

AH0015733

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Talbot
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 25 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Compton

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: W of Trappe  
Northside of Howell Point Road

CITY OR TOWN: Trappe CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Talbot CODE: 041

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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"/> Comments
<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: Charles F.C. Arensberg

STREET AND NUMBER: Compton

CITY OR TOWN: Trappe STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Talbot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Easton STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

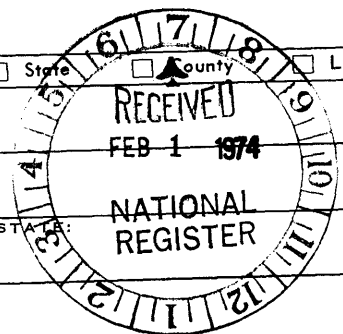
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Talbot

ENTRY NUMBER: 33

DATE: JUL 25 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Compton is located on Grubbin Neck, 2 miles southwest of the town of Trappe, overlooking LaTrappe Creek. Approach to the house is gained on a narrow lane which, after it leads through the woods, makes an abrupt left into an allée of maples and cedars.

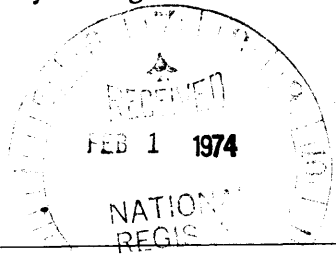
It is a relatively simple, two part brick dwelling, laid in Flemish bond, which is the result of two major building periods and subsequent minor alterations. The main part sits above a basement which has segmental arches, above the windows and a quarter-round molded water table. Its southwest facade is five bays long with a three brick belt course between floors. The gables have the remains of a two-brick beltcourse slightly lower than that on the facade. Three dormers light the third floor rooms on both sides of the A roof. Within both gables is a single chimney servicing two fireplaces each.\* The one and one-half story kitchen-dining room wing is built close to the ground and is set back from the main facade by about twelve feet. Its northeast wall is even with the back wall of the catslide extension of the main house. The fenestration is irregular, and there are two chimneys assymmetrically placed. The brick color and joints are reminiscent of the 1790 wing of Myrtle Grove, Talbot County, with considerably more refinement than the main block.

The interior is divided into four rooms, two halls and a bath. The woodwork throughout is the same, with country Federal mantels, chair rail, cabinets adjoining the fireplace in the dining room and Library, and a stair which extends to the attic. The doors into the two small rooms, now used as baths are two-panel doors hung on wrought H hinges, whereas the other doors are six-panel and are hung on cast butt hinges.

These two doors, along with a single original window in the second floor bath, the huge arches in the cellar, the lower belt course on the gable walls and the segmental arches in the basement are traces of the original house. Judging from the similarity between these features and those of Hampden, across the creek, as well as the 1798 tax assessment, it can be fairly well conjectured that the original house was a one and one-half story 'L' plan building, built around the second quarter of the eighteenth century.

After 1798, Samuel Stevens, the Governor, added the second story and garret and the kitchen-dining wing. At this period, he changed the floor plan and renewed all of the woodwork with the exception of the two aforementioned

\* On the northeast side, overlooking the allée, is a two-story porch across four of the five bay facade, the other bay being a small catslide extension.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 25 1974

(Number all entries)

Compton

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

doors.

In the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the living room windows and the southwest windows of the library were lengthened and probably re-trimmed inside. Later, however, the trim was replaced by copies of the trim on the two un-lengthened windows. Other alterations include moving the kitchen door to the gable and changing the southwest window to the place of the original door. The southwest hall door may have been a lengthening of a former window.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <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/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Compton is important because it has elements of early eighteenth century vernacular architecture which have been largely incorporated in the early nineteenth century additions. As such it contributes greatly to the knowledge of early Maryland domestic buildings. The type house it became during Samuel Stevens ownership indicates something of the man who was to be one of Maryland's Governors. Also of importance is the existence of a two-story brick milkhouse, with the first story standing below a moat-like retaining wall, and the allée of large old maple trees on the northside of the dwelling.

Compton was the home of Samuel Stevens (1778-1860) eighteenth Governor of Maryland. He intermittently represented Talbot County in the House of Delegates from 1807 to 1820. On December 9, 1822, he was elected to the first of three terms as Governor. Stevens' tenure is remembered for the enfranchisement of the Jews, the abolition of a religious test for Maryland office holders, the extension of the civil liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to State law, and the creation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. During Lafayette's visit to the United States (1824) Governor Stevens rode from Compton to meet him wearing 'swallow-tailed blue jeans (sic), home-spun coat, with brass buttons.'<sup>1</sup>

After Stevens' last term in Annapolis he returned to Compton which he had inherited from his father in 1794. He gave the building its present configuration adding the one and one-half story east wing and raising the initial stage of the house to two stories.

<sup>1</sup> Frank White, The Governors of Maryland 1777-1970, Annapolis, 1970, 84.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Arensberg, Charles F.C. and James M. Arensberg. "Compton, Talbot County." Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. 48. (September 1953), 215-226.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Talbot County, Bullenbrook Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

White, Frank. The Governors of Maryland 1777-1970. Annapolis: Hall of Records, 1970.

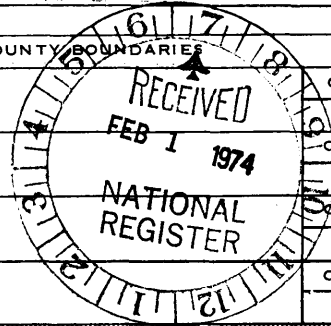
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	38 ° 38 ' 38 "	76 ° 06 ' 31 "		0	0	
NE	38 ° 38 ' 29 "	76 ° 06 ' 09 "				
SE	38 ° 38 ' 16 "	76 ° 06 ' 18 "				
SW	38 ° 38 ' 25 "	76 ° 06 ' 40 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 57 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Bourne and Nancy Miller

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: May 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 Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date August 2, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

A. R. Mortensen  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/25/74

ATTEST:  
Ronald M. Greenberg  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/22/74