NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Taney Place
AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: both sides of Maryland Route 508, south of Adelina and north of Battle Creek
CITY OR TOWN: Adelina
STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Calvert

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object

OWNERSHIP
☐ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both

Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered

STATUS
☐ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied
☑ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment
☐ Governmental ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum
☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific
☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)

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
COUNTY: Calvert

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
COUNTY: Calvert

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
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
COUNTY: Calvert
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.
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
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
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.
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

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>39° 27' 47&quot;</td>
<td>76° 36' 24&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>39° 27' 47&quot;</td>
<td>76° 36' 14&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>39° 27' 39&quot;</td>
<td>76° 36' 14&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>39° 27' 39&quot;</td>
<td>76° 36' 24&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16.00 acres

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

STATE: Code: COUNTY: CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

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: February 7, 1972
Taney Place

#9. REFERENCES continued

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


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)

1. NAME
   COMMON: Taney Place
   BERRY

2. LOCATION
   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. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Daniel C. Church
   DATE OF PHOTO: 1967
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust
   94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Southwest elevation
1. NAME

COMMON: Taney Place

AND/OR HISTORIC: Berry

2. LOCATION

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

CITY OR TOWN: Adelina

STATE: Maryland

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Broomes Island Quadrangle, Maryland

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1963

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.