

|   |
|---|
| Property Address <u>17107 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton vicinity, Montgomery County</u>        |
| Owner Name/Address <u>Elizabeth B. Bullard / 17107 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, MD 20861</u> |
| Year Built <u>1742</u>  |

**Description:**

Clifton was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in January 1973 and by the Maryland Historical Trust in September 1973. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1974. Since the prior survey, two sympathetic additions have been made to the rear elevation of the north section. A wood-frame shed roof addition which extends the original roof slope, extends along the entire length of the rear elevation. The addition has a brick veneer foundation, wood clapboard siding and a wood shingle roof. A cut-away porch is located at the southeast corner supported by a wood post. Within the porch is a vinyl sliding glass door and wood panel door. The east elevation of the wood-frame addition has a vinyl sliding glass door, while the north elevation has a wood 6/6 double-hung window. Attached to the east elevation of the wood-frame addition is a second addition. The 1-story addition has a gable roof, covered with wood shingles, and has a stuccoed exterior. Wood panel doors are located on the north and south elevations of the addition, while the east elevation has two 4-light casement windows.

Outbuildings on the property include a wood-frame shed and a guest house/cottage. The shed, located east of the house, has a stone foundation and wood board and batten siding. The roof is wood shingle on the west elevation and standing-seam metal on the east elevation. A wood board and batten door is located on the north elevation, while the south elevation has a 9-light wood casement window. The guest house/cottage is located east of the house and shed. Constructed circa 1930, the 1½-story wood-frame building is supported by brick piers, has wood board and batten siding and a standing seam metal front-gable roof. The front, or west elevation has a 1-story hipped roof porch with exposed rafter ends and is supported by four wood posts. Within the porch are double wood doors. Both the north and south elevations have four 9-light wood casement windows.

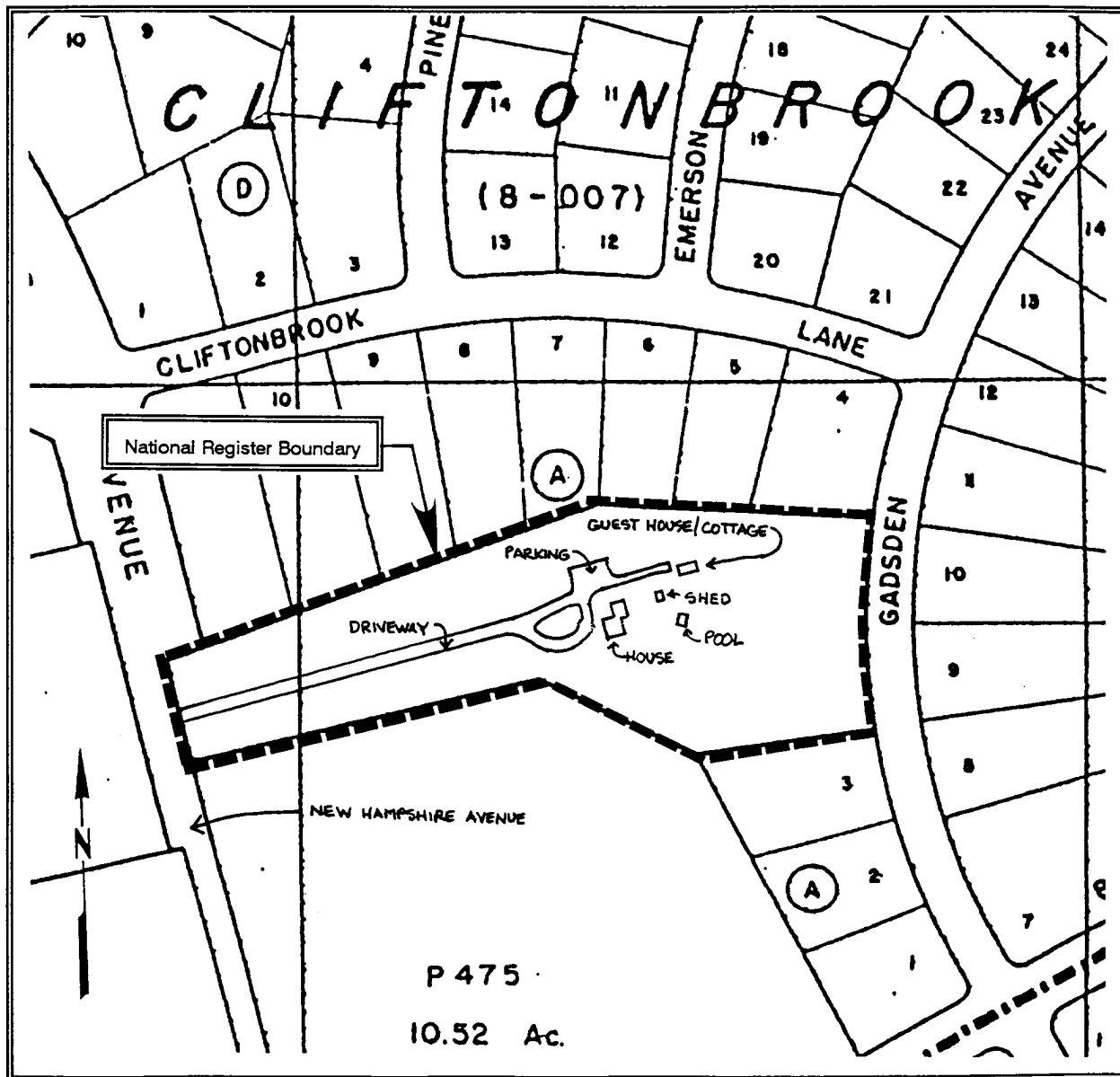
**Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:**

