

University of Maryland, College Park (66-035)

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) is located in northwestern Prince George's County, nine miles northeast of Washington, D.C. The main campus is situated on 650 acres within the boundaries of the City of College Park and serves as the flagship institution of Maryland's university system. Current enrollment at UMCP is more than 36,000 students.¹

The University of Maryland began as the Maryland Agricultural College, established in 1856 by Charles Benedict Calvert and eighteen other wealthy planters. The new institution was created to modernize agricultural practices and enable local farmers to increase productivity.² To provide a site for the college, Calvert sold 428 acres of his Riversdale Plantation known as Rossborough Farms to the investors of the college. The site was on top of a hill that overlooked the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike. The Rossborough Inn (PG: 66-035-02) was the first stagecoach stop after leaving Washington, D.C. and was part of this parcel. The Federal-style tavern was constructed circa 1803 by the Calvert family and was enlarged in 1938.³

In 1858, the cornerstones were laid to the Barracks, which served as the first main building on campus. This structure served many functions including dormitory, lecture hall, dining room, classrooms, and offices.⁴ On October 6, 1859, the campus was dedicated and the first classes were held for the 34 students enrolled at the college.⁵ The school struggled for several years, but eventually benefited from the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, which provided federal funds for state colleges to teach agriculture, mechanical arts, and military tactics. That same year, the first students graduated from the Maryland Agricultural College.⁶

During the Civil War (1861-1865), the campus was the site of two troop encampments. In April 1864, General Ambrose Burnside and 6,000 Union troops camped at the college on their way to reinforce General Ulysses Grant's forces in Virginia. Later in the summer, as part of General Jubal Early's Confederate raid on Washington, D.C., General Bradley Johnson and 400 of his troops camped on the campus grounds.⁷

The school struggled during the War and declining enrollment resulted in the college going bankrupt. From 1864 to 1866, the campus functioned as a preparatory school for boys.⁸ In 1866, the Maryland state legislature purchased half of Maryland Agricultural College, resulting in the college's transition from a private to a public institution. By 1867, the college reopened with eleven enrolled students.⁹

Local farmers were critical of the College, claiming the school had strayed from its origins as an agricultural institution. They believe the College did not aid them or the agricultural industry and ignored

¹ University of Maryland, "Facts and Figures," <http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/facts/quickfacts.cfm>.

² Linda M. Oravec, "University of Maryland at College Park," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1991), 8:2.

³ Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland* (Upper Marlboro: M-NCPPC, 2006), 44.

⁴ Greg Brenner, et al., "The University of Maryland: Study and Proposals for the College Park Campus," paper presented at the University of Maryland Urban Problems Seminar, College Park, Maryland (December 1990), 2.

⁵ University of Maryland, "University of Maryland Timeline," <http://www.urhome.umd.edu/timeline/>.

⁶ University of Maryland, "University of Maryland Timeline," <http://www.urhome.umd.edu/timeline/>.

⁷ University of Maryland, "University of Maryland Timeline," <http://www.urhome.umd.edu/timeline/>.

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pressing agricultural issues. Banding together, the farmers were able to convince the federal government to withhold aid in 1876 and again in 1882. Relief for the College did not come until 1887. The Hatch Act provided for the creation of agricultural experiment stations in each state. The campus selected for the station would receive \$15,000 annually. A station was created on the Maryland Agricultural College campus, which allowed students to earn strictly agricultural degrees based on a curriculum of horticulture, botany, and breeding.¹⁰ The Rossborough Inn and the school's farm served as the heart of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the college.¹¹ Between 1887 and 1892, the school budget increased approximately 500 percent. The increased budget allowed for the construction of more buildings, an expanded faculty, and a larger student body.¹²

In November 1912, a major fire destroyed the Administration and Barracks buildings, which served as the main buildings on campus. The buildings were rebuilt and the institution was renamed the Maryland State College of Agriculture. By 1916, women were admitted into the school and a Liberal Arts program was developed. A fraternity and sorority system was created and the barracks were soon replaced by dormitories. That same year, the school changed its name to Maryland State College. In 1920, the school was again renamed when the state legislature consolidated the College Park campus with the professional schools in Baltimore to create the University of Maryland.¹³

The second quarter of the twentieth century marked significant change at the University. Seven schools were established, the graduate program began, Liberal Arts academics were emphasized, and the curriculum moved away from the original agricultural emphasis.¹⁴ Enrollment began to rapidly increase, growing from 2,000 students in 1935 to nearly 5,000 students by 1945. To accommodate this growth, several residence halls and classroom buildings were constructed. Because of the GI Bill, in 1946, enrollment included over 9,700 students who took advantage of the post-war educational benefits offered to them. The University continued to progress and the first African-American undergraduate and graduate students were admitted in 1951.¹⁵

The University of Maryland has continued to grow and expand academic programming. Currently there are over 350 buildings on the University of Maryland's College Park campus.

