

TANEY PLACE

mid-18th. c.

Also known as "Berry" this attractive frame home is famed as the birthplace of Roger Brooke Taney, a Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and author of the Dred Scott Decision.

Of simple detail this two story, five bay structure was constructed along a Georgian plan. It has a center hall flanked by double parlors. At each end of the hipped roof main block are two chimneys enclosed within the gable walls. Later structural additions include porches and a kitchen wing.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Taney Place

AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry

**2. LOCATION** (Adelina Road)

STREET AND NUMBER: both sides of Maryland Route 508, south of Adelina and north of Battle Creek

CITY OR TOWN: Adelina

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Calvert CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple private and public owners; Contact: Y. D. Hance

STREET AND NUMBER: Taney Place

CITY OR TOWN: Adelina STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: SEE CONTINUATION SHEET  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Calvert  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Taney Place property is located on both sides of Maryland Route 508, south of Adelina and on the north side of Battle Creek.

Taney Place is a simple, hip-roof, Georgian-style country house, circa eighteenth century. It is on the site of an older dwelling which may have been incorporated into the present (1971) one. Five bays wide, the house has a central door with a tri-part transom. All of the windows are six over six. The end elevations (east and west) of the building are Flemish bond brick, painted (1971), and the front (south) and rear (north) elevations are constructed of brick nogging covered with clapboards. There are two separate chimneys at each end elevation enclosed within the brick walls and each chimney stack protrudes from the end roof hip at approximately one half the way between the roof ridge and the eaves.

The interior is a four-room-on-each-level plan, with a full basement. In the basement are four rooms, originally used as slave quarters. One of the basement rooms is now (1971) a cellar kitchen connected to the dining room on the level above by a "dumbwaiter." The front (south) living room of the house has a curved wall next to the fireplace which appears to be unique architecturally.

Sixteen acres is designated as a protective area immediately surrounding Taney Place. Although the house stands on a high ridge overlooking the meadows and reaches of Battle Creek, the acreage required to fully protect this vista would be excessive.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1750

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roger Brooke Taney (1777-1864), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1836 to 1864, was born and raised at Taney Place. The southern, slave-owning culture surrounding Taney's birthplace affected American history by imbuing certain values and attitudes in Chief Justice Taney, author of the Dred Scott decision in 1856, which was one of the factors that provoked Americans to enter into the Civil War.

The beginnings of the history of Taney Place lie in the mid-seventeenth century. For three centuries after the 1658 land patent just the Berry, the Taney and the Hance families lived on this tract overlooking Battle Creek.

James Berry, a Puritan, left Virginia for Maryland in 1649. He received the first patent for the land in 1658. His family remained in Calvert County for two generations before moving to Prince George's County and later, in the eighteenth century, to Western Maryland. In the 1680's James Berry's 600-acre tract "Berry" passed to Michael Taney I (the 1st) who changed the name to "Taney Place." [Note: the Roman numerals after the name are a device used to distinguish the six generations of Michael Taney's.] Michael Taney I had, within thirty years after coming to Maryland as an indentured servant, joined the ranks of the land-owning class. In 1685, he became the High Sheriff of Calvert County. His tenure in the later office ended abruptly when Taney was arrested during the Maryland reaction to the Revolution of 1688. Taney stood among those who wanted to wait for official notification from England before swearing allegiance to King William of Orange and Mary Stuart and before holding new elections for the Maryland Assembly. His captors, on the other hand, upon hearing of the overthrow of King James II, in England, insisted on immediate recognition of the new regime and immediate elections in Maryland.

Three Michael Taney's owned Taney Place subsequent to the death of Michael Taney I in 1692, and before 1758 when Roger Brooke Taney's father Michael Taney V ( -1820/1) inherited it. Michael Taney V, as did his grandfather and great-

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Taney Place

## #6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Historic American Building Survey

1969 Federal

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. code: 11

## #8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

grandfather, married a member of the Brooke family of neighboring "Brooke Place Manor," Calvert County. In 1777 Michael Taney V and his wife, Monica Brooke Taney, had a second son, Roger Brooke Taney. The latter received his early education at local schools and with private tutors before attending Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

By 1799, within three years of graduation, Roger Brooke Taney, newly admitted to the Maryland Bar, was representing Calvert County in the Maryland legislature. In 1800 he lost his seat with many other Federalists in the nationwide sweep of the Jeffersonian Republican Party.

In 1801 Taney left his native county for burgeoning "Frederick Town" which had attracted many other southern Maryland men including Thomas Johnson, the first elected Governor of the State of Maryland and a friend of Michael Taney V, and Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," as well as John Hanson, President of the United States in Congress Assembled. Roger Brooke Taney's political career--which would take him later into President Andrew Jackson's cabinet where he was instrumental in destroying the Second Bank of the United States; and, in 1836, on to the United States Supreme Court--was launched from Frederick where he led a dominant faction of the Maryland Federalist Party.

One aspect of Taney's character, implanted during his formative years in Calvert County, remained untempered by time or circumstance. Throughout his life Roger Brooke Taney remained a "southerner," especially in relation to his views on slavery and the Negro. Although Taney had emancipated his own slaves, he sincerely believed that the black and white races could not co-exist without slavery to hold the former race

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(Number all entries)

Taney Place

## #8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

in check. He accepted slavery as a grievous problem that should be solved by southerners, not by northern imposition. This attitude which was shared by moderate southerners, and was fused into Taney's values derived during his youth spent at Taney Place, came to the surface in the Dred Scott decision of 1856. Chief Justice Taney stated in this brief that slaves were the absolute property of their owners. Slaves had no right to citizenship, no right to sue in a federal court and no right to freedom because of residence in a free state; only the owner could emancipate his slave property. This decision and the reaction to it contributed to the polarization of Americans which, on April 12, 1861, exploded into a civil war.