The National Register boundary established for Clifton in 1974 included a large tract of land of unknown size, partially bounded by the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Ednor Road. The corner points of the boundary were set by latitude and longitude. Much of the land comprising this boundary includes property which had been subdivided and developed for residential use between 1960 and 1962. It is recommended that the current tax parcel, which includes the house, shed, guest house, pool, and the historic access lane from New Hampshire Avenue, be established as the National Register boundary of Clifton. The current tax parcel (Tax Map HT561/Parcel P337) is 1.87 hectares (4.64 acres) in size.

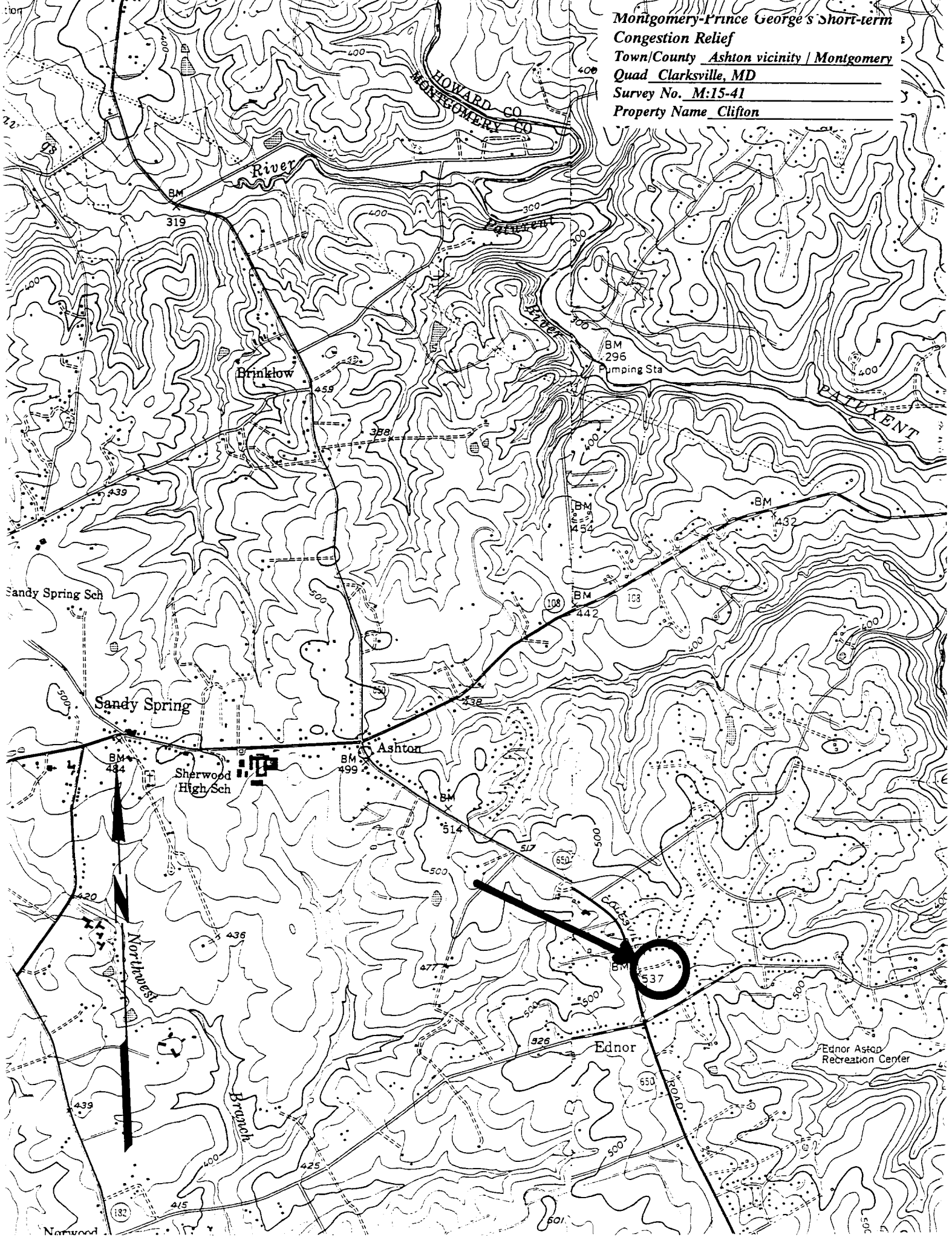
|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>  |                             |
| Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> recommended <input type="checkbox"/> not recommended  | (NR listed 1974)            |
| Criteria <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> Considerations <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>G</u> None        |                             |
| Comments: <u>CLIFTON'S BOUNDARY HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE CURRENT (1999) TAX PARCEL BOUNDARY. CPSS CRSE AGREED WITH SAH'S ASSESSMENT</u> |                             |
| <u>Allen Bullard</u>   | <u>4/28/99</u>              |
| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services / Date   | Reviewer, NR program / Date |
|  | <u>5/3/99</u>               |

