

PH0229229

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 11 1975

DATE ENTERED SEP 9 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Clark's Conveniency

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2 miles South of Pomona  
~~North Side of~~ Quaker Neck Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Pomona

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Kent

029

### 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. H. Norman Grieb

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 3

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

On the north side of Quaker Neck Road, approximately two miles south of Pomona, Kent County, Maryland, is Clark's Conveniency. This one and one half story, early eighteenth century brick house is built in three sections, the main block and a wing on the east and west ends. Facing south, the center section is three bays wide with the entrance in the center bay. The six-panel door, a reproduction of the original, has a plain wood frame and four-light transom which is pegged. Above the transom is a wood lintel and key. The brick steps to the entrance have beveled edges. On each side of the door is a nine-over-nine light window, also with its original pegged frame. A lintel and key identical to that above the door surmounts each window.

The brick, painted white, is laid in Flemish bond. The house has a molded brick water table and a simple box cornice. On the gable roof, covered with wood shingles, are three "A"-roofed dormers, one above each opening. At each end is a large, interior end chimney of brick with pilasters.

The window and door arrangement on the north side of the main block is identical to that on the south. Below the two windows are small rectangular cellar windows above which are brick segmental arches. The molded brick water table rises above these windows. At the present time a screened porch extends across the north side. There is a shed-roofed dormer with four-over-four sash above each first story window.

The west wing, probably added later to the main house, is two bays wide. It has a door in the east bay with a recessed, three-light transom that may originally have been a window later converted to a door. A nine-over-six light window with its original pegged frame is in the west bay. Between the door and window an opening that may have been the original door has been bricked in. There are two shed-roofed dormer windows with two-over-two lights, one above each opening.

The west end is one room deep and has a large, pilastered, inside end chimney rising through the ridge. Near the south corner is a batten door retaining its original strap hinges and pegged frame.

On the north side of the west wing is a center door constructed of beaded vertical boards. Flanking it are nine-over-six light windows with original frames. Above the windows are shed dormers with six-over-six sash which were added in about 1958 to provide cross-ventilation to the upper floor.

The east wing was added around 1958 and blends very well with the older sections. It is also brick laid in Flemish bond and painted white. The south facade is two bays wide with a nine-over-six sash window in each above which are shed-roofed dormers with six-over-six sash. The eye windows in the east end of the wing are those that were originally in the east end of the main section.

see continuation sheet 1

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clark's Conveniency in Quaker Neck, Kent County, is representative of the houses built by the smaller but still prosperous planters of eighteenth-century tidewater Maryland.<sup>1</sup> Seeming small by today's standards, its two-room, 1 1/2-story main block with a kitchen wing including a hall, was actually a good-sized house, as the majority of planters' houses in the first three decades of the eighteenth century were one-room, 1 1/2-story structures.<sup>2</sup>

The house is a well-preserved one retaining much of its original woodwork and hardware. The twentieth century changes that have been made are in keeping with the period of the house and the work done was carefully copied from original examples extant in the structure. (see description).

The sloping set-backs of the chimneys on the main block are seen in several other buildings in Quaker Neck, specifically "The Reward."

The tract called Clark's Conveniency was patented for 196 acres as "Clarks Conveyance" in 1707 by Dennis Clark. There was no house on the land in that year. In 1732 the land was resurveyed by a William Clark, probably the son of Dennis, when it contained 154 acres. Clark sold half of this to Joseph Mason two years later for 3000 pounds of "merch-antable tobacco." Then in 1745, Clark was granted a second resurvey on the tract, this time for 362 acres.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Aubrey C. Land, "The Planters of Colonial Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine, LXVII (Spring, 1972), 116. Land divides the planters of colonial Maryland into three groups: (1) those with less than £100 in personalty, or paupers, (2) those worth in excess of £1000, or the very wealthy, and (3) those inbetween, who ranged from prosperous to just short of the wealthiest. In the 1730's, which is about when Clark's Conveniency was built, 73% of the Maryland population were paupers, 2% were the wealthy, and the middle group from which the builders of Clark's Conveniency came, constituted 25% of the population.

<sup>2</sup>Land, pp. 122-123.

<sup>3</sup>Patent PL 2/311; Unpatented Certificate #57; Kent County Deed JS 18/91; and Unpatented Certificate #56; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Kent County Inventories  
 Land Records of Kent County (deeds, rent rolls, debt books)  
 Probate Records of Kent County

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

*UTM OK with 9-1-75*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	40,32,7,0	4,3,3,3,2,0,0	B	1,8	40,3,2,0,0	4,3,3,2,4,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	40,29,2,0	4,3,3,2,4,1,0	D	1,8	40,28,0,0	4,3,3,2,9,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

NAME / TITLE

Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern, and Pamela James, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, The Shaw House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis.

STATE

Maryland 21401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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

*John N. Pearce*

TITLE

*Acting State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*7/9/75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

*9/9/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

**SEP 8 1975**

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The main house has two rooms. The west room has full paneling surrounding the fireplace on the west wall and wainscoting on the other walls. The slightly recessed chimney breast is flanked by the doorway into the west wing and a closet. The fireplace itself has been reduced in size but the paneling is original. Above the fireplace opening, the paneling is cut to form an arch. In the spandrels are triangular panels. Above the simple mantelpiece are six rectangular panels. At the far left of this wall five steps lead to an enclosed winding stairway. A heavy wood cornice surrounds the room. Molded architraves trim the windows and doors. The window jambs and soffit are paneled. This room also retains its original floor.

The fireplace wall of the east room is identical to that of the west room except for the mantel trim. The fireplace opening, which also appears to have been decreased in size, is framed by a double-crossed architrave. The closed string stairway at the far left of this wall has square balusters and a turned newel with a ball finial. The room has a heavy cornice and paneled wainscot but no paneling on the window jambs. On both the north and south walls next to the center partition are the exterior doors.

The second floor is divided into three rooms with beaded vertical board partitions and walls. The easternmost room has a fireplace and paneled wall. The paneling and fireplace in the west end were removed when a door was put through into the west wing. They were saved and placed in the east end of the east wing when it was constructed in 1958.

The old kitchen, in the west wing, has a huge brick fireplace on the west wall. Left of the fireplace is a batten door with its original iron strap hinges. The doorway into the hall is very low and the door is constructed of wide vertical boards and has a wood handle. The beams are exposed in the ceiling of the kitchen and also in the hall between the kitchen and the main house. The north end of this hall, originally a shelved pantry, contains a modern kitchen which was installed in 1948-1949.

Several yards northwest of the kitchen is a log smokehouse with dovetailed corners. It has a gable roof covered with wood shingles and is in very poor condition. A Quaker graveyard with its unmarked head and foot stones lies between the smokehouse and the creek beyond.

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Also in 1745, John Clark, a carpenter, sold 196 acres (the original acreage) of Clark's Conveniency to William Clark, Sr., planter, and Joseph Mason, carpenter.<sup>4</sup> At this time, Clark and Mason were both already in possession of half shares of the tract. This deed was therefore probably made to make clear the title, boundaries, and acreage of the land which had become confused in the preceding property transferrals and resurveys.

A house is mentioned on the property in this 1745 deed, indicating that the present building was erected between 1707 and 1745. The construction probably occurred circa 1735 to 1745 as there is no mention of a house in the 1734 deed from Clark to Mason.

In 1749 and 1750, Clark and Mason both sold their half shares of Clark's Conveniency to Thomas Wilkins, a shipwright. In the Debt Books for Kent County, this land is owned by Wilkins in 1760, but by 1769, it is in the possession of Bartus Wilkins, probably his son. In 1769, Bartus petitioned the proprietary to examine witnesses in an attempt to make clear the boundaries of Clark's Conveniency which had "become obsolete." No final decision was recorded, although the testimony of several men was taken down.<sup>5</sup>

Bartus Wilkins died in 1800 and left Clark's Conveniency to his son Bartus. The latter died eight years later, leaving the land to his brothers Thomas and Edward. Thomas died in 1842 and his children sold the property out of the family in 1878.<sup>6</sup>

The tract Clark's Conveniency was patented by a small planter and the house is typical of a prosperous planter's home. During the next several decades, however, it was owned by a

<sup>4</sup>Kent County Deeds JS25/228, Hall of Records.

<sup>5</sup>Kent County Deeds JS26/280 and 459; Kent County Debt Books, 1760 and 1769; and Kent County Land Record DD3/178; Hall of Records.

<sup>6</sup>Kent County Wills 8/221, 9/20, and JFB1 (12)/104; and Kent County Deed DCB 4/397; Hall of Records

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#8 - Significance

succession of carpenters and shipwrights. This was probably due to the convenient location of the property six miles down the Chester River from Chestertown, the major eighteenth-century port on Maryland's Eastern Shore. By mid-century, the shipwright's trade in the Colonies was a substantial one, centered largely around the seaport towns, such as Chestertown.<sup>7</sup> The shipbuilding industry went through alternating periods of boom and depression, and as in other businesses at this time, a man had to engage in more than one occupation to become truly prosperous.<sup>8</sup>

Thomas Wilkins, the owner of Clark's Conveniency from 1749 until the 1760's, was a shipwright and a planter. When he died in 1778, his inventory records that in addition to tar, turpentine, cypress shingles, oak shingles, and oak plank, he had four ploughs, two corn harrows, five broad hoes, two grubbing hoes, four pitchforks, two dung forks, and other farming implements.<sup>9</sup> He was apparently successful economically as the total value of his estate came to over £1600. His prosperity is also reflected in the fact that he owned rather than leased his house. This was an indication of his success as only the more prosperous craftsmen were able to afford this.<sup>10</sup>

Clark's Conveniency is a well-preserved and cared for example of an eighteenth-century planter's home made unusual historically by its known association with the shipwright and carpenter trades.

<sup>7</sup>Arthur Pierce Middleton, Tobacco Coast, a Maritime History of Chesapeake Bay in the Colonial Era (Newport News, Va.: The Mariners' Museum, 1953), p. 234.

<sup>8</sup>Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker, The Old South (Reprint of 1942 ed.; New York: Cooper Square Publishers, Inc., 1963), p.239.

<sup>9</sup>Kent County Inventory 8/80, Hall of Records.

<sup>10</sup>Wertenbaker, P.239.