regional Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Maryland have recently authored a book on one aspect of Maryland's rich and colorful history that in the past has been largely ignored. BEHIND THE MARYLAND SCENE gives long deserved recognition to the many important contributions made by Maryland women during our first two centuries of development. Well documented and illustrated, it has a foreword written by Margaret Brown Klapthor, a Charles Countian, author of several books and articles, and a curator at the Smithsonian Institution.

BEHIND THE MARYLAND SCENE will soon be on sale at the Old Quintzel Store, Port Tobacco, and the Added Touch, La Grange Avenue, La Plata. Copies may also be ordered directly from Colonial Dames. For mailing call Mrs. Edward C. Turner, La Plata, (301) 934-9203.

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Another publication of interest is FLAGS AND SEALS OF MARYLAND AND OF THE UNITED STATES prepared by Frederick T. Wehr. A handsomely illustrated and informative booklet, it records the history of the flags of the United States from before the Revolution to 1976. Seals of the counties of Maryland are presented in order of the date of their charter. The origin of the individual county names is also given. Copies of this booklet can be purchased directly from the Historical Society.

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The Friendship House Furnishings Committee, Chaired by Warren E. Barley, recently acquired by purchase three eighteenth century chairs and an eighteenth century bed for display in Friendship House. These, as well as other furnishings and accessories on temporary loan and from the Society's collection, can be viewed at the Dedicaiton Ceremony on Saturday, October 22nd. Those members interested in a tax deductable contribution of furniture or other suitable items to the museum should contact Mr. Barley or Mr. Perrygo.

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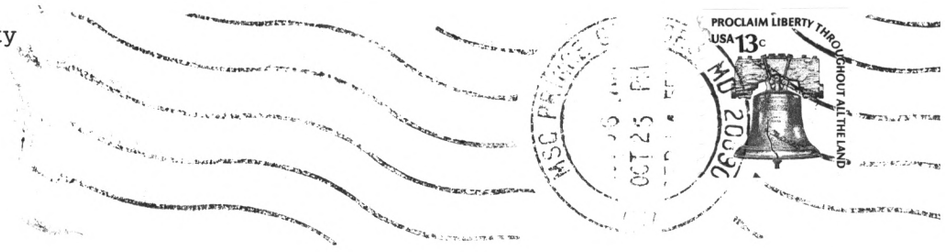
The Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Charles County has submitted the names of the following individuals as candidates for Board membership, replacing those three members whose terms expire this year:

Mr. William B. Ellinger
Ms. Clara Wooddy
Mrs. Vivian Malczyk

Recommendations for nomination will be formally presented at the November 4th meeting for vote. Nominations from the floor will also be received.

The Historical Society of Charles County
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



Mr. & Mrs John M. Candland
12409 Over Ridge Rd.
Potomac, Md. 20854