There is one Historic Site on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park:

- PG: 66-035-02, Rossborough Inn, Baltimore Avenue

There are two designated Historic Resources on the campus:

- PG: 66-035-06, Morrill Hall
- PG: 66-035-07, Calvert Hall

¹⁰ Oravec, "University of Maryland at College Park," 8:3.

¹¹ University of Maryland, "University of Maryland Timeline," <http://www.urhome.umd.edu/timeline/>.

¹² Oravec, "University of Maryland at College Park," 8:3.

¹³ Department of Facilities Planning, *Campus Aesthetic Guidelines for Campus Development* (College Park, MD: University of Maryland, 2004), C-3.

¹⁴ Oravec, "University of Maryland at College Park," 8:5.

¹⁵ University of Maryland, "University of Maryland Timeline," <http://www.urhome.umd.edu/timeline/>.

Windshield Survey

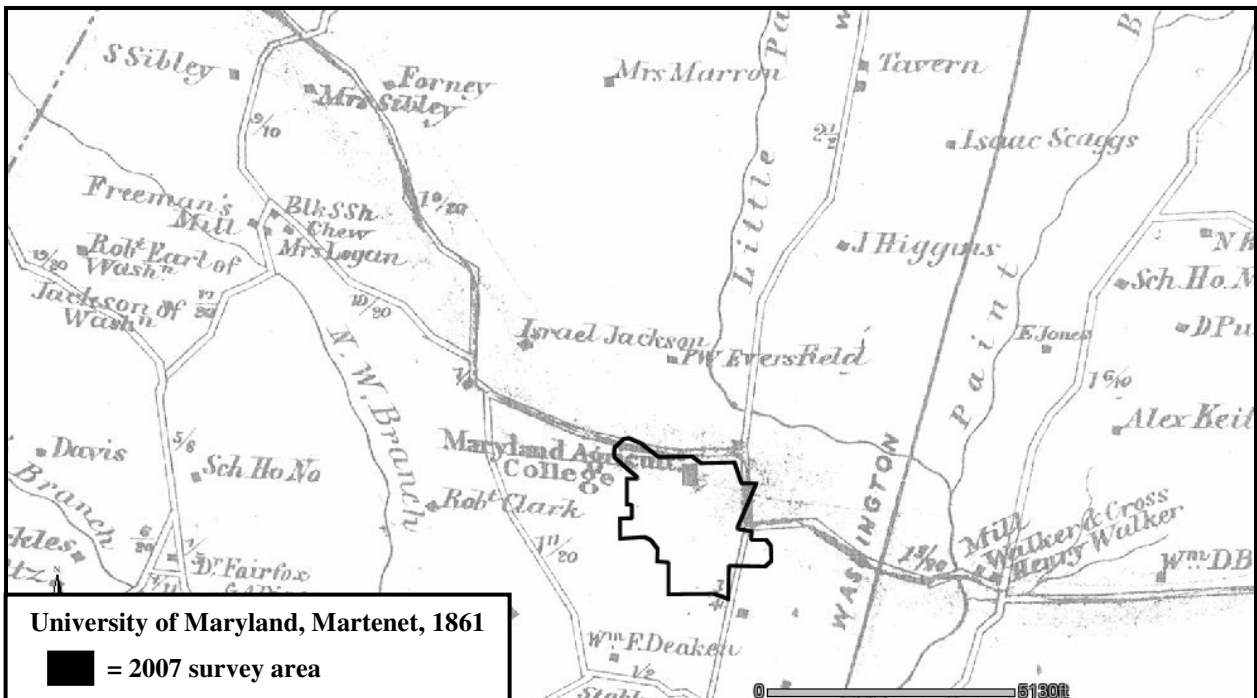
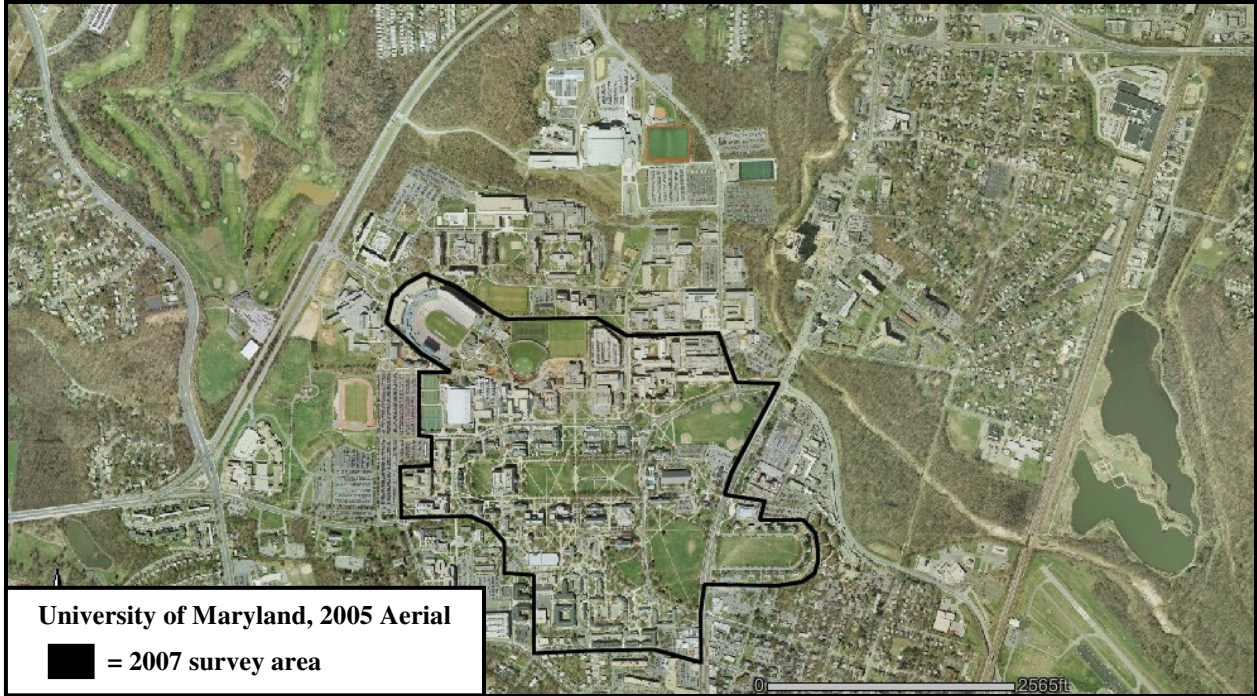
A windshield survey of the University of Maryland, College Park was conducted in November 2007. The survey area consists of approximately 91 buildings on campus. The 650-acre campus stretches from Adelphi Road on the west to Paint Branch Drive on the north, Knox Road on the south, across Baltimore Avenue (Route 1) to roughly Rhode Island Avenue on the east. The historic core of the campus wraps around a large mall. Smaller plazas, courtyards, and walkways create a park-like landscape. The campus contains a variety of buildings constructed between 1803 and the present. Only three extant buildings date from the nineteenth century, Rossborough Inn (1803), Morrill Hall (1898), and Taliaferro Hall (ca. 1894-1896). The majority of buildings were constructed from 1940 to 1960. There are a number of popular twentieth-century styles represented on campus including Georgian Revival, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, and styles from the Modern Movement. Buildings on campus are typically symmetrical, constructed of brick, and are several stories high; however, the massing and scale of the buildings emphasize the horizontal rather than the vertical. Main entries are commonly emphasized with multi-story projecting porticoes and elaborate ornamentation. Most roofs are side-gabled or hipped and are covered with asphalt shingles. Common building forms include a variety of plans such as rectangular-shaped, L-shaped, U-shaped, H-shaped, T-shaped, and square plans with open courtyards. Buildings on campus accommodate academic, administrative, recreational, residential, social, and utilitarian functions. In keeping with the growth at the University, many buildings have been altered by the construction of additions, which typically appear on the sides and rear of buildings. The park-like setting of the campus is sited on gently rolling hills and many buildings have been constructed to take advantage of the natural topography.

