

CH-181

Lee Graves at PEPCO Plant, (Lee Cemetery)

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: 08-30-2018

CH-181
Lee Graves
Newburg

1790s

This small plot contains the graves of several members of the Lee family, including Squire Richard Lee, builder of the Blenheim mansion and Commander of the North Potomac for thirty years.

Lee Graves
CH-181
Newburg vic.
Public

C. 1789-1793

The Lee family cemetery is the only remaining evidence of the property's former association with the Lee family of Blenheim. The site is found on the property of the Mirant, formerly PEPCO, powerplant on the south side of the Harry W. Nice Bridge, overlooking the Potomac River. The Lee cemetery site is significant for its association with the Lee family of Maryland, one of the most prominent families in the area. Squire Richard Lee of Blenheim was the son of merchant Philip Lee, who once served as Naval Officer of the "North Potomac District". Philip Lee, the son of Col. Richard Lee the emigrant to Virginia, settled at Lee's Purchase in Charles County. Squire Richard Lee was the oldest son of Philip Lee and was educated in England before being admitted to Middle Temple as a member of the bar in May 1719. After returning to Maryland he served as Naval Officer for the Potomac River. He was president of the Governor's Council of Maryland for many years. Unlike his Virginia cousins Richard Henry Lee of Chantilly and Light Horse Harry Lee of Stratford Hall, Squire Richard Lee was a staunch Loyalist. The cemetery contains the graves of Richard Lee, his wife Grace R. Lee, and their daughter Alice Weems. Also buried here is Russell Lee, whose tomb describes him as "*the last fond hope of a respectable and a numerous and once extensive family*". Russell was likely a son or grandson of Richard and Grace Lee.

Inventory No. CH-181

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Lee Graves

other

2. Location

street and number	12620 Crain Highway	not for publication
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city, town	Newburg	X	vicinity
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county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Mirant Mid-Atlantic LLC
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street and number	1155 Perimeter Center West	telephone	Unknown
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city, town	Atlanta	state	GA	zip code	20664
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 82 p. 10

city, town	LaPlata	liber	3101	folio	348
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count	
						Contributing	Noncontributing
☐	district	☐	public	☐	agriculture		
☐	building(s)	☐	private	☐	commerce/trade		
☐	structure	☒	both	☐	defense	<u>1</u>	
☒	site			☐	domestic		
☐	object			☐	education		
				☐	funerary	<u>1</u>	
				☐	government		
				☐	health care		
				☒	industry		
				☐	landscape		
				☐	recreation/culture		
				☐	religion		
				☐	social		
				☐	transportation		
				☐	work in progress		
				☐	unknown		
				☐	vacant/not in use		
				☐	other:		
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
						1	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-181

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☒ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lee family cemetery is the only remaining evidence of the property's former association with the Lee family of Blenheim. The site is found on the property of the Mirant, formerly PEPCO powerplant on the south side of the Harry W. Nice Bridge, overlooking the Potomac River. Mirant maintains the cemetery which is enclosed by a chain link fence. The cemetery stands on open clear ground within view of the Nice bridge. A monument erected by PEPCO stands near the center of the plot. All memorial stones are flat and likely carved from marble. Many are in poor condition. The cemetery contains the graves of Richard Lee, his wife Grace R. Lee, and their daughter Alice Weems. Also buried here is Russell Lee, whose tomb describes him as "the last fond hope of a respectable and a numerous and once extensive family". Russell was likely a son or grandson of Richard and Grace Lee.

The exact location of Blenheim has never been determined. Research conducted by J. Richard Rivoire in the 1970's and 80's suggests that this site was a significant distance north of the current site. Accordingly, Rivoire identifies this location as the site of Rosedale or Ferry Farm, a 1780 gambrel roof structure erected by Robert or John Laidler. (1)

ENDNOTES

(1) Rivoire, J. Richard. Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, MD. 1990. SMSC. Pg. 17.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-181

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
☐ 1600-1699	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ health/medicine	☐ performing arts	
☒ 1700-1799	☒ archeology	☐ education	☐ industry	☐ philosophy	
☐ 1800-1899	☐ architecture	☐ engineering	☐ invention	☐ politics/government	
☐ 1900-1999	☐ art	☐ entertainment/ recreation	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion	
☐ 2000-	☐ commerce	☐ ethnic heritage	☐ law	☐ science	
	☐ communications	☐ exploration/ settlement	☐ literature	☐ social history	
	☐ community planning		☐ maritime industry	☐ transportation	
	☐ conservation		☐ military	☐ other:	

Specific dates 1789-1793

Architect/Builder NA

Construction dates 1789-1793

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Lee Cemetery site is significant for its association with the Lee family of Maryland, one of the most prominent families in the area. Squire Richard Lee of Blenheim was the son of merchant Philip Lee, who once served as Naval Officer of the "North Potowmwck District". Philip Lee, the son of Col. Richard Lee the emigrant to Virginia, settled at Lee's Purchase in Charles County. Squire Richard Lee was the oldest son of Philip Lee and was educated in England before being admitted to Middle Temple as a member of the bar in May 1719. After returning to Maryland he served as Naval Officer for the Potomac River. He was president of the Governor's Council of Maryland for many years. Unlike his Virginia cousins Richard Henry Lee of Chantilly and Light Horse Harry Lee of Stratford Hall, Squire Richard Lee was a staunch Loyalist.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-181

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 of 343.68

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name 343.68

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Blenheim site and Lee cemetery is associated with Charles County property Tax Map 82, Parcel 10.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Survey

organization Charles County Property Tax Map

date 10/19/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-181

Section 9 Page 1

Lee Graves

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Circuit Court Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

CH-181

LEE GRAVES

Potomac River Bridge

4 tombstones

Transcribed February 6, 1939 by the Potomac River Bridge Company
(information from the Maryland Historical Society Library, Baltimore)

LEE

Grace R. Lee, wife of Rd. Lee lies here interred by the side
of her beloved husband, She died on the 16th day of October
1789 in the 77th year of her age, erected by her dutiful daughter
E.A. Lee

Richard Lee of Blenheim, Maryland died on the 26th day of ---- 1789
in the 81st year of his age. Richard Lee was the last President
of Maryland, erected by his daughter E.A. Lee

Here Lies intombed, the last fond hope of a respectable and a
numerous and once extensive family, Russel Lee who after a short
illness in consequence of a kick from a horse, departed this life
on the 4th September 1793, aged 17 years and 27 days

WEEMS

Alice Weems, daughter of Rd and Grace Lee, wife of John Weems
died on the 25th of July 1789, in the 40th year of her age
erected by her sister E.A. Lee

TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS.
SOUTHERN MARYLAND STUDIES CENTER
COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND, LA PLATA



CH-18 | Charles County, MD
Name: LEE GRAVES
Location: NEWBURG VIC.
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH North



CH-181 LEE GRAVES

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CHARLES CO, MD

C. CORREY

8/2001

MD SHPO

LOOKING NW

1 OF 3

LEE FAMILY CEMETERY

Alice Weems, Daughter of Richard & Grace Lee
Died 23 July, 1789

Grace Lee, Wife of Richard Lee
Died 10 Oct. 1789

Richard Lee, Husband of Grace Lee
Died 26 July, 1789

Rosell Lee, Son of Richard & Grace Lee
Died 4 Sept. 1791

CH-181 LEE GRAVES
~~BLENHEIM SITE LEE CEMETERY~~

CHARLES CO, MD

C CURREY

8/2001

MD SHPO
MEMORIAL STONE

20F3

HERE LIES INTOMBED
The full soul, Hope of a Respectable
and a Numerous and Once Esteemed Family

RUSSELL LEE

Who after a short Illness in Consequence
Of a Kick from a Horse, Departed this life

On the 4th Sept^r 1795
Aged 17 Years and 2 Days

He was the only Surviving Son of
The late P. T. LEE, eldest Son of
RICHARD LEE, late of Blenheim dec'd.

"His time a Moment,

And a pain the day mourn

And a tear embraces torn;

And after friends I have

And the realm beyond the grave;

See the guardian angels high

Hail to waft my soul on high!

See a flood of sacred light,

Which no more shall yield to night!

Transcend my world, farewell!

Jesus calls with him to dwell,

With his heavenly presence blest

Death is life, and labour rest."

CH-181

~~BERKELEY SITE~~ ~~LEE~~ ~~RENE~~ ~~TER~~ LEE GRAVES

CHARLES CO, MD

O. CURREY

8/2001

MD SHPO

RUSSELL LEE STONE

3 OF 3