

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Clagett Agricultural Survey Area Inventory Number: PG:79-00

Address: _____ Historic district: yes no

City: Upper Marlboro Zip Code: 20772 County: Prince Georges

USGS Quadrangle(s): _____

Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 0091-0092

Project: TEA-21 DOE Agency: Maryland Historical Trust

Agency Prepared By: Maryland Historical Trust

Preparer's Name: Nicole Diehlmann Date Prepared: 5/25/2004

Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form PG:79-00

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: Nicole Diehlmann Date: 11/3/2003

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Clagett Agricultural Survey Area lies just west of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. It is bounded on the north by the Cabin Branch, on the east by the right of way of the old Chesapeake Beach Railway and Old Crain Highway, on the south by U.S. Route 301, and on the west by a line drawn roughly northwest from the intersection of Old Crain Highway and Route 301 to the Cabin Branch. The district is characterized by a scenic rolling landscape and large open agricultural fields with significant collections of infill development dating within the past fifty years. The area is locally noted for its association with the wealthy and powerful Clagett family and contains a collection of family properties dating from the early 19th to the early 20th century.

The Clagett dynasty in Upper Marlboro began in the early 18th century when Thomas Clagett I acquired the 250-acre tract called Weston. The property grew as it passed through the family in succeeding generations and by 1860 totaled over 2,000 acres. It was Thomas Clagett VI who began the building boom which resulted in the extant family houses in the area today. In the early 19th century he began construction of his principal residence, Weston. Throughout the 19th century he oversaw the construction of properties for his children and grandchildren. These properties include: Weston (PG:82A-7), The Cottage (PG: 78-18), which is listed in the National Register, Oakland (PG:79-34), Strawberry Hill (PG:78-23), Keokuk (PG:78-14a), Ingleside (PG:78-14b), Navajo (PG:78-22), and Beacon Hill (PG:82A-37).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
MHT Comments:	
<u>Nicole Diehlmann</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>Tuesday, May 25, 2004</u> Date
<u>Peter Kurtze</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>6/14/04</u> Date

Clagett Agricultural Survey Area
PG: 79-00
Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County
18th century – 1954

The Clagett Agricultural Survey Area lies just west of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The area is characterized by a scenic rolling landscape and large open agricultural fields with significant collections of infill development dating within the past fifty years. The area is locally noted for its association with the wealthy and powerful Clagett family and contains a collection of family properties spanning the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Clagett Agricultural Survey Area is important for its association with the Clagett Family which first settled in the area in the early 18th century. Through careful stewardship and good business practices, the family was able to increase the size of its holdings to over 2,000 acres by 1860. Throughout the area are houses built by and for Clagett family members. These houses date from the early to late 19th century and are architecturally significant in their own right. While the land was once completely in agricultural use, much of the former Clagett land has been subdivided for residential use, negatively impacting its historic character.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG:79-00

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic N/A
other Clagett Agricultural Survey Area

2. Location

street and number _____ not for publication
city, town Upper Marlboro, Maryland X vicinity
county Prince George's County

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

name Multiple Ownership
street and number _____ telephone _____
city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber folio
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 0091, 0092, 0101, 0110 tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	11
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	945
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	11
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape	945
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			11

7. Description

Inventory No. PG:79-00

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Clagett Agricultural Survey Area lies just west of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The area is characterized by a scenic rolling landscape and large open agricultural fields with significant collections of infill development dating within the past fifty years. The area is locally noted for its association with the wealthy and powerful Clagett family and contains a collection of family properties spanning the 19th century.

The Clagett Agricultural Area lies just west of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. It is bounded on the north by the Cabin Branch, on the east by the right of way of the old Chesapeake Beach Railway and Old Crain Highway, on the south by U.S. Route 301, and on the west by a line drawn roughly northwest from the intersection of Old Crain Highway and Route 301 to the Cabin Branch. Just to the south of Marlboro Pike, is Maryland Route 4 (Pennsylvania Avenue), a dualized highway.

The survey area is characterized by a scenic rolling landscape and large open agricultural fields, with significant collections of infill development dating within the past fifty years. While some portions of the area do retain their rural agricultural character, large portions have succumbed to development pressure as the Washington DC Metropolitan area expands southward. Many former agricultural properties have been subdivided for the construction of new residential communities, negatively impacting the area's agricultural landscapes. Properties along the northern portion of Ritchie Marlboro Road do retain a significant amount of agricultural land.

