

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 66-035-06

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Morrill Hall (preferred)
other Science Hall

2. Location

street and number University of Maryland, College Park Campus ___ not for publication
city, town College Park ___ vicinity
county Prince George's County

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

name State of Maryland, for use by the University of Maryland
street and number University of Maryland telephone
city, town College Park state MD zip code 20742

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber CSM 2 folio 294
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 33 tax parcel 140 tax ID number 21 2411122

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 at MHT
- Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>1</u>	

7. Description

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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.

Morrill Hall is an educational building located on the University of Maryland College Park campus. The building, constructed c. 1892, is designed in the Second Empire style. The structure has a rectangular plan and a projecting entry tower at the center of the main block. The building is surrounded by mature landscaping and a concrete walkway along the façade, connecting the building to other campus buildings. A paved parking area and driveway are located to the west (rear) of Morrill Hall. The building rests on a sloping site in the southern portion of the campus to the east of Preinkert Drive. There are no secondary resources associated with this property.

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

Morrill Hall is a three-story, seven-bay-wide, six-bay-deep educational building designed in the Second Empire style. A date stone on the southeast corner of the structure indicates a c. 1892 construction date. Set on a stretcher-bond brick foundation the building is constructed of 6-course American-bond brick. The structure features brick pilasters located on all elevations between the window bays. It has a corbelled water table. Two interior chimneys are constructed of brick with corbelled caps. Two interior metal chimneys also pierce the roof. A straight-sided mansard roof with overhanging eaves caps the structure. The roof is covered in square-butt and fishscale-shaped slate shingles. The roof has a boxed cornice and ogee-molded plain frieze. A four-story square tower is centrally located on the façade (east elevation). The building retains its original 2/1 windows with square-edged wood surrounds, concrete lug sills, and concrete lintels.

The centrally located four-story tower on the façade (east elevation) is fenestrated by a double-leaf 9-light wood entry door set within a semicircular brick arch. The door is flanked by 1-light sidelights. A 2-light transom is located above the door and a 1-light transom is located above the sidelights. Paired 2/1 windows are placed on the second and third stories of the tower. The tower is capped by a mansard roof with an ogee-molded cornice. A pedimented dormer with 2/1 window pierces the roof on all elevations. The façade (east elevation) is symmetrically fenestrated with three basement-level 1-light casement windows on either side of the tower. Three 2/1 windows are placed on the second and third stories on either side of the tower. Three pedimented dormers with 2/1 windows break the roofline on either side of the tower.

The south and north (side) elevations are identically fenestrated. The basement-level is fenestrated by four 1-light casement windows. Six 2/1 windows are symmetrically placed on the first and second stories. Six pedimented dormers with 2/1 windows break the roofline. A metal fire escape is located on both side elevations.

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Because of the buildings sloping site the west (rear) elevation basement-level is exposed. The central bay is wider than the other window bays, reflecting the central tower on the façade. The basement-level is fenestrated by a centrally placed single-leaf 4-light wood door. Three 1-light casement windows are located on either side of the door. Paired 2/1 windows are centrally placed on the second and third stories. Three 2/1 windows are placed on the second and third stories, on either side of the paired windows. A centrally located pedimented dormer features paired 2/1 windows. Three pedimented dormers with 2/1 windows are placed on either side of the double dormer. The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the on-site survey.

INTEGRITY

Morrill Hall retains a high level of integrity, including its original form, Second Empire style, wood windows, and function as an educational building. The building conveys integrity of materials, design and workmanship. As one of the oldest buildings on the University of Maryland College Park campus, Morrill Hall also retains its integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c. 1892 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates c. 1892

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morrill Hall is significant as one of the oldest buildings on the University of Maryland College Park campus. It is also an excellent example of late-nineteenth-century Second Empire-style architecture on a campus composed primarily of Colonial Revival and Neo-classical buildings. The building is named after Justin Smith Morrill, a Vermont politician who wrote the first Land Grant Act.¹ Morrill Hall remains in excellent condition and continues to convey the qualities that make it a significant structure on the University of Maryland College Park Campus.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The University of Maryland College Park was founded by Charles Benedict Calvert. Calvert was born in 1808 at the Calvert family plantation, Riversdale. He studied at the Bladensburg Academy and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, graduating in 1827. His interests lay in agricultural pursuits and stockbreeding, ultimately serving as president of the Prince George's County Agricultural Society and the Maryland State Agricultural Society, and as vice president of the United States Agricultural Society. Calvert founded the first agricultural research college in the United States, which was chartered in 1856; the college eventually became the Maryland Agricultural College at College Park.² In 1858, after the death of his father, Calvert bought Riversdale from his family estate. He had to reimburse each of his siblings for their one-fifth interest in the property, for a total purchase price of \$20,416.65.³ Later that year Calvert founded the school with money he earned from the sale of stock certificates. In 1859, the first thirty-four students began their studies at the Maryland Agricultural College. The Maryland Agricultural College was the forerunner of present-day University of Maryland College Park.⁴

¹ Bridget M. Deale, "Morrill Hall," (PG: 66-6) Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, (1979), 8:1.

² Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, "Charles Benedict Calvert," <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000058> (accessed 7/25/07).

³ Callcott, Margaret Law, ed. *Mistress of Riversdale, The Plantation Letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert*, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1991, p. 387.

⁴ University of Maryland, "University of Maryland Timeline," <http://www.urhome.umd.edu/timeline/> (accessed 7/25/07).

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The original campus was built atop a knoll at the head of College Avenue nicknamed “the Acropolis.” That region of the campus is named Morrill Quadrangle. The region includes Morrill Hall, the South Campus Dining Hall and plaza, and the Kent, Talbot and Garrett residential complexes.⁵ On November 29, 1912, a fire broke out in one of the administration buildings where a Thanksgiving dance was being held. Unfortunately, the fire departments of Washington, D.C. and Hyattsville arrived too late. The fire destroyed all of the student housing buildings, all of the school’s records, and most of the academic buildings. Only Morrill Hall was untouched by the fire.⁶

Morrill Hall is named after Justin Smith Morrill, a Vermont politician who wrote the first Land Grant Act. Introduced in 1857 and passed in 1862, the Morrill Act provided congressional appropriations to the states to secure federal lands for the establishment of agricultural, engineering, and home economic programs.⁷ Formerly the building was called Science Hall. Morrill Hall has been used over the years by the Agriculture Department (c. 1912); the Horticulture Department (c. 1912); the Entomology Department (c. 1918); the Zoology Department (C. 1918, 1950); the Language and Literature Department (c. 1918); the School of Liberal Arts (c. 1919); the Vegetable Pathology, Veterinary Science, Civil Engineering, and Psychology Departments (c. 1966).⁸

Currently, Morrill Hall houses classroom and departmental offices.

⁵ University of Maryland, “Historic Core District,” http://www.facilities.umd.edu/MMD/Files/11x17_HC_Cover-and-Core_1mar04.pdf (accessed 7/25/07).

⁶ University of Maryland, “Historic Core District,” http://www.facilities.umd.edu/MMD/Files/11x17_HC_Cover-and-Core_1mar04.pdf (accessed 7/25/07).

⁷ Bridget M. Deale, “Morrill Hall,” (PG: 66-6) Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, (1979), 8:1.

⁸ University of Maryland, “Morrill Hall,” http://www.umd.edu/CampusMaps/bld_detail.cfm?bld_code=MOR (accessed 7/25/07).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, Charles Benedict Calvert,

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000058>, accessed 7/25/07.

Callcott, Margaret Law, ed. *Mistress of Riversdale, The Plantation Letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert*, Baltimore: The John's Hopkins Press, 1991.

Deale, Bridget M. "Morrill Hall" (PG: 66-6) Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, 1979.

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

University of Maryland, Historic Core District, http://www.facilities.umd.edu/MMD/Files/11x17_HC_Cover-and-Core_1mar04.pdf.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1,015.44
Acreage of historical setting 420
Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Morrill Hall is located within the boundaries of the University of Maryland College Park campus. The campus is bounded by University Boulevard, Adelphi Road, and Paint Branch Parkway. Morrill Hall has been associated with Parcel 140 on Tax Map 33 since its construction.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Saleh Van Erem, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	October 2007
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Chain of Title

Deed CSM 2:294
April 28, 1858

Charles B. Calvert to Maryland Agricultural College. (420 acres)

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Photo: Morrill Hall, façade (east elevation), looking west.

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Photo: Morrill Hall, south (side) elevation, looking north.

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Photo: Morrill Hall, west (rear) elevation, looking east.