PH0026271 MHT SM-123

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: St. Mary's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: APR 10 1972 DATE:

1. NAME

COMMON: St. Clement's Island Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Blackistones Island, Blakestone Island, St. Clements Island; Blakistone Island & Blackistone Island & Blakiston Island

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South of Colton Point in the Potomac River

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	St. Mary's	037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☒ Park	☐ Transportation
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	☐ Comments
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific	

RECEIVED APR 23 1970 NATIONAL REGISTER

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fish (Contact: Guy Rogers, Land Manager)

STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 50 State Circle (Post Office Box 1704)

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: St. Mary's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☒ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Clement's Island is located in the Potomac River south of Colton Point, St. Mary's County, a peninsula formed by St. Clement's Bay on the east and St. Catherine Sound in the Wicomico River.

St. Clement's Island in 1970 covers forty acres of land. In 1634 when Father Andrew White wrote about the island in his Relatio Intieris in Marilandium, it covered 400 acres. Erosion by the Potomac River has gradually reduced the island to one-tenth of its seventeenth-century size.

A cross erected at the south end of the Island in 1934 commemorates the 1634 landing on St. Clement's Island.

RECEIVED NOV 23 1970 NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

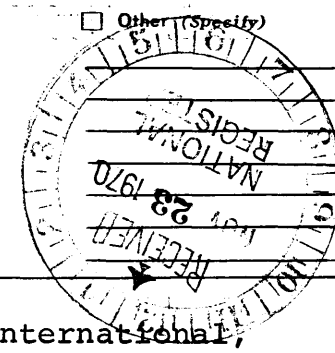
PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☒ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☒ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☒ Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Clement's Island has continuing international, national, state and local significance as a site of the declaration of religious freedom and democratic worship for the English settlers of America, thereby having continuous and personal meaning for each citizen and visitor to the United States. This enables each to follow the dictates of his or her own faith. The Island is strategically located to have helped provide for the defense of the Potomac River, and Washington, D. C., the nation's capital, during the respective eras covering the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the War Between the States and World Wars I and II.

On March 25, 1634 the immigrants arrived to settle the Second Lord Baltimore's proprietary colony. The colonists maneuvered the first landing on Maryland soil at St. Clement's Island and immediately erected a wooden cross. Once ashore, Leonard Calvert (1606-1647), a brother of Cecilius, Second Lord Baltimore, as leader of the expedition read the Second Lord Baltimore's Instructions: the first formal pronouncement granting freedom of religion among the settlers.

On March 25, 1634 on St. Clement's Island, the first Roman Catholic mass in Maryland was read by Father Andrew White.

Before the 1634 landing and before the discovery of America by Columbus, the island had been inhabited by Indians. In 1963 one Indian burial site containing pre-Columbian relics was uncovered.

St. Clement's Manor, including the Island, was the first manor granted by Lord Baltimore and its Lord, Thomas Gerard (Gerrard), played a significant role in seventeenth-century Maryland history.

The landing of colonists on St. Clement's Island represents the fruition of George Calvert's (1578/79-1632) dream of founding a colony in the new world. Calvert, the first Baron of Baltimore, First Lord Baltimore, advisor to James I and

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Edwin W. Beitzell, Gerard's Cove, Abell, Maryland; Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704, Annapolis, Maryland, March 1970.

J. Thomas Scharf, A History of Maryland From the Earliest Period to the Present Day, 3 vols., Baltimore: John B. Piet, 1879.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	38° 13' 31"		76° 45' 52"		°	' "	°	' "
NE	38° 13' 31"		76° 44' 20"					
SE	38° 12' 01"		76° 44' 20"					
SW	38° 12' 01"		76° 45' 52"					

NO UTM CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1,499 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

RECEIVED NOV 23 1970 NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust — DATE: Nov. 18, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 50 State Circle (P. O. Box 1704)

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

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 Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date NOV 18 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/10/72

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh

Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 10 1972

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 10 1972	

(Number all entries)

St. Clement's Island Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued, pg. 2)

Charles I, in 1621, founded a colony of limited success in Newfoundland. Eleven years later Charles I granted him the Maryland charter for lands in the New World, stretching from the Delaware Bay to the "first fountain" of the Potomac River and from the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean. George Calvert died two months before the granting of the charter. His son, Cecilius Calvert (1605-1675--Second Lord Baltimore) carried out his father's colonial asperation by sending his brother Leonard Calvert with two ships, the Ark and the Dove, and a party of immigrants to found a permanent settlement in Maryland.

