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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hopeful Unity
other names K-231; Meeks Farm

2. Location

street & number 25789 Lambs Meadow Road not for publication
city or town Worton vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Kent code 029 zip code 25789

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Erinath Hoge Acting Director/SHPO 7-2-15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maryland Historical Trust (MD SHPO)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 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): _____

Lawson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 8-18-15 Date of Action

Hopeful Unity (K-231)

Name of Property

Kent County, MD

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling;

AGRICULTURAL/field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURAL

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: Georgian

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Fieldstone, Brick

walls Brick

roof Wood, Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1761-ca.1860

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

The Hopeful Unity (K-213)
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Six acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1										
	Zone	Easting			Northing					
2										

3										
	Zone	Easting			Northing					
4										

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kate McGraw

Organization Property owner date 3/2012; rev. 6/2015

street & number 25789 Lambs Meadow Road telephone 302 242-3923

city or town Worton state MD zip code 21678

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Kate McGraw

street & number 25789 Lambs Meadow Road telephone 302 242-3923

city or town Worton state MD zip code 21678

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

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Description Summary:

The house known as Hopeful Unity is a three story, three bay, four room plan brick building with one and a half story kitchen wing that was constructed during the middle part of the eighteenth century. A front and rear porch were added in the nineteenth century. There have been some nineteenth-century alterations, including the roof on the main house and perhaps the porches were added at that time. The house features an elevated foundation with a water table that climbs up and around the basement windows as well as a belt course. The bricks are laid in Flemish bond on most of the structure, but the brick pattern on the annex appears to date earlier. The exact date of construction of the building has not been determined. Construction of the main portion of the house has been attributed to Charles Groome, who acquired the property in 1761. The 1-1/2-story kitchen wing may incorporate an earlier structure. Documentary sources indicate it was constructed prior to 1770, and the earlier portion is likely to have been constructed prior to 1759 (evidence of buildings on the deed from Mary Watkins to Thomas Perkins in 1759). The house sits on a slight knoll at the end of a long driveway, originally facing south toward the headwaters of Still Pond Creek. The current front entrance faces north towards the road. There is a single Linden tree in the front of the house, estimated age 150 years. The surroundings are entirely agricultural, and the original acreage now belonging to a tenant farmer is under agricultural preservation, thus the view of surrounding farm fields remains essentially the same since the house was constructed (with the exception of loss of the waterway). The house would have overlooked both the headwaters of Still Pond Creek and the Lynch/Cecil Quaker Meeting house and cemetery.

General Description:

The Hopeful Unity house is constructed of brick, on a stone and brick foundation, and measures 28' 3" across its three-bay facades and 30' 6" in depth. The basement is partly set in the small rise on which the house sits under the main part of the house. The basement rises out of the ground for approximately four feet. The kitchen wing has a crawl space under it. The basement has a partial dirt floor and diagonal arches back-to-back against the west end gable. The stairs to the basement originally had an exterior entryway which was at some unknown date enclosed first with a wooden porch, and then enclosed again when the lean-to porch was added to the kitchen wing. The walls of the basement were whitewashed and a significant portion has deteriorated over time. The mantel on the northern gable arch in the basement has pit-saw marks on it. The supports and joists of much of the first floor have been replaced due to termite destruction.

The exterior and interior of the house reflect several changes that have been made to the house over the time since it was constructed. Both the north and south facades on the main house had porches added, likely during the nineteenth century. The front porch extends just past the end of the first window on the first floor. The front porch begins at the top of the water table. The porch roof was set so the top is even

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with the top of the belt course. The back porch on the main south side extends to the top of the door and the top of the back porch extends to the belt course. On the kitchen wing the lean-to extends the entire length of the façade and is entirely enclosed. The surface of the floor for all porches is concrete with brick details. The porches are half hip. The current material is asphalt shingle, except the back door porch, which is metal. All porches remain intact, with the back porch on the kitchen wing having been restored. There is evidence that a door existed on the kitchen wing where a window now stands, and that on the main structure the north door was altered as well as the middle window. On the east gable of the main house there is evidence of a bricked in window half way between the first and second floor, and evidence of an arch on the first floor towards the south side of the eastern gable. The western gable chimney top fell in over a decade ago and was removed from the house.

Because the house sat empty for decades there was significant deterioration to the structure at the time it was purchased by the current owner. The windows are six over six, single hung sash. The windows are very tall and the jambs are splayed on the interior. The muntins and rails of the sash are very thin and they don't appear part of the original house. The windows also have a spring loaded catch to keep the windows open. The windows in the attic and in the kitchen wing have been replaced in 2009 with new windows as the windows were too badly deteriorated, or from the last decades and required replacement. The glass in some of the windows appears to be old due to the wavy quality of the glass.

