

REGISTER
NATIONAL

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Cottage
other names/site number PG:78-18

2. Location

street & number 11904 Old Marlboro Pike not for publication
city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20772

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>8</u> | <u>24</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u>3</u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>8</u> | <u>27</u> objects |
| | | | <u>27</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] Signature of certifying official 5-22-89 Date
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 7/13/89
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingsDomestic/single dwellings, secondary structuresDomestic/secondary structuresEducation/research facilityAgriculture/processing, storage, agricultural field, animal facility, agricult. outbuild.Agriculture/processing, storage, agricultural field, animal facility, agricultural outbuildingLandscape/forestLandscape/forest, conservation area**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianatefoundation brickGreek Revivalwalls weatherboardroof slateother wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Cottage is a nineteenth-century plantation complex which consists of the principal three-part plantation house with its grouping of domestic outbuildings, and four tenant farms scattered over 282 acres. The total farm complex lies west of Upper Marlboro, fronting on the Old Marlboro Turnpike, and is now devoted to environmental education. The plantation house consists of three sections, arranged in telescope plan: a two-and-one-half story main block constructed in the 1840's, a middle-height central section dating from shortly before the Civil War, and a lower two-story kitchen wing on the end. The main block is two-and-one-half stories, three bays by two bays, with side stairhall and double parlor plan. Entrance is in the first bay of the principal south facade. Siding of the main block is horizontal board painted white. Windows are 6/6 wood frame double hung sash, with dark green louvered shutters. The boxed cornice has crown molding, and a significant overhang, and is returned at the gable ends. The plain frieze board is ornamented by deeply profiled jigsaw brackets. The main block of the dwelling is of the side-hall-and-double-parlor plan. Wood trim is bold Greek Revival in style, and parlor mantels are of black marble with plain pilasters, frieze and shelf. The formal staircase has a heavy turned newel and tapered maple balusters, and rises to the third story; the stairhall is divided by a handsome elliptical arch with panelled soffit and tapered fluted pilasters. Extending to the east from the east gable end of the main block, flush with the main block on the north and inset on the south, is a lower two-and-one-half story wing, constructed a short time after the main block; this central section has the same board siding, cornice and frieze decoration. Wood trim in the central section is severe Greek Revival in style, plainer than in the main block. Extending farther east from the central section of the building is a lower two-story gable-roof kitchen wing. The dwelling stands on the high point in a 282-acre parcel of rolling farmland now devoted to environmental education. Six levels of terrace fall south from the house, toward the old Marlboro Pike 1,000 feet to the south. Within 150 feet northeast of the house is a complex of domestic outbuildings including well house, ice-house, and meathouse. To the north and east of the principal dwelling complex are four inter-related tenant farms, each including a dwelling and ancillary domestic and agricultural buildings. Three of these date from the early twentieth century, while a fourth is a remnant from the late nineteenth century.

See continuation sheet for
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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NOTE: See Continuation Sheet No. 7.12 for Resource Sketch Map with numbers keyed to the description text.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Cottage is a nineteenth-century plantation complex which consists of the principal three-part frame plantation house with its grouping of domestic outbuildings, and four inter-related tenant farms, all located on 282 acres of rolling farmland west of Upper Marlboro. The property fronts on the old Marlboro Pike, and is now devoted to environmental education.

The principal plantation house (1) stands on the high point in rolling farmland. West of the house is a circle of boxwood within which are a large holly and a cucumber magnolia. There are plantings of boxwood south of the house, and steps lead south to the lower terraces. Six levels of terrace fall south from the house, toward the Old Marlboro Pike, 1000 feet to the south. The dwelling itself consists of three sections, arranged in telescope plan: a two-and-one-half story main block constructed in the 1840's, a middle-height central section dating from shortly before the Civil War, and a lower two-story kitchen wing on the end. The main block is two-and-one-half stories, three bays by two bays, 32 by 40 feet, with side stairhall and double parlor plan; it is Greek Revival in style with Italianate decorative detail. Entrance is in the first bay of the principal south facade, through a door with four molded panels. The door has a four-light transom, and two-pane sidelights over molded wainscot panels. Two console brackets with acanthus leaf decoration highlight the door enframing, and support the projecting molded frieze between door and transom. The outer enframing is of plain board with panelled soffit and jambs; above the transom is a plain frieze with crown molding. The south facade of the main block is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch; chamfered square posts, with molded capitals and bases, support a plain cornice with overhanging eaves. The porch has a balustrade of criss-cross truss design; it is approached by a flight of wooden steps, and rests on brick piers with white lattice infill.

There is a north entrance in the third (westmost) bay of the main block, directly opposite the principal south door. This north door has four molded panels, and two-pane sidelights over wainscot panels, and is approached by a flight of plain wooden steps. Its plain board surround has a shallow molded architrave and pediment. Above the north door, the second-story window is downset to light the staircase landing.

Siding of the main block is of horizontal board painted white as is all of the trim. Windows are 6/6 wood frame double hung sash, with dark green louvered shutters. Surrounds are of plain board, with a lintel which consists of a plain frieze with crown molding. On first story windows there is a shallow pediment above this frieze.

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The boxed cornice has crown molding, and a significant overhang, and is returned at the gable ends. The plain frieze board is ornamented by deeply profiled jigsaw brackets. The gable roof is covered with slate, and there are two tall interior corbelled brick chimneys at the east gable end. The main block rests on a high brick foundation which encloses a full cellar. Cellar windows are three-light single sash; they have flat arch lintels, and, on the west, stone sills.

The main block has a side stairhall and double parlor plan, popular in the mid-nineteenth century. The two-run open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall; it has a heavy turned newel with mitred cap, tapered curly maple balusters (some of which are missing), bracketed stairends and a plain spandrel. The staircase rises, with the same treatment, to the third story.

The stairhall is divided by a handsome elliptical keystone arch, which has panelled soffit and tapered fluted pilasters. The north door under the landing repeats the features of the main south door, with four molded panels, and two-pane sidelights; the transom space is cut off by the landing above. Two doors in the east wall of the stairhall lead into the two adjoining parlors; these doors also have four molded panels. Tall double doors separate the two parlors and retract into the walls; each leaf has six rectangular panels. The door and window surrounds have bold Greek Revival profiles, with central peak flanked by astragal bead and concave grooves, and similarly bold bulls-eye cornerblocks. Similar bold moldings, but of a different profile, characterize the window sills. Windows in the south parlor have a moveable piece of hardware marked "patented February 1857." The high wooden baseboards have a crown molding. The two identical parlor fireplaces are embellished with black marble mantels, with plain pilasters, frieze and shelf.