Father Andrew White (1579-1656), a Jesuit, a correspondent of George Calvert, First Lord Baltimore, and co-organizer of the expedition, recorded the voyage, the landing, the erection of the wooden cross, and Leonard Calvert's reading of Lord Baltimore's Instructions containing specific provision for equal treatment to both Roman Catholics and Protestants. Marylanders pride themselves that of all the British colonies in North America, Maryland was the first one founded on religious equality, and toleration to all Christians. Father White remained in Maryland until 1644, serving as a parish priest and missionary to the Indians as well as Protestant colonists. He arranged for a series of Jesuit manors in Maryland whose income would support the activities of the Society of Jesus in that province.

The 400-acre island, named for St. Clement who had been thrown into the sea with an anchor around his neck, proved too small as the site of a permanent settlement. Leonard Calvert, guided by Henry Fleet, chose instead what was to become St. Mary's City on the eastern bank of the St. Mary's River.

Five years after the landing, in 1639, the Second Lord Baltimore patented St. Clement's Island, as a part of the 1030-acre St. Clement's Manor, to Dr. Thomas Gerard.

Gerard arrived in 1637 and quickly rose in colonial politics from juryman (1638) to member of the Governor's Council (1643). Embroiled in the turbulent events of mid-seventeenth-century Maryland, Gerard's property was damaged. Richard Ingle (1609-1653) an English merchant, and William Claiborne overthrew the proprietary government and forced Governor Leonard Calvert to flee to Virginia. In the name of the Protestant cause, led by Oliver Cromwell in England, Ingle pillaged St. Mary's County. Ingle is believed to have used the island as a base. The

(continued)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 10 1972	

(Number all entries)

St. Clement's Island Historic District

RECEIVED AUG 23 1972 NATIONAL REGISTER

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued, pg. 3)

Catholics eventually regained control of their proprietary and Ingle returned to England.

In 1654 Thomas Gerard again became involved in a revolution. As a captain in the provincial Maryland army Gerard aided the defense of Maryland during the Puritan uprising (1654-1656). In 1660 Gerard turned against the proprietary rule in another rebellion joining the faction, supported by Governor Josias Fendall, aiming to overthrow the Calverts. The Maryland Assembly, including the rebellious lower house, met in Gerard's house and in his son-in-law's house, both on St. Clement's Manor, instead of meeting in St. Mary's City.

The coup d'etat modeled after the Cromwellian example lasted only a short while for in May 1660, with the return of the Stuarts to the English throne, the Calverts were restored to power which crushed the Fendall's Rebellion in Maryland. Gerard left Maryland, after the return of the Calverts, for his domain across the Potomac River in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Thomas Gerard had ten children, two of whom were married, at different times, to Colonel John Washington, great-grandfather of George Washington. His granddaughter Rebecca Gerard married Charles Calvert, Governor of Maryland (1720-1727). When Gerard's landholdings were divided his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Nehemiah Blakistone, received St. Clement's Island. In the eighteenth century the island became known as Blackistone (Blakistone) Island, named after the owner's family--descendants of Nehemiah Blackistone; on July 13, 1965 the Board of Geographic Names of the United States, Department of the Interior, renamed it St. Clement's Island.

During the American Revolution, and again during the War of 1812, the British based operations there, blockading, sacking and looting plantations on the Chesapeake Bay, the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers. Thomas Sim Lee wrote to Richard Barnes describing a British ship sighted off Blakistone Island which sailed up the Potomac River.

During the War of 1812, the Daily National Intelligence reported that on July 21, 1813, several British ships had taken possession of Blackistone's and Cheseldines' (St. Katherine's, St. Catherine's) Islands where they had sunk wells for water. There is little doubt that they continued to use these natural fortresses until the end of the war. It was from Blackistone

(continued)

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 10 1972	

(Number all entries)

St. Clement's Island Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued, pg. 4)

Island on August 27, 1814, that Admiral George Cockburn, (1772-1853), of the Royal Navy, with 1200 marines and 40 sailors, landed on the farm of John Kilgour at the mouth of St. Clement's Bay and systematically sacked the area. Admiral Cockburn commanded the British fleet in the Chesapeake Bay that attacked Baltimore and burned Washington, D. C.

During the Civil War, Confederates raided the island with intent to destroy the lighthouse, built during the 1850's. Considerable variance exists between the stories of Captain Goldsmith who led the raid and Commander Foxhall A. Parker of the Federal Potomac flotilla. Commander Parker, of course, minimized the damage which Captain Goldsmith maximized; Goldsmith, a St. Mary's countian from "Enfield," had crossed the Potomac and joined the Confederate Service. On May 19, 1864, Goldsmith landed on St. Clement's Island during the night, destroyed the lens and the lamp and made off with the oil.

