

T-189

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC CLAY'S HOPE

AND/OR COMMON
Clay's Hope

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
North side of Bellevue Road, .2 mile east of Ferry Neck Road

CITY, TOWN
Bellevue

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF
First

COUNTY
Talbot

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

CODE
24

CODE
041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Hutchinson

STREET & NUMBER
Clay's Hope

CITY, TOWN
Royal Oak

STATE
Maryland 21662

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Easton

STATE
Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

T-189

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clay's Hope, located at Bellevue, Talbot County, .2 mile east of Ferry Neck Road, is a large, two-story brick dwelling measuring 36' X 26' with a long, two-story frame wing. The south facade of the main part of the house is three bays wide with a central entrance flanked by two windows with 9/6 sash. This facade is laid in Flemish bond, but the others are laid in common bond. There is a chamfered water table and three-brick belt course around at least the three exposed sides of the building. On the second story are three 6/6 pane sash and on the roof are two dormers with the same type sash and 'A' roofs. Within each gable is a large brick chimney. In the east gable the fenestration is unusual and reflects the room division within. There is a basement entrance and two windows on the first story, one window on the second and two four-pane casements in the attic, with a belt course at attic floor level as well as the previously mentioned belt. With the exception of the two principal windows of the facade, the others have 6/6 sash and are smaller in size. The north elevation has only two windows per floor with an off-center door.

The west wing is as long as the main house. Originally three bays long, its fenestration has been altered with the addition of a bay window and others on the first floor. There is a chimney within each gable and a leanto on the north side. The wing was added in the third quarter of the 19th century.

In the old brick portion, the floor plan consists of a stair hall in the southeast corner, living room in the northeast corner and den in the west half. (Originally there were two rooms with diagonal fireplaces in place of the den.) The stair, chair rail and trim are all typical of the late 18th century.

The house is described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax with an adjoining brick kitchen, 20' X 20'. James Colston, the owner of the property in that period, was the owner of the same property in 1783, at which time he lived in a frame house. This seems to indicate the present house was built between the two dates.

Also on the property is a tobacco barn. Dating from the 18th or very early 19th century, it is the only tobacco barn of its period to survive in Talbot County.

The 37.29 acres surrounding this house are presently farmed as part of a larger area under cultivation. Several 20th century farm buildings are also located on the property.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 Circa 1783-1798 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clay's Hope is one of the fine late 18th century houses of Talbot County. A vernacular structure of excellent, although simple, workmanship, its original plan reflects the plan of the greater dwellings of the period, e.g., Galloway and Pleasant Valley in Talbot and Willow Grove, Caroline County. The farm is of particular interest since it represents over 300 years of continuous agricultural use. The old tobacco barn, a rare survivor on the Eastern Shore, is evidence of the type of early farming that gave this family, among others, their early material wealth.

The present brick house is described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax with an adjoining brick kitchen, 20' x 20'. James Colston, owner of Clay's Hope in that period, was listed as owner of the same tract on the Tax Assessment of 1783, at which time he lived in a frame house. This difference seems to indicate that the present house was built between the dates of the two assessments. It seems very probable, from the property selling prices of 1820 and 1860 and architectural evidence, that the frame portion was built by Alexander Harrison soon before 1860.

In 1664 Henry Clay sold the parcel called Clay's Hope, containing 200 acres, to James Coulson, although the indenture was not recorded until 1703 (9/178). The tract was on Tarr's Creek, a branch of the Tred Avon River directly across from the town of Oxford. It seems improbable that Henry Clay ever lived here, as he sold his plantation, Clay's Neck, "where I now dwell," in 1684 (4/284). This land was on Cat Tail Branch at the head of Harris Creek, now the location of Clay's Hope.

The Coulson family (later spelled Colston) lived here and farmed and operated the plantation for over 150 years. The second generation son, James, married Elizabeth Bayley in 1714, and the third James married his neighbor, Alice Orem, in 1743. The fourth son of the same name was no doubt the builder of the present brick structure (see above). In 1778 this James added to the acreage by buying "Rigby's Choice," on the east side of the Oxford Ferry Road (21/34). The following year, he bought out his brother's interest in the plantation (21/84).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Clay's Hope
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

The last Colston owner, also James, found himself heavily in debt to Samuel Harrison, and the farm was sold at public sale in 1820 to James Ridgaway, "a Minister of the Gospel" (43/145). He turned the property over the next year to Alexander Bradford Harrison for \$4,000.00. Harrison was the father of Samuel A. Harrison, the great archivist of Talbot County. It was from Dr. Harrison's collection of material that his son-in-law, Oswald Tilghman, edited and wrote the two-volume History of Talbot County. Many gravestones of the Harrison family are still standing in the family graveyard at Clay's Hope.

In 1860 Alexander Harrison's son, Jonathan, sold the property for \$10,500.00 to John W. Bruff of Baltimore (68/60). The heirs of John Bruff realized \$12,000.00 in 1877 by a sale to Sarah King, the wife of William King. In 1882 Mrs. King deeded the farm to Forrest Scott, and he operated the farm until his death in 1936. By the terms of his will, it was left to the Home for Aged Women of Talbot and Caroline Counties. (Deeds 84/386; 93/309; 117/292; Will 24/188.)

A number of owners followed in rapid succession, until the David Sutherlands bought the property in 1949 (283/162). They made extensive renovations to the old house.