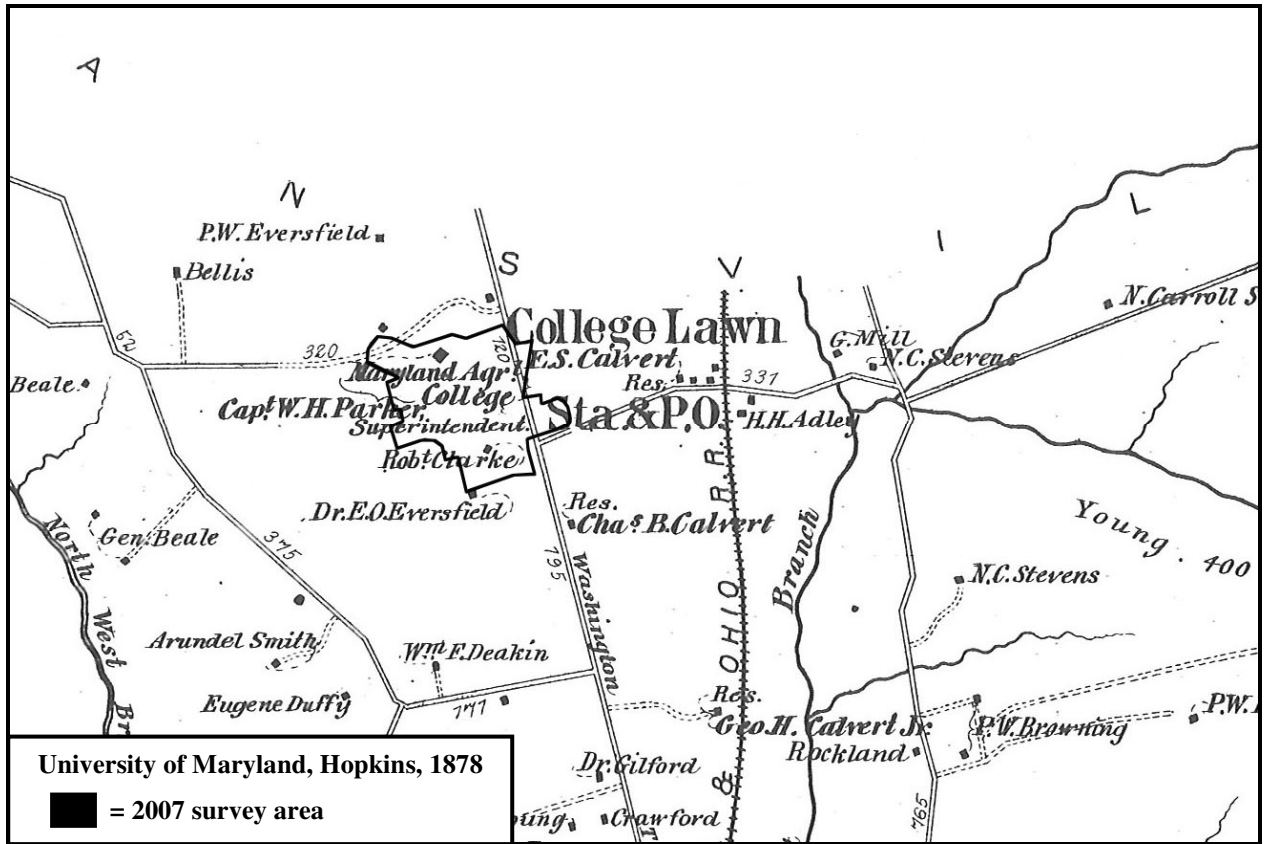
Historic District Evaluation

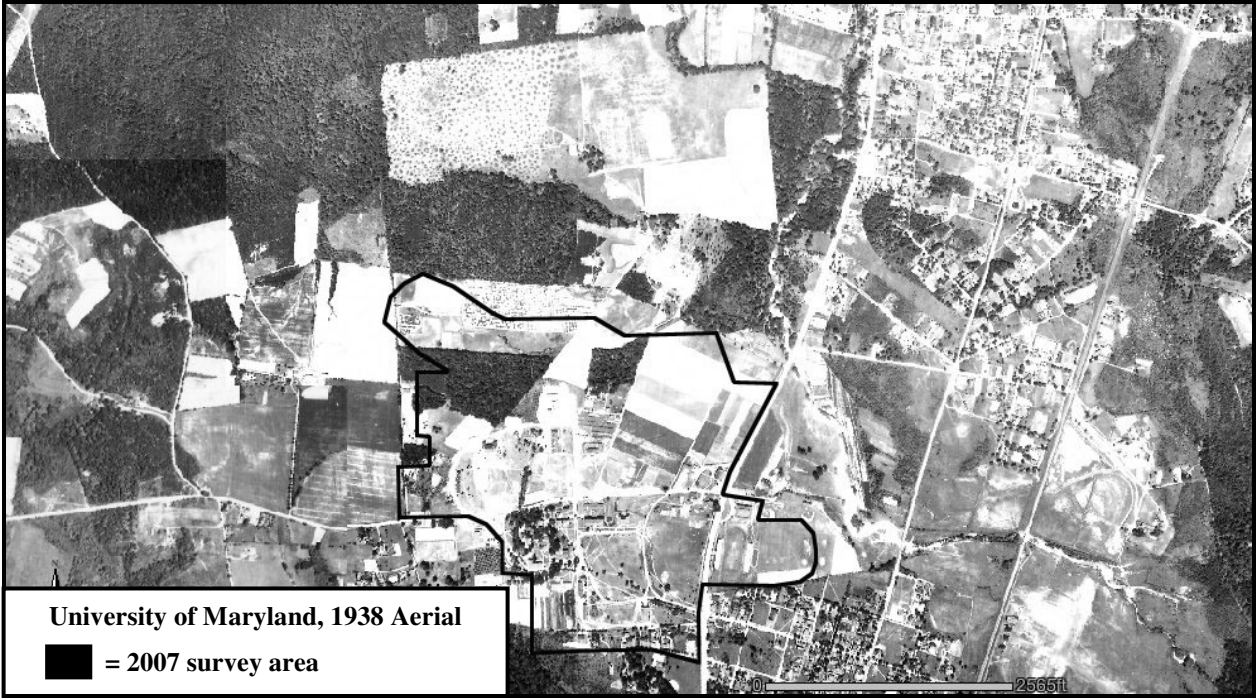
The University of Maryland, College Park represents several Prince George's County Heritage Themes including Education and Agricultural Heritage. Although the University of Maryland has historic significance as an early educational institution in Maryland, the campus is not currently eligible as a local or National Register historic district. The majority of buildings on campus date from the late 1950s to the present. The inherent nature of a university campus is change and growth, and the College Park Campus is no exception. The historic core remains the physical center of the campus, but new construction is planned for both the historic core and across the campus.¹⁶ The University was established as an agricultural institution; however, there are few extant buildings that convey that significance. Additionally, remaining archaeological evidence from the Civil War encampments has likely been eradicated by various construction projects on campus and the 1991 renovation of McKeldin Mall.

Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc.
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¹⁶ University of Maryland Facilities Management, *Facilities Master Plan*, "District Development Plans," <http://www.facilities.umd.edu/Masterplan/IV/index.cfm?section=C>.









Looking west, Morrill Hall (PG: 66-035-06), façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking west, Calvert Hall (PG: 66-035-07), façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northeast, Benjamin Building, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northeast, Tawes Fine Arts Building, rear elevation (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking southeast, Preinkert Field House, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northeast, Queen Anne's Hall, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking north, Cole Student Activities Building, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northeast, Hornbake Library, southwest corner (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking north, Physics Building, façade (*EHT Tracerics, 2007*)



Looking east, Main Administration Building, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking west across the quad towards McKeldin Library, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking southwest, Annapolis Hall, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northwest, Anne Arundel Hall, façade (*EHT Tracerics, 2007*)



Looking southeast, Journalism Building, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northwest across the quad towards H.J. Patterson Hall (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking west across Chapel Fields towards Memorial Chapel, façade (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northeast across Fraternity Fields towards fraternity and sorority houses (*EHT Traceries, 2007*)



Looking northwest, Rossborough Inn (PG: 66-035-02), southeast corner, façade (*EHT Traceries, 2007*)