Legend says it had been his intention to dynamite the lighthouse, but the keeper's wife, Mrs. Jerome McWilliams, was expecting a baby and her time was near. Jerome McWilliams, who knew Goldsmith, pleaded his wife's condition and that her life would be endangered ~~if~~ moved, so Goldsmith abandoned this part of the plan; that Goldsmith proposed to take McWilliams as a prisoner of war but Mrs. McWilliams frustrated him by insisting that Goldsmith take her too; that after the Confederates had left, Mr. McWilliams heroically signalled the Federal forces at Point Lookout and repaired the light before the Union men arrived or the Confederates had reached the Virginia shore.

During World War I and World War II, St. Clement's Island formed part of the United States Navy's defenses of Washington, D. C.

On July 24, 1963, an Indian, pre-Columbian burial site was discovered on the eroded east bank. The bones, potsherds and relics, protected by several feet of oyster shells were removed to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. It is probable other Indian burials exist there.

The island passed through various owners including descendants of the Blakistone, McWilliams, Coombs families; through a coffee company ownership and a beer-garden recreational area and successive private owners; an organized town plan was drafted but never materialized.

(continued)

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

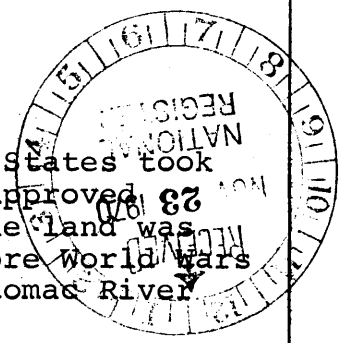
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 10 1972	

(Number all entries)

St. Clement's Island Historic District



#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued, pg. 5)

On March 4, 1919, the President of the United States took title for Secretary of the Navy (Public Law #140, approved April 26, 1918) of the 66 acres and lighthouse. The land was farmed and a machine shop run for the watermen before World Wars I and II when it was used as protection for the Potomac River approach to Washington, D. C.

The lighthouse was destroyed by lightening on July 18, 1956 after which the ruins became a hazard to visitors and the Navy dynamited the remains.

Between 1942 and 1962 the St. Mary's County Historical Society endeavored to preserve the island from erosion. In March 1962 the United States Department of the Navy returned the property to the State of Maryland, Department of Game and Inland Fish. By agreement between this Department and the St. Mary's County Historical Society, twelve acres around the Cross, erected in 1934, commemorates the tercentenary of the landing on St. Clement's Island as a memorial area under the temporary jurisdiction of the St. Mary's Historical Society. A 30-foot path runs from the wharf and landing on the north side of the Island, extending along the east bank to the memorial area on the south.

#9. REFERENCES (continued)

David Spalding, "Thomas Gerard: The Study of a Lord of the Manor and the Advantages of Manor Holdings in Early Maryland," Chronicles of St. Mary's, VII (July 1959), 61-82.

Robert E. T. Pogue, Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County, New York: Carlton Press, 1968.

Edwin W. Beitzell, "St. Clement's Manor," Chronicles of St. Mary's, XII (April 1964), 32-33.

Charles M. Andrews, The Colonial Period of American History, 4 vols, The Settlements, Vol. II, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1964.

Edwin W. Beitzell, "A History of St. Clement's Island," Blessing of the Fleet, St. Clement's Island, printed brochure, [?1969], files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

(continued)

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 10 1972	

(Number all entries)

St. Clement's Island Historic District

#9. REFERENCES (continued)

_____, "Thomas Gerard and His Sons-In-Law," Chronicles of St. Mary's, X (October-November 1962), 300-311.

St. Mary's County, Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

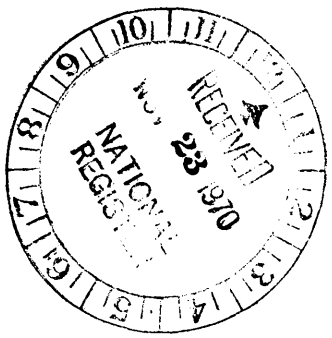
St. Mary's County, Wills, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Archives of Maryland IV Judicial and Testamentary Business of the Provincial Court 1637-1650, Baltimore; Maryland Historical Society, 1887.

_____, XLVII Journal and Correspondence of the State Council of Maryland (Letters to the Governor and Council) 1781, Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1930.

Dictionary of American Biography, 22 vols, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922, XX 87-88.

Dictionary of National Biography, 63 vols., New York: MacMillian, 1887, XI, 184-186.