The present owners, Harold F. Hutchinson and his wife, Elizabeth, acquired the land and premises in 1955, and have made it their home since then (326/409). (Plat Record #3/79).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Land Records of Talbot County
Federal Direct Tax of 1798
Tax Assessment of 1783

Barnes, Robert. Maryland Marriages. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 37.29 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	39,711,0	4,284,840	B	1,8	39,682,0	4,284,460
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	39,646,0	4,284,620	D	1,8	39,634,0	4,284,920
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference is hereby made to Talbot County Deed 326/409.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

1km

NAME / TITLE

Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian; Michael Bourne, Architectural

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Consultant

1976

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE (BARN)

LOCAL (HOUSE)

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



8-20-79

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

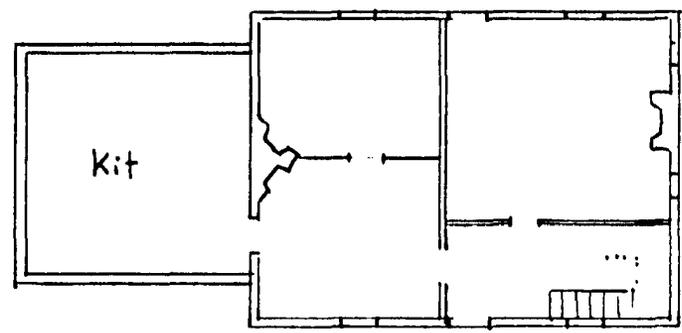
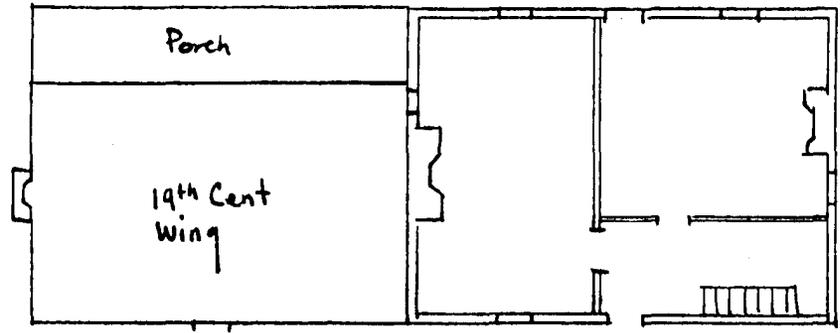
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

-THIS PLAN FOR ILLUSTRATION OF TEXT ONLY
-IT IS NOT A MEASU. D DRAWING
-PROPERTY OF MICHAEL BOURNE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED
LEST MORE ARCHITECTURAL ERRORS BE PROPAGATED.



ORIGINAL PLAN
Based upon
Basement & 1798 Federal Direc.
Tax —

CLAY'S HOPE
TALBOT Co.
No Scale

T-189

T-189
Clay's Hope
Royal Oak vicinity
Private

c. 1790, c. 1840

The historic property known as Clay's Hope is architecturally important with the survivals of a late eighteenth century Flemish bond brick plantation dwelling and the last known tobacco house in Talbot County. The two-and-a-half story brick house was built in the best masonry traditions of the time with a beveled watertable and beltcourses marking the exterior elevations. Unusual to this house is the below-grade stone foundation. Originally built with a four-room first floor plan, the interior retains a large percentage of its period woodwork. Most significant is the dog-leg stair that boasts feather-edged board paneling. Aside from a consolidation of the two west rooms ~~into~~ into one and the installation of sheet paneling over the plaster walls, the interior remains largely intact. The attic is especially noteworthy for its undisturbed finishes. Although the construction of the two-story frame wing has been estimated to predate the brick house, all architectural and historical evidence points to its erection during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Highly significant to the agricultural history of Talbot County is the sole surviving tobacco house at Clay's Hope, a turn of the nineteenth century, wrought-nail frame structure that was converted to a hay barn during the early twentieth century. The mortise-and-tenon braced frame supports rows of common rafters fixed to tilted false plates. Some of the original beaded weatherboards, fastened with wrought nails, remains on several sides. Added during the early twentieth century, the side sheds have served to protect the structure.

The other farm buildings, a board-and-batten stable and a single-pen corn crib, are more standard agricultural buildings that date to the early twentieth century. The stable, supported on a poured concrete foundation, is dated to 1911.

Construction of the brick house at Clay's Hope is estimated to date to around 1790 during the ownership of James Colston, whose family had held title to the Tred Avon River plantation since 1664. Toward the end of the American Revolution, the property, consisting of portions of "Clay's Hope" and "Cove Hall," was improved by "one Old frame Dwelling House, Log Kitchen" as well as other domestic and agricultural buildings. By the time of the 1798 tax assessment fifteen years later, James Colston had financed the construction of this brick house. The assessors at the time described the Colston plantation as:

Sit on Third Heaven Creek 1 Brick 2 Story Dwelling 36 by 26 12 windows 40 by 24, 4 Do 30 by 16 at 550\$, 1 Kitchen of Brick 1 Story adjoining 20 by 20, 80\$, 1 Smoke House 12 by 10, 12\$, 1 Corn House 15 by 8, 4\$, 1 foul house, 3\$, on 1 acre of Land at 20\$

The assessment description details the former service wing as a single story, twenty by twenty brick structure attached to the house. Since there is no architectural evidence that a brick wing extended from the back of the main house, it is most likely it stood in place of the present frame addition which evidently replaced the kitchen around 1840.

James Colston's son, James, listed as a ship carpenter in the land records, sold the family plantation to Alexander Bradford Harrison on April 8, 1821, for \$4010. Containing 137 acres at the time of the transfer, the property was described as "All that parcel of land called Clay's