Property Address 17107 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton vicinity, Montgomery County  
Owner Name/Address Elizabeth B. Bullard / 17107 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, MD 20861  
Year Built 1742

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term  
Congestion Relief  
Town/County Ashton vicinity / Montgomery  
Quad Clarksville, MD  
Survey No. M:15-41  
Property Name Clifton



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE  
*Maryland*

COUNTY  
*Montgomery*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
*Clifton*

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
*Clifton*

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*17107 New Hampshire Avenue, and Colesville Road*

CITY OR TOWN:  
*Ednor*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
*Eighth*

STATE  
*Maryland*

CODE  
*24*

COUNTY:  
*Montgomery*

CODE  
*07*

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
*Dr. and Mrs. James W. Bullard*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*17107 New Hampshire Avenue, and Colesville Road*

CITY OR TOWN:  
*Ednor*

STATE:  
*Maryland*

CODE

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
*Hall of Records*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*St. John's College Campus, College Avenue*

CITY OR TOWN:  
*Annapolis*

STATE:  
*Maryland*

CODE  
*24*

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

CITY OR TOWN

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (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

Clifton is located on the east side of Colesville Road, Maryland Route 65, just north of the intersection of Ednor Road, Cedar Lane and Colesville Road, and south of the intersection of Maryland Route 108 and Colesville Road at Ashton, Maryland.

Clifton is a one and a half story gambrel-roofed brick structure with a lower north wing, also with gambrel roof. The main part of the house has four bays, with the entrance in the second bay from the south end. There are segmental brick restraining arches over each of the first floor openings; the windows in the main (west) facade are nine over nine with the frames flush with the outer wall plane. The brick is laid up in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Three dormer windows have six over six lights; their shed roofs are carried forward at the same pitch as that of the higher part of the gambrel roof.

The north and south ends have massive internal brick chimneys. On the south end, there are small windows on either side of the stack and a small window at the second floor level on the east end. On the first floor of this end, a funeral door is at the west side and a window, surrounded by a framed section, at the east side; the framed insert suggest a possible extension of the house southerly or another door at some past time. The north end has windows on either side of the stack in the attic and one at the west end on the second floor; at the ground floor level, there is a window in the west end and a door with an exposed wooden lintel (now opening into the north wing) on the east end. At the level of the boxed cornice, a three-brick tall corbel covers the end of the cornice; the present cornice and mouldings are reconstructed. The end chimneys also show signs of reconstruction above the second floor level.

The foundation is soapstone with two courses of brick, thicker than the walls above, laid atop it. The brick courses serve as an un moulded water table.

The window and door frames have heavy sills and a bead around the interior edge of the framing.

The interior has been restored with some changes. The northwest room has a corner cupboard and panelled mantlepiece. In the northeast room, the mantle is a simple board and the arch of the fireplace is exposed within the panel surround. The southeast room has a plastered fireplace. In the south-east and northeast rooms, the windows are larger than in the west rooms. All rooms have a chair rail. The doors are all four-panel, with the panels projecting beyond the surrounding stiles. Baseboards have a bead along the upper edge. Walls are plastered directly on the brick. The roof is modern, with no ridgepole, common rafters, and milled sheathing boards.

The addition to the north has a boxed staircase with vertical beaded boarding in the northeast corner. The beams (now exposed) are hand hewn. The windows are six over six with smaller mullions than in the windows of the south part of the house. A fireplace in the south wall shares the north chimney of the main house block. A staircase with three risers connects the lower addition with the main house block.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) *after 1742*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Clifton is one of the few extant mid-eighteenth century buildings in Montgomery County. The date is important because at the time the county was part of the frontier as was the surrounding piedmont. The structure has survived in an excellent state of preservation retaining the majority of the original fabric.*

*From the viewpoint of architectural history the brick gambrel roof structure arouses great interest. The form, especially the roof construction, is not typical of this region, but rather of southern Maryland or the Eastern Shore. The explanation lies in the fact that the builder's family was from southern Anne Arundel County where brick gambrel roof houses were commonly constructed in the first half of the century, e.g., Larkin's Hill Farm.*

*Clifton also has significance in relation to local history for it is associated with the first settlement of the area. The first settler, James Brooke, arrived in the first quarter of the century. His wife's sister and husband, James Thomas, arrived shortly thereafter. The Brooke and Thomas families formed the nucleus of a Quaker community which by 1753 had been organized into the Sandy Spring Meeting of Friends. Clifton is contemporary with the origins of the meeting its association has significance because the meeting house was not constructed until 1819.*

*The history of Clifton begins with another prominent Quaker, Richard Snowden (d. 1763). Snowden owned vast tracts of land in Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Montgomery counties and operated the Patuxent Iron Works, a major eighteenth century Maryland industry. One of the first tracts Snowden acquired was Snowden's Manor -- one thousand acres for which he received a patent in 1715. In the 1740's he sold part of it to Philip Thomas, the founder of the Quaker family. Thomas was Snowden's daughter's father-in-law. Two decades later Philip Thomas sold the tract to John Thomas as his "... indefeazable [sic] estate of inheritance. . . Together with all Houses, Edifices, Buildings, Pastures Gardens Commons Rents Services Emoluments Cultivations and Improvements. . ." This last phrase coupled with the architectural assessment indicates that the building dates from circa 1760.*