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 10 1972	

(Number all entries)

St. Clement's Island Historic District

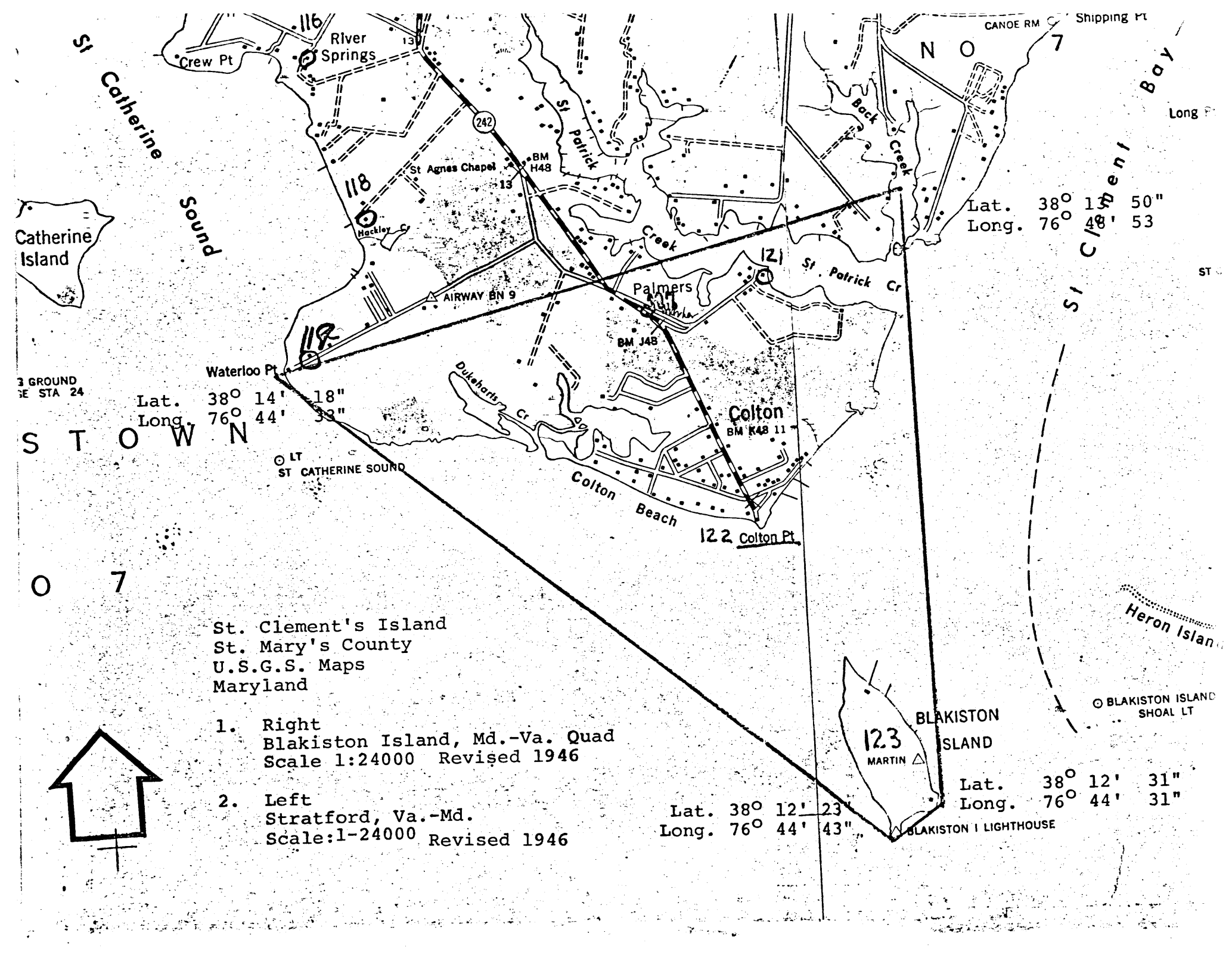
10. ACREAGE Justification as requested by National Register.

The acreage as shown on the attached map has been revised. No land on the Chesapeake Bay side of the island is necessary in that no structure or development on the opposite shores could in any way impair the heritage of the island.

The mainland acreage has been included in that the State of Maryland owns the shore frontage. Any incompatible structure or development placed within this area would impair the visual concept and belie any imaginative interpretation of the island as the landing place of Maryland's first settlers.

Orlando Ridout IV
State Liaison Officer for
Maryland
National Historic Preservation
Act of 1966

RECEIVED
NOV 26 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER



St. Clement's Island
St. Mary's County
U.S.G.S. Maps
Maryland

1. Right
   Blakiston Island, Md.-Va. Quad
   Scale 1:24000 Revised 1946

2. Left
   Stratford, Va.-Md.
   Scale:1-24000 Revised 1946