1. NAME
COMMON: Fort Frederick
AND/OR COMMON: On 1543 CE considered to be in the form was written

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: South of Maryland Route 56
CITY OR TOWN: Near Big Pool
STATE: Maryland

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes:
  - Restricted
  - Unrestricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tawes Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John's College Campus
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:
Fort Frederick is located southeast of Big Pool, Maryland, south of Maryland Route 56, on the northeast bank of the Potomac River. A rectangular stone structure with bastions at each corner, it is typical of mid-18th century fortifications. The sandstone and limestone walls enclose 360 square feet. The darker rocks on upper sections of the walls indicate replacement stones added in 1934-1935 by the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The walls are four feet thick at the base tapering to three feet at the top, which is seventeen feet from the ground.

Each of the four bastions originally contained a six-pound cannon mounted on mounds of earth. The northeast and southwest bastions contained magazines in log chambers within the mounds. During the American Revolution when Fort Frederick was used as a prison for British Troops the earth was cleaned away.

Within the fort is the parade ground as well as the foundation of several structures: officers' quarters, fort headquarters, two barracks. The Maryland Park Service plans to reconstruct these structures. A wooden catwalk originally lined the interior walls. A portion has been restored along the west wall.
A glimpse of the hardships endured by our early forefathers and a realization of the perilous nature of day-to-day living colonial times are provided to the visitor at historic Fort Frederick. The huge stone fort is a visual reminder of the colonial heritage of Maryland.

On May 16, 1756, during the French and Indian Wars, the Maryland Legislature, at the request of Governor Horatio Sharpe, appropriated 6,000 pounds to build and maintain the Fort, for the purpose of providing shelter and protection to the inhabitants of outlying settlements. By mid-August the construction was well under way.

Fort Frederick was in a continuous state of alarm from its completion until the capture of Fort Duquesne in November of 1758. During this time it was garrisoned by militia companies from the various counties of Maryland.

After the signing of the Treaty of Paris ending the French and Indian War, Chief Pontiac went on the warpath. During this uprising more than seven hundred terrified people found refuge in the Fort.

Fort Frederick was again called into service during the Revolutionary War. Under the command of Colonel Moses Rawlings, the Fort served as a prison of British and German soldiers captured during the War. At one time more than 1,000 prisoners were held there. The last prisoners to be quartered at the Fort were those captured at Yorktown.

After the Revolution, the relative calm which settled over the area diminished the need for the Fort. It was sold at public auction on September 5, 1791, and lay abandoned until the Civil War. At the outbreak of Civil War hostilities, it was summoned into the south wall and a cannon was placed here to guard the B & O Railroad and the C & O Canal.

No significant military action occurred, however, and by 1862, the Fort's usefulness ended.

The surrounding grounds of the Fort were used for agricultural purposes until interest was renewed in Maryland's rich history. The Legislature

(see continuation sheet #1)
Fort Frederick

No. 8 Significance Continued.

authorized the purchase of the Fort in 1912, but negotiations were not con-
cluded until 1922, when it was deeded to Maryland under the administration
of the State Board of Forestry, now the Department of Natural Resources.
By the time the old walls had decayed into piles of rubble, and the founda-
tions of the barracks inside were buried under accumulations of earth.

After extensive research, the original plan of the Fort were located, and
with the aid of Civilian Conservation Corps labor the outside stone walls
and part of the interior were restored. The Maryland Park Service plans
to restore the barracks and interior of the Fort to complete authenticity.

1From Maryland Park Service brochure on Fort Frederick.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland. Pamphlets on Fort Frederick. Research files at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Nancy Miller, Historian

ORGANIZATION:

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

12. STATE LIASON 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 [ ] Local [ ]

Name ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Date ____________________________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

______________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date ____________________________

ATTEST:

______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

Date ____________________________
Form 10-300
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

FORT FREDERICK

AND OR HISTORIC:

6664

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

South of Maryland Route 56

CITY OR TOWN:

Near Big Pool

STATE:

Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Sixth

STATE CODE:

24

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE:

043

3. CLASSIFICATION

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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):

- Agricultural
- Government
- Park
- Transportation
- Comments
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)
- Educational
- Military
- Religious
- Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

Tawes Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

CODE:

24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Hall of Records

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

St. John's College Campus

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

CODE:

24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

FEDERAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

For NPS Use Only
Fort Frederick is located southeast of Big Pool, Maryland, south of Maryland Route 56, on the northwest bank of the Potomac. A square stone structure with diamond shaped bastions at each corner, the fort encloses one and one half acres of land. Its design is typical of Vauban-style fortifications of the 18th century. The perimeter wall was restored to its original twenty foot height by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934-35. The darker mortar in the upper parts of the wall distinguish the restored portions from the original portions that were still standing before restoration.

The bastions were originally filled with earth and are believed to have each been mounted with a six-pound cannon. Archeological evidence uncovered in the 1930's indicates the possibility of log-supported magazines in the southwest and northeast bastions. A wooden catwalk approximately six feet below the top of the walls originally spanned the inside of the wall between the original presence of three sizable buildings, probably of log. Two were enlisted men's barracks (west and east sides of the parade), one was a combination officer's quarters and store-room (on the north side of the parade). A double wooden gate originally stood in the south wall of the fort. The Maryland Park Service plans the eventual restoration of the fort's interior.
A glimpse of the hardships endured by our early forefathers and a realization of the perilous nature of day-to-day living colonial times are provided to the visitor at historic Fort Frederick. The huge stone fort is a visual reminder of the colonial heritage of Maryland.

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(See continuation Sheet #1)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland. Pamphlets on Fort Frederick. Research files at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nancy Miller, Historian, Ross Kimmel, Historian; Maryland Park Service, DNR.

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

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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
Orlando Ridout IV, State Preservation Officer for Maryland

Title

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

______________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

Date
Fort Frederick

#8 Significance (continued)

authorized the purchase of the Fort in 1912, but negotiations were not concluded until 1922, when it was deeded to Maryland under the administration of the State Board of Forestry, now the Department of Natural Resources.  

1From Maryland Park Service brochure on Fort Frederick.
In approving Fort Frederick for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the Governor's Consulting Committee expresses great concern that plans for development of Fort Frederick State Park may threaten the historical and archeological integrity of the Fort. The Committee strongly recommends that appropriate and exhaustive historical and archeological research be undertaken before reconstruction or any other improvements be made within the Fort Frederick Historic District.

Research is necessary not only for purposes of reconstruction and restoration, but is essential to the correct interpretation of the site for both park visitors and scholars. Particularly in the case of archeology, failure to do adequate research may mean that Park developments will destroy unique and irreplaceable data which can never be replaced or recovered in any other way. Because of the importance and unique nature of the site, and because historical and archeological research is time-consuming and expensive, the Committee also recommends that an intensive program of historical and archeological research be undertaken at Fort Frederick over a period of several years.
Fort Frederick - Washington County

Taken by: Maryland Park Service