*Since John Thomas had no children he willed the house and farm to his great nephew William John Thomas whose presence at Clifton is indicated in (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

PRIMARY SOURCES, *Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland*  
 Debt Books. (*Frederick County*).  
*Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington 1878 Including the County of Prince George (sic) Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1878.*  
*Martenet, Simon, J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865.*  
 (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>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 |
| NW  | 39 ° 08 ' 20 "          | 76 ° 59 ' 46 "          |        | °   | '         | "       |
| NE  | 39 ° 08 ' 24 "          | 76 ° 59 ' 33 "          |        |   |           |         |
| SE  | 39 ° 08 ' 16 "          | 76 ° 59 ' 29 "          |        |   |           |         |
| SW  | 39 ° 08 ' 10 "          | 76 ° 59 ' 49 "          |        |   |           |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission DATE January 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE Maryland (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET) CODE

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Maryland         |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Montgomery       |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|   |      |   |      |
|---|------|---|------|
| 1. NAME                                       |      |   |      |
| COMMON:                                       |      | Clifton   |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:                              |      | Clifton   |      |
| 2. LOCATION                                   |      |   |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                            |      |   |      |
| 17107 New Hampshire Avenue, & Colesville Road |      |   |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                                 |      |   |      |
| Ednor   |      |   |      |
| STATE:  | CODE | COUNTY:   | CODE |
| Maryland                                      | 24   | Montgomery  | 031  |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE                            |      |   |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT:                                 |      | Michael Bourne  |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO:                                |      | June 1968   |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:                            |      | Maryland Historical Trust<br>94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 |      |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION                             |      |   |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.                |      |   |      |
| South and west facades                        |      |   |      |



CLARKSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1:24,000  
1957

Highland

St Marks  
Cn

BM  
296  
Pumping Sta

PATUXENT

BM  
432

HOWARD CO

MONTGOMERY CO

BM  
276

RIVER

COLE  
537

CLIFTON CEDAR

LANE

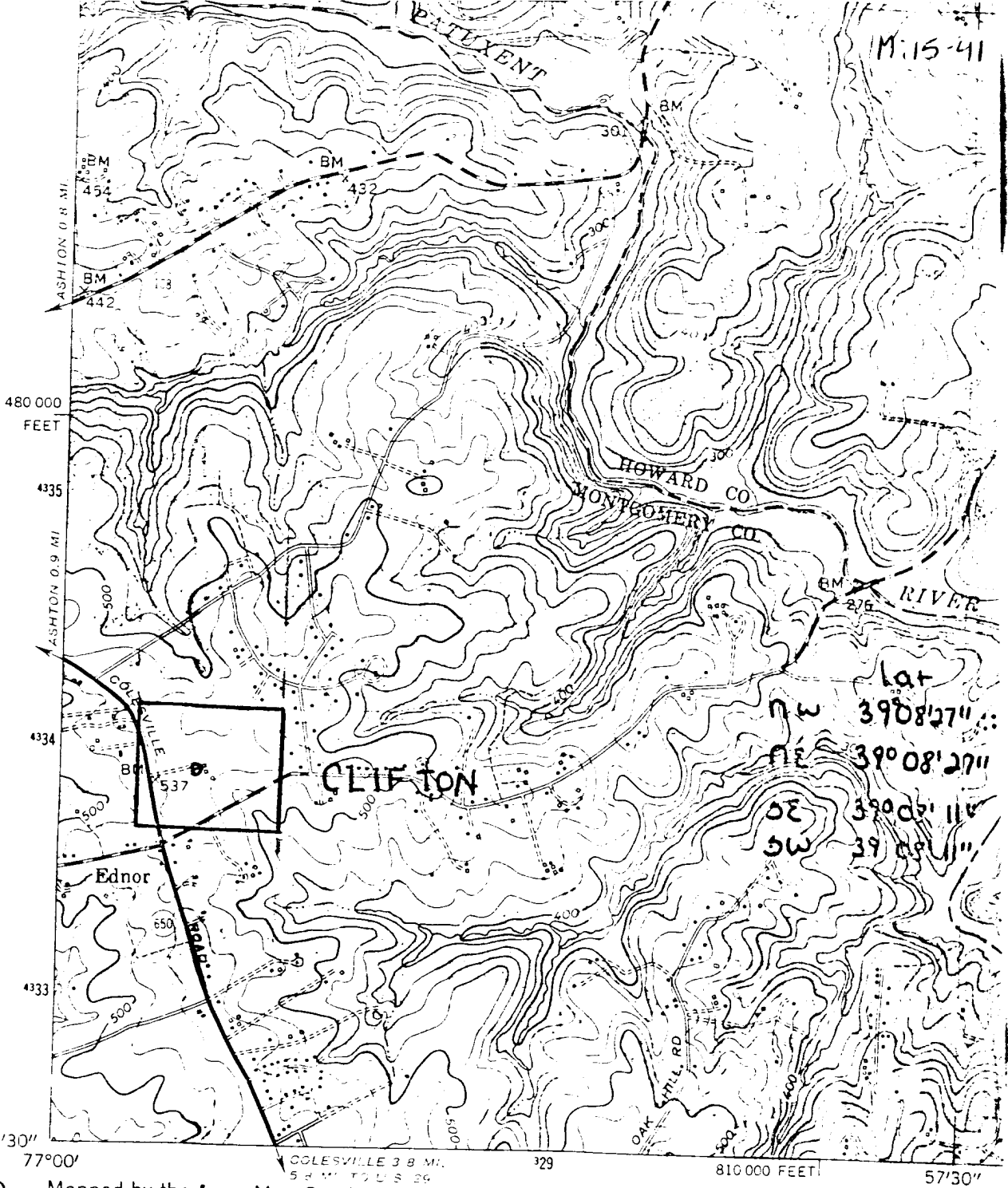
|    |       |     |     |     |
|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| NW | lat.  | 39° | 08' | 27" |
|    | long. | 76° | 59' | 16" |
| NE | lat.  | 39° | 08' | 27" |
|    | long. | 76° | 58' | 56" |
| SE | lat.  | 39° | 08' | 11" |
|    | long. | 76° | 58' | 56" |
| SW | lat.  | 39° | 08' | 11" |
|    | long. | 76° | 59' | 16" |