Architecturally, the area contains eight properties associated with the Clagett family:

Weston (PG:82A-7), at the southernmost point of the survey area, is an early 19th century two-and-a-half story, five bay, brick, side gable house with a one-and-one-half story kitchen wing. It has fine decorative detail with late Federal and early Greek Revival trim. The property also contains the family burial ground and farm buildings.¹

The Cottage (PG: 78-18), which fronts on Marlboro Pike, was built in the 1840s as a home for Charles Clagett, the son of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston. According to Susan Pearl, an architectural historian with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, "The Cottage is one of the best surviving examples of the County's mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival style side-hall-and-double-parlor plan dwelling, and its unique profile and prominent location make it an outstanding visual landmark on the old road between the Federal City and the County Seat."² The property now totals only 282 acres and is part of the Environmental Education Center of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Oakland (PG:79-34) is a two-story, three-bay, frame, side-gable roof dwelling, with telescoping additions that lies on the south side of Brooke Road. During the 1840s, the main block was constructed adjoining the older dwelling, creating a large house. He called his property "Cream and Butter," no doubt because of the successful dairy operation there.³

Strawberry Hill (PG:78-23) is an Italianate farmhouse built in 1869 for Gonsalvo Clagett, a son of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston. It is a two-and-a-half story, three bay, frame structure with a gable roof and kitchen wing. The cornices of the main block and wing are decorated with console brackets and returned at the gable ends. This property has been subdivided, but Strawberry Hill still stands on a fairly large lot.⁴

Keokuk (PG:78-14a) is a two-story, five-bay, frame house with exterior end chimneys. It is set back from Ritchie Marlboro Road at one of the highest points on a track of rolling farmland. The house was likely extant in the 1820s when the property was owned by Eleanor Berry.⁵

¹ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Form PG:82A-7.

² Susan Pearl's letter to Ron Andrews at the Maryland Historical Trust, September 17, 1991. On file in the MHT Library.

³ MIHP Form PG:79-34

⁴ MIHP Form PG:78-23

⁵ MIHP Form PG:78-14a

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG:79-00

Clagett Agricultural Survey Area
Continuation Sheet

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Ingleside (PG:78-14b) is a Victorian farmhouse located on a knoll west of Ritchie Marlboro Road. It is a two-and-one-half story gable roof structure with a center cross gable. It is three bays wide with a central entrance and a one-story, full-width porch.⁶

Navajo (PG:78-22) is a two-and-one-half story, frame, side-gabled roof structure. It is three bays wide with a center cross gable. There are wide eaves with decorative brackets, and a centered one-bay entrance porch. It was constructed circa 1880 on land which one belonged to Charles Clagett.⁷

Beacon Hill (PG:82A-37) is a large frame farmhouse constructed in 1899 with a hip roof and cross gables, Colonial Revival in style. It is frame, two-and-a-half stories high, and three bays wide. To the rear is a two story kitchen wing.⁸

Additional historic properties in the survey area not associated with the Clagetts are: the Dr. Richard Bowie house (PG:78-5a), a two-story, frame, circa 1850 Greek Revival house; the Mary Bowie Wall house (PG:78-5b), a two story, frame, gable roof house, built c. 1870; Charles Hill (PG:78-17), a three-bay, two-and-a-half story, frame, side gabled structure constructed in the 1840s and altered c. 1890.

⁶ MIHP Form PG:78-14b.

⁷ MIHP Form PG:78-22.

⁸ MIHP Form 82A-37.

8. Significance

Inventory No. PG: 79-00

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 18th century -1954 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates early 19th century, 1840s, 1869, 1880, and 1899

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Clagett Agricultural Survey Area is important for its association with the Clagett Family which first settled in the area in the early 18th century. Through careful stewardship and good business practices, the family was able to increase the size of its holdings to over 2,000 acres by 1860. Throughout the area are houses built by and for Clagett family members. These houses date from the early to late 19th century and are architecturally significant in their own right. While the land was once completely in agricultural use, much of the former Clagett land has been subdivided for residential use, negatively impacting its historic character.

As described by Susan Pearl, an architectural historian with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, during the nineteenth century the area was acquired by Thomas Clagett VI of Weston who developed it into plantations for his many children. At the southernmost point of the district is Weston (PG:82A-7), the home plantation of Thomas Clagett and nine generations of his family. Located within the area are the farms of his sons: The Cottage (PG:78-18), Strawberry Hill (PG:78-23) and Oakland (PG:79-34). His grandsons settled at Keokuk (PG:78-14a), Ingleside (PG:78-14) and Navajo (PG:78-22). In addition, Beacon Hill (PG:82A-37), property formerly owned by the Clagett family, was developed in 1898 into the farmstead of the related Marbury family.⁹

The Clagett dynasty in Upper Marlboro began in the early 18th century when Thomas Clagett I acquired the 250-acre tract called Weston. In 1713 Thomas Clagett II had the property resurveyed with an additional 250 acres of adjoining land and patented it to himself. The patent indicated that the property was to be entailed. During the eighteenth century, three more Thomas Clagetts owned the property. Thomas Clagett V died intestate five months before the birth of his son, Thomas Clagett VI. Sarah Clagett, Thomas V's wife, served as guardian of Thomas VI until he attained his majority in 1812 and took over Weston. After being wounded in service in the War of 1812, Thomas VI returned to Upper Marlboro where he began construction of the current house at Weston. After his second marriage in 1838, the house was expanded to its current two-and-a-half stories. According to Pearl, "By the mid-nineteenth century, Thomas Clagett was the wealthiest landowner in the Marlboro area. In 1860 he owned four large plantations with land totaling over 2,000 acres ... He provided substantial farm homes to two sons of his first marriage, Charles [The Cottage] and Robert [Oakland], and for his younger son, Gonzalvo [Strawberry Hill]."¹⁰ When Thomas Clagett VI died in 1873 he was buried in the family cemetery at Weston. Thomas VII, his oldest son from his second marriage, inherited Weston. Thomas William Clagett, the oldest son of Thomas Clagett VI, had moved west in 1850 and renounced his inheritance.¹¹

According to Pearl, **Weston** (PG:82A-7) "was built for the most prominent and successful plantation owner of the Upper Marlboro area in the nineteenth century."¹² The early 19th century house and grounds also contains the family burial ground and farm buildings. Thomas Clagett VIII inherited Weston from his father, but he defaulted on mortgage payments in 1887 and the property

⁹ Pearl letter to Andrews.

¹⁰ Pearl, MIHP PG:82A-7

¹¹ Pearl, MIHP PG:82A-7

¹² Pearl, MIHP PG:82A-7

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Clagett Agricultural Survey Area Continuation Sheet

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was acquired by Charles J. Bonaparte, the mortgagee. In 1908, Bonaparte transferred the property back to the sons of Thomas Clagett VII. The property is still in Clagett family ownership.¹³

The Cottage (PG: 78-18) was built in the 1840s as a home for Charles Clagett, the son of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston. Aside from managing his 650-acre plantation, Charles was also active in civic affairs. He served for 20 years as a judge of the Orphans Court, including a time as chief judge in 1882-3. After the Civil War, he served as a County Commissioner. Charles Clagett was also responsible for constructing the Washington-Marlborough Turnpike in 1868 along the lines of a pre-Revolutionary roadway. This road, which bisects the lower portion of the district from east to west, was the precursor to the current Marlboro Pike.¹⁴ The property now totals only 282 acres and is part of the Environmental Education Center of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Thomas William Clagett, the oldest son of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston, acquired the 180-acre farm, **Oakland** (PG:79-34), in 1841. At the time of sale a small dwelling, dating to the 1820s, stood on the property. During the 1840s, the main block was constructed adjoining the older dwelling, creating a large house. T.W. Clagett studied law and was elected to the State Legislature in 1845 and 1847. He called his property "Cream and Butter," no doubt because of the successful dairy operation there. In 1850, T.W. Clagett moved to Iowa, relinquishing his claim as oldest son and heir to Weston, his father's estate. T.W. Clagett sold the property to his father Thomas Clagett, who later conveyed the property to his son Robert Clagett whose family owned the property until 1914.¹⁵

Strawberry Hill (PG:78-23) was built in 1869 for Gonsalvo Clagett, a son of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston from his second marriage. Thomas Clagett VI purchased 183 acres of Strawberry Hill in 1831 and continued to add acreage until the property totaled 498 acres. The house was built for Gonzalvo at the time of his marriage. Gonzalvo was apparently not competent to manage his financial affairs as Thomas Clagett retained ownership until his death in 1873. After that time, Charles Clagett held the property in trust for his younger half brother. The property was in the possession of Gonzalvo Clagett's heirs until 1945.¹⁶

Keokuk (PG:78-14a) was likely extant in the 1820s when the property was owned by Eleanor Berry. In 1869 the property was acquired by Thomas Clagett of Weston for his grandson Thomas Clagett of Iowa, so named because he left Maryland for Iowa in 1850 with his father, Thomas William Clagett. Thomas Clagett of Iowa renamed the farm Keokuk and began repairs and renovations to the house including rebuilding the kitchen wing and the construction of the west addition. He farmed the property until his death in 1910.¹⁷

Thomas Clagett VI and his son Charles Clagett acquired the land for **Ingleside** (PG:78-14b) in late 1869. In the late 1870s, Charles Clagett had a house built on the northern portion of the land for his son Charles Thomas Clagett.¹⁸

Navajo (PG:78-22) was constructed circa 1880 on land which one belonged to Charles Clagett who provided a house for both his sons: Ingleside for Charles T. Clagett and Navajo for William B. Clagett. William B. Clagett was a prominent member of the Democratic party and was elected to the Maryland Senate in 1897.¹⁹

Beacon Hill (PG:82A-37) was constructed in 1899 by Alexander Marshall Marbury on land just northeast of Weston and once owned by Thomas Clagett of Weston. Upon Alexander's death in 1938, the property passed to his son Charles Clagett Marbury. Charles had a distinguished political career, serving four sessions in the Maryland House of Delegates and two in the Senate. He also served as judge of the 7th Circuit Court and of the Court of Appeals.²⁰

Pearl contends that the area has unique historical importance because it represents "the accumulated property of one the County's wealthiest and most prominent families, influential in political, agricultural, social and economic areas. Its unique character results from the fact that it was accumulated, developed and preserved by members of the Clagett family, and successively divided to

¹³ MIHP Form PG:82A-7.

¹⁴ Pearl letter to Andrews.

¹⁵ MIHP Form PG:79-34

¹⁶ MIHP Form PG:78-23.

¹⁷ MIHP Form PG: 78-14a

¹⁸ MIHP Form PG:78-14b

¹⁹ MIHP Form PG:78-22

²⁰ MIHP Form PG:82A-37

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Clagett Agricultural Survey Area Continuation Sheet

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provide farm homes for generation after generation of this family. It reflects the way of life of a prominent nineteenth-century Prince George's County family in three generations of domestic structures. It reflects the County's agricultural history in its farm outbuildings and its land patterns, exemplifying the conversion from large-scale tobacco cultivation before the Civil War to livestock production in the later nineteenth century."²¹ The area is also important for its architecture. Ms. Pearl states that these properties "are among the finest examples of their various types and periods of domestic architecture in Prince George's County."²²

Despite its strong association with the important Clagett family, the Clagett Agricultural Survey Area as currently established does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register. While some portions of the area do retain a rural agricultural character, large portions have succumbed to development pressure as the Washington D.C. metropolitan area expands southward. Many former agricultural properties have been subdivided for the construction of new residential communities, negatively impacting the area's agricultural landscapes. The area as currently defined does not maintain integrity of design, setting and feeling to reflect its association with the Clagett family. Because some of the individual Clagett properties are architecturally significant and for the most part retain their agricultural landscape, they may be eligible for the National Register as part of a multiple property nomination. This project did not evaluate these properties in that context.

²¹ Pearl letter to Andrews.

²² Pearl letter to Andrews.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 79-00

Pearl, Susan, letter to Ron Andrews, September 17, 1991, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust Library
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Form PG:78-14 a & b
MIHP Form PG:78-18
MIHP Form PG:78-22
MIHP Form PG:78-23
MIHP Form PG:79-34
MIHP Form PG:82A-7
MIHP Form PG:82A-37

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3,464.18
Acreage of historical setting 3,464.18
Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Clagett Agricultural Survey Area is bounded on the north by the Cabin Branch, on the east by the right of way of the old Chesapeake Beach Railway on the south by Old Crain Highway, and on the west by a line drawn roughly northwest from the intersection of Old Crain Highway and Route 301 to the Cabin Branch.

11. Form Prepared by

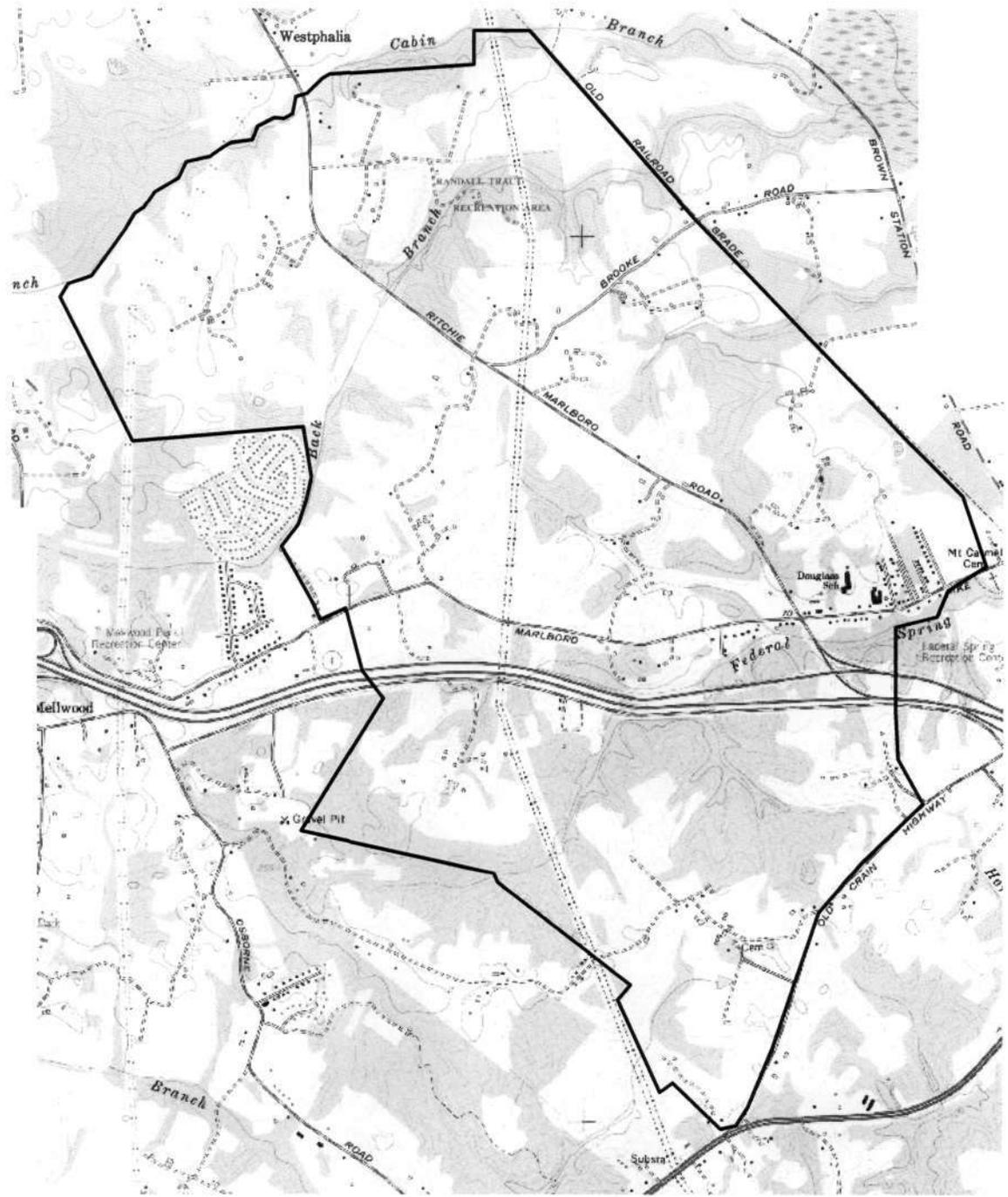
name/title	Nicole A. Diehlmann, Administrator of Statewide Preservation Programs		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	May 25, 2004
street & number	100 Community Place	telephone	410-514-7625
city or town	Crownsville	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

