

CHAS-333  
SWANN HOUSE  
Private

late 18th century

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Although it has experienced numerous alterations, the Swann House retains a sufficient amount of its original fabric to facilitate an accurate restoration on paper. A two-room house (the room configuration was later altered to its present center hall, three-room plan), it once had end chimneys, a riven claboard sheathed exterior, and exposed eaves utilizing the regionally typical "false" plate. The interior was plastered, displaying such popular details as beaded baseboards and simple, two-piece chairrails. Although similar in detail, the Swann House is less refined than "Mt. Pleasant," (CH-208), or the "Trinity Lake House," (CH-294), as evidenced by its far simpler interior and rough azed rather than dressed and beaded exposed ceiling joists.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-333

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY (MHI #010325267)

1 NAME

HISTORIC SWANN HOUSE
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Clark's Run Subdivision, on Clarks Run Road
CITY, TOWN La Plata VICINITY OF 1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
-DISTRICT -PUBLIC -OCCUPIED -AGRICULTURE -MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S) XPRIVATE XUNOCCUPIED -COMMERCIAL -PARK
-STRUCTURE -BOTH -WORK IN PROGRESS -EDUCATIONAL -PRIVATE RESIDENCE
-SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE -ENTERTAINMENT -RELIGIOUS
-OBJECT -IN PROCESS -YES: RESTRICTED -GOVERNMENT -SCIENTIFIC
-BEING CONSIDERED -YES: UNRESTRICTED -INDUSTRIAL -TRANSPORTATION
XNO -MILITARY XOTHER ABD.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Clark's Run Assoc., c/o Warren Barley Telephone #: 645-2614
STREET & NUMBER Barley Mortgage Company
CITY, TOWN Waldorf VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 20601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse Liber #:
Folio #:
STREET & NUMBER Charles Street (P.O. Box B)
CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE NONE
DATE
-FEDERAL -STATE -COUNTY -LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Although at first appearing to be little more than a regionally typical tenant farmer's house, and offering no exterior features to indicate otherwise, the Swann House is nevertheless believed to be the second oldest structure within a one-mile radius of the town of La Plata.

The Swann House, whose name derives from its last occupants, was probably built in the late-eighteenth century. Facing east and measuring approximately thirty by eighteen feet, the house is of frame, one story plus attic beneath a gable roof. Its original plan included two ground floor rooms, later altered to three rooms and a center hall, and two attic bedchambers. On the exterior the house is three bays wide on both side elevations, having centered doors flanked by small windows. Originally, the exterior walls (and possibly the roof) were sheathed with riven clapboards (short lengths of hand-split oak boards). Single chimneys that once stood at each end of the house provided fireplaces on both floor levels. There is no discernable evidence to indicate that the roof had dormers, although their former existence is possible. The roof framing employs tilted "false" or secondary wall plates, a type of eaves construction that was always exposed on the exterior.

On the interior the rooms were originally finished with plastered walls, simple two-piece chairrails and beaded baseboards, much of which remains. The type of trim used to face the windows and doors, however, is unknown since none survive. The ceilings of the two first floor rooms display exposed, rough azed joists and the attic flooring above, once painted but now smoke backened. No original woodwork or plaster remains in the attic level.

In the early nineteenth century the north end chimney was removed when the north, first floor room was partitioned to provide a center hall and two small rooms. It was at this time that the original stair was replaced with the existing one--a narrow enclosed affair with winders located in the northeast corner of the hall. The rear stair wall and soffit, exposed in the northwest first floor room, retain their beaded board sheathing.

At a later date the riven boards covering the exterior were removed and some of the boards reused to cover the walls, floor to ceiling, of the northeast first floor room. The original floor was also covered over with planked boards, as were the walls and ceilings of the attic chambers. Both chimneys were replaced with narrow, interior stove chimneys. In more recent years the whole of the exterior, walls and roof, were covered with galvanized tin.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Clark's Run Subdivision, on which the Swann House is located, is a 368-acre tract located on the south side of MD. 6, within the corporate limits of La Plata, and is identified as parcel 61, Map 44 of the Charles County Tax Map (revised Jan. 1976).

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

January 1, 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



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CHAS-333  
SWANN HOUSE; East Front.  
J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-333

SWANN HOUSE; Interior Clap-  
boards. J.R.Rivoire, 1978