

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ferry Ticket Offices

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Claiborne _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<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

street & number _____ telephone no.:

city, town _____ state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number _____ folio

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-907

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" 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 buildings stand in the village of Claiborne which were once in use as part of the ferry transportation system and are now in use as residences. Two ferry ticket office buildings were moved from their original sites and enlarged in order to serve as dwellings. Although local residents know these buildings by the public role they once served in the community, it is impossible for outsiders to identify them as having been anything but residences.

One of the ferry ticket offices is owned by Hugh D. and Nancy H. Clark of Claiborne, MD (Recorded in T.C. Land Records 674/206). This ticket office was in use as late as 1952 when the Claiborne-Romance ferry ceased operations. Hugh Clark's father purchased the building in 1953 and moved it to its current site at the edge of the village wharf parking lot. Originally, this one-and-a-half story, gable roof structure was located at the edge of the ferry pier and housed offices, a waiting room, and restrooms. This building is still covered in wide weatherboard siding, but the wood shingle roof has been replaced by asphalt shingles. The Clarks added dormer windows and a one-story addition to enlarge the structure which they use as a full-time residence.

The second ferry ticket office is owned by Edward H. Harrison, et al, of Jarrettsville, Maryland (Recorded in T.C. Land Records in 561/774). This building was used by the Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry Company until the early 1930s when the small, gable-roof structure was moved from its original site by the ferry wharf to this lot on Talbot Street. One of the first owners of this building was a jeweler who added a one-story addition which contained a built-in safe. Edward Harrison's father, the subsequent owner, added a screened porch and a second addition on the rear of the building. Today the building is sheathed in aluminum siding, roofed with asphalt shingles, and used as a summer cottage.

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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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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.

Although these structures do not have a particular architectural significance in the community, they both reflect the innovative and thrifty nature of the Eastern Shore's rural villages and evoke memories of a time when Claiborne was a busy transportation hub. Repeatedly, this sort of adaptive reuse of vacant, inactive structures occurred in Claiborne. The James Gray post office was added to the Methodist Church, the Florence Davis post office was turned into a dwelling, these ferry ticket offices were transformed into residences, a gutted Holy Innocents Chapel was used as a church hall and polling place, and a railroad waiting room/pavilion was absorbed into the heart of residence on Miracle House Road.

The former lives of these structures is known only to those who worked, worshipped, waited, or spent money in them when they were public places. Their blank facades hold special meaning for fewer and fewer residents as Claiborne natives leave or die or forget, and no special meaning for visitors. Those who do remember, however, are proud of the imaginative men and women who were able to transform them.



T-907

FERRY TICKET OFFICE & WAITING ROOM

(NOW THE CLARK HOUSE)

N. ELEVATION

CLATBORNE, MD

NANCY CLARK COLLECTION



T-907

FERRY TICKET OFFICE

SE ELEVATION



T-907

FERRY TICKET OFFICE

NE ELEVATION