PG:79-00
Clagett Agricultural Survey Area
Prince George's County
Upper Marlboro Quadrangle



PG:79-00
Clagett Agricultural Survey Area
Prince George's County
Upper Marlboro Quadrangle





PG:79-00

The Cottage Property - Barn
old Marlboro Pike

Clagett Agricultural Survey Area

Prince George's County, MD

Nicole Diehlmann

11/3/03

MD SHPO

Looking East
1 of 2



PG: 79-00

Houses on The Cottage Property

4507 Ritchie Marlboro Road

Clagett Agricultural Survey Area

Prince George's County, MD

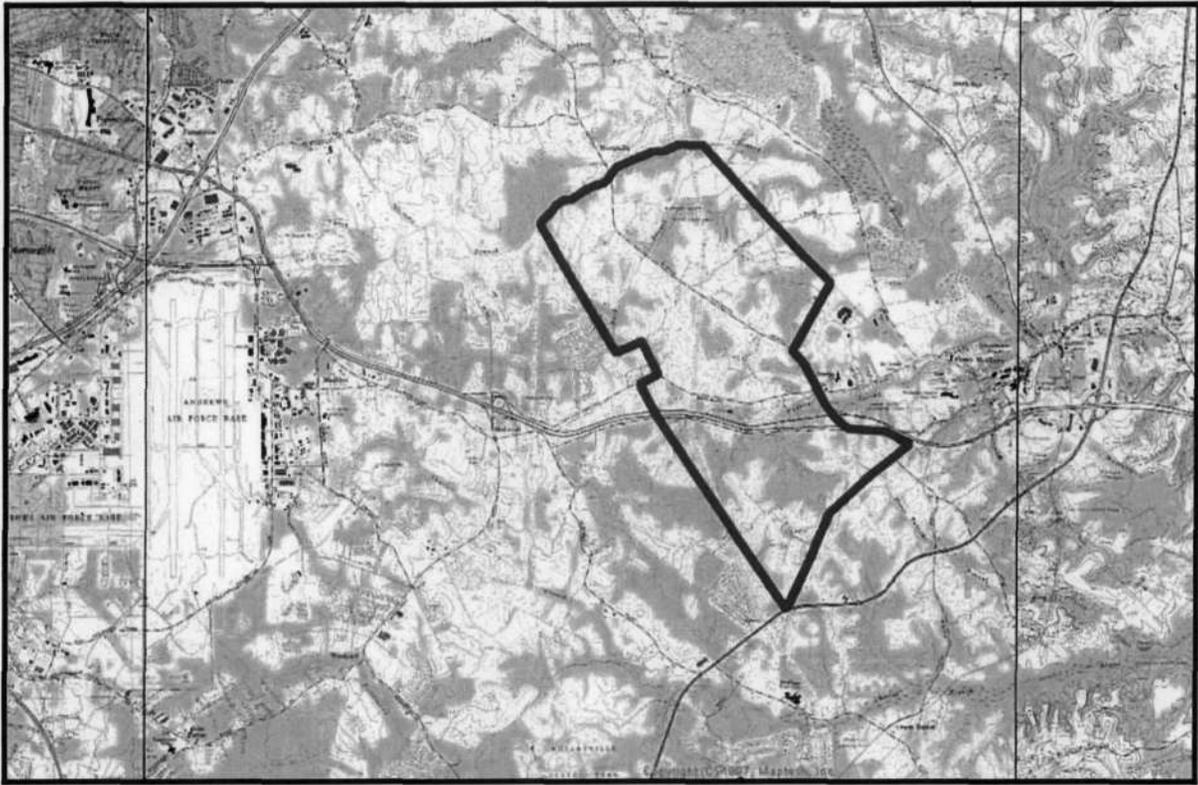
Nicole Diehlmann

11/3/03

MD STPO

Looking West

2 of 2



Claggett Agricultural Area PG: 78-000; 79-000; 82A-000
Prince George's County, MD
Upper Marlboro USGS Topographic Map, 1965, Revised 1993
EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2008