The second story consists of a wide hall and two bedrooms; plainer molding characterizes the second-story trim. Door and window surrounds have an unbroken field with molded backband, while the window sills repeat the bold moldings of the first-story rooms. Mantels in the two second-story chambers are of wood painted black to resemble stone; they have plain pilasters, frieze and shelf. Doors are similar to those of the first story, with four molded panels. Floors are of the same wide boards, and baseboards are similar, high with crown molding.

The stair turns and continues to the third story. Moldings on the third story are similar to those on the second story, but narrower. Window sills are of plain board. Doors have four plain rectangular panels, and one door exhibits a box lock marked "Improved Lock No. 60".

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The space above the two bedrooms consists of one room lighted by one 6/6 double sash window and one six-pane single-sash window in the east gable end.

The high brick foundation of the main block is laid in American bond, and encloses a full cellar with packed earth floor and spaces divided as on the first story. The mortise and tenon joins of the large hand-hewn sill beams are clearly visible in the corners of this cellar space. Also visible in the ceiling over the side passage are the shaft and peg which anchor the newel post. A beaded batten door leads from the hall space into the space under the south parlor; the opening has plain board jambs and lintel. There is a segmentally-arched brick fireplace in the east wall of the north space, indicating that this was the original kitchen; the fireplace has a slanting flue and crane. White plaster covers the brick walls of this kitchen space. There is no fireplace in the southerly space of the cellar. An opening in the east wall of this space leads into the cellar under the central section of the house; a batten door hangs in this opening, and a heavy hewn beam forms its lintels.

Extending to the east from the east gable end of the main block, flush with the main block on the north and inset on the south, is a lower two-and-one-half story wing, the central section of the building; it is probably only slightly later in date than the main block. This central section is side-gabled, with axis slightly north of that of the main block, and is three bays by two bays, 38 by 27 feet. Principal entrance is in the third (eastmost) bay of the main south facade through a four-panel door with no transom and no sidelights. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters this facade; it has the same chamfered posts and balustrade as that of the main block, but is slightly lower and is not joined to the main porch. The more formal entrance to the central section is on the north facade in the third (westmost) bay, i.e., it is not directly opposite the south entrance. This north door has four molded panels, and a two-light transom with architrave above; the door is sheltered by a one-story flat-roof entry porch supported by four wooden Doric columns in front and two engaged Doric columns at the wall. The porch has a plain railing and is approached by a flight of wooden steps.

The central section of the building has the same treatment as that of the main block: the same horizontal board siding painted white, same cornice and frieze decoration, the same window enframingent (although the 6/6 wood frame windows of the central section are smaller than those of the main block), and the same roof and chimney treatment.

Interior plan of the central section consists of four basic spaces: two connecting parlors on the east and a stairhall and newly created bath,

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bedroom and storage room on the west. Entrance through the north door leads into a small hallway with a boxed dog-leg stair, and a doorway into the northeast parlor. Door surrounds have an unbroken field with inner bead and molded backband; window surrounds are the same, but the window sills have the same bold multi-band profile as those in the main block. Mantels in the two parlors are plain wood painted white, severe Greek Revival in style; they have plain wide pilasters, plain frieze and shelf. Wood trim is similar in the bedrooms above the two first-story parlors.

The cellar space under the central section is divided into two large spaces north and south, and the north space is divided into two spaces by a north-south bearing wall. A seam, visible in the exterior foundation at this point, suggests that this bearing wall carried the east exterior wall of an earlier wing. A batten door leads from the south space into the cellar of the main block, and a heavy hewn beam forms its lintel, cf. supra.

The attic of the central section consists of a single unfinished space, lighted by two small 6/6 windows in the east gable end. There is no ridge pole; collar beams appear to be hand-hewn, but lathing is circular sawn. From this attic space one can observe the exterior (easterly) siding of the main block, of plain horizontal board, indicating that the main block predates the central section. The diagonal boundary of the siding on the north part of this formerly exterior wall indicates the roof-line of an original east wing; this older wing has a lower roof ridge than the present center section, and was only one room deep. There are no visible nail holes in the framing of the main block at this location, indicating that it was never covered with siding and confirming the previous existence of an earlier wing.

Extending farther east from the central section of the building is a lower two-story gable-roof kitchen wing; it is two bays by one bay, 21 by 18 feet, flush with the north facade of the main and central blocks and deeply inset on the south. Entrance is through a door in the east gable end; it has four panels and no transom or sidelights, and is accessible by a high wooden deck which rests on brick piers with lattice infill. The kitchen is sheathed with German siding on the south and east, and plain horizontal board on the north. Windows are 6/6 wood frame, with molded lintels, and pediments similar but not identical to those on the main and central sections. The kitchen wing has the same bracketed cornice and frieze treatment, and its eaves are slight flared. The gable roof is covered with slate shingle and there is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the east gable end. The wing rests on a brick foundation, but there is no basement. Vertical corner boards mark the seam between the central section and the wing.

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Close to the road, approximately 700 feet south of the house and just east of the point where the unpaved lane enters the farm from Old Marlboro Pike, is a gable-roof tobacco barn (2) which dates from early in the twentieth century. It has a steep gable roof with a pronounced ridge, covered with standing seam metal. The siding is of vertical board, and entrance is through a double door centered in the long west elevation. The barn rests on concrete piers.

Within 150 feet northeast of the house is a complex of domestic out-buildings of the nineteenth century. Directly east of the house is a small (5-1/2 by 5-1/2 feet) gable-roof well-house (3). Its lower portion is sided with wide horizontal board, with lattice above, and there is an opening in the upper section of the west gable end. The gable roof is covered with wood shingle, and the structure rests on a new brick foundation.

North of the well-house is an oval brick icehouse (4) with a framed gable-roof superstructure above, a structure which is unique in Prince George's County. The superstructure is roughly 20 feet by 20, with east-west axis. The oval substructure is constructed of brick laid in 6:1 American bond, and extends a substantial depth into the ground. Above this brick icehouse foundation, a gable roof is supported by heavy hewn sill and collar beams, and is sided in the gable ends with wide horizontal board. Its overhanging eaves rest on brick piers. The structure is built into a slope (which rises toward the south) so that the eaves extend nearly to the ground on the south. The gable roof is covered with wood shingle. There is a small door fashioned of wide vertical planks and fastened with strap hinges, in each of the east and west gable ends.

East of the icehouse is a gable-roof meathouse, expanded in this century by a shed addition (5). The meathouse is 16 by 14 feet; entrance is through a four-foot-wide vertical plank door with long strap hinges, centered in the south facade. It has wide horizontal board siding and rests on a high brick foundation. The meathouse is framed with closely positioned studs, approximately six inches apart, some of which have been recently replaced. There is diagonal framing in the corners and the collar beams appear to be hand-hewn. The meathouse was enlarged in this century by a shed addition extending 6 feet 8 inches to the north. The shed addition has board-and-batten siding with lattice above.

Immediately north of this complex, opening onto the unpaved drive, is a modern (mid-twentieth century) frame garage structure (6). It is one story high, and the planes of its gable roof are of unequal pitch. The garage has board-and-batten siding, painted white; there is a 6/6 double

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hung sash window in each of the north and south gable ends. The hanging, sliding doors of the two car bays are of vertical board painted white.

(Because of its mid-twentieth century construction date, this garage structure is considered a non-contributing element in the nomination of the complete farm. The period of significance of The Cottage is 1846 to 1894, from the construction of the plantation house until the death of Charles Clagett; therefore, most of the farm structures, constructed during the first third of the twentieth century, will be considered non-contributing elements.)

Approximately 500 feet north of the residential complex, and accessible by an unpaved lane, is a group of four farm buildings. The eastmost is a large, frame twentieth-century tobacco barn (7). Its gable roof is covered with standing-seam aluminum, and the siding is of circular-sawn vertical boards. A large double door opens into the center of the south elevation; five small 6-pane windows light the first level of this south elevation at its west corner. There are three doors in the east gable end, and another door in the north elevation. The barn rests on parged brick piers.

Just west of this barn is a twentieth-century stable building, now used as a garage (8). This front-gabled building has vertical board-and-batten siding, and gray asbestos shingle covers its gable roof; the eaves are punctuated by rounded rafter ends. The circular-sawn sill beams rest directly on the ground. The entrance in the south gable end leads into an interior divided into livestock stalls. There is a 3/3 double hung sash window high in the south gable end. This stable building is now used as a truck garage.

Immediately west of the the stable is another front-gabled building (9), originally used for crop storage. Like the stable, this building has board-and-batten siding, and gray asbestos shingle covers its gable roof. This building rests on concrete piers, and consists of a central drive-through aisle with a slatted corn-crib on the west, and space for hay storage on the east. Open shed-roof additions on east and west, extend the size of the building; each open wing consists of a standing seam metal roof supported by upright whole logs.

Behind these three buildings, to the north, stands a long four-bay, shed-roof machine shed (10). It has board-and-batten siding, and rounded rafter ends support the eaves on the south long facade. To the south of this complex of farm buildings is a cornfield, bounded on the south by the unpaved drive to The Cottage.

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There are four more complexes of tenant houses and farm buildings on the 282-acre land now belonging to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a substantial part of the original 500-acre Cottage farm. All are accessible by an unpaved farm lane which leads north from the main house complex, and bends northeast to its exit on Ritchie-Marlboro Road.

The first tenant house complex is approximately 600 feet north of the four farm buildings of the main house complex, on a high point of ground. This complex consists of an early twentieth-century frame I-house with three outbuildings standing in a row behind it to the north. The tenant house (11) is a traditional I-house, two stories, three bays by one and side-gabled, with a cross-gable kitchen wing extending to the rear in the shape of a T. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters the main south facade; it is presently screen enclosed. The house is covered with white aluminum siding, and rests on a poured concrete foundation.

Three twentieth-century outbuildings stand behind this house: a garage, a storage shed, and a small outbuilding. The (eastmost) garage (12) is sided with vertical board, and red asphalt shingle covers its gable roof. It rests on a concrete slab; entrance is in the south from the farm lane. The storage shed (13) is sided with vertical board; its shed roof is covered with red asphalt shingle, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends. There are three doors in the south front, and the building rests on a concrete foundation. The smallest (westmost) outbuilding (14) is small and square, its gable roof covered with red asphalt shingle. It has board-and-batten siding, and rests on a concrete foundation.

Just east of this complex, on a high point of land on the east side of the farm lane, stand three modern metal silos (15).

Between this house complex and the silos, the farm lane makes a sharp 90° turn to the east and continues approximately 600 feet east to a second, older, tenant house complex.

The tenant house dates from the second half of the nineteenth century, a small two-story side-gabled dwelling of hall-and-parlor plan (16). Hand-hewn pegged sill-beams rest on a parged brick foundation. The siding is of very wide horizontal board, and the gable roof is covered with new gray asbestos shingle. Entrance is in the center bay of the three-bay south facade. The exterior brick stove chimney is enclosed by the addition of a small one-story kitchen wing, attached to the west gable end of the main block; this kitchen wing is sided with narrower horizontal board, and its gable roof is covered with patterned metal shingles.

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This tenant house is set back nearly 100 feet south of the farm lane; facing the house and backing onto that lane are three small outbuildings (17), all front gabled, with board-and-batten siding, and wood shingles on their roofs. The tenant house and all three outbuildings are in seriously deteriorated condition. About 250 feet southeast of the tenant house, on lower ground, is a gable-roof tobacco barn (18) with vertical board siding and standing-seam (red) metal roof. This barn is constructed of a combination of old and new materials. All of the principal posts are hewn and pegged into the hewn plate. The sill beams, however, are circular sawn, and are continuous across the gable ends, but interrupted at the double-doors centered in the north and south elevations. The sill beams rest on chunks of stone at the corners, and tree-trunk piers at intermediate positions. The tie beams, rafters and purlins which support the metal roof, are circular sawn, as are all of the diagonal down-braces. The plain vertical siding appears to be pit-sawn rather than circular-sawn, and is of cypress board rather than the more typical poplar; recently replaced siding boards are of poplar and pine. Every fifth board is a hinged ventilator. There are double doors centered in each of the north and south elevations, and small, high doors off-center in the gable ends. The doors are made of plain vertical boards secured with horizontal and diagonal battens, and hang on long strap hinges.

Beyond this nineteenth-century tenant house, the farm lane bends again to the north and continues approximately 700 feet to another early twentieth-century tenant house (19), which fronts directly on the west side of the lane. This is a traditional I-house, with a lower inset kitchen wing at the south gable end. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation; it is covered with white grained vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with black asbestos shingle. There is an interior brick stove chimney at the ridge at the north gable end.

Three small outbuildings (20) stand in a row behind (west of) this tenant house, all resting on concrete foundations. The two southmost are side-gabled, with board-and-batten siding, and patterned metal shingle roofs. The northmost is a front-gabled storage shed, with vertical board siding and standing seam metal roof.