Ednor

CAK  
HILL RD



M. 15-41



NW 39°08'27" :  
 NE 39°08'27" :  
 SE 39°05'11" :  
 SW 39°05'11" :

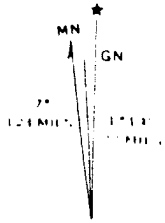
480 000 FEET  
 4335  
 4334  
 4333  
 39°07'30" 77°00' 810 000 FEET 57'30"

(KENSINGTON)  
5562 11 SE

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and SCS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
 and by plane-table surveys 1943. Planimetric detail revised  
 from aerial photographs taken 1945. Field check 1947

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue



UTM GRID AND 1957 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
 BOX 1704  
 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| STATE<br><i>Maryland</i>    |      |
| COUNTY<br><i>Montgomery</i> |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY            |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER                | DATE |
|                             |      |

(Number all entries)

CLIFTON

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued:

a 1865 map of Montgomery County and on a plat (1849) delineating the edges of his father's estate.<sup>1</sup> After the death of William John Thomas (d. 1884) the farm became the property of his son John Thomas who was the first to call the property Clifton. The last Thomas to occupy the house was his son, William John Thomas, who remained in the building through the mid-twentieth century.

#9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued:

Montgomery County Land and Probate Records.

Patent Records.

Plat of William Thomas' Land. 1849. Montgomery County Records. Liber HH #3 facing folio 241.

Provincial Court Deeds.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and Historic Montgomery County. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, 1952.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland... 2 volumes. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing, 1968.

Spencer, Richard Henry. Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia of the State of Maryland... 2 vols. New York: American Historical Society, 1913.

Stables, Ester B. "Sandy Spring and the Friends Meeting From Its Early History to 1853." The Montgomery County Story. Vol. II. (May 1959), 1-18.

#11. FORM PREPARED BY continued

Nancy A. Millex, Historian  
Maryland Historical Trust  
2525 Riva Road  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

September 1973

<sup>1</sup>S. J. Martenet, Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland, Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865 and Montgomery County Wills, Liber HH #3 facing folio 2412, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 15-41

- 1. Name Clifton
- 2. Planning Area/Site Number 15/41
- 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 17 F-2
- 4. Address 17107 New Hampshire Avenue  
Ashton, Maryland 20702

5. Classification Summary

Category structure

Ownership private

Public Acquisition NA

Status occupied

Accessible yes: restricted

Present use residential-private

Previous Survey Recording HABS, 1936 Federal    State X County X Local   

(Title and date: National Register 1974 )

- 6. Date c. 1740
- 7. Original Owner Philip Thomas

- 8. Apparent Condition
  - a. good
  - b. unaltered
  - c. original site

Description

Built circa 1740, with a wing added in 1846, this house was constructed of brick laid in the flemish bond pattern with glazed headers. The foundations are of soapstone. There are five corner fireplaces in the original house and one in the 1846 addition, pit sawn beams in original part and hand hewn beams in the later part. The original windows in the front wall have nine over nine panes, the doors all have HL hand forged hinges and panelling in living room are original, as is plaster, floors, many windows, most of the interior.

10. Significance

A very early Quaker house of the Sandy Spring community. The Thomas family lived in it for six generations. The house is unique in that so much has been preserved of its original state, including plaster, many windows and glass, doors, floors, etc., and in some places the first or original coat of paint.