The first or main floor of the main house has an entry that opens into a large room, and around the corner is a hallway with a guest bathroom partially under the stairs and a laundry. The foundation is brick on the main house. The original floor plan included a hallway from front to back door, with two parlors to the right, from the north entrance. Each parlor room had diagonal back-to-back fireplaces in them originally. These were removed and wood stoves were placed against the gable end walls in both parlors. When the current owner purchased the house the previous owner had removed the interior walls on the first and second floors. The stairway faces the southern entrance and appears intact and original to the house. All wood members of the staircase appear to be original. The rise of the staircase, which curves to the right 360 degrees with two landings, and curves also to the left two stairs into the second floor of the kitchen wing. The underside of the stair was located in a closet where the brick appeared exposed and a passage to the basement cut into the floor. The rooms throughout the house had grossly deteriorated plaster with the exception of the eastern wall on the main house stairwell, which has been restored and remains intact. The upper level of the stair well has the original vertical paneling exposed, which was under plaster added probably in the nineteenth century as evidenced by the lath and plaster layer that was crumbling and removed. A complete framed interior was constructed to house plumbing and electricity to the house. The wood members of the structure up to the attic were badly deteriorated by termites and completely replaced. There was original wainscot remaining in a portion of the parlor on the southern wall. The northern entrance as a three light transom and double panel door with faux grain painting. The details are plain. The southern entrance is more elaborate and also has a three-light

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transom. The door frames are original. The entrance to the kitchen wing is encased in very wide planks which look original to the house. The remaining floors throughout the entire house are random width hickory wide plank, replaced in 2010.

The dining room has retained the original mantel intact, with the original fireplace needing considerable repair. The exterior chimney has been repaired and capped, and the firebox enclosed pending funding to restore it. The dining room floor is antique oak, random width. During the excavation for the crawl space, the floor joists were found to be sitting on dirt. Six inches below the dirt was a brick floor. Below the brick floor was a foot of dirt. Below that level of dirt six inches was brick rubble. The current crawl space is partially floored in concrete. A complete cement block foundation interior parallel and interior to the original brick walls was created to place the joists for the floor on rather than to further deteriorate the brick walls. The dining room has a brick foundation. There are two steps down into the dining room. The dividing wall between the kitchen room and the dining room is solid brick. The doorway appears to have been cut through after the construction of the kitchen room. There is an exterior door leading out the south wall into the lean-to porch. The windows have been replaced in 2009, except the window on the south wall. The board and batten door appears original and has six lights in the upper portion of the door. The interior gable west end wall of the dining room is the exterior wall of the main house; the wall does not appear to belong to the annex wing, but rather the main house was attached to the end of the kitchen wing north and south walls.

The kitchen room (eastern gable wall for the kitchen wing) has a stone foundation and has stone supports as foundation evidence for a fireplace that extended almost the entire width of the eastern gable wall. The chimney remains but the firebox is no longer standing. The top of the chimney has an unusual clay cap and was re-pointed recently. There is a small window on the southern wall very close to the ceiling. There was ghosting of a stair or large chimney at a 45 degree angle close to the ceiling on the east gable end wall brick. There is a step down from the dining room into the kitchen. The brick front exterior of the kitchen room suggests a door was once where the window currently is. There is an exterior door leading out the south wall into the lean-to porch. The windows have been replaced in 2009, except the small window on the southern wall. The door appears original and has six lights in the upper portion of the door, identical to the one in the dining room south wall.

The second floor of the main house now contains a bath, a bedroom and closet, and a sitting room, off a hallway landing. The original floor plan is unknown as it was removed prior to the current owner purchasing the house. There is an original closet on the landing with original doors intact, as well as the original door to the attic stairs on the landing. There were two original mantels surrounding the two end wall fireplaces on the second floor, but both were stolen from the site in 2010. The fireplaces are currently covered pending further funding to restore them. The plaster on the second floor was significantly deteriorated. The floor and ceiling joists were destroyed by termites and replaced. The

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floor boards were also destroyed by termites and subsequently removed and replaced. The windows are set closer to the ceiling in the second floor of the main house, and are six-over-six single hung.

The King Post roof truss system is visible in the attic. The original mortise and tenon joints and pegs remain visible in the rafters and beams, which are in excellent condition. The attic floor is original and deteriorated, but not termite infested. The attic retains its original floor plan which consists of two large rooms and one small landing. On the west end gable is a ca. 1860s mantel and fireplace bricked in. The attic retains early plaster finish.