The farm lane bends at this point to the northeast and continues approximately 500 feet to a large twentieth-century gable-roof livestock barn (21). It has dark vertical board siding and a standing-seam metal roof with two louvered cupolas at the ridge; the barn rests on a concrete foundation. Entrance to this barn is on the long east side; the barn encloses many stalls and pens, and is presently used to house swine.

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At this point the farm lane bends north again, around the livestock barn, past two more twentieth century-barns. The first is front gabled, with vertical board siding and corrugated aluminum roof (22). Along its long south side is an open shed supported by whole upright logs; the loft of this barn is used for the storage of hay. The second is a large barn with vertical siding and standing-seam metal roof (23). This barn also has an open shed on the south, supported by whole upright logs.

Across the field to the west, nearly 700 feet west of the farm lane, is a large gable-roof twentieth-century barn (24); it has vertical board siding, and standing seam metal roof. Entrance is in the east gable end.

The farm lane continues north another 300 feet to the top of a knoll and another complex of domestic buildings: an early twentieth-century tenant house and four outbuildings. The tenant house (25) is a traditional frame I-house with German siding painted white, black asbestos shingle roof, and concrete foundation enclosing a basement. A one-story screen-enclosed porch shelters the main north facade, and there is one interior brick chimney at the ridge. A rear kitchen wing gives the house a T-shape plan.

Standing in a row behind (south of) the tenant house is a group of four twentieth-century outbuildings, all on concrete foundations. The eastmost of these is a long two-part vehicle shed (26); the easterly half is open and has a standing seam aluminum roof, while the westerly half has vertical board siding and an asbestos shingle roof. West of this vehicle shed are a small board-and-batten storage building, a small gable-roof privy, and a third small outbuilding with red asphalt shingle roof (27). There are several animal pens behind the row of outbuildings.

To the southeast of this tenant house, the farm lane forms a circle around a large old maple tree, and then continues another 300 feet north to Ritchie-Marlboro Road, the northeast boundary of The Cottage farm.

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Contributing buildings:

- (1) plantation house
- (3), (4) and (5) its domestic outbuildings
- (16) tenant house
- (17) its three domestic outbuildings.

Non-Contributing buildings: (post date period of significance)

- (2), (7), (18), and (24) tobacco barns
- (21) livestock barn
- (9), (22), and (23) storage buildings
- (11), (19) and (25) tenant houses
- (13), (14) domestic outbuildings
- (20) three domestic outbuildings
- (27) three domestic outbuildings
- (6), (12) garages
- (8) stable
- (10), (26) vehicle sheds.

Non-Contributing structures:

- (15) three metal silos.

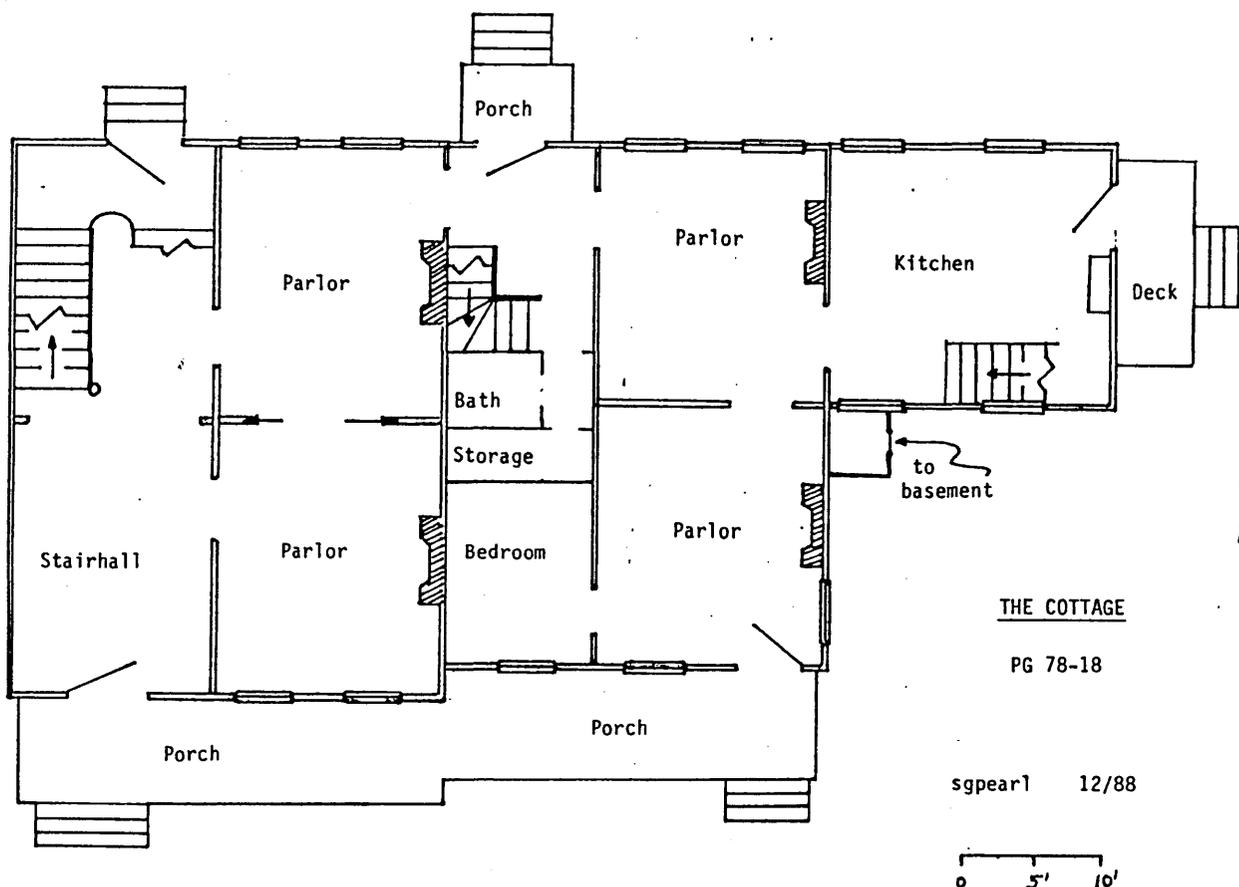
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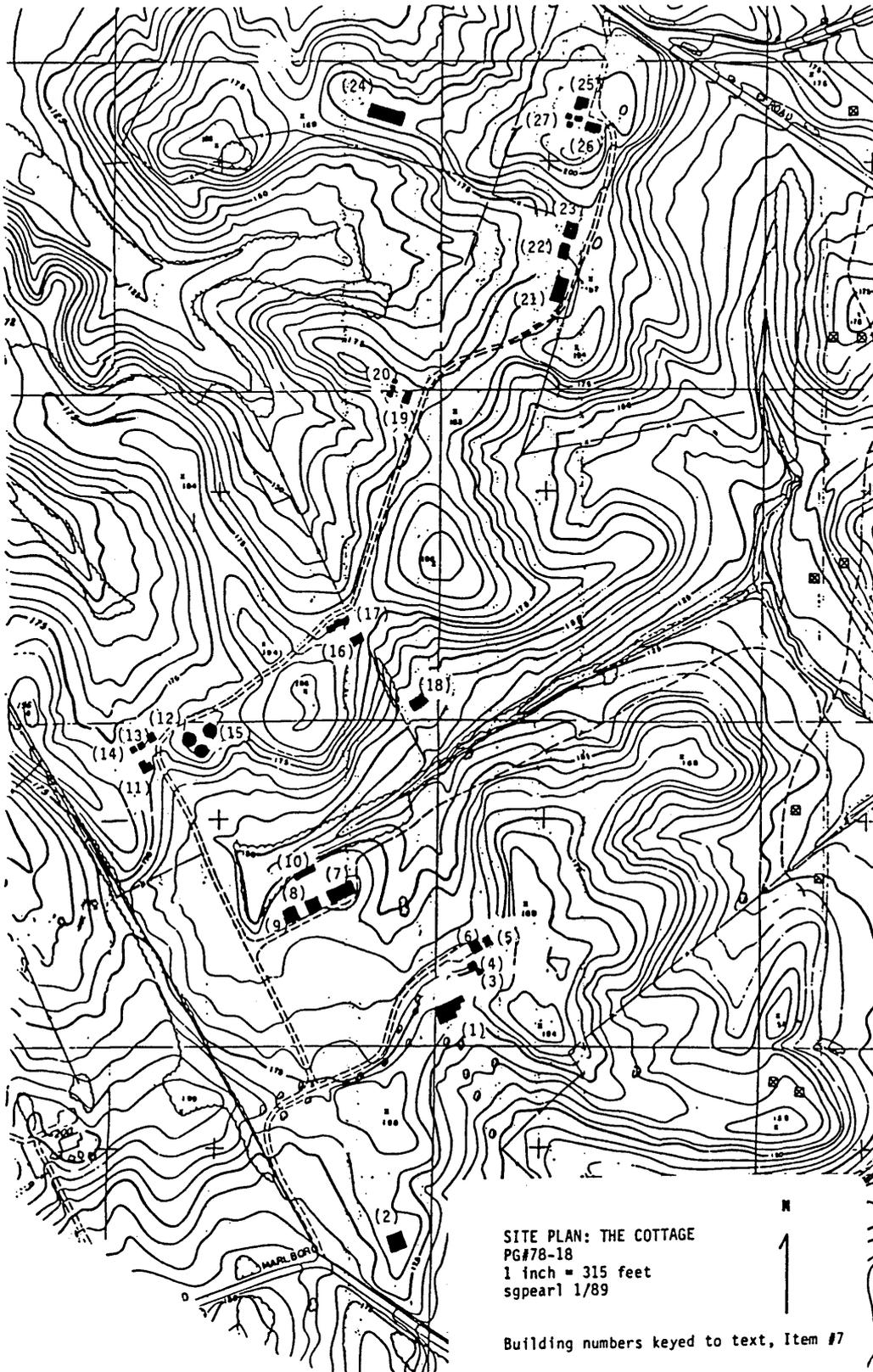
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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics

Period of Significance

1846-1894

Significant Dates

1846

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Charles Clagett

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The cottage farm is an excellent example of a nineteenth-century Prince George's County plantation. The plantation house itself is one of the best surviving examples of a side-hall-and-double-parlor plan dwelling in Prince George's County; it exhibits typical Greek Revival style interior trim and distinctive Italianate cornice brackets. The Cottage plantation, developed in the 1840s for Charles Clagett at the time of his marriage, represents a large and successful nineteenth-century plantation of a prominent local family; the plantation house is one of six surviving frame dwellings in the Marlborough area which were built or acquired for the heirs of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston. Its unique profile and prominent location make it an outstanding visual landmark on the old road between Washington, D. C. and the county seat. The resource is also important for association with Charles Clagett (1819-1894), a prominent member of Upper Marlboro social and political society during the second half of the nineteenth century. In addition to serving on the Vestry of Trinity Church and on the building committee for the new courthouse (1881), he was president of the company which constructed the Washington-Marlborough Turnpike after the Civil War, and served for 20 years as a judge of the County Orphans Court being elevated to Chief Judge in 1882. He also served as a county commissioner following the Civil War.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Prince George's County (PG:78-18).
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # MD 17-FOR VI

See continuation sheet 8.6

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Prince George's County Historic
Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 281.76 acres

USGS quad.: Upper Marlboro, MD

UTM References

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 18 | 344670 | 4298430 |
| C | 18 | 343170 | 4298700 |

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | 18 | 343820 | 4297400 |
| D | 18 | 343500 | 4399290 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 10.1

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 10.2

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| name/title | <u>Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian</u> | | |
| organization | <u>P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission</u> | date | <u>1988</u> |
| street & number | <u>Room 4010 CAB</u> | telephone | <u>301-952-3521</u> |
| city or town | <u>Upper Marlboro</u> | state | <u>Maryland</u> zip code <u>20772</u> |

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition - AD 1815-1870,
Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: buildings
Historic Environment: rural
Historic Functions and Uses:
Domestic/Single Dwelling
Domestic/Secondary Structures
Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuildings

Design Source: unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

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Section number 8 Page 2HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Prince George's County has had an agriculture-based economy since the earliest days of its settlement; its principal crop during the eighteenth century was tobacco, and the principal avenue of commerce in the eastern part of the County was the Patuxent River. When Prince George's County was established in 1696, Charles Town on the Patuxent was selected as the County Seat. By 1721, however, the County Courthouse had been established in the Town of Upper Marlborough on the Western Branch; from this time until early in the twentieth century, Upper Marlborough was the commercial, political and social center of Prince George's County. By 1744, the population of Upper Marlborough had grown to the extent that it was designated as one of the Hundreds of the County.

By the early nineteenth century the Hundreds, which had served as the early political and geographical divisions of the County, were replaced by five Election Districts; one of these was the Marlborough District, which included all of east-central Prince George's County. It was slightly reduced in size in 1816 by the creation of the Spaldings Election District, and further reduced in 1843 by the creation of the larger Queen Anne Election District. From this time to the end of the century, the Marlborough District constituted approximately 63 square miles of wooded and agricultural land around the County Seat, watered principally by the Collington and Western Branches; it was bounded on the east by the Patuxent River, on the south by the Mattaponi Branch and the village of Croom, on the west by Centreville and the road past the Woodyard, and on the north by the road to the Brick Church and District Creek.

The historic area around Marlborough was dominated during the nineteenth century by members of the Clagett family. Members of the family served in political and judicial posts, and were active in the Vestry of Trinity Church. Thomas Clagett VI, of Weston, whose lifetime spanned three quarters of the century, was one of the area's principal landowners. Before and after the Civil War he cultivated well over one thousand acres, and bought up additional land in order to provide home plantations for his numerous children. Most of these homes remained in Clagett family ownership into the twentieth century. During the 1830's, Thomas Clagett VI purchased over 800 acres of land north of Weston, and developed them into adjoining plantations, The Cottage and Strawberry Hill, for two of his sons. The plantation house at The Cottage was built in 1846 for Charles Clagett. It is an excellent example of a side-hall-and-double-parlor plan plantation house, with fine Greek Revival and Italianate decorative detail. It is one of six surviving frame plantation houses in the Marlborough area which were built or acquired for the heirs of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston. The Cottage is representative of the large ante-bellum plantations which produced not only large quantities of tobacco but animal products as well. Operated for 50 years by Charles

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Clagett, The Cottage reached the peak of its prominence on the eve of the Civil War; during the remainder of the nineteenth century, Clagett abandoned the cultivation of tobacco and concentrated on livestock production. During all of this period and into the twentieth century, The Cottage continued to be operated by the Clagett family, an outstanding example of a successful large farm, and a visible local landmark because of the distinctive profile of the plantation house.

The period of significance of The Cottage covers approximately 50 years, from the construction of the plantation house in 1846 until the death of Charles Clagett in 1894. The buildings of the ancillary farm complexes, for the most part constructed during the first third of the twentieth century, will be considered non-contributing elements in a nineteenth century plantation setting.

* * * *

The dwelling at The Cottage is an excellent example of mid-nineteenth century frame plantation house. It is one of the best examples of a side-hall-and-double-parlor plan surviving in Prince George's County, and has particularly fine Greek Revival and Italianate decorative detail. It is one of six surviving frame plantation houses in the Marlboro area which were built or acquired for the heirs of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston.

The Cottage is located on property which belonged early in the nineteenth century to John E. Berry. Parts of several tracts, Beall's Chance, Brooke Grove, Green Spring, Keene's Addition, Fowler's Delight and Charles Hill, "all lying near the public road from Upper Marlborough to Washington" together constituted the plantation on which John E. Berry lived.¹ After Berry went into debt, a writ of fieri facias was issued against him, and 822 acres of these adjoining lands were sold in 1831 to Thomas Clagett VI of Weston.² Out of this land, and several other adjoining parcels acquired at roughly the same time, Thomas Clagett developed two large plantations, The Cottage and Strawberry Hill, totally approximately 1,000 acres.³ His second son, Charles, in 1846 married Mary Mullikin, daughter of Baruch and Sophia Oden Mullikin. At approximately this time, Thomas Clagett conveyed 500 acres, by then called "The Cottage", to his son, and construction of the main block of the present dwelling was begun.⁴

The main block of The Cottage was typical of the side-hall-and-double parlor plan which was popular in Prince George's County in the 1840's. Its plan recalls that of Melford and Pleasant Hills (both brick) and of Buena Vista and Oakland (frame), all from this period, although The Cottage was built on a slightly larger scale. The staircase treatment at The Cottage is very similar to that at Melford and at Weston; only a short time earlier Thomas Clagett had rebuilt the stairhall at Weston when he enlarged the house, and the staircase details are very similar to those at The Cottage. The main block of Oakland, built at approximately the same

Cqnt. 8.4

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time for Charles Clagett's brother, Robert, has similar floor plan, but differing trim and staircase treatment.⁵

Originally, the kitchen at The Cottage was located in the cellar under the north parlor, and there was a small two-story service wing attached to the east gable end. Within a short time, probably by the beginning of the Civil War, that service wing was replaced by the present larger central section. It is not certain whether the smaller east wing was added at this time or somewhat later. It is likely, although not substantiated, that the finishing work on the house was done circa 1880 by John C. Wyvill, who, at approximately this time, built Ingleside and Navajo for Charles Clagett's two sons, on parts of the elder Clagett's adjoining property. The Italianate cornice brackets were probably added at this time, tying together all three sections of The Cottage, and recalling similar treatment at Ingleside and Navajo.⁶

Charles Clagett spent the rest of his life at The Cottage, managing, at the same time, his younger half-brother's adjoining plantation at Strawberry Hill.⁷ By mid-nineteenth century, The Cottage consisted of 650 acres, on which was produced up to 100 thousand pounds of tobacco annually, as well as numerous animal products such as eggs and wool. Clagett also specialized in various types of livestock, with considerably more than the average numbers of sheep, cattle and swine.⁸ By 1870, after the upheaval of the Civil War, Clagett gave up the cultivation of tobacco, and increased his livestock production.⁹

Charles Clagett was a very prominent member of Upper Marlborough society in the late nineteenth century. He served for 20 years as a judge of the County Orphans Court and as Chief Judge in 1882 and 1883. He served also as a County Commissioner after the Civil War. For 46 years he was a member of the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church. He was the Chairman, in 1881, of the building committee for the new County Courthouse. He was also extremely active in the internal improvements of the County, and was President of the Company which constructed the Washington and Marlborough Turnpike after the Civil War.¹⁰

Charles Clagett died in 1894; he devised to his daughter-in-law the farm (Ingleside) which he had provided for his son, Charles Thomas Clagett, by then deceased. To his younger son, William Baruch Clagett, he devised the remainder of his Marlboro real estate, over 600 acres which

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comprised The Cottage and that portion of it (Navajo) on which William's new dwelling stood.¹¹ An inventory of his furnishings at The Cottage was taken by two local men (including carpenter John C. Wyvill), and it indicates a fully and well-furnished dwelling and farm.¹²

William B. Clagett (1854-1911) remained at Navajo, and leased The Cottage to a tenant farmer. Early in the twentieth century, he rebuilt most of The Cottage farm buildings, but the dwelling was described as "in very bad condition."¹³ After his death in 1911, the two farms, Navajo and The Cottage, were partitioned between his five children, with The Cottage allotted to his son, Charles Clagett, and his daughter, Marguerite Clagett Addison.¹⁴ During much of this century, The Cottage has been farmed by tenants. The last private owner, Charles Clagett (1887-1972), lived and worked in Baltimore; after his death in 1972, the property was conveyed to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, as a center for environmental education.¹⁵ The dwelling is now the residence of the center director, and the outbuildings are used as part of the program.

The plantation house at The Cottage is an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century frame plantation house. It exhibits typical and fine Greek Revival style interior trim, and distinctive Italianate cornice brackets. It represents a large and successful mid-nineteenth century plantation of a prominent local family, and is one of six surviving frame dwellings in the Marlborough area which were built or acquired for the heirs of Thomas Clagett VI of Weston. Its unique profile and prominent location make it an outstanding visual landmark on the old road between the District of Columbia and Upper Marlboro. The entire farm complex is representative of the large plantations and farms of nineteenth century Prince George's County, acquired and developed by prominent families to become important elements in the County's agricultural economy, and distinctive features of its landscape.

Notes

¹ Prince George's County Deed AB #6:337. (From the time of its establishment until early in the twentieth century, the name of the town and district was spelled "Upper Marlborough"; early in this century, the name came to be abbreviated to Upper Marlboro', and today is consistently spelled "Upper Marlboro".)

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- 2 Prince George's County Deed AB #7:32; cf. also Tax Assessments 1832 ff.
- 3 ibid.
- 4 Prince George's County Marriage Licenses; Prince George's County Deed CSM #3:601; cf. also Tax Assessments 1846-1850.
- 5 cf. MHT inventory forms P.G. #70-17, and #79-34, and National Register nominations for P.G. #71B-16, #82A-2 and #82A-7.
- 6 cf. MHT inventory forms P.G. #78-14b and #78-22.
- 7 cf. MHT inventory form #78-23.
- 8 Census, 1850 and 1860, Agricultural Schedule, District #3, Prince George's County.
- 9 Census, 1870, agricultural schedule for District #3, Prince George's County.
- 10 Prince George's County Orphans Court Records 1871-1883; Prince George's Enquirer, 29 June 1894.
- 11 Prince George's County Will JBP #1:172.
- 12 Inventory, Register of Wills estate files.
- 13 Prince George's County Equity #4310.
- 14 Prince George's County Deed #116:362.
- 15 Prince George's County Deeds #4360:199, 204; #5484:832.

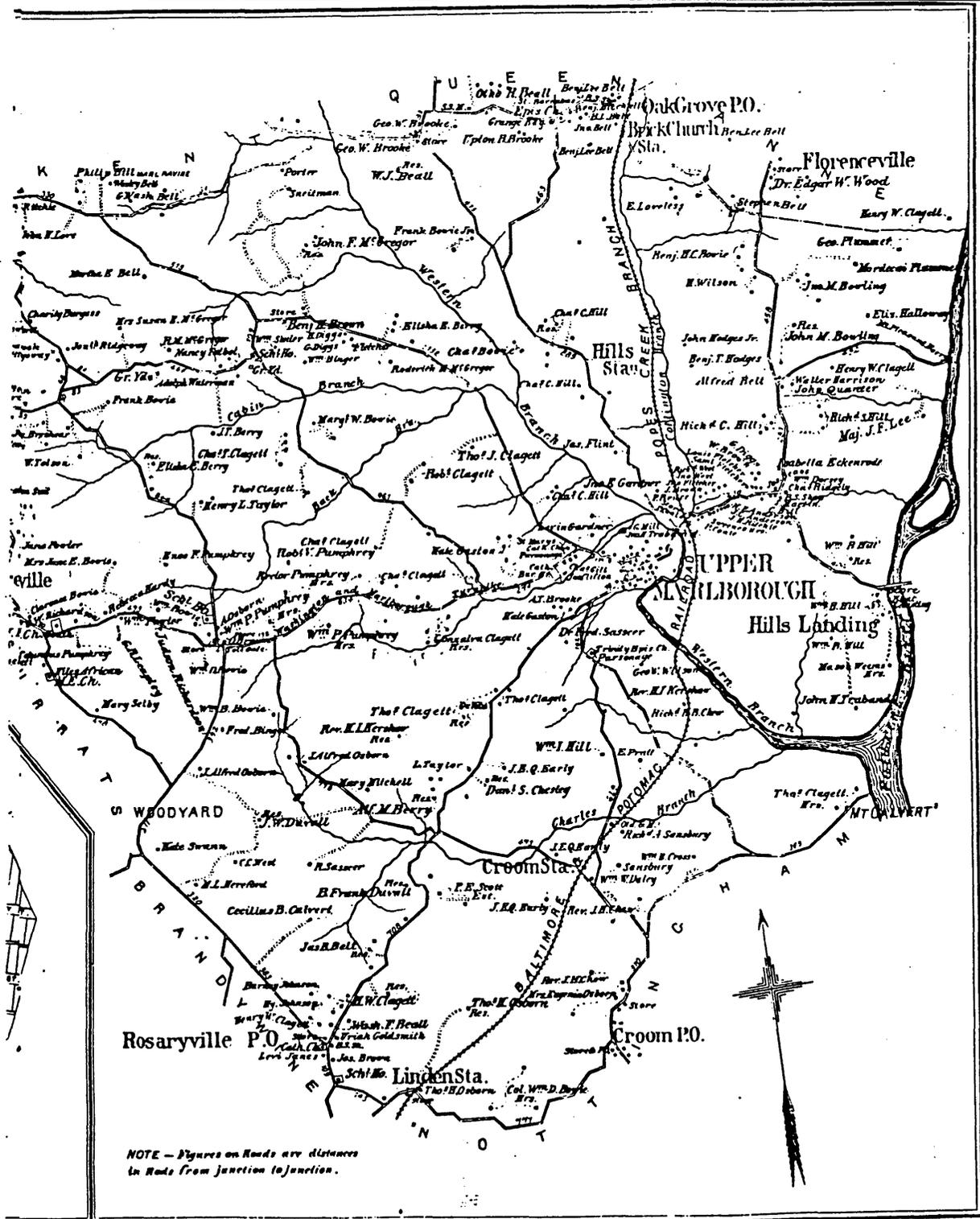
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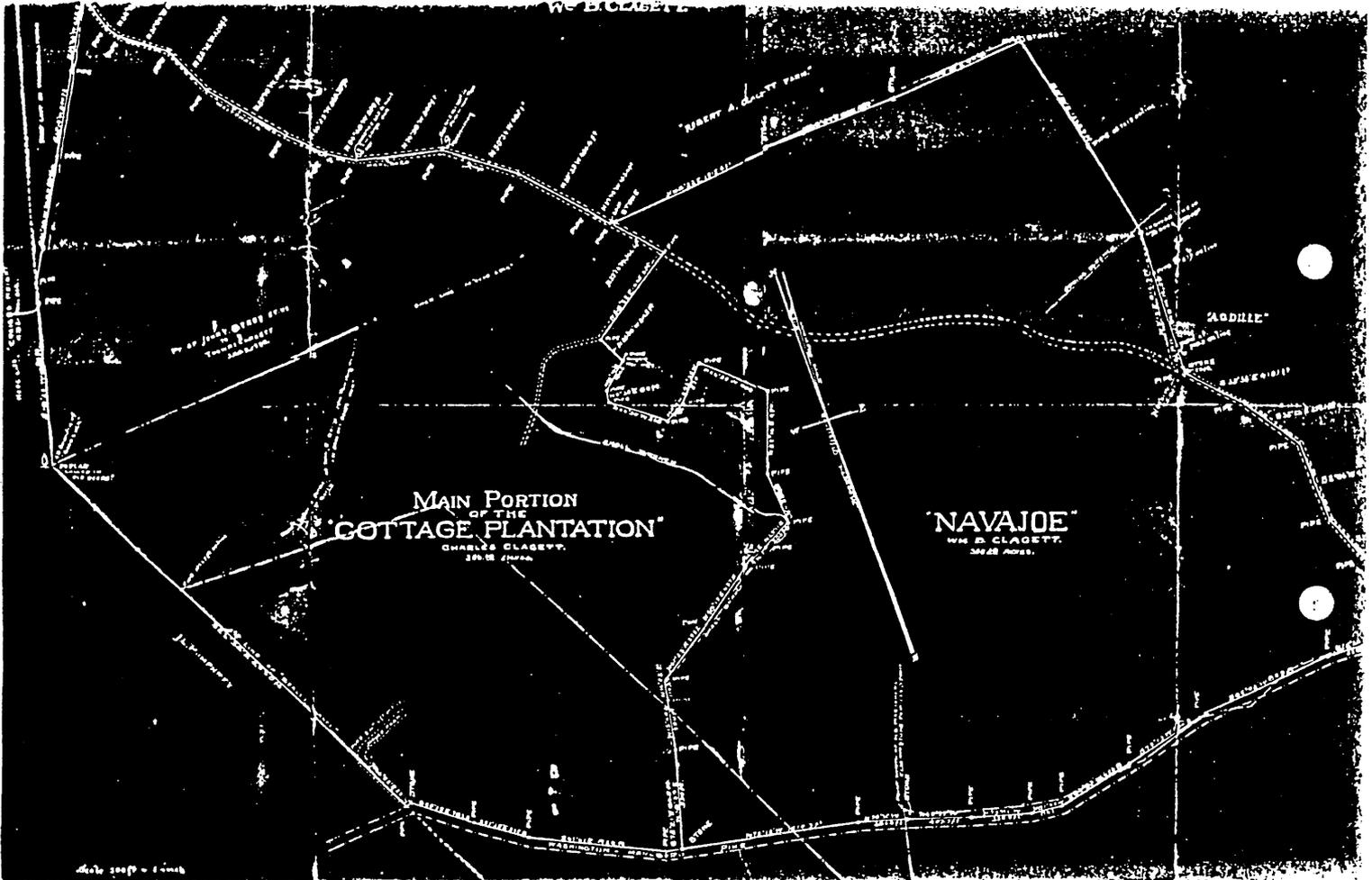
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Survey, Edward L. Latimer, October 1915

