

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bellefonte Hotel

2. Location

street & number Miracle House Road not for publicationcity, town Claiborne vicinity of congressional district Talbot

state Maryland county Talbot

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Sidney Absher and Thelma Prickett

street & number Miracle House Road telephone no.: 745-2526

city, town Claiborne state and zip code MD 21624

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 625

street & number folio 391

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-897

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 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.

The Bellefonte Hotel is located on the west side of Miracle House Road in Claiborne, Talbot County, Maryland. The house faces south with the principle gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1912, this one-and-a-half story frame house is sheathed in white aluminum siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The foundation consists of brick piers infilled with cinderblocks.

The south (main) elevation has a nine-light over one-panel entrance door flanked by six pane sidelights as its central bay. The central bay is flanked to the east by one twelve-over-one window and to the west by a set of three windows: one nine-over-one sash and two six-over-one sash. Both windows have wide surrounds, decorative crown molding and blue shutters. An open porch supported by square posts mounted on brick piers stretches across this first story and continues to the west as an enclosed, one-story extension lit by large, single pane windows. The second story is lit by a central bay of three nine-over-one sash windows with wide surrounds and decorative crown molding flanked on either side by one one-over-one sash window. This gable end is finished with cornice returns. The brick foundation under this and the west elevation has pink colored mortar.

The west elevation has the enclosed wrap around porch from the southern side of the house as its southern most bay. This bay is lit by eight single pane windows and a sliding glass door. To the north is a central door with a gable roof portico flanked on either side by plate glass bay windows. The upper half story of the house is lit by three gable roof one-over-one sash dormer windows.

The north elevation has a one story enclosed porch addition as the western most bay lit by two one-over-one sash windows with blue shutters and decorative crown molding. The main body of the house is lit by two sets of two nine-over-one sash windows with blue shutters and decorative crown molding which are set unevenly into the wall. The foundation under this part of the house consists of cinderblock cast and painted like brick. The upper half story is lit by a set of three one-over-one sash windows with blue shutters. This gable end is finished with cornice returns.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates **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 Bellefonte Hotel was one of about five boarding houses which developed around the area at the turn of the century. The B.C.&A. railroad and the ferry system between the western shore and Claiborne brought city dwellers as summer boarders to the area. Many went directly to Ocean City, but some stayed in towns such as Claiborne and Royal Oak along the way.

Dickson Preston describes the Bellefont as a "not-very-successful hostelry." Regardless, it was certainly a large building as shown on postcards from its heyday. The hotel was conveniently situated next to the Bay, facing the ferry and railroad piers.

It is unclear when the Bellefonte was built. Although Baltimore City entrepreneurs John Heaver, John F. Heaver, Frank W. Kroh, Howard S. Kroh, Jesse C. Vansant, and William Leitz formed "The Claiborne Hotel Company" in 1902 "for the purpose of erecting, equipping, and conducting a Hotel" in Claiborne, the first sale of the "Hotel Lot" on which the Bellefonte stands did not transpire until 1912. This lot had been set aside as "the Hotel lot" since 1906 when J. Frank Turner purchased the land from Joseph B. Seth and platted "Turner's Addition to Claiborne"(T.C.Land Records 147/156). In 1912 Turner sold the property to Andrew J. McIntosh of New York City.

McIntosh sold this property to John and Kathryn Specht in 1920 who sold it the following year to Albert and Mary Wyatt of Wicomico County. During his ownership, Wyatt built a restaurant located out on the piers of the ferry wharf which has long since been torn down. Five years later the Wyatts conveyed the property to Annie B. Card. At some point a fire destroyed much of the hotel's upper stories, and by 1939 Herman Nixdorf had purchased the damaged building from the Del Mar Va Mortgage Company.

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Bellefonte Hotel Description cont'd.

The east elevation has a central four light door with a projecting gable roof portico. To the south of this door is a slight projection with a gambrel roof and a three bay window consisting of a central nine-over-one sash window flanked by six-over-one sash windows with blue shutters, wide surrounds, and decorative crown molding. To the north of the central door is one set of two nine-over-one sash windows placed slightly lower than the northern most nine-over-one sash window. Both windows have blue shutters, wide surrounds, and decorative molding. Three gable roof dormers with one-over-one sash windows light the upper half story of the house. An interior brick chimney pierces this roof elevation.

The interior, originally painted green and orange and clad in knotty pine paneling, has been remodeled by the current owners. Most of the interior doors are five panel. A basement exists under the southeast corner of the house which is floored in brick.

There is one white, weatherboard and wainscoat outbuilding with blue trim and a shed roof currently used for storage and as a garage. This shed has the same five panel door as the house interior and is lit by windows of various sizes.