The second floor on the kitchen wing consists of two rooms. The further eastern bedroom has the chimney against the gable end wall, two gables and one small window in the end wall. The walls and ceiling are covered with beaded boards, horizontally laid. The end wall has partially exposed brick, and plaster. The middle wall dividing the two rooms is more recent wood vertical panels. There is a crooked doorway cut into the wood wall. The room closest to the main house has the dining room chimney extending through the floor six inches from the wood dividing wall. The western gable wall directly against the main house eastern gable wall is partially exposed painted brick and partially vertical wood panels. The floor is narrow width oak, and is painted. The entry into the second floor of the kitchen wing is a crooked doorway cut through both the exterior brick wall to the main house second floor stair landing.

The exterior walls are laid in Flemish bond above the water table and stepped up and over the basement windows on three sides of the main house. Each six over six window has segmental arches and each door had the same. The arches were constructed of alternating stretchers and double headers. The original A shaped steep gabled roof appears to have initially had no dormers, but was illuminated by two gable end smaller windows in the attic, and on the kitchen wing side by one small gable end window in the second story. Two dormers on the north and south facing slopes of the roof were added to the third floor at some point. There are three windows on the first floor of the annex, north side, and three windows and two doors on the first floor of the annex on the south side. There are five windows and one door (three windows on second floor, two on first floor) on the north side of the main structure. There are two windows on the first and two windows on the second floors of the west gable end wall of the main structure. There are five windows and one door (three windows on second floor, two windows on the first) on the south side of the main structure. There are no windows on the east side of the main structure, although it appears at least one window has been bricked in between the first and second floors. The windows on the annex side were replaced prior to the purchase by the current owner. The two chimneys in the annex eastern side of the house remain mostly intact. The house has three bays on the main portion, three story (full third floor/attic with stairs, and full basement); and has one and half story two or four bay on the smaller annex side. The house had originally three chimneys, but only two remain on the annex side of the house. The annex portion, originally thought to have been constructed

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after the main portion, appears to pre-date the main portion of the house as evidenced by the stone foundation discovered during structural repairs, the stone foundation for the east gable wall chimney, the solid brick interior wall between the kitchen and dining room, and the earlier brick pattern on this portion of the house. John Seidel, archeologist, professor at Washington College, visited the site during the repair process to view the foundation to help date the structure. All archeological artifacts removed from the soil in the house and around the perimeter have been recovered and preserved. It is likely the kitchen stood separate from the original house, and was joined after some time to the larger structure by the addition of the dining room.

Earlier deeds indicate there were buildings and an orchard that pre-dated the Thomas Perkins sale of Hopeful Unity to Charles Groome for "three hundred and forty one pounds current money of Maryland" in 1761 (JS 29-185, Kent County; JS 29-354). The house underwent a major renovation in the 1860s by James Roseberry and at that time a Federal style roof line was likely created. The original entrance faces south, as evidenced by the position of the original staircase, the ornate entry, and the location of the water in the 1600's being on the south side of the house. Currently, the topography shows depression in the area where the water once was, but the creek is now completely filled with silt, although the creek was still existing when the 1860 map of the area (Martenet Map Third District, 1860) was penned. The house's current front entrance is now facing north, where the current driveway and road are located.

There is one other structure still standing on the property, a non-contributing cinder block garage of recent construction, located to the east of the house.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Hopeful Unity house is significant under Criterion C for its architectural character, as a representative example of mid-eighteenth century domestic architecture in the Eastern Shore region of Maryland. The quality of the design and construction of the house reflect the high socioeconomic status of its builder, Charles Groome, a founding vestryman at nearby IU Church (1767). Character-defining features include the side-passage plan, Flemish bond masonry, and stepped water table; these features are uncommon in rural contexts in the region. The house has recently benefited from a comprehensive rehabilitation following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

The period of significance, ca. 1761-ca. 1860, spans the period during which the house substantially achieved its historic and current form and appearance.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Architectural Context

The exterior of Hopeful Unity reflects an expression of the Georgian architecture that was seen in the middle of the eighteenth century in the colonies of the Mid-Atlantic region, and in specific to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The main portion of the house was most likely built after George Groome's acquisition of the property in 1761; the kitchen wing may incorporate an earlier structure. The raised foundation and full water table, along with the belt course, are details found on houses that were built for owners who had significant financial resources. Groome's wealth at death reflects he was at the upper end of the socioeconomic scale. The exact date of construction was not mentioned in any source documents available prior to the ownership of Hopeful Unity by Groome, but was referred to by Groome in his will as the "home plantation." The house is unusual in that houses of this type were more commonly found within a town or settlement, not standing alone in an agricultural setting. There are three other houses in the vicinity (Bordley-Usilton House in Chestertown, Hepbron's Choice in Still Pond, and Piney Grove in Quaker Neck), that appear to share similar design and construction. All three are dated to approximately 1770. Two were built by McCall Medford and Dr. William Bordley, who were peers of Groome and fellow founding vestrymen at the IU Church. The Friendship House (1783) is located in proximity to Hopeful Unity house as well as to the Lynch Meeting House and cemetery (1694), and are both located across what would have been the headwaters to Still Pond Creek. Aside from the Friendship House and the Lynch Meeting House, there is no evidence of any other surviving significant structures in the immediate area, apart from IU Church, which is a mile to the west. A map from the late 1800's (Martinet Map Third District, 1860) indicates there were several buildings, residences, a school and a mill on the banks of the headwaters of Still Pond Creek on the western shore across from the Hopeful Unity Farm.