After Roger Brooke Taney moved to Frederick in 1801, a duel and the War of 1812 touched Taney Place. During July and August of 1814 the British fleet under Admiral George Cockburn (1772-1853) burned and pillaged Calvert County. Although Taney Place escaped the torch, the danger was great enough to send Monica Taney early in the war to her son in Frederick. Five years later on July 1, 1819, Roger Brooke Taney's father Michael Taney V became embroiled in an argument with one of his guests at Taney Place. The verbal conflict led to a duel in which that Michael Taney fatally stabbed his much younger opponent. By fleeing to Virginia and living in exile, Michael Taney escaped prosecution.

After Michael Taney V died his heirs sold Taney Place to young Benjamin Hance whose ancestors had immigrated to Calvert County in the seventeenth century and whose descendants retained possession of Taney Place through the mid-twentieth century.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Recorders: Paul A Brinkman, Maryland Historical Trust,  
94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland; Nancy Miller,  
Historian, Maryland Historical Trust.

Briscoe, Betty Worthington. "Know Your County." pamphlet,  
files of Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland,  
1958.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NE	38°	27'	47"	76°	36'	24"		
SE	38°	27'	39"	76°	36'	14"		
SW	38°	27'	39"	76°	36'	24"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust**      DATE: **Feb. 4, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**94 College Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis**      STATE: **Maryland**      CODE: **24**

**12. STATE LIAISON 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 Orlando Ridout IV  
**Orlando Ridout IV**

Title State Liaison Officer  
**for Maryland**

Date February 7, 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
Calvert	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Taney Place

## #9. REFERENCES continued

Calvert County Land and Probate Records. Hall of Records,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

Lewis, Walter. Without Fear or Favor A Biography of Chief  
Justice Roger Brooke Taney. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1965.

Stein, Charles Francis. A History of Calvert County, Maryland.  
[Baltimore]: the author and the Calvert County Historical  
Society, 1960.

Steiner, Bernard C. Life of Roger Brooke Taney Chief Justice  
of the United States Supreme Court. Baltimore: Williams  
and Wilkins, 1922.

Swisher, Carl Brent. Roger B. Taney. New York: Macmillian, 1935.

Tyler, Samuel. Memoir of Roger Brooke Taney LL.D. Chief Justice  
of the Supreme Court of the United States. 2nd ed.  
Baltimore: John Murphy, 1876.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MHT  
CT-39

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Taney Place			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: both sides of Maryland Route 508, south of Adelina and north of Battle Creek			
CITY OR TOWN: Adelina			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Calvert	CODE 009
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Daniel C. Church			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1967			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Southwest elevation			



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Calvert	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Taney Place		AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: both sides of Maryland Route 508, south of Adelina and north of Battle Creek			
CITY OR TOWN: Adelina			
STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Calvert	CODE: 009
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Broomes Island Quadrangle, Maryland			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1963			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>2. North arrow.</li> <li>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol>			



## TANEY PLACE

*Eighteenth Century*

“Taney Place” is famous as the birthplace of Roger Brooke Taney, who was for twenty-eight years Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The commodious home-like dwelling-place has thick brick ends and brick nogged sides. The Kitchen is situated in the basement, from which a dumb waiter rises to the Dining Room. The curious curved wall in the Living Room adds a feature of interest.

Roger Brooke Taney was born in 1777,

and died in Washington City in 1864. His statue in bronze stands before the State Capitol at Annapolis.

*View: From Southwest.*

*Dimensions:*

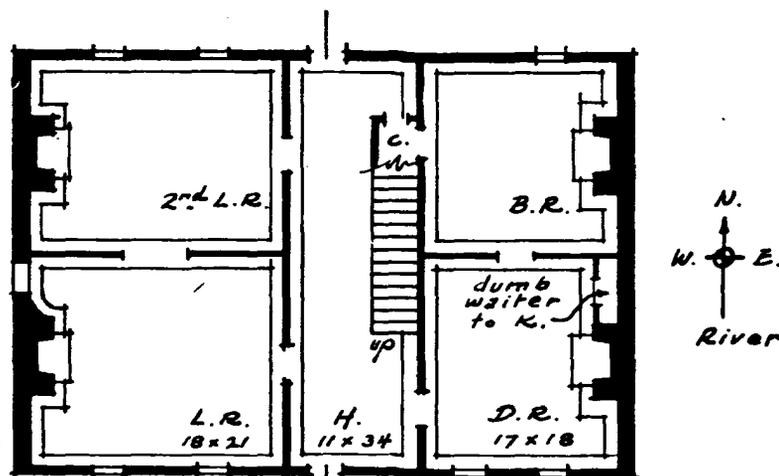
*Overall, 52-5 by 36-5.*

*Grade to floor, 65.*

*Ceiling, 10-6.*

*Panes, 10 by 17.*

*Wall, 6, frame.*



Forman, H. Chandlee

1982 Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland.  
Baltimore: Bodine & Associates, Inc.

CT-39

MARYLAND

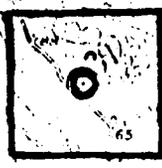
BROOMES ISLAND QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1:24,000  
1963

lat. 38° 27' 47"  
long. 76° 36' 24"

lat. 38° 27' 39"  
long. 76° 36' 24"

lat. 38° 27' 47"  
long. 76° 36' 14"

lat. 38° 27' 39"  
long. 76° 36' 14"



TANEY PLACE



4752000 N  
4761  
4760  
4759  
4758  
27'30"

Bowens

Adelina

Kill Point

CYPRESS CREEK  
BATTLE CREEK

LAVELLE

CRANE

Long Cove

Williams Wharf

Prison Point

Wells Cove

Battle



CT-39 TANEY PLACE