

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #73-2 Building Date: 18th century

Building Name: Three Sisters

Location: 10408 Cleary Lane, Mitchellville, Maryland

Public/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

Three Sisters is a multi-part frame house; the original gambrel-roofed house now has an enclosed porch across the south front, and additions on the other three facades, so that its original configuration is all but unrecognizable. The main block is a two-story gambrel-roofed building, three bays wide, with entrance in the third bay of the main south facade. This facade is now covered by a modern one-story enclosed porch. Set in the lower south plane of the gambrel roof are two small dormers with small 6/6 double hung sash windows, and returned cornices. There is a large exterior brick chimney at the west end of the main block, south of the upper ridge, a rebuilt version of the original massive free-standing stack. The house was covered with beaded board siding, now covered with asbestos shingle; the foundations are of brick and stone. Two modern gable-roofed one-and-one-half story wings now flank the original gambrel-roofed house; and a one-and-one-half-story gambrel-roofed addition extends to the rear. The additions rest on concrete block foundations.

Significance

The house at Three Sisters is an example of a very early dwelling which has been drastically altered and expanded. One of perhaps only three gambrel-roofed dwellings which survive from eighteenth century Prince George's County, this house was remodeled in the late 1930's so that its original character is all but unrecognizable. Secondary sources have long identified this house as the seventeenth century seat of the Hilleary family, but this has not been substantiated. The 1,050-acre Three Sisters tract was patented to Thomas Hilleary in 1683, but it is not certain when dwellings were constructed on the land. By the end of the eighteenth century, there were five small frame dwellings on the tract, separately owned by members of the Hilleary family, and the Turner and Williams families with whom they had intermarried. The property on which the subject house stands was the early nineteenth century plantation of Ninian Willett. After Willett's death in 1826, his property was devised to his three children, and then was sold in 1835 to John Beall Magruder. Magruder renamed his ca. 200-acre farm "Cherry Grove" and lived there with his family for more than 50 years. In 1938 the property was conveyed to George Cleary, who undertook a substantial renovation of the house. The massive freestanding brick chimney at the west gable end was dismantled and replaced, and the beaded board siding was covered with asbestos shingle. In recent years a one-story flanking wing has been constructed at each gable end, as well as a rear wing to the north. Only the gambrel roofline of the original structure hints at the antiquity of the house at Three Sisters.

Acreage: 2.29 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Three Sisters

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 10408 Cleary Lane not for publicationcity, town Mitchellville vicinity of Lottsford congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name James P. Clearystreet & number 10408 Cleary Lane telephone no.: 577-2371city, town Mitchellville state and zip code Maryland 20716

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5757street & number Main Street folio 800city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sitesdate 1974 federal state county localdepository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPCcity, town Riverdale state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. PG 73-2

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Three Sisters is a multi-part frame house located west of the old Lottsford Road in an area now subdivided into large residential lots. The original gambrel-roofed house now has an enclosed porch across the south front, and additions on the other three facades, so that its original configuration is all but unrecognizable.

The main block is a two-story gambrel-roofed building, three bays wide, with entrance in the third bay of the main south facade. This facade is now covered by a modern one-story enclosed porch. Set in the lower (south) plane of the gambrel roof are two small dormers. (There were two similar dormers on the north side also; the easterly dormer has been removed, now covered by a one-and-one-half-story gambrel-roofed north addition). The dormers have small 6/6 double hung sash windows, and returned cornices. There is a large exterior brick chimney at the west end of the main block, south of the upper ridge; this chimney is a rebuilt version of the original massive free-standing stack.

The house was covered with beaded board siding, now covered with asbestos shingle. The roof is covered with green synthetic shingles; the foundations are of brick and stone.

Two modern gable-roofed one-and-one-half story wings now flank the original gambrel-roofed house; and a one-and-one-half-story gambrel-roofed addition extends to the rear. The additions rest on concrete block foundations.

None of the old outbuildings survives; there are several twentieth century sheds west of the house. On the grounds south of the house, and framing the entrance drive, are several old trees.

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 18th Century **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house at Three Sisters is an example of a very early (probably mid-eighteenth century) dwelling which has been drastically altered and expanded. One of perhaps only three gambrel-roofed dwellings which survive from eighteenth century Prince George's County, this house was remodeled in the late 1930's so that its original character is all but unrecognizable.

