

P40025828

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Harford

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: AUG 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: The Rigbie House

AND/OR HISTORIC: "Philip's Purchase"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Lane enters east of Castleton Road (Md 623) about 0.5 mile south of / Berkley

CITY OR TOWN: Berkley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Harford CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

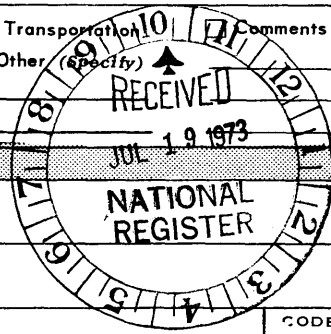
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: John E. Clark, Esquire

STREET AND NUMBER: The Rigbie House

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington RFD

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Harford County Courthouse 40 South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Harford

ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 14 1973

DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This frame and stone one-and-a-half story structure in two parts faces south in a grove of oak trees on a plateau west of the Susquehanna River southeast of Berkley. It is notable for the exquisitely panelled interior and the unevenly-pitched roof of the frame section, and for the long low east wing.

The larger west section of frame, weatherboarded, is almost square. Now three bays by three, with windows 9 lights over 6, its peaked roof ridge-line runs east-west with a large brick chimney rising inside the west gable. The south slope of the roof has three sharply peaked dormers over windows 6 lights over 9. The north slope, less steep, extends over a long narrow north room that was once two small rooms. (Upstairs a long dormer now enlarges the north bedroom.)

Restored in 1931 to what was believed to be its condition in 1781, we find now that it had already been altered at the early date from its original shape, and it can be surmised that this change took place, perhaps, as early as 1752.

This frame section contains some very fine woodwork. The living room is fully panelled, with an exceptionally rich molding around the panels. The treatment over the fireplace between the two west windows has raised fielded panels above a handsome late Georgian mantel. A staircase with carved step-ends and a walnut railing rises to the north along the east wall, turns at a landing in the corner, and continues in one more small flight to the second floor. The dining room to the north, has one wall of raised paneling.

A long low wing runs east, one room deep. The first room has stone walls over two feet thick. A central chimney rises from a huge cooking fireplace with its crane still in place behind the wide brick hearth. A winding staircase in the fireplace-wall leads to a small bedroom under the low eaves. Rooms east of this old kitchen were built in 1931 for a modern kitchen and laundry.

Heavy masonry supports in the cellar indicate a larger fireplace than that existing in the living room. This arched support extends across two-thirds of the windowless west wall to the northwest corner of the room. This confirms Henry Chandlee Forman's plan view¹ of the house (see copy of his sketch on continuation sheet #1). This change was made in the late 18th century. The elegant smaller fireplace in the present west wall and the two windows beside it are remembered by our contemporary members of the Jones family who lived in the house in the late 1800's. There seems to have been only moderate wealth among the preceding owners until we go back as far as James Righie in the 1750's, 60's and 70's when the living room was used as a courtroom.

¹ Henry Chandlee Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland (Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934) p. 124.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rigbie House was twice the scene of important events in our country's history. In April 1781 Lafayette's officers quelled a mutiny that might have prevented his army of New England troops, who had been headed home-ward, from turning south again to join General Greene and General Wash-ington at Yorktown, in which case that battle might never have been fought.² Earlier it had been one of a series of forest outposts fort-ified against the Indians and representing Lord Baltimore's claim of 1632 to land extending north to the 40th parallel, a claim disputed fifty years later by William Penn (1682) until the Mason Dixon line was set in 1767.³

This is the manor house of Philip's Purchase, 2,000 acres willed to Nathan Rigbie by his grandfather Thomas Tench of Annapolis. Rigbie settl-ed here before 1732, having sold off three smaller tracts to Thomas Jones (1728), Gerrold Hopkins (1728) and Henry Coale (1731). He raised tobacco, shipping his crop to England by way of his warehouse at the port of Lapidum. He had a store along the road from Joppa to Bald Friar (probably at the fork of the road to Lapidum at Darlington). In partnership with Jacob Giles and John Hall of Cranberry he built and operated the Cumber-land Forge on Deer Creek just above Stafford. And he is believed to have built a gristmill at Wilson's Mill on Deer Creek on a tract called Parker's Chance deeded to his son James in 1743, one of the earliest mills in Harford County. In 1735 he was commissioned Colonel in the Cavalry of Baltimore (now Harford) County, and given the additional responsibility three years later of an appointment as High Sheriff.

James Rigbie, Nathan's eldest son, inherited this property at his father's death in 1752, along with some of his judiciary and military powers. Captain of the Militia and High Sheriff of Baltimore (now Harford) County, he is thought to have built the elegant frame section of the house or perhaps rebuilt the interior using the panelled living room as his court-room, Here General Lafayette was received in 1781, his troops cooked at the huge fireplace in the old kitchen, their mutiny of that night resolved the next morning.

Owned in later years by the Reed, Nelson, and Jones families, the history of the house was re-discovered in 1931 by J. Alexis Shriver of the Harford Historical Society, who persuaded the owners to clear off the plaster covering the panelled interior for a celebration of the 150th anniversary of General Lafayette's visit.

(see continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Henry Chaudee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.

Mason, Samuel. Historical Sketches of Harford County. Darlington, Maryland. By the Author, 1940.

Preston, Walter W. History of Harford County. Baltimore, Maryland: Press of the Sun Book Office, 1901.

(see continuation sheet #2)

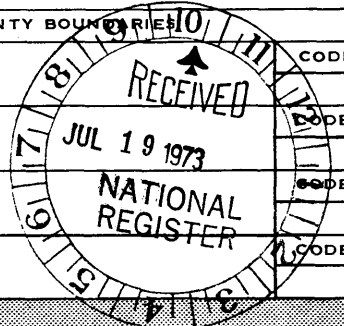
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39 ° 39 ' 42"	76 ° 12 ' 16"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39 ° 39 ' 42"	76 ° 12 ' 06"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	39 ° 39 ' 33"	76 ° 12 ' 06"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	39 ° 39 ' 33"	76 ° 12 ' 16"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **18 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jean S. Ewing

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: April 24, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

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 Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date April 24, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date 7 31 73

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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

(Number all entries)

The Rigbie House
"Philip's Purchase"

No. 8. Significance Continued.

The property is now well maintained by John E. Clark, Esquire, a practicing lawyer, a member of Harford County's Educational Foundation, a trustee of the Maryland Environmental Trust, and a founder and trustee of the Maryland Historical Trust.

² Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County (Baltimore, Maryland; Press of the Sun Book Office, 1901), pp. 138-143.

³ Samuel Mason, Historical Sketches of Harford County, (Darlington, Maryland, By the Author, 1940) pp. 47-50.

No. 9. Major Bibliographical References

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. By the Author, 1967.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

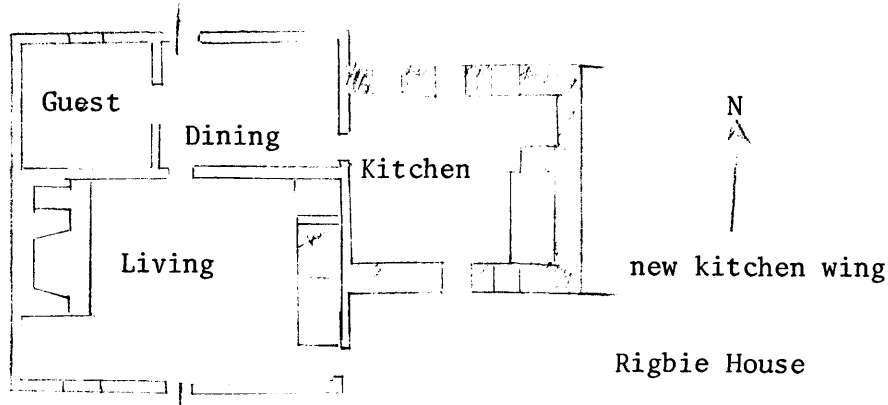
(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		AUG 14 1973

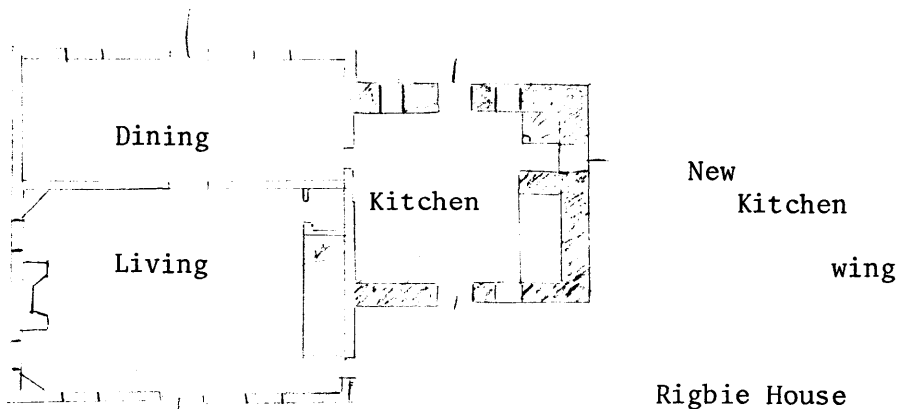
(Number all entries)

The Rigbie House
"Philip's Purchase"

No. 7 Description Continued.



(Traced from Forman's
Early Manor & Plantation
Houses in Maryland.)



Rigbie House
As Restored in 1931
(Sketched from Forman's
drawing in Early Manor &
Plantation Houses in Maryland)