Filed in Equity #4310

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Chain of Title

The Cottage
P.G. #78-18

5484:832
17 Dec 1981
Deed

W.B.C. Addison and H.C.B. Clagett Jr., representatives of Charles Clagett, deceased, and the Clagett School, Inc. to Chesapeake Bay Foundation Inc., parts of land called The Cottage:

- 1) Residue of land described in #116:362.
- 2) 902.6 square feet at the boundary of Navaho and The Cottage;

Total of 281.7627 acres.

4360:199
2 May 1974
Deed

Wm. B.C. Addison & H.C.B. Clagett, Jr., personal representatives of estate of Charles Clagett (deceased) to The Clagett School Inc.; "The Cottage" 306.38 acres.

116:362
31 July 1916
Deed of partition

Marguerite Clagett Addison et vir, and Charles Clagett to William B. and Rachel Clagett; whereas by Equity #4310 estate of William B. Clagett was divided as follows: Marguerite and Charles Clagett each received 1/2 interest in "The Cottage"; William & Rachel Clagett each received 1/2 interest in Navaho.

116:365
31 July 1916
Deed

Marguerite Clagett Addison et vir to Charles Clagett; her 1/2 interest in 306.38 acres of "The Cottage".

WAM #1:297
26 Aug 1911
Will

Testator, William B. Clagett; Enfield Chase farm to wife, Estelle; all rest of real estate to children, including William B. Clagett, Jr., and Marguerite Clagett Addison.

JBP #1:172
28 June 1894
Will

Testator, Charles Clagett: to Elizabeth Caldwell Clagett, the farm on which she resides [Ingleside]; to son William B. Clagett, all other real estate; to wife Mary, her 1/3 right to land devised to son, William B. Clagett.

CSM #3:601
26 Sept 1860
Deed

Thomas and Adeline Clagett to son Charles Clagett for love and affection, part of the Cottage Plantation now in the possession of Charles Clagett, near Upper Marlboro, on the right hand side of the stage road from Upper Marlboro to Washington, ca. 500 acres, plus 44 acres woodland, and all slaves in possession of Charles Clagett when he took possession of the Cottage.

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AB#7:32
11 Nov. 1831
Deed

Thomas F. Bowie, trustee, to Thomas Clagett; Bowie was appointed trustee (Old Equity #396) to sell real estate of John E. Berry; does sell to T. Clagett 822 acres (Bealls Chance, Green Spring, Fowler's Delight, Charles Hill and Brooke Grove)

#396
July 1831
Old Equity

Thomas F. Bowie appointed in lieu of Richard Peach (deceased) to sell real estate of John E. Berry.

AB #6:337
19 Feb 1831
Deed

John E. Berry to Richard Peach; because Berry is indebted to several parties, he deeds in trust to Peach; Bealls Chance, Brooke Grove, Charles Hill, Keane's Addition, Fowler's Delight, Maiden's Dowry - 1,038 acres, all lying near the public road from Upper Marlboro to D.C. which said tracts together constitute the plantation on which John B. Berry at present resides....

AB #4:183
15 March 1826
Deed

Benjamin Berry to (son) Dr. John E. Berry, Green Spring, Fowler's Delight, part of Beall's Chance, part of Charles Hill, 397 1/4 acres.

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