- 11. Date researched and researcher 1974 Christopher Owens, Nancy Miller
- 12. Compiler Wm. W. Canby
- 13. Date Compiled Oct. 1978
- 14. Designation Approval
- 15. Acreage : 20 acres

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>1. NAME</b>  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| COMMON:   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:<br>Clifton   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>17107 New Hampshire Avenue  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Ashton   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| STATE<br>Maryland   |                                     | COUNTY:<br>Montgomery   |  |   |  |  |
| <b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   |                                     | OWNERSHIP   |  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both |  | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural   | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | _____   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious  | _____                                    | _____   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment  | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific   | _____                                    | _____   |  |  |
| <b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| OWNER'S NAME:<br>James W. Bullard   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>17107 New Hampshire Avenue  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Ashton   |                                     |   | STATE:<br>Maryland                       |   |  |  |
| <b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:<br>Montgomery County Courthouse  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Rockville  |                                     |   | STATE:<br>Maryland                       |   |  |  |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| <b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| TITLE OF SURVEY:<br>Historic American Buildings Survey  |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local                        |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:<br>Library of Congress   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>East Capitol and 1st Streets SE   |                                     |   |  |   |  |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Washington, DC   |                                     |   | STATE:                                   |   |  |  |

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (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 one and a half story gambrel-roofed brick structure with a lower north wing, also with gambrel roof. The main part of the house has four bays, with the entrance in the second bay from the south end. There are segmental brick restraining arches over each of the first floor openings; the windows in the main (west) facade are 9/9 with the frames flush with the outer wall plane. The brick is laid up in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Three dormer windows have 6/6 lights; their flat roofs are carried forward at the same pitch as that of the higher part of the gambrel roof.

The north and south ends have massive internal brick chimneys. On the south end, there are small windows on either side of the stack and a small window at the second floor level on the east end. On the first floor of this end, a funeral door is at the west side and a window, surrounded by a framed section, at the east side; the framed insert suggests a possible extension of the house southerly or another door at some past time. The north end has windows on either side of the stack in the attic and one at the west end on the second floor; at the ground floor level, there is a window in the west end and a door with an exposed wooden lintel (now opening into the north wing) on the east end. At the level of the boxed cornice, a three-brick tall corbel covers the end of the cornice; the present cornice and mouldings are reconstructed. The end chimneys also show signs of reconstruction above the second floor level. (continued on supplemental sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The foundation is soapstone with two courses of brick, thicker than the walls above, laid atop it. The brick courses serve as an unmoulded water table.

The window and door frames have heavy sills and a bead around the interior edge of the framing.

The interior has been restored with some changes. The northwest room has a corner cupboard and panelled mantelpiece. In the northeast room, the mantle is a simple board and the arch of the fireplace is exposed within the panel surround. The southeast room has a plastered fireplace. In the southeast and northeast rooms, the windows are larger than in the west rooms. All rooms have a chair rail. The doors are all four-panel with the center panel raised above the surrounding mouldings. Baseboards have a bead along the upper edge. Walls are plastered directly on the brick. The roof is modern, with no ridgepole, common rafters, and milled sheathing boards.

The addition to the north has a boxed staircase with vertical beaded boarding in the northeast corner. The beams (now exposed) are hand hewn. The windows are 6/6 with smaller mullions than in the windows of the south part of the house. A fireplace in the south wall shares the north chimney of the main house block. A staircase with three risers connects the lower addition with the main house block.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century

15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

---

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)      1742

---

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Farquhar says Philip Thomas acquired the land, part of Snowden's Manor Enlarged, in March, 1742. His grandson, John, married Elizabeth Snowden and is believed to have built Clifton.

OTHER: The owners are restoring the house with some assistance from Orin Bullock, AIA.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. (1962). pp. 121-2.  
 Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936.  
 9 sheets. 15 photographs

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>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:

Acreeage 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: M-NCPPC DATE: 1/24/73

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

by E. Riggs 1974

Clifton. Fine brick house on  
 Flemish bond with glazed headers  
 Built c. 1742 but in the style of  
 the early 1700's. Same plan as  
 Cherry Grove with entrance hall  
 on one end but rooms have ~~other~~  
 fire places. Main building has ~~original~~  
 floor doors and trim with H & L hinges  
 First floor front windows original and  
 dormers in gambrel <sup>roof</sup> restored to original  
 style. Fire places have ~~early~~ <sup>style</sup> curved  
 arches. Same <sup>style</sup> as in Cherry  
 Grove with straight stringer and turned balusters

Located on Route 650

17107 New Hampshire Ave

Barely visible from road though  
 roof may be seen <sup>on right side of road</sup> if approaching  
 from the south. House faces west

# Clifton



NO. 15 E-10 JOHN THOMAS 1742 BRICK

**T**HE motorist driving along the Colesville Road about one mile south of Ashton is attracted to the Gambrel roof of Clifton, a few hundred yards east of the pike. It was built soon after 1742.

Hanging in the hall at Clifton is a treasured deed, executed by Richard Snowden on March 10, 1742, conveying to Philip Thomas several plots of land aggregating about 1,000 acres. The house was built by John Thomas, a brother of Philip mentioned in the deed.

The old brick house, an antique gem, has stood at the end of an avenue of stately maples, in possession of six generations of the Thomas family.

To get the background of the owners of Clifton, it is necessary for us to include the Snowden family in our story. Progenitors of both came from Wales at about the same time in the seventeenth century to the area west of the Chesapeake Bay. They, likewise, migrated to what is now Montgomery County at about the same time, in 1727-1728.

The elder Philip Thomas of Wales, first of this branch of the family to come to America,

was given 500 acres called Becket by the Lord Proprietor of the Province in 1651. And Richard Snowden, one of Cromwell's officers, in 1686 received a grant of 10,500 acres called Robin Hood's Forest. Both were in the West River area of Maryland. Richard Snowden, however, laid the foundations of the land fortunes of both families when he obtained grants of Snowden's Manor in December, 1715, of 1,000 acres and Snowden's Manor Enlarged in March, 1743, of 9,265 acres. The deed referred to above from Richard Snowden to Philip Thomas II was for part of that land.

The elder Philip Thomas was a leader of the Puritan Party, and when the cohorts of Cromwell were ousted from power in Maryland, he was given the rare distinction of being appointed in 1657 by the Lord Proprietor, along with Richard Preston (The Great Quaker), to arrange the articles of surrender.

Richard Preston, then President of The Council, lived at Charles Gift on the Patuxent River, and during the Cromwell era, Preston's "great hall" was the meeting place of the House of Burgesses. Charles Gift, built in 1651, is next to the oldest brick house standing in Maryland ("Cross Manor" is slightly older), and it is an architectural gem of the highest type of the Provincial period of architecture.

Later the elder Philip Thomas became a Quaker, and it is interesting to speculate whether his "convincement" was due to the influence of the "Great Quaker" Preston or to the preaching of George Fox, the Founder of Quakerism. Fox was at Charles Gift several times, preached at several large meetings, and, to quote his famous "Journal": "general meetings, one which lasted four days—July, 1671—to which many other people—divers of whom were of considerable quality in world's account—five or six justices of peace, the Speaker of their Assembly, one of their Council, and others of note."<sup>1</sup>

Philip Thomas, the elder, had a grandson, John who married Elizabeth Snowden, daughter of the princely landowner. It is believed that this John built Clifton. His son John married Margaret Hopkins, and he lived at Clifton until 1826. Then in direct line, the owners were

<sup>1</sup> George Fox's Journal.

William, who married Martha Patrick; then William John who married Rebecca Porter; then John who married Catharine Vickers; William John Thomas, married Edith Bentley. The last named William John Thomas, died on July 24th, 1957, and his widow Edith B. lived alone for a while in the ancient home. But when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wellens, she built a modern home just off Olney-Sandy Spring highway, for her old age. Both her sons are successfully employed elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellens have two children, both married—they are LaVerne, married to the Reverend Samuel J. Mujais, of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mich. The son is, Theodore Raymond Wellens, Jr., married to Nina Grotefend—a daughter of the Reverend O. G. Grotefend of St. James Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C.

One of the antique features is a so-called "funeral door," in the east wall of the front hall. By tradition it was considered unlucky to carry a corpse out the front door.

The original windows in the front wall have 18 panes each, with very heavy mullions. Some of the doors are battened, and the main front door has a heavy bar across the inside. Most of the floor beams and studding, are hand-hewn, and the plaster of the inside of the house, is directly on the brick.

The Thomases of Sandy Spring have always been devoted and steadfast supporters of the Sandy Spring Meeting, which is still active. The brick Meeting House was built in 1817. Of the forty-four contributors to the building fund of \$3,443, seven were named Thomas and they contributed \$1,203.

The charming ivy-covered brick house at Clifton has always excited students of early architecture. Ivy completely covered the left-hand wing. It was so thick it had to be removed.

Family tradition that the bricks were made in England, seems supported by the consensus of architects, scores of whom have studied the walls. It is reported that the bricks were brought to Elk Ridge Landing in ships which

took cargoes of tobacco to the mother country. The "Landing" was a busy port in Colonial days, but today it has disappeared for anything larger than rowboats. It is just eighteen miles as a crow flies from Clifton. Tobacco hogsheads were "rolled down the roads," but bricks would have to be hauled through the wilderness, probably by oxen as horses were few and the going too rough for them. Or the hardy pioneers may have found a way to perform the heavy task of hauling brick by using snow slides pulled by oxen.

The red stretcher bricks of the Flemish bond are irregular in shape, and the black headers are just about square. This arrangement gives a well-defined "checker-board" pattern. Black headers are usually characteristic of English-made brick. Foundations are of soapstone, plentiful on the farm.

Through the front door one enters the main hall, across the right or east end of the house. The main stair is winding. To the left of the hall is the "Big Room," with corner cupboard, panelled doors and window sills. There are many old hinges, on various doors, of the "H", "HL", "L", and "strap" types. To the left of the "Big Room" is a dining room which has eight doors and one window. Behind this is a hall, and to the east is a conservatory and sitting room. Where these three rooms intersect is a chimney, sixteen feet through, forming three fireplaces.

"It takes a heap o'living to make a house a home." Clifton has been consecrated by many births, marriages and funerals. Here has flourished a typical devout and substantial family of Montgomery County.

"The old Thomas home was sold in 1960 to Mr. and Mrs. Theo. R. Wellens, after two centuries of ownership and occupaney by the one family. Mr. and Mrs. Wellens are very happy in the unique old house with so many memories, and are determined to maintain its antique characteristics, unspoiled except for the installation of modern comforts. They retain the front driveway and 4 acres of land."

---

"For truth has such a face and such a mien,  
As to be loved, need only to be seen."

JOHN DRYDEN, 1631-1701



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIN TAMBURINO

41-98

3590271 N 200 N 2

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

3/17



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

35902

MARYLAND SLIP

NORTHEAST CORNER

4/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

NIGHTGAHERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURKING

4-08

759 0271 N N N N 2

MARYLAND SHP

REAR ELEVATION

5/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHEAST CORNER

6/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

Twp TAMERKIND

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

FRONT ELEVATION

V12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY CO., MD.

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST CORNER

2/12



#15-41

NAME CLIFTON

LOCATION 17107 N.H. AVE. ASHTON, Md.

FACADE STAIRWAY 1ST. FLOOR, S.W. CORNER

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/73 M. DWYER

107



#15-41

NAME CLIFTON

LOCATION 17007 N.H.AVE. ASHTON, Md

FACADE STAIRWAY, 1ST. FLOOR, S.W. CORNER

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/73 M.DWYER

3  
1



#15-41

NAME CLIFTON

LOCATION 17107 N.H. AVE. ASHTON, Md.

FACADE SOUTH WEST

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/73 M. DWYER

7



#15-41

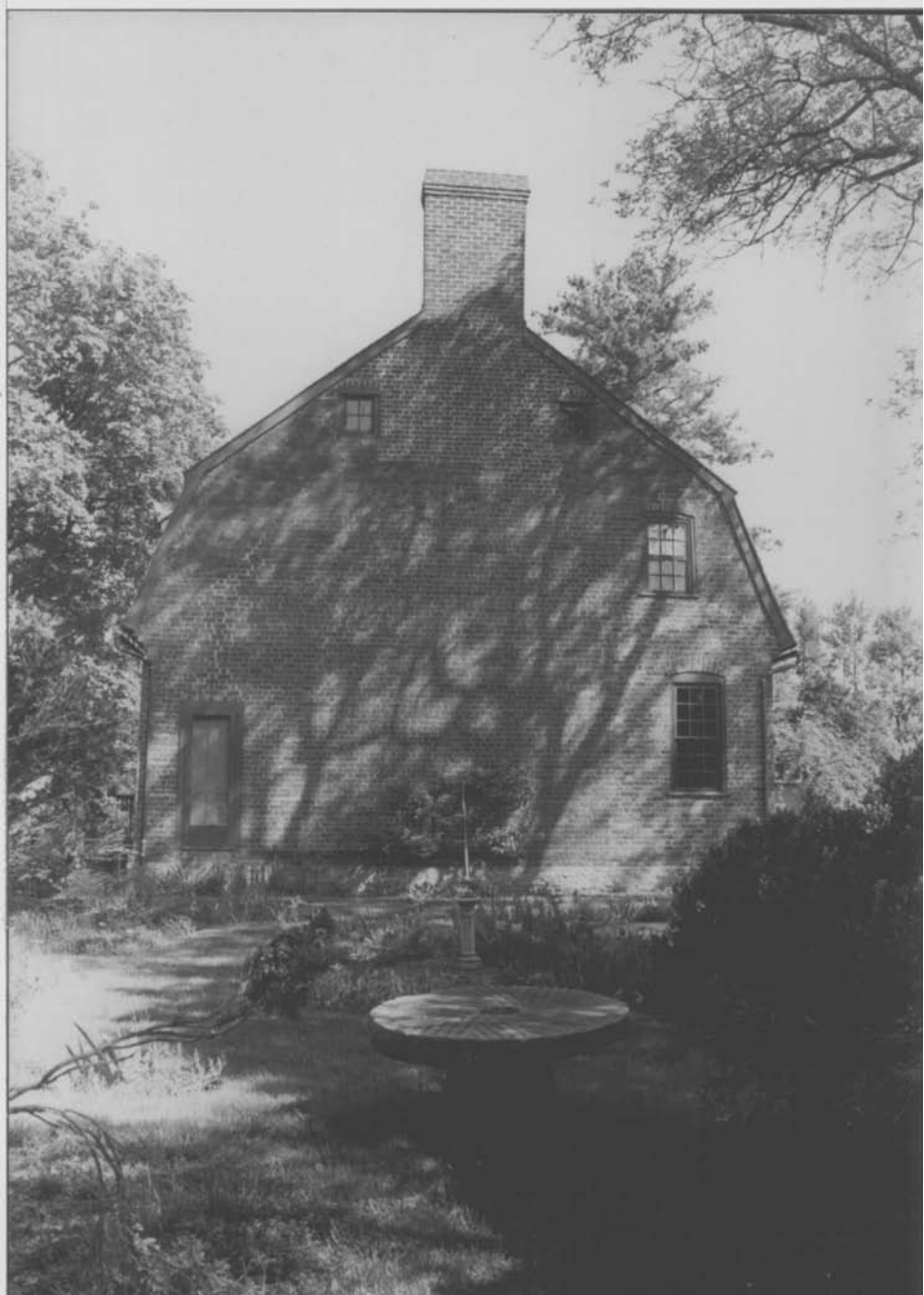
NAME CLIFTON

LOCATION 17107 N. H. AVE. ASHTON, Md.

FACADE CORNER CUPBOARD, 1ST. FLOOR N.W. CORNER

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/73 M. DWYER

12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHIP

SOUTH ELEVATION

7/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER

8112



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURKINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED, VIEW FROM EAST

9/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURKINO

4-98

ISS 0271 44442

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED, VIEW FROM WEST

10/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBURRINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

GUEST HOUSE/COTTAGE, VIEW FROM EAST

11/12



M-15-41

CLIFTON

MONTGOMERY Co., MD

TIM TAMBUKINO

4-98

MARYLAND SHPO

GUEST HOUSE / COTTAGE, VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

12/12