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Resource History

The first documentary reference to buildings and orchards on the Hopeful Unity tract is in the transfer of the land in 1759 by widow Mary Watkins to Joseph Hopkins, son of Benjamin Hopkins. Benjamin Hopkins had left the land to Mary Watkins upon his death. Hopkins was the grandson of William Pearce. The first documented reference of the house itself was by Charles Groom in his will in 1801 and he referred to the house then as the "home plantation." The property was left to Sarah Groome in 1791 and after Sarah's death in 1800 was sold by James Groome to Samuel Wallis in 1802. Samuel Wallis left the property to his son Philip Wallis. In 1823 Philip Wallis sold the property to Unit Angier, and in the deed described the property as the "land on which the church Hopeful Unity was to be built". Unit Angier served in the House of Delegates in 1801. After Unit Angier's death, Hopeful Unity was sold in 1827 to Lewin Wethered. In 1849 Lewin Wethered sold the property called "The Groome Farm" to Clement Frederick Jones, a professor at Washington College. In 1876, Jones sold the farm to James Roseberry. The 1880 Federal Census listed the occupants of Hopeful Unity: J.C. Roseberry, born 1852, age 28, birthplace Maryland, spouse Edvina, mother/father born Maryland. He was listed as a farmer, white male, with household members: JC, 28; Edvina, 31; James 3; Jessie 6 months; H Nilson, 21; Mac Blake, 17; Cathe Walley 28; J. H. Kelley 30; Eliza Kelley, 25. The 1860 Martenet map showed the headwaters of Still Pond Creek still extending onto the Hopeful Unity Farm, and the road in front of the house varying from the current alignment.

Although predating the existing house, and therefore not included within the period of significance, the early history of the land upon which the building stands (and from which it takes its current name) is worthy of documentation.

The tract called Hopeful Unity ("the Hopefull Unities") was patented in 1682 on the developing Eastern Shore of Maryland by thirteen prominent men who purchased 150 acres at the headwaters of Still Pond Creek (then Steel Poole), which flowed directly into the Chesapeake Bay at that time. The original document was given on 12 May 1682 (established as a "partnership" documented by William Pearce in his will in 1721), and further documented on 16 October 1682 as a land grant of 150 acres named "Hopefull Unities". The purpose of the partnership of Hopeful Unity appears to have been to establish a church on the land (as documented by deed from Philip Wallis to Unit Angier in 1823). There is no documentation that the Hopeful Unity Church was ever constructed. The men came from various religious backgrounds to include Quakers, Anglicans, Protestants, and friends of Labadists. The original thirteen men were Charles James, John Howell, George Wardner/Warner (who established the first Cecil/Lynch Quaker Meeting House on the Eastern Shore on land bordering Hopeful Unity), Joseph Hopkins, William Pearce/Pierce/Pearce, Richard Pullen/Pullin, Ebenezer Blakestone/Blackiston/Blakiston, Benjamin Gunry/Gundry, Edward Blay, Robert Saunders/Sanders, John James, and William Hensley/Hemsley. These men were planters or merchants, military officers, and public officials in Cecil and Kent County. As leaders in their churches, they influenced early religious organization

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and development in the colony. Some of them participated in Reverend Colonel Cood's Glorious Protestant Revolution of 1689 (the first Revolution on American soil) and in doing so challenged the philosophy of separation of church and state in America. Several sat in the Maryland Assembly.

Edward Blay

served in the Royal Assembly Lower House, Cecil County, 1694- 1697 (elected to the 7th session); 1704-1707, Kent County, 1712-1713 (died before the 3rd session); Justice, Cecil County, 1685-1687, 1690-1692, 1694-1702 (quorum, 1702): Justice, Kent County, 1693 (refused to take the required oath), 1707-1713 (chief justice, 1708-1713); Commissioner 1684 Maryland, Cecil County. He was also a Captain, by 1696; Lieutenant Colonel, by 1707. He was Anglican, a member of Shrewsbury Parish Vestry, Cecil County, 1695-1696, 1704-1709, 1712. Born around 1653 and died around 1713. He was a second generation American born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. His son William married William Pearce's daughter Isabella. He was literate and a first son. Described as a planter and a gentleman. Owned Blay's Range and donated two acres of Blay's Addition to the Vestry in 1710 when South Sassafras Parish Church had been constructed. He was part of the commission that drew boundaries for Kent and Cecil County that remain until this day. Son married daughter of William Pearce.