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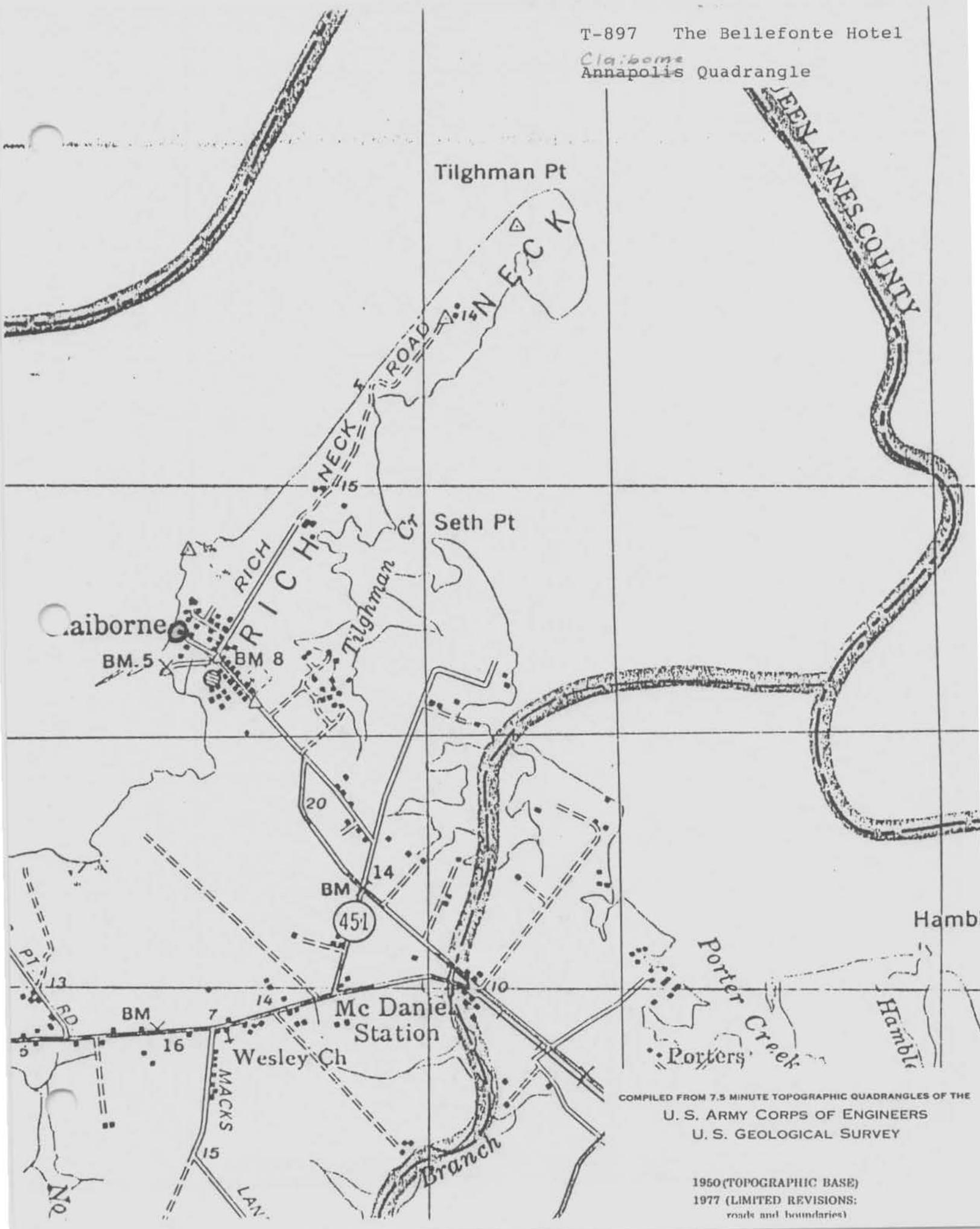
Bellefonte Hotel Significance cont'd.

Herman E. Nixdorf was a German and a local plumber. He rebuilt the hotel into a residence with two apartments in the upper half story. He also built small one-story cottages to the south of the Bellefonte which he rented out to summer visitors. From Nixdorf the property went to Howard Hamm in 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Hamm shared the house with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Reilly. From the Reillys the Bellefonte Hotel passed to the current owners.

A February 24, 1939 Star Democrat advertisement for the sale of the Hotel Bellefonte lists the personal property contained in the house, including fifteen bedsteads. The house at that time is described as a "two-story frame, shingled roof building containing eighteen rooms." At one time the hotel's brick basement served as a Rathskeller.

T-897 The Bellefonte Hotel

Clairborne
Annapolis Quadrangle



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)
1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS:
roads and boundaries)



T-897

BELLEVILLE HOTEL

SW ELEVATION



*Hotel Bellefontaine
Claiborne, Md.*

T-897

BELLEFONTE

HOTEL

SW

ELEVATION

BILL

BODENSTIEN

COLLECTION