Secondary sources have long identified this house as the seventeenth century seat of the Hilleary family, but this has not been substantiated. The 1,050-acre Three Sisters tract was patented to Thomas Hilleary in 1683¹, but it is not certain when dwellings were constructed on the land. By the end of the eighteenth century, there were five small frame dwellings on the tract, separately owned by members of the Hilleary family, and the Turner and Williams families with whom they had intermarried.² The property on which the subject house stands was the early nineteenth century plantation of Ninian Willett.³ After Willett's death in 1826, his property was devised to his three children, and then was sold in 1835 to John Beall Magruder.⁴ Magruder renamed his ca. 200-acre farm "Cherry Grove" and lived there with his family for more than 50 years. (John B. Magruder was well known locally; he served on the Levy Court in the 1840's, and his farm gave its name to the nearby Cherry Grove station of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway established there by 1910.) Cherry Grove was the home of the Fowlers and the Batemans in the early twentieth century and in 1938 was conveyed to George Cleary, whose family retains it today.⁵ Shortly after George Cleary acquired the property, he undertook a substantial renovation of the house. A small south addition was removed and replaced by the present extended one-story porch, and the massive freestanding brick chimney at the west gable end was dismantled, and replaced. The beaded board siding has been covered with asbestos shingle. In recent years a one-story flanking wing has been constructed at each gable end, as well as a rear wing to the north. The Cleary's 97 acre farmland is being developed into large house lots, and the farm lane from the house to the old Lottsford Road has been developed into Cleary Lane which gives access to the modern lots. The old house stands on a 2-1/4 acre lot, which is highlighted by several ancient trees. Only the gambrel roofline of the original structure hints at the antiquity of the house at Three Sisters.

#8. Continued

Notes

1 Patent #22:20.

2 Federal Direct Tax, 1798.

3 cf. Chain of Title; early 19th century tax assessments; 1828 Road Survey for Prince George's County.

4 Prince George's County Will TT #1:396; Prince George's County Deed AB #9:203.

5 cf. Chain of Title; Prince George's County Deed #487:179.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PG 2
1701575264

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Three Sisters

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cleary Lane

CITY OR TOWN:
Mitchelville

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Prince George's

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
George J. Cleary, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cleary Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Mitchellville STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites in the Bl-County Region

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Newland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
3787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a 1-1/2 story gambrel roofed, frame structure which has been extensively altered.

The main (south) facade has a three bay porch across its entire facade; there are two dormer windows with pitched roofs. On the rear facade, one of two similar dormer windows has been obscured by an addition; this facade has had its roof line altered so that it is now a straight gable. The chimneys have also been rebuilt in a modern style.

PK 132

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ |
|--|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC DATE: 24 Sept 73

STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Three Sisters
P.G. #73-2

#5757:800 16 Aug. 1983 Deed	James P. Cleary and Robert P. Cleary to James P. and Dolores D. Cleary; 2.286 acres as described by H.W. Wilkerson and Asso. in Aug. 1979; same which grantors acquired by #5183:414 as Parcel #1.
#5183:414 25 Sept. 1979 Deed	Richard R. Cleary, personal representative of the estate of George Joseph Cleary, Jr. to James P. and Robert P. Cleary; Parcel #1 containing 8.16 acres and Parcel #2 containing 1.1 acres; same which George Joseph Cleary Jr. possessed as surviving tenant in the entirety following the death of his wife Anne Cleary on 22 March 1975; same which George and Anne Cleary acquired by #487:179.
GSMcG #25:902 1977 Will	Estate of George Joseph Cleary Jr. who died 15 June 1977; deceased devised to his sons, James P. and Robert P. Cleary, 1/2 each of 9.26 acres, being part of the land conveyed by #487:179.
#487:179 2 March 1938 Deed	Clarence O. Simpson to George J. and Anne Cleary, Jr.; 97.32 acres (excepting 1.86 acres conveyed by #19:256 and right-of-way conveyed to Washington and Annapolis Electric Railroad by #6:484); same which grantor acquired by #409:241 and same which was conveyed by JWB #23:166.
#409:241 28 March 1934 Deed	Frederick Jensen, surviving tenant by the entirety of his wife, Sena, to Clarence O. Simpson; 97.32 acres (excepting 1.86 acres and right-of-way); same which grantor acquired by #301:289 and same conveyed by JWB #23:166.
#301:289 13 Feb. 1928 Deed	Josephine A. and Notley T. Bateman to Frederick and Sena Jensen, as tenants by the entirety; 97.32 acres (excepting 1.86 acres and right-of-way); same which grantors acquired by #152:28 and 27 and same conveyed by #294:158.
#294:158 28 Sept. 1927 Deed of Gift	Notley T. Bateman, being in ill health, to his wife, Josephine Bateman; all the grantor's interest in his real estate known as Cherry Grove Farm, containing 95 acres.

