

~~OSE~~ (NHL)

SITE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Clare, Maryland

Location: Baltimore County, in the center of Carroll Park, off Washington Boulevard, between Monroe Bayard Streets.

Ownership: City of Baltimore; operated by the National Society of Colonial Dames in Maryland, Mrs. William R. Miller, President, Mount Clare, Carroll Place, Baltimore, Maryland, 21227.

Statement of Significance

Mount Clare, erected around 1763-67, is an excellent example of a Southern brick plantation house with superior Georgian architectural qualities. It is also the oldest and finest extant colonial structure in the city of Baltimore. Mount Clare's existing wings and hyphens, however, are reconstructions that do not follow or resemble the original detached dependencies.

History

In 1754 John Henry Carroll built a bachelor's house on this plantation; his cottage was probably utilized as one dependency of the later main house, thus giving rise to tradition that Mount Clare was built in 1754. Charles Carroll, the barrister (so-called to distinguish him from his distant relative--Charles Carroll, the signer), and brother of John Henry, inherited the estate, and about 1763, on the occasion of his marriage, probably began the construction of the main section of Mount Clare. <sup>1</sup> Work was still in progress on the house in 1767. The plantation house remained in the hands of the Carroll family until 1840. Between that year and the beginning of the Civil War, all of the outbuildings, including the two dependencies of the main house, disappeared. During the war Mount Clare was used as quarters for Union officers. After 1865 the house was leased by a group of German men who used it as a German beer garden until 1890, when the City of Baltimore purchased the structure and 70 acres of land for a park in South Baltimore. In 1910 the City reconstructed the two existing hyphens and wings which were then used as public restrooms. In 1917 the National Society of Colonial Dames in Maryland took over the operation of the main house. Mount Clare has been repaired, restored, and redecorated from time to time, major work being done in 1940. In 1960 the two wings were also given to the National Society and these have been converted into a colonial kitchen and library.

<sup>1</sup>The architectural style of the house and other construction features also support a date of 1763, rather than 1754.

### Condition

Mount Clare is a two-story brick structure with a partial basement and an attic and is 46 feet long and 36 feet deep. The south (or rear) wall is laid in all-header bond brickwork above the water table and the other three walls are laid in an irregular Flemish bond. The roof is gabled and there are two pair of finely decorated brick end chimneys. The upper two-thirds of each stack is corbelled so as to achieve a panel and cornice effect. The main facades are interesting and different from each other. The north (or front) elevation is dominated by a projecting portico with a room over it. The room is lighted by a Palladian window and the gable roof above the room and porch is pedimented. The portico, 18 feet wide and 8 feet deep, has four round limestone columns and two half-round pilasters, which support a classical entablature of wood. With its broad portico, the north facade appears to be only three bays wide. Most of the windows on the north elevation and on both gable ends have rounded wooden lintels which are topped by segmented brick arches. All first floor windows have nine over nine light sash and those in the second story, nine over six sash. The cornice on front and rear elevations is boldly modillioned.

The south (rear or garden) facade has five bays with the central three projecting slightly in a pavilion which is crowned by a broad pediment. The existing lunette in the center of the pediment is a 19th century replacement; an old painting shows an oval or circular opening in this place. A particularly interesting feature of the south facade is the use of colossal brick pilasters at the corners of the pavilion and house. These pilasters are polychromatic, with lighter bricks running down their centers, giving the effect of narrow quoins to the edges. The windows on this elevation have rectangular wooden frames and flat brick arches above. An early 19th century painting of Mount Clare shows that the central block once had two detached dependencies. These were simple gable-roof cottages that were built at right angles to the main house. The reconstructed wings and hyphens do not follow the 18th century plan or resemble the dependencies.

The north entrance door of the main house opens into a center hall that extends about half-way through the house. To the left of the main hall is a separate stair hall, and to the right a small office. The second tier of rooms, on the south side, is comprised of two large rooms, the dining room in the northwest corner and the drawing room in the southwest portion. The walls of the first rooms are plastered in a manner to give the effect of wooden paneling, an interesting and unusual treatment. The chimney pieces have delicate decorations in the Adam style and may have been added after 1783. There are simple wooden baseboards throughout and the floors are of wide pine boards. The second floor contains three bedrooms and the room located over the portico. The main house is in excellent condition and is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

References: John C. Fitzpatrick, Some Historic Houses, Their Builders, and Their Places in History (New York, 1939), 31-36; J.M. Hammond, Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware (Philadelphia, 1914), 130; Richard H. Howland and Eleanor P. Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore A Pictorial History (Baltimore, 1953), 7,8; Maryland, A Guide To the Old Line State (New York, 1940), 251; Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide To Early American Homes --South (New York, 1956), 43-44; Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers (New York, 1930), 154-158; D. Swann, Colonial & Historic Homes of Maryland (Baltimore, 1939), 227; Thomas-T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, 1950), 92.