Ebenezer Blackeston

was a Court Justice, 1702. Captain of a foot company in Worton and South Sassafras Hundred, 1689. Captain 1698. He was Anglican, a member of St. Paul's Parish, and owned pew 25. He was born around 1650 Northumberland England, and died 23/25 Oct 1709. In 1670 he married Elizabeth James, who died in 1680. On Apr 3 1683, "Ebenezer Blakiston of Cecil Co showed that Jon Blakiston of Kent Co died intestate in 1679 that Sarah his widow did not administer on his estate and is since also deceased giving by word and leaving when she died what belonged to ye orphan of ye said deceased to other persons and therefore the said Ebenezer prayed that he may administer on ye said Sarah her estate that he may secure ye estate to ye said orphan to whom in right it belongeth" which was granted. The court appointed him guardian of their only child, John, still a minor. (Test.Proc. Vol 3 p 272, Vol 13 p 23. Will book Vol 12 p 23). Descendant of Emperor Charlemagne. Owned Boxley in Rock Hall in 1674. Visited by Jasper Danckaerts, Labadist in 1679-1680.

James Frisby

defended Lord Baltimore's government against the Protestant Associators in 1689 (although he was first a Member, Associators Convention, 1684); he was recommended by Lord Baltimore to be on first Royal Council; he was removed by Gov. Lionel Copley in 1692, but restored by Gov. Francis Nicholson in 1694;

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he refused out of "Scruple of Conscience" to take the required oaths in October 1695 and was removed from the Court of Delegates. Lower House, Cecil County, 1676-1682, 1682-1684 (Accounts 2, 3; Laws 3), Associators Convention, Cecil County, 1689 (no evidence of attendance after the 1st session); Upper House, 1692 (did not attend the 1st session; dismissed before the second session) 1694-1697 (Accounts 1), 1697/98-1700, 1701-1704 (attended only the 1st session). Council, 1691-1692 (dismissed), 1694-1704. Justice, Cecil County, 1676-1685 (quorum, 1681-1685). Proprietary Assembly, 1676, Cecil County Rep. Justice of Baltimore County from 1665 to 1674. Royal Assembly 1712-1714, 1716-1718, 1719-1721. He was a Captain by 1683/84. He was Protestant. Born around 1651, and died 1704. Probably born in England. Immigrated from England by 1665 as a minor with his parents from Virginia. He was literate and probably sent his sons to England for their education. He was a planter and a merchant. His home was visited and documented in the journal of Jasper Danckaerts in 1679-1680, two years before Hopeful Unity was patented. He was paid for his services in the late expedition against the Nanticoke Indians in 1678.

Benjamin Gundry

Died 5 Jul 1708. Married Godfrey Harmar's daughter Mary in 1675.

Joseph Hopkins

was a Captain by 1679-1685. He was Court Justice, Cecil County (quorum) 1679-1685. He died 21 May 1686, wife mentioned but not named, administration account filed by Sarah Kennard. He patented in 1666 Buck Neck, near Worton, 493 acres. Related to William Pearce.

John Howell

was a Captain by 1689. He died by May 1703. Master of the ship Shield of Straton in 1689 - 1691. Visited by Jasper Danckaerts, Labadist, in 1679-1680.

William Hemsley

patented 550 acres called Pentridge in Broad Neck in 1670. He was born 20 Mar 1633 in Kent County and died 1694 in Talbot County, Maryland. In 1685 is called Captain in Commission; Sheriff of Kent County, 1663; Clerk of Talbot County, 1685. He served in the Lower House and was on the Commission to revise the laws of the Province, and along with Edward Blay was instrumental in dividing Kent and Cecil Counties into the boundaries of the counties existing as they are today.

Charles James

was a Member, Associators' Convention, Cecil County, 1684-1692; Grand Committee of Twenty, 1690-1692; Deputy surveyor, Baltimore County, 1671, Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, 1674-1676; Coroner, Cecil County, 1674-

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1676, Baltimore County, 1676; Sheriff, Cecil County, 1676 (dismissed after one month); Justice, Cecil County, 1690-1694. impeached by Assembly from posts as sheriff, coroner, and deputy surveyor for perjury and false imprisonment and ruled ineligible to hold public office again, 1676; the Revolution in 1689 brought his reentry into political office; countless disputes with other Cecil County officials, 1689-1692; removed from office by Gov. Francis Nicholson (1655-1727/28), 1694. He was Captain by 1689-1694, of a troop of horse. He was Protestant, probably Anglican, and belonged to the Shrewsbury Parish. Born in England, date unknown, he immigrated as a free adult in 1661. He was literate. He transported five others upon arrival in Maryland. He was a former merchant in London, merchant and planter in Maryland. He died essentially penniless in 1698. Owned Drayton Manor, 1200 acres patented to him in 1667.

John James

a Captain in Cecil County, he swore allegiance to King and Queen of England in 1696. He died 21 Jan, 1698/9. Commissioner of the Province, 1692. He was master of the ship Bohemia Brothers in 1689. Originally owned part of the land that was patented as the Hopeful Unity partnership when combined with the land of Col Vincent Lowe.

William Pearce

Proprietary Assembly, 1676, Cecil County Rep; High Sheriff of Cecil County, 1684-1688, 1698-1691, 1696-1699; Royal Assembly Lower House Cecil County 1682/83 (resigned to become Sheriff), 1694-1697, 1697/8 -1700, 1704-1707; Justice, Cecil County, 1676-1684, 1694. He fined for cheating the county while sheriff, 1699; found guilty of misappropriating levy, 1704. Captain, by 1688; Colonel by 1690; Naval Officer, Col William Pearce, appointed by Gov. Nicholson, 1694, resigned 1695. Active supporter of the Associator's Convention. He was Anglican, and a member of the South Sassafras Parish Vestry, Cecil County, 1693-1696, 1704-1705. Born around 1641 and died 1721. Born probably in England and probably immigrated in the late 1650's definitely by 1664, probably came as an indentured servant. Literate. Anglican. Probably the same William Pearce, who was a former servant of Thomas Mowell (?-1675). Col Pearce at age 73 "or thereabouts" testified in 1714 that he obtained a warrant for completion of service in 1661/62. He went on to testify that he then in 1663 patented 250 acres with another former servant, Robert Neife, in Maryland. Became a planter and owned Marshy Point (Wills Lib 1 fol 207 (1720). Held at death L1153 and 1450 acres. His great great grandson was a US Senator in 1862 (Hon James Alfred Pearce).

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Richard Pullen

yeoman, on 21 Aug 1660 was bound to serve John Woolcott for four years in MD (BRCO:134). He was a commissioner in 1684 in Cecil County. He was Quaker. He was married to Ann Gilbert Smith Ayres Queeney Pullen. He was assigned to a foot company of Capt John Norwood in 1662 but refused to serve for religious reasons.

Robert Sanders

was Quaker. His will in 1684 named wife Sarah as executrix and sole heir. Owned "Ivingoe", 200 acres in Cecil County. He arrived in Maryland by 1675, when he had land on the south side of Sassafras River.

George Warner

was a representative to the Lower House, Cecil County, 1692 (dismissed during the 1st session of the 1692-1693 Assembly because, as a Quaker, he did not subscribe to required oaths). Justice, Cecil County, 1681-1687 (omitted from list of new commissioners on June 9, 1687, when the Council made alterations in the commissions after taking into consideration "the ill state of the County of Cecil at present"), 1688-1691/92 Commissioner, Cecil County. A Quaker and therefore ineligible for office after 1692. Delayed taking oaths as Justice under the Protestant Associators' government following the revolution in 1689. But did sign an address and took a loyalty oath earlier. He was Protestant by 1689, but later followed the Quaker religion. He reported to the Maryland General Assembly with Stephen Coleman (1694), and said that "a weekly meeting settled in Cecil County (later Kent) and a meeting house lately built." Land donated by him to the Quaker Meeting: two acres. He was Quaker by 1692. Born by 1657, died 1703. First son, probably born in Maryland, probably second generation. Married daughter of Joseph Hopkins, his second marriage. He was known as a planter and merchant. He was literate. Although later Quaker, he did keep slaves until his death.

Charles Groome

Family came from Middlesex, England, and belonged to a group of Quakers that were very vocal and imprisoned in England at times by the King due to their religious beliefs.

Charles' father was described as a mariner, and was a commissioner and justice of the peace for Kent County in 1740 and 1743 (Commission Book in Maryland Historical Society). He was elected churchwarden of St. Paul's Parish, April 11th, 1726 (St. Paul Parish Records).

Charles was born March 2, 1732, and died March 29th, 1791. He was one of nine

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children. He was described as a farmer, and purchased from Thomas Perkins a tract called Hopefull Unity, 150 acres, February 20th, 1761 (Kent Co Deeds. Liber JS). He was made registrar of Chester Parish, Kent County, Maryland, February 4th, 1766, shortly after the parish had been created by an Act of Assembly from parts of St. Paul's Parish and Shrewsbury Parish. He held this position until the day of his death. An inventory of his estate, filed July 21st 1791 (Kent County, MD, Inventories) showed that he died possessed of 25 negro slaves. He died of small pox.

The land held by Charles' Groom at the time of his death and bequeathed in the above will was disposed of by his heirs as follows: John Groome sold his interest in the tract called Tilden's Forest to his brother Charles Groome, May 2nd 1801; Sarah Kennard Groome, widow and executrix of Charles Groome, having died September 11th, 1800, James Groome sold the tracts known as Hopefull Unity, Pope's Chance, and Ricketts' Farm to Samuel Wallis, March 2nd, 1802.

Charles Groome married first Martha Dunn, daughter of Robert Dunn and Anne (Miller) Dunn of Broadnox, Kenty County MD and had the following children: Daniel b 28 Oct 1758, d 9 Nov 1805; James b 18 Sep 1760, d 1824; Martha b 12 Feb 1763; Sarah b 20 Feb 1765m, d 25 Apr 1798; Charles b 25 Feb 1767, d 27 Jul 1824; Dr. John (physician) b 2 May 1769, d 18 May 1830; William b 19 Mar 1771, d prior to 1788. Then, Charles married Sarah Kennard and had the following children: Milcah b 2 Sep 1773, d 2 Sep 1792; Ann b 23 Jul 1775; Samuel b 7 May 1777, d 14 Mar 1828; Henrietta b 23 Mar 1779 (married William Pearce); Elizabeth b 20 Apr 1781, d Oct 1794; Mary b 2 Mar 1785; William b 13 Jun 1788, d 9 Jan 1869; Joseph b 3 Oct 1791.

Charles' grandson Colonel John Groome (b 8 Jun 1800, d 30 Nov 1866), was a Senator, and then ran for Governor in 1857. He was defeated after receiving the Democratic endorsement and the majority of the vote of the state outside of the city of Baltimore. He served as aide-de-camp on the staff of Thomas Ward Veazey, Governor of MD, 1835-1838. Col John Groome's son, James Black Groome (b 24 Apr 1838, d 4 Oct 1893) was elected to the MD House of Delegates in 1871 and 1873. In 1874, Charles' great-grandson James Black Groome was elected Governor of Maryland. He was Senator in the US Senate from 1879 to 1885 and from 1886 to 1890 he held the office of Collector of Customs at Baltimore, having been appointed by President Cleveland. His other son Dr. Samuel Groome (b

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26 Jul 1802, d 11 May 1843), physician, was elected cornet of the Elkton Troop of Cavalry in 1824. Also notable family members descendants included Major Harry Connelly Groome and Captain John Groome.

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HOPEFUL UNITY DEED CHAIN:

Land Office (Patent Record)

Dates: 1679-1683

Description: Liber 21, folio 454, Charles James et al

Accession No: 17, 355-2

MSA No: S11-25

Location: 1/23/1/26

Land Office (Patent Record)

Dates: 1681-1684

Description: Liber CB3, folio 517-518, Charles James et al

Accession No: 17,360

MSA No: S11-30

Location: 1/23/1/31

Will from William Pearce, 1720 to Benjamin Hopkins, by survivorship: MBW 16:333.

Deed transfer from Mary Watkins (widow of Benjamin Hopkins) to Joseph Hopkins: KELR JS 29:159, 1759.

Deed transfer from Joseph Hopkins to Thomas Perkins: KELR JS 29:185, 1759.

Deed transfer from Thomas Perkins to Charles Groome: KELR: JS 29:354, 1761,

Deed transfer from Philip Wallis (trustee for Samuel Wallis) to Unit Angier: KELR: TW 4:349; 1823.

Deed transfer from Ezekiel Chambers, Esq (Chancery Court Record 125, pg 379; to settle estate of Unit Angier) to Lewin Wethered: KELR: HG 1:73-75, 1827.

Deed transfer from Lewin Wethered to Clement Jones; KELR: JR: 1:1849, RW 22-24, 1849.

Deed transfer from James Groome (Sarah Groome, deceased, 11 Sep 1800) to Samuel Wallis: KELR: TW: 2:212, 1802.

Deed transfer from Clement Jones to James Roseberry: KELR: JKH 6:263, 1867.

Deed transfer from Samuel Roseberry (foreclosure) to Mary Skirven via Richard Hyson and Charles Westcott, trustees: KELR: SB 2:211, 1881.

Deed transfer from Mary Skirven to Frederick Cornelius, KELR: JTD 11:91, 1905.

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Deed transfer from Frederick and Sarah Cornelius to C. Clarence and Mamie Baker: KELR: APR 2:288, 1917.

Deed transfer from C. Clarence and Mamie Baker to Percy and Reba Meeks: KELR: RAS 24:586, 1940.

Deed transfer from Percy Meeks will record 8:160, left to Wilson L Meeks and Ivan W. Meeks then to living grandchildren, equally, share and share alike 15 May 1977,1978.

Deed transfer from

Rebecca Nicholson	421, 893
Carole Chance	421, 897
Francis Bolton	421, f101
Thomas Meeks	453, f339
R. Ervin Meeks	453, f343
Lee Meeks aka Ivan Lee	453, f347
Lawrence Meeks	453, 351
Larry Meeks	453, 355
Charlotte Veasey	453, 359
Margaret Scoppettudo	453,363

each deed to Roger Reed

Deed transfer from Roger Reed to Kathy McGraw, 2008.

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Blackistone, E.: ARMD 13:244, 23:177, 25:26, 25:125; CFES 1:37; MDEP:14; INAC 32B:106
Blay: ARMD 5:533, 17:381, 23:20, 24:151, 25:125, 29:204; BDML I:138; MDEP:15; INKC:156; INAC 35A:372.

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Cecil Meeting House, 1696, K-230. MSA.

Danckaerts, J. (1679-1680) *Journal of Jasper Danckaerts. 5th, Tuesday.*
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/23258/3258.txt> : (mentions Howell, Blackiston, and Frisby; reference 238, beginning the 12th Tuesday).

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Frisby, J: ARMD 7:95, 8:23, 15:255, 15:236, 24:40; BDMLI:331; MDWB 3:268.

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Hopkins, J: ARMD 15:255, 15:326, 17:381; CFES 2:209; INAC 9:508; MDWB 4:188.

Howell, J.: ARMD 8:236, 8:238, 27:242; INAC 23:42

James, C: ARMD 8:458-459, 8:474, 13:244, 20:111; BDML II:481; INCC:135; INAC 23:98

James, J: ARMD 8:236, 15:255, 15:326, 20:545; MDWB 6:247

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Land Patents of Cecil County, 1674: Robert Saunders patent for "Ivingoe"

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Papenfuse, E., et al. (1979, 1985) *Historical List Proprietary Assembly of 1676-1682*. Annapolis, MD. MSA.

Papenfuse, E., et al. (1979, 1985) *Historic List Protestant Associators' Convention of 1689-1692*. Annapolis., MD. MSA.

Pearce, W. Will: MBW 16:333,

Peden, H. (2008). *Colonial Maryland Soldiers and Sailors, 1634-1734*. Heritage Books.

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Protestant Revolution: Talbot County Land Record, NN no. 6, f. 317

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1880 Federal Census

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Geographical Data

Lat/Long Coordinates: 39 17'35.44" N 76 04'25.87" W

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries are recorded among the Land Records of Kent County, Maryland in Liber 563, folio 548.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, 6 acres, represents the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource. The surrounding acreage (now under different ownership, but historically part of the original farm) remains in agricultural use and is protected by an agricultural preservation easement.

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National Park Service

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Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: K-231
Name of Property: Hopeful Unity
Location: Kent County, Maryland
Photographer: Peter Kurtze
Date taken: August 2011
Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

File name	Caption
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0001	Stair
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0002	West room, facing southwest
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0003	West room, southwest corner
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0004	Dining room, facing southeast
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0005	Kitchen, facing southeast
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0006	Dining room, facing west
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0007	West room, facing northeast
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0008	South facade
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0009	View from southeast
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0010	View from northwest
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0011	North facade
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0012	View from northeast
MD_KentCounty_HopefulUnity_0013	Garage (non-contributing)



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hopeful Unity
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MARYLAND, Kent

DATE RECEIVED: 7/03/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/24/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/18/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000526

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.18.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary
Wendi W. Peters, Deputy Secretary

July 2, 2015

RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 3 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 I (eye) St., NW
Mail Stop 2280
Washington, DC 20005

RE: HOPEFUL UNITY
Kent County, Maryland

Dear Mr. Loether: *Paul*

Enclosed is documentation for nominating Hopeful Unity, Kent County, Maryland to the National Register of Historic Places. The state review board and the owners concur in my recommendation for listing. The photographs are more than two years old, but still represent the property as it is today. Should you have questions in this matter, please contact Peter Kurtze at (410) 514-7649.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hughes
Acting Director-State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc: State Clearinghouse #MD20110718-0562
Enclosures: NR form and 21 continuation sheets
1 USGS map
13 - 5x7 b/w prints
1 - CD

Correspondence: letter, Janey to Little, 6 October 2011
letter, Little to McGraw, 15 February 2012
letter, Kurtze to McGraw, 23 March 2012