- 2 -

- #152:27
18 Dec. 1919
Deed
For \$4,000, Frank M. Stephen, trustee in Equity #4845, and Josephine Bateman to Notley T. Bateman; 97.32 acres in Kent District (excepting 1.86 acres and right-of-way); same conveyed by JWB #23:166; Josephine Bateman was party to contract for sale in Equity #4845, but renounced her rights in favor of her husband and agreed to join in this conveyance.
- #152:28
12 Feb. 1917
Deed
Minnie G. Fowler, widow of Charles E. Fowler, to Notley T. Bateman; grantor's dower rights in 97.38 acres in Kent District called Cherry Grove; same described in contract of sale from Minnie G. Fowler and the heirs of Charles E. Fowler, deceased, to Notley and Josephine Bateman as filed in Equity #4845.
- #4845
30 Jan. 1917
Equity
Heirs of Charles E. Fowler vs. Notley and Josephine Bateman; Plaintiffs petition court for approval of contract of sale in which defendants had agreed to pay \$4,000 for 97.38 acres called Cherry Grove, of which Charles E. Fowler had died possessed. Fowler had died intestate in 1915. By decree dated 20 Jan. 1917 court approved sale and appointed Frank M. Stephens trustee to make conveyance.
- JWB #23:166
27 Oct. 1892
Deed
For \$1,500, C.C. and Elizabeth R. Magruder to Charles E. Fowler; 97.32 acres in Kent District, called Cherry Grove; part of the land upon which John B. Magruder recently resided; part of the land which grantors acquired by JWB #16:245.
- JWB #16:245
9 May 1890
Deed
Sheriff Nicholas C. Darnall, by virtue of an execution out of Circuit Court on 2 July 1889 (C.C. Magruder vs. John B. Magruder), to C.C. Magruder; 2 tracts in Kent District - 200 acres called Cherry Grove and 61-1/2 acres called Williams Range.
- AB #9:203
2 Jan. 1835
Deed
Howerton and Susan Cross to John B. Magruder; 55 acres of Williams Range and 102.3 acres of Three Sisters and Good Luck which grantors purchased from Caleb L. and Christiana Leach on 12 Nov. 1831 and 172-3/4 acres of Three Sisters and 42 acres of Williams Range which grantors acquired by AB #8:535.
- AB #8:535
3 June 1834
Deed
For \$1,400, Hansen Penn, trustee in Old Equity #397 (missing), to Howerton Cross; 42 acres of Williams Range and 172-3/4 acres of Three Sisters, being land formerly owned by Ninian Willett, deceased.

- 3 -

AB #7:98
12 Nov. 1831
Deed

Caleb L. and Christiana Leach to Howerton Cross; 102.3 acres of Good Luck and Three Sisters and 55 acres of Williams Range; same which court awarded Christiana Leach as an heir of Ninian T. Willett.

TT #1:396
8 April 1826
Will

Estate of Ninian T. Willett; deceased devised his entire estate to his three children, Ninian, Christiana and Mary Willett, share and share alike.

T #1:567
15 Feb. 1804
Will

Estate of Ninian Willett; deceased devised one-third of his estate each to his nephew John Turner Willett, to his nephew Ninian Turner Willett and to John Manley's children.

I-1



HIGHWAY

JOHN

HANSON

R-R MAP 57-P.87

DERWIN W. DARLING SR.
2866-405
39.53A
P.85

WILLOW GROVE

1025

111023

111026

PAPOLL A

111022

JAMES P. CLEARY
5757/800
2.14 A

5428/918
1.44 A
P.44

111028

P.120

0.95A
P.82

ROMSEY DR

CLEARY LANE

WILLOW GROVE

7801

WILLOW GROVE

SECT.-2
5669

WILLOW GROVE

3698

PG: 73-2

MAP 52-P.7

CHURCH OF
ST. CHARLES BOROMEO, INC
3615/789
84.88 A
P.7

R-E

JESSE P. BRADFORD
3468/736
14.45 A.
P.52

MAP 52-P.8

R-80

E.D.13
E.D.20

JOSEPH B. BAHEN, SR
1645/119
63.52A.
P.8

R-R



P.G. #73-2

Three Sisters

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.