

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**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

Rich Neck Manor

AND/OR COMMON

Rich Neck Manor

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER West side of Rich Neck Road, about 3/4 mile north of  
Claiborne

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Claiborne

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Talbot

CODE

041

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

\_\_PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Ella Poe Burling

Telephone #: (301) 745-2173

STREET & NUMBER

Rich Neck Manor

CITY, TOWN

Claiborne

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21624

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 26

Folio #: 183

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

# 7 DESCRIPTION

T-211

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Rich Neck Manor house, located on a narrow point of land between the Chesapeake and the Miles River north of Claiborne, is a large brick mansion composed of the main portion and L-plan wing. There are also three outbuildings to the east of the house.

The early 19th century main house is a 2 1/2-story building with two-story portico, the roof and portico being turn of the century alterations. Its facade has neither water table nor belt course and is laid in Flemish bond. All other walls are laid in common bond. The central door is flanked by fluted pilasters supporting a fanlight divided into flower-like petals. Gouge-carved sunbursts and a keystone complete the simple architrave. Above this on the second floor is a door onto the porch, probably originally a window. Flanking the center bay is a simple large window on both floors with 8/8 sash, louvered shutters, and a jack arch. The house is two bays deep with a window and door on the east side and a three-faceted bay and porch on the west. Each of the three facets of the bay has a window. Additions have concealed most of the north facade. The kitchen extends from the east side of the north facade and from a point about twenty feet out, set at right angles is a three-bay, brick, gambrel-roofed wing. The connecting wall is two stories tall; it and the west half of the wing are laid in the same type of brickwork as the main section of the house. The east half of the wing is laid in Flemish bond with larger brick. Other walls of the wing are laid in English bond. In the lower east corner of the south facade is an arch which may indicate a former use of the structure as a kitchen or wash house. This portion of the structure appears to be older than any of the other buildings on the property.

On axis with the gambrel wing is a large brick smokehouse and a frame shed. East of the main block and south of the gambrel wing, set on the diagonal, is a small, rectangular, brick building laid in the same type brick as the main house. Its southwest facade had a door, now bricked in, flanked by two small windows with ogee-headed arches. Above the door is a quatrefoil panel and above are crenelations. Behind the crenelations is a shed roof sloping to the east. Two windows pierce the southeast and northwest wall. A door is located between the windows on the northwest wall and another is located on the northeast wall. Inside, the structure has plastered walls and a semicircular brick-arched vault. The footing and lines in the plaster walls indicate the position of a former brick partition. It is presently furnished as a chapel, but was probably a store house when originally built. In all likelihood, the building was constructed at the same time as the main house.

Within the main house is a central stair hall and four rooms on both stories. Trim throughout the house is typical of the 1830 period with ribbed moldings and turned corner blocks. The hall ceiling has rectangular plaster panels around the wall and three plaster discs, the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 1

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Talbot County

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(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

larger center one having a lighting fixture. The stair is a wide, open string structure with turned newels, round handrail and two balusters per step.

In the southeast corner is the dining room which has a plaster cornice and black marble mantel. Two doors open into the hall on its west wall and between them is an arched recess. The room lacks a chair rail, but has a picture molding below the cornice.

Across the hall, the living room has similar woodwork, a plainer cornice and a circular disc in the ceiling. The mantel has been replaced with one of an earlier style. The room seems larger because of the projecting bay which extends from floor to ceiling.

The two back (north) rooms, smaller than the two described above, retain the majority of their woodwork. On the second story the room arrangement is the same, although closets and baths have been added. Trim on the second story is plainer and the mantels are of the same design as the dining room, but made of wood instead of marble. The third floor rooms were created when the roof was raised around the turn of the century.

The kitchen addition has been greatly altered for modern convenience. Its original configuration could not be determined from the first investigation. It may have had an exterior form similar to the kitchen wing on the Cannonball House in St. Michaels, with a shed roof. In the gambrel portion is a large room on the east with a corridor and small storage room between it and the kitchen.

The Rich Neck Manor is situated on a 250-acre farm on the neck of land extending north from Claiborne into Eastern Bay. The house has always been the center of an agricultural establishment.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

T-211

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

American Revolution

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally the importance of Rich Neck Manor is threefold. The original house is a superior example of style and craftsmanship of the period which has undergone few major changes. It retains the majority of its interior trim, floors, doors, and mantels. Second, the gambrel portion is important as a re-used outbuilding from the period of ownership of Matthew Tilghman. Third, the store house or chapel is extraordinary for its use of Gothic elements of design for whatever its original use may have been.

From the description of the plantation in the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, it would appear that only one portion of the gambrel roof wing has survived the major rebuilding undertaken in the 1830's.

Rich Neck Manor is important as the home of Matthew Tilghman, great Maryland patriot during the Revolution. The old graveyard is still maintained and includes the grave of Tilghman, as well as of Captain James Murphy, the first owner to settle the land.

A tract of 1000 acres, surveyed by Robert Clark, was granted by patent to William Mitchell in 1649. Mitchell assigned it to Phillip Land, High Sheriff of St. Mary's County, who in 1652 assigned his interest to Henry Fox, who sold it to Captain James Murphy (4/281). Captain Murphy brought his bride, the beautiful Mabel Dawson here. Possibly killed in a shipwreck, he died in 1698. His wife married again, this time to Matthew Tilghman Ward, and died in 1702 leaving a daughter, Mary. Mary died in 1722 without survivors and the property reverted to Matthew Tilghman Ward. He then married Margaret Lloyd of Wye House, the daughter of Philemon and Henrietta Maria Lloyd. There were no children of this marriage, but they adopted Matthew Tilghman, youngest son of the Richard Tilghmans of The Hermitage in Queen Anne's County, when he was about fifteen. Mrs. Ward was his aunt. Matthew Tilghman Ward died in 1742, leaving the property for the life use of his wife, and then to his adopted son, Matthew Tilghman (2/337).

In 1741 Matthew Tilghman married his cousin, Ann, daughter of Robert Lloyd and Ann Grundy, and began the long public life which earned him the title "The Patriarch of Maryland." He served as a Commissioner and Justice of the Peace, a position comparable today to a County Judge,

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(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

and for many terms he was chosen as a Delegate to the Lower House of the General Assembly in Annapolis. As Speaker of the House in 1773, 1774, and 1775 he led the opposition against acts passed by the British Parliament such as the Boston Port Bill and the Vestry Act. He was chosen to represent the Province in the Congress convened in Philadelphia. He was again chosen for the General Congress that adopted the Declaration of Independence, but felt he was needed more at the Convention in Annapolis, so he failed to sign the Declaration. He continued to serve the Senate until the close of the war, when he retired from all public office. He died in 1790, and his vast estates passed to his son, Lloyd, and then to his grandson, James (Tilghman, Volume I, p. 423.5).

In 1820 James Tilghman sold the plantation to Samuel Harrison, a bachelor (42/612). It seems probable that neither Lloyd nor James lived in the house since the tax assessment of 1798 describes it as being brick, a story and a half, ninety feet long, in very bad repair and occupied by a tenant. Harrison incorporated the old kitchen into a large new house. He died in 1834 and left the estate to his nephew, Samuel, and his wife, Jane, "who lived with him" and after their deaths, it was to go to his great-nephew, Samuel A. Harrison (JP9/79). The latter sold the farm for \$20,000 to George Harrington. Fifteen years later in 1854 Harrington conveyed the property to Sam and Adelaide Aldrich (65/487; 75/380).

In 1878 when a transaction passed the property from Samuel Aldrich to Miriam Harrison, the acreage had shrunk to 181 acres (85/17).

In 1876 about 100 acres had been deeded by Aldrich to Lydia E. Caulk (83/21). The two tracts were mortgaged to Solomon Hopkins. The mortgage was eventually assigned to the Claiborne Land Company of Talbot County and Joseph Seth bought it from them in 1901. Other owners were Henry H. Pearson and his wife, Helen, until 1921, followed by the Percy Melvilles and the Wilford J. Hawkins. In 1940 the farm of approximately 250 acres was purchased by Joseph E. Cotton, Jr. His widow, Mrs. Ella Poe Burling, is the present owner.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 3

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 250 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

DO

NAME/TITLE Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant  
Cynthia Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE

STREET & NUMBER Shaw House, 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland ZIP 21401

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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Talbot County

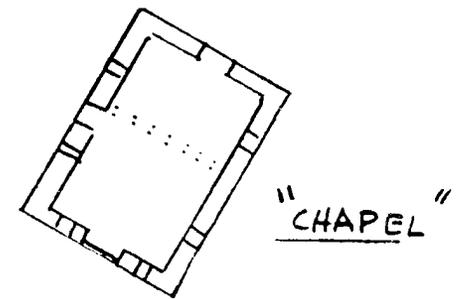
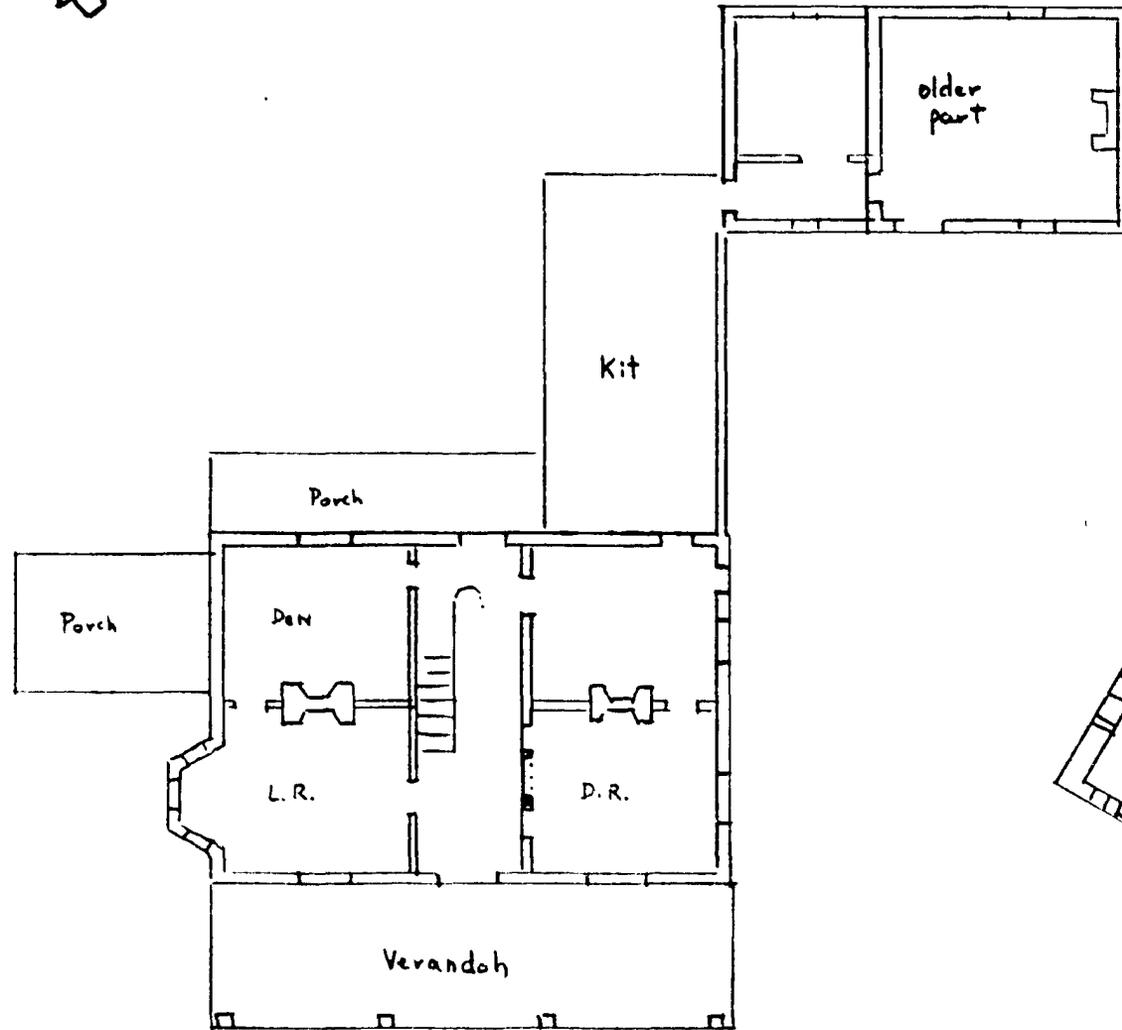
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Talbot County Land and Probate Records, Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, Md.  
Chancery Records  
Inventories  
Tax Assessment of 1783  
Federal Direct Tax of 1798  
Secondary Sources  
Tilghman, Oswald. History of Talbot County, Maryland. Reprint.  
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.

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



T-211

RICH NECK MANOR

TALBOT COUNTY

NO SCALE - FROM ME IV  
M. BOURNE 12/99



17°30'

1010000 FEET

76°15'

38°52'3

QUEEN ANNES CO  
TALBOT CO

T-211

Tilghman Point

Claiborne Quad

Rich Neck Manor

370 000  
FEET

Cemetery

Seth Point

Claiborne

Tilghman Creek

50'

Wades Point

BM 5

BM B

BM 14

20x

13

18

14

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11

12

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Rich Neck Manor  
Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Bourne

T-211

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Exterior View

Negatives located at MHT

SEP 20 1973

*[Handwritten scribble]*



Rich Neck Manor  
Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Bourne  
Negatives located at MHT  
Exterior View

T-211

SEP 20 1978

502



14x1.90

75% 21

Rich Neck

T-211



J. Tyler Campbell  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

Scott's friends  
Bourne

July 1976



T-211





Rich Neck Manor  
Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Bourner  
Negatives located at MHT  
Exterior View

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SEP 20 1978

A large, stylized handwritten signature or scribble in dark ink, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page. It consists of several loops and a long, wavy tail.



Rich Neck Manor  
Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Bourne,  
Exterior view

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~~Photographs~~ Negatives located at MHT

SEP 20 1978

*Handwritten signature or scribble*



Rich Neck Manor  
Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Bourne  
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