Historic American Building Survey: Maryland-192. (7 photos, 17 data pages, 1960).

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Mount Clare, Baltimore, Maryland

Superior Georgian architectural qualities are found in Mount Clare (1763-1767), an excellent example of a Southern brick plantation house. Mount Clare is a two-story brick structure with a partial basement and an attic and is 46 feet long and 36 feet deep. The south (or rear) wall is laid in all-header bond brickwork above the water table and the other three walls are laid in an irregular Flemish bond. The roof is gabled and there are two pair of finely decorated brick end chimneys. The upper two-thirds of each stack is corbelled so as to achieve a panel and cornice effect. The main facades are interesting and different from each other. The north (or front) elevation is dominated by a projecting portico with a room over it. The room is lighted by a Palladian window and the gable roof above the room and porch is pedimented. The portico, 18 feet wide and 8 feet deep, has four round limestone columns and two half-round pilasters, which support a classical entablature of wood. With its broad portico, the north facade appears to be only three bays wide.

The south (rear or garden) facade has five bays with the central three projecting slightly in a pavilion which is crowned by a broad pediment. The existing lunette in the center of the pediment is a 19th-century replacement; an old painting shows an oval or circular opening in this place. A particularly interesting feature of the south facade is the use of colossal brick pilasters at the corners of the pavilion and house. These pilasters are polychromatic, with lighter bricks running down their centers, giving the effect of narrow quoins to the edges. An early 19th-century painting of Mount Clare shows that the central block once had two detached dependencies. These were simple gable-roof cottages that were built at right angles to the main house. The reconstructed wings and hyphens do not follow the 18th-century plan or resemble the dependencies. The main house is in excellent condition and is open as a historic house.

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# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A1619-DOS

APR 13 1970

Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior  
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources *LP 4/14*

From: <sup>Acting</sup> Director, National Park Service

Subject: National Historic Landmark recommendations, 61st meeting of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments

Enclosed herewith is the memorandum of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments summarizing its findings and recommendations on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings partial theme study of "Colonial Architecture." This memorandum makes two principal recommendations: (1) That 77 sites encompassed by this study be declared eligible for National Historic Landmark status. These are listed under Sections A, B, C, and D of the memorandum; (2) That 41 of these sites be given further consideration in long range plans for addition to the National Park System.

We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

*Harthon L. Price*

Enclosure

Approved: APR 15 1970

*Walter Hickel*  
Secretary of the Interior



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 8, 1969

## Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior

From: Chairman, Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Partial study of "Colonial Architecture" comprising sites in eighteen States and the District of Columbia

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 61st meeting in Washington, D. C., October 6-9, 1969, having carefully evaluated the partial study of "Colonial Architecture," submits the following statements with recommendations:

A. Of the sites included in the study, the following are recognized as nationally significant in illustrating or commemorating the history of the United States, and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks with boundaries, as appropriate, described in attachments:

### Alaska

1. Church of the Holy Ascension, Unalaska
2. Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Kenai

### California

3. Anza House
4. Jose Castro House
5. Estudillo House
6. Fort Ross Commander's House
7. Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church
8. Guajome Ranchhouse
9. Los Alamos Ranchhouse
10. Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
11. Monterey Old Town Historic District
12. Petaluma Adobe
13. San Diego Mission Church
14. San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
15. San Luis Rey Mission Church
16. Vhay House

Delaware

17. Aspendale

Florida

18. Llambias House
19. Oldest House
20. St. Augustine Town Plan Historic District

Illinois

21. Church of the Holy Family
22. Pierre Menard House

Louisiana

23. Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House
24. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop
25. Mayor Girod House
26. Madame John's Legacy
27. Parlange Plantation House
28. Presbytere

Maryland

29. Brice House
30. Chase-Lloyd House
31. Chestertown Historic District
32. His Lordship's Kindness
33. London Town Publik House
34. Montpelier
35. Mount Clare
36. Resurrection Manor
37. Tulip Hill
38. West St. Mary's Manor
39. Wye House

Missouri

40. Louis Bolduc House

New Mexico

41. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church
42. San Francisco de Assissi Mission Church
43. San Jose de Gracia Church

North Carolina

44. Chowan County Courthouse
45. Cupola House
46. Palmer-Marsh House
47. Single Brothers' House

South Carolina

48. Brick House Ruin
49. William Gibbes House
50. Hampton Plantation
51. Heyward-Washington House
52. Middleburg Plantation
53. Pompion Hill Chapel
54. St. James' Episcopal Church, Goose Creek
55. St. James' Episcopal Church, Santee
56. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Texas

57. Mission Concepcion
58. Spanish Governor's Palace

Virginia

59. Brandon
60. Bruton Parish Church
61. Carter's Grove
62. Christ Church, Alexandria
63. Kenmore
64. Sabine Hall
65. James Semple House
66. Shirley
67. Waterford Historic District
68. Wythe House
69. Yeocomico Church



Washington

70. Fort Nisqually Granary

B. Three sites included in the portion of Colonial Architecture that considered the Middle Colonies are recognized as nationally significant and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks:

1. William Trent House, New Jersey
2. Christ Church, Pennsylvania
3. Carpenters' Hall, Pennsylvania

C. Two sites included in this study are recognized as nationally significant in Theme IV, "Spanish Exploration and Settlement." It is recommended that they be declared eligible for recognition as Registered National Historic Landmarks:

1. La Purisima Mission, California
2. Cathedral of St. Augustine, Florida

D. Two sites not originally included within this study are recommended for designation as National Historic Landmarks within Theme XX, Subtheme, "Architecture."

1. El Santuario de Chimayo, New Mexico
2. Peyton Randolph House, Virginia

E. Other Recommendations:

1. That the following sites be placed in the category of "Other Sites Considered:"

California

- (1) Avila House
- (2) La Casa de Cota de la Cuesta
- (3) La Casa de Eduardo de la Cuesta
- (4) Covarrubias Adobe
- (5) De La Guerra Adobe
- (6) El Cuartel
- (7) Guadalupe (Olivera) Ranch House No. 1
- (8) Hill-Carrillo Adobe
- (9) Ortega House

- (10) Plaza Church
- (11) Rocha House
- (12) San Diego Old Town Historic District
- (13) San Juan Capistrano Mission Church

District of Columbia

- (14) Alva Belmont House

Illinois

- (15) Cahokia Courthouse
- (16) Cahokia Historic District

Louisiana

- (17) Darby Plantation House
- (18) Ormond Plantation

Maryland

- (19) Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church
- (20) Genesar
- (21) Hammond Manor House
- (22) Kilmarock (Burleane Hall)
- (23) Ogle Hall
- (24) Otterbein Church
- (25) Patuxent Manor House
- (26) St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad Creek
- (27) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent County
- (28) Talbot County Court House
- (29) Third Haven Meeting House
- (30) Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester County

Missouri

- (31) Jean Baptiste Valle House

New Mexico

- (32) San Geronimo de Taos Mission Church

North Carolina

- (33) Bath Historic District
- (34) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton
- (35) St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath
- (36) Tryon Palace, Original (West) Wing

South Carolina

- (37) Branford-Horry House
- (38) Fenwick Hall
- (39) Medway Plantation
- (40) Thomas Rose House
- (41) Col. John Stuart House
- (42) Sword Gate House

Virginia

- (43) Berkeley Plantation
- (44) Brafferton Hall, College of William and Mary
- (45) The Glebe House
- (46) Noland's Ferry House
- (47) Pohick Church
- (48) President's House, College of William and Mary
- (49) Smithfield Plantation
- (50) Tazewell House

West Virginia

- (51) Crane (Lord Fairfax) House
- (52) Mordington (Happy Retreat)
- (53) Governor Tiffin House

2. That the following sites be given further study under this theme:

California

- (1) Olivas Adobe
- (2) San Gabriel Mission Church

Colorado

- (3) Baca House

Connecticut

- (4) Hatheway House

Delaware

- (5) Christ Church, Laurel
- (6) Prince George's Chapel

Florida

- (7) Spanish Treasurer's House

Louisiana

- (8) African House, Melrose Plantation
- (9) Creole Cottage
- (10) Louis Arceneaux House
- (11) E. D. White Memorial Cottage
- (12) Voisin Plantation House
- (13) Spanish Custom House
- (14) Erariste Blanc House
- (15) Montegut House
- (16) Bank of the United States
- (17) Absinthe House
- (18) Cathedral of St. Louis

Maryland

- (19) Carroll Mansion
- (20) Providence Plantation
- (21) Queen Anne's County Courthouse
- (22) Horatio Sharp (Rideout) House
- (23) Scott House
- (24) St. John's Episcopal Church, Hillsboro
- (25) St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church Hill
- (26) St. Luke's Episcopal Church or Tuckahoe Chapel, Queenstown
- (27) Old Wye Church
- (28) Doughoregan Manor

New Mexico - Florida

- (29) Pascual Martinez Ranch House
- (30) Santa Fe and Albuquerque and Pensacola town plans

North Carolina

- (31) Breezeway type of Colonial House
- (32) Edenton Historic District
- (33) Hayes Plantation House
- (34) Sycamore Plantation

South Carolina

- (35) Edward's House
- (36) Edisto Hall

Virginia

- (37) Battersea
- (38) Blandfield
- (39) Carlyle House
- (40) Dulaney House
- (41) Elmwood
- (42) Hanover Tavern
- (43) Hanover Courthouse
- (44) King William Courthouse
- (45) Long Bridge Ordinary
- (46) Marmion
- (47) Powhatan Courthouse
- (48) Powhatan Tavern
- (49) Three-story wooden row houses, south side of 200 block of Prince Street in Alexandria
- (50) Smithfield Courthouse
- (51) Washington Historic District
- (52) Wetherburn's Tavern
- (53) Fincastle Historic District

West Virginia

- (54) Harewood
- (55) Sweet Springs

F. The National Park System includes the following structures that are Importantly Related to this study:

1. Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona
2. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida
3. Fort Matanzas National Monument, Florida

4. Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland
5. Nelson House, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia
6. San Jose Mission Church, Texas

G. Forty-eight sites related to this theme have been classified as possessing national significance in other theme studies. These are:

Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture

1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
3. Carmel Mission Church, California
4. Larkin House, California
5. Old Custom House, California
6. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
7. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
8. Sonoma Pueblo Historic District, California (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
9. Savannah Historic District, Georgia
10. The Cabildo, Louisiana
11. Ursuline Convent, Louisiana
12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
13. Jackson Square, Louisiana
14. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
15. Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland
16. Maryland State House, Maryland
17. Whitehall, Maryland
18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
19. Palace of the Governors, New Mexico
20. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
21. Miles Brewton House, South Carolina
22. Robert Brewton House, South Carolina
23. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
24. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
25. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
26. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Carolina
27. Presidio de La Bahia, Texas
28. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
29. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
30. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia

31. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
32. Gadsby's Tavern, Virginia
33. Gunston Hall, Virginia
34. Mount Airy, Virginia
35. Mount Vernon, Virginia
36. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
37. Stratford Hall, Virginia
38. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
39. Tuckahoe Plantation, Virginia
40. Westover, Virginia
41. Wren Building, College of William and Mary, Virginia

Also Related to Colonial Architecture

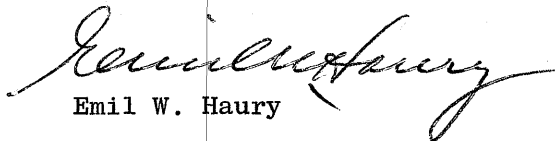
42. Erskine House, Alaska
43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
47. The Alamo, Texas
48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia

H. The Board recommends that the Old State (Colony) House in Newport, Rhode Island, a Landmark previously placed in the category of Also Related to Colonial Architecture, be noted as being Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture.

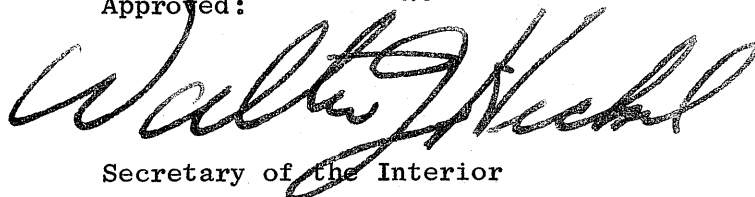
I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change present circumstances, such sites should nevertheless be identified as potential units of the system and noted for long-range consideration in the evolution of the National Park System Plan.

1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
3. Fort Ross, California
4. Guajome Ranchhouse, California
5. Los Alamos Ranchhouse, California
6. Monterey Old Town Historic District, California

7. Petaluma Adobe, California
8. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
9. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
10. Church of the Holy Family, Illinois
11. Parlange Plantation House, Louisiana
12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
13. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
14. Resurrection Manor, Maryland
15. Tulip Hill, Maryland
16. Whitehall, Maryland
17. Wye House, Maryland
18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
19. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church (Acoma), New Mexico
20. San Jose de Gracia Church (Las Trampas), New Mexico
21. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
22. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina
23. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
24. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
25. St. James Episcopal Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina
26. St. James Episcopal Church, Santee, South Carolina
27. Mission Concepcion (San Antonio Missions Park Proposal), Texas
28. Presidio de la Bahia (Goliad Complex), Texas
29. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
30. Brandon, Virginia
31. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
32. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia
33. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
34. Gunston Hall, Virginia
35. Mount Airy, Virginia
36. Mount Vernon, Virginia
37. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
38. Shirley, Virginia
39. Stratford Hall, Virginia
40. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
41. Westover, Virginia

  
Emil W. Haury

Approved: APR 15 1970

  
Secretary of the Interior