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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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SSCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

'lifton is located on the east side of Colesville Road, Maryland Route 65, just north of the intersection of Ednor Road, Cedar Lane and Colesville Road, and south of the intersection of Maryland Route 108 and Colesville Road at Ashton, Maryland.

Clifton is a one and a half story gambrel-roofed brick structure with a lower north wing, also with gambrel roof. The main part of the house has four bays, with the entrance in the second bay from the south end. There are segmental brick restraining arches over each of the first floor openings; the windows in the main (west) facade are nine over nine with the frames flush with the outer wall plane. The brick is laid up in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Three dormer windows have six over six lights; their shed roofs are carried forward at the same pitch as that of the higher part of the gambrel roof.

The north and south ends have massive internal brick chimneys. On the south end, there are small windows on either side of the stack and a small window at the second floor level on the east end. On the first floor of this end, a funeral door is at the west side and a window, surrounded by a framed section, at the east side; the framed insert suggest a possible extension of the house southerly or another door at some past time. The north end has windows on either side of the stack in the attic and one at the west end on the second floor; at the ground floor level, there is a window in the west end and a door with an exposed wooden lintel (now opening into the north wing) on the east end. At the level of the boxed cornice, a three-brick tall corbel covers the end of the cornice; the present cornice and mouldings are reconstructed. The end chimneys also show signs of reconstruction above the second floor level.

The foundation is soapstone with two courses of brick, thicker than the walls above, laid atop it. The brick courses serve as an unmoulded water table.

The window and door frames have heavy sills and a bead around the interior edge of the framing.

The interior has been restored with some changes. The northwest room has a corner cupboard and panelled mantlepiece. In the northeast room, the mantle is a simple board and the arch of the fireplace is exposed within the panel surround. The southeast room has a plastered fireplace. In the southeast and northeast rooms, the windows are larger than in the west rooms. All rooms have a chair rail. The doors are all four-panel, with the panels projecting beyond the surrounding stiles. Baseboards have a bead along the upper edge. Walls are plastered directly on the brick. The roof is modern, with no ridgepole, common rafters, and milled sheathing boards.

The addition to the north has a boxed staircase with vertical beaded boarding in the northeast corner. The beams (now exposed) are hand hewn. The windows are six over six with smaller mullions than in the windows of the south part of the house. A fireplace in the south wall shares the north chimney of the main house block. A staircase with three risers connects the lower addition with the main house block. S

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian 15th Century	 16th Century 17th Century 	 18th Century 19th Century 	🔲 20th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) after	1742	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	🔲 Urban Planning
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3 Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
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Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clifton is one of the few extant mid-eighteenth century buildings in Montgomery County. The date is important because at the time the county was part of the frontier as was the surrounding piedmont. The structure has survived in an excellent state of preservation retaining the majority of the original fabric.

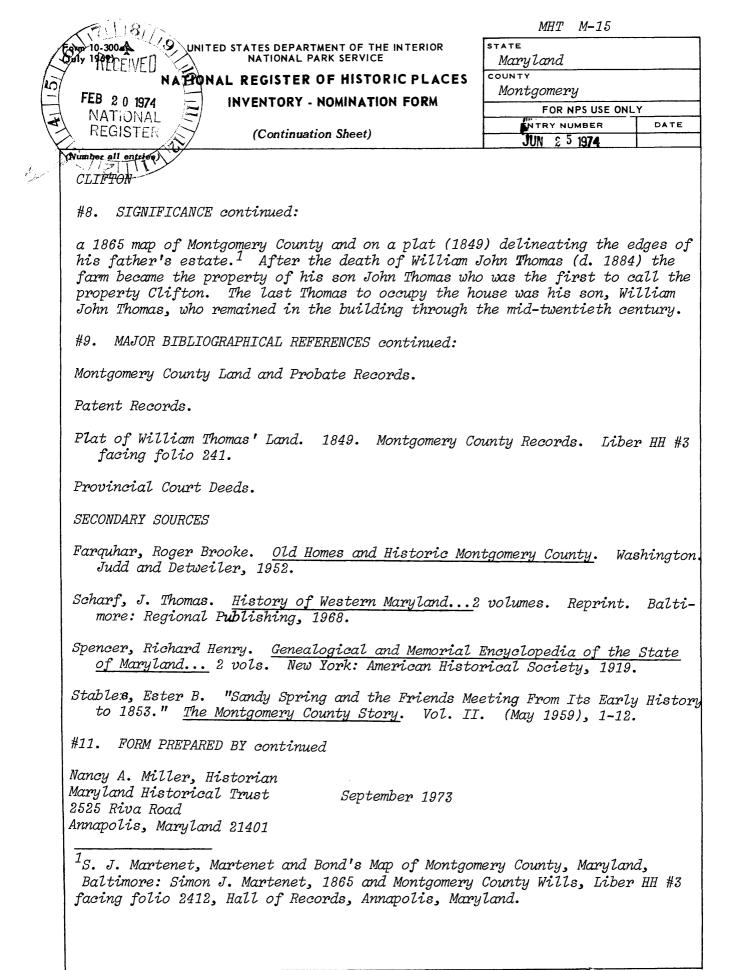
From the viewpoint of architectural history the brick gambrel roof structure arouses great interest. The form, especially the roof construction, is not typical of this region, but rather of southern Maryland or the Eastern Shore. The explanation lies in the fact that the builder's family was from southern Anne Arundel County where brick gambrel roof houses were commonly constructed in the first half of the century, e.g., Larkin's Hill Farm.

Clifton also has significance in relation to local history for it is associated with the first settlement of the area. The first settler, James Brooke, arrived in the first quarter of the century. His wife's sister and husband, James Thomas, arrived shortly thereafter. The Brooke and Thomas families formed the nucleus of a Quaker community which by 1753 had been organized into the Sandy Spring Meeting of Friends. Clifton is contemporary with the origins of the meeting, its association has significance because the meeting house was not constructed until 1819.

The history of Clifton begins with another prominent Quaker, Richard Snowden (d. 1763). Snowden owned vast tracts of land in Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Montgomery counties and operated the Patuxent Iron Works, a major eighteenth century Maryland industry. One of the first tracts Snowden acquired was Snowden's Manor -- one thousand acres for which he received a patent in 1715. In the 1740's he sold part of it to Philip Thomas, the founder of the Quaker family. Thomas was Snowden's daughter's fatherin-law. Two decades later Philip Thomas sold the tract to John Thomas as his ". . indefeazable [sic] estate of inheritance. . . Together with all Houses, Edifices, Buildings, Pastures Gardens Commons Rents Services Emoluments Cultivations and Improvements. . ." This last phrase coupled with the architectural assessment indicates that the building dates from circa 1760.

Since John Thomas had no children he willed the house and farm to his great nephew William John Thomas whose presence at Clifton is indicated in (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RI	FERENCES								
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Debt	Books. (Freder	ick County).	•							
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE Maryland					
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#9. REFE	RENCES continued						
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