

PH0015741

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maryland</b>
COUNTY: <b>Talbot</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUL 24 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Crooked Intention**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**W of MD 33**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**St. Michaels**

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. Gustave A. Van Lennep**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Crooked Intention**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**St. Michaels**

STATE:  
**Maryland**

CODE:  
**24**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Easton**

STATE:  
**Maryland**

CODE:  
**24**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

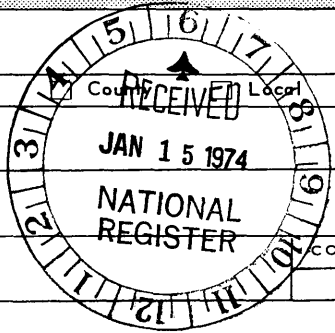
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maryland**

COUNTY: **Talbot**

ENTRY NUMBER: **1574**

DATE: **JUL 24 1974**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the north bank of San Domingo Creek and one-half mile west of Saint Michael's is Crooked Intention, an early eighteenth century dwelling. This one-and-one-half-story brick structure is three bays wide with wings on both the east and west ends. The west wing was added in 1956 by the present owners. The original house had a symmetrical roof, two rooms, and a one room kitchen. The north facades of the main house and east wing were pushed out approximately eight and one-half feet probably in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. All the windows on the north side have batten shutters. Facing north the main section is brick laid in flemish bond and painted white. The catslide roof is covered with wood shingles. The entrance in the central bay has a six-panel door and is protected by a small hood. The closed sides are recent additions. Flanking the entrance are two eight over eight sash windows. The door and windows all have simple frames. The dormers, with six over six sash and steep gable roofs, are contemporary with the deepening of the house. There is one above the east window and a second between the door and west window.

The east and west gables are both laid in common bond with glazed headers, three rows of stretchers to each row of headers. Each end also has an inside end chimney. The east end, north of the east wing, has a tiny four light casement window in the first story and a six light casement window in the gable. The west end, north of the west wing, has a tiny four light casement window on the first floor and a larger four light casement window in the gable. The gable window on this end was changed from four over four sash to four light when the west wing was added. The first story window was also added at this time. The louvered opening north of the chimney was a four light window.

The east wing, two bays wide and one room deep, is also one-and-one-half stories. The north side is laid in common bond with glazed headers like the ends of the main house. The door on this facade is in the west bay and is also protected by a small hood. The east window situated close to the door, has six over six sash. The narrow, four over four light dormers above the door and between the window and east end, are reproductions of an original one on the south side.

The east end of this wing vividly displays the change in brickwork occasioned by the northern extension. The older part, on the south, is laid in common bond with seven rows of stretchers to each row of headers which are unglazed. The extension, however, is laid in common bond with three courses of stretchers to each course of glazed headers. The inside end chimney is flanked by two four-light casement windows,

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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 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 checked="" 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

Crooked Intention is an excellent example of an early eighteenth century tidewater Maryland dwelling. Basically unaltered, it retains a great deal of its original woodwork.

Crooked Intention was first so called in 1681 when Hugh Sherwood was granted a patent for 130 acres in Talbot County, Maryland. According to one legend Sherwood had planned to return to England, but this intention was never fulfilled as he decided to settle in Maryland instead.<sup>1</sup> He thus bought land here and named it "Crooked Intention" to signify his revised plans for his future.

Nine years later in 1690, Sherwood sold 50 acres of the tract to Robert Harrison. Harrison then left this to his son Robert, seemingly still unimproved, in his will of 1717. This second Harrison probably built the brick one-and-one-half story house that is extant today soon after he acquired the property. Although there is no record of this, it was in existence at least by 1753 when Harrison died, leaving his "now Dwelling plantation with all the Dwelling houses, outhouses," etc. to his wife, Elizabeth, to be transferred to his son Joseph in the event of her death or remarriage.

Crooked Intention's next owner was Thomas Harrison, the above-mentioned Joseph Harrison's son. It was he who began the mercantile business that eventually became one of the most prosperous businesses in the area and led to the establishment of the town of Saint Michaels. In The History of Talbot County, Oswald Tilghman describes Thomas Harrison as "an independent merchant whose large transactions in tobacco and other country products and whose stocked store of imported goods, were important factors in the growth of a town in his immediate vicinage."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pratt, Richard. The Golden Treasury of Early American Houses, (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1967), p. 67.

<sup>2</sup>Tilghman, Oswald. A History of Talbot County, Maryland 1661-1861 (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967), p. 378.  
(See Continuation Sheet #3)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Forman, H. Chandlee. Tidewater Maryland, Architecture and Gardens. New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.

Talbot County Land Records and Wills. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Tilghman, Oswald. History of Talbot County Maryland 1661-1681, Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Company, 1915.

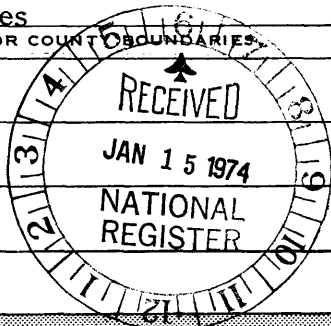
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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 ° 46 ' 44 "	76 ° 13 ' 53 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **four 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:  
**Ann Hill, Pamela James, Summer Interns**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust**      DATE: **August 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

Date January 11, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

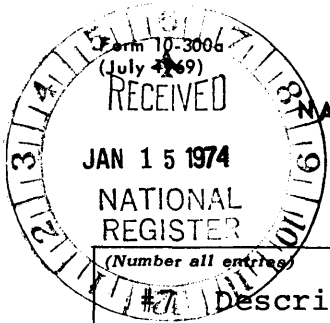
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

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

Date 7/24/74

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-19-74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 24 1974

(Number all entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

the north one slightly higher than the southern. The chimney rises above the roof immediately south of the ridge. There is a distinct line in the brickwork indicating the original north edge of the chimney.

The south side of the wing is three bays wide with the center and east bays combined equalling the east bay on the north side. The east six over six light window is located very close to the center door. In the west bay is a second window of identical size, located close to the main house. The brickwork between this window and the door indicates some type of change has occurred. This door also has a hood shielding it. The dormer above the east window is a copy of the original dormer located between the door and west window.

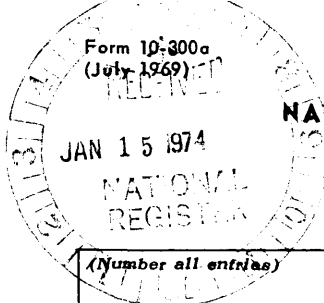
The south facade of the main section is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Its fenestration is identical to that on the north facade. A porch extends across the entire width and is supported by six square posts with chamfered edges. There is a six over six light dormer window above each first story window.

The modern west wing is a very successful addition to the older sections. It is also one-and-one-half stories with a gable roof and is laid in Flemish bond brickwork. The north side has an eight over eight light window in each bay while the south side has an identical window in the west bay and a door in the east one. There is a dormer above the door and window on the south side and between the two windows on the north facade.

The west end of this wing also has an inside chimney. On the first floor is a six over six sash window in the north bay and a tiny two light casement window in the south bay, In the gable, just north of the chimney, is a nine light casement window.

Typical of a house of this period Crooked Intention originally was a two-room dwelling. When the north side was extended the living room was enlarged and a small room was formed off the dining room. The fireplace wall in the living room retains its original panelling which was installed when the house was widened. The fireplace has a simple rectangular molded architrave framing the arched brick opening. The fireplace of this period was built within the large original fireplace which was spanned by a large oak beam. Above the fireplace are six panels. There is no mantel shelf. Left of the fireplace

(See Continuation Sheet #2)



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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUL 24 1974

(Number all entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

is the doorway into the west wing. To the right is a china closet with four lights in each of the two doors with a tiny closet to the right. At the extreme right steps lead to an enclosed, winding stairway. The door to this stairway retains its original hardware. Surrounding the room is a molded wood cornice and a chair rail with beaded upper and lower edges. The summer beam indicates the original end of the house.

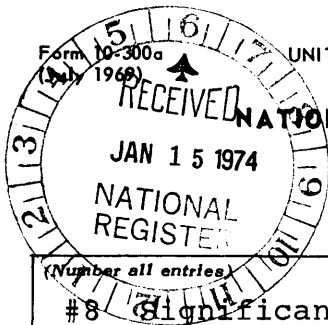
The dining room originally had a staircase where the present fireplace is located. In the late eighteenth century the fireplace was installed with a molded architrave and dentil molding beneath the cornice. The overmantel consists of a single large recessed panel. There is a china closet to the right of the fireplace. A cornice and chair rail surround the room.

The doorway from the dining room into the sitting room is very low. This small room has been further divided to provide for a bath and closet.

The kitchen, in the east wing, has a large, brick, projecting fireplace. The brick, laid in common bond with four courses of stretchers to one of headers, forms a segmental arch over the opening. Beaded panelling flanks the fireplace, housing a closet to the right and an enclosed staircase to the left. The kitchen has exposed beams in the ceiling and a floor that is part brick, laid in a herringbone pattern, and part wood.

On the second story a hall runs along the north side of the main house. The single-board beaded partition in the hall retains its original blue paint. The southeast room also has the same blue panelled walls. This room has a small, arched, brick fireplace flanked by two closets. The tiny closet to the right opens into a crawlspace connecting with the room above the kitchen. The southwest room is much the same but without a fireplace. The door frames are molded and have a beaded inner edge.

The original brick smokehouse still stands southeast of the house. Laid in all stretcher bond, voids in the brickwork form a diamond pattern in the gables. Just north of this is the beaded clapboard dairy which is from Chance's Hope.



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

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 24 1974	

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

Harrison conducted his trade from his farm, the land patented as Crooked Intention but apparently no longer called by that name. A warehouse stood close by his home on the bank of (San Domingo) Creek, and the traders and planters of Talbot and Dorchester Counties brought their tobacco and other goods there to trade for foreign goods. The local products were then sent to Europe and elsewhere in ships leaving from the port of Saint Michaels. Harrison made out well with this and left a flourishing business to his son Samuel when he died in 1802.

About four years later, Samuel Harrison had Crooked Intention and other lands he owned resurveyed and consolidated into a single tract which he called Canton. In 1810, he moved his mercantile business from his farm less than a mile to the town of Saint Michaels. He carried on foreign trade up until this move, but conducted it through the port of Baltimore rather than directly through Saint Michaels as his father had done.<sup>3</sup>

Harrison was also involved in other commercial ventures, including the operation of a mill and the building of ships. He had for a time a "horse mill" on Canton farm from which he made a fair profit. Then in 1819 he took part of the machinery from this mill and combined it with newer machinery to create the first steam mill on the Eastern Shore. He had hoped that this mill, which was to supply flour for the West Indian and South American trade, would be at least as profitable as the first one had been. Instead, it cost a great deal and paid very little. The first successful steam mill on the Eastern Shore was not built for another two decades.<sup>4</sup>

Harrison shared his involvement in shipbuilding, it being mainly as a source of capital for more skilled but less soluble men, with Crooked Intention's next owner, Colonel Perry Spencer, a shipyard owner. There seems to be no record of the transition in ownership between Harrison and Spencer, but it is possible that the former sold the land after he moved his business from Canton farm to Saint Michaels circa 1810. But, however it came to Spencer, he left about 176 acres of Canton to his daughter, Eleanor Spencer Harrison, wife of Alexander B. Harrison, at his death in 1821. (It is unclear what relation, if any, Alexander B. Harrison bore towards Samuel Harrison). The land was then

<sup>3</sup> IBID., p. 379.

<sup>4</sup> IBID., p. 390-391.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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

(Continuation Sheet) #4

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 24 1974

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

owned by members of the Harrison family until the death of Mrs. Mary Eneanor Harrison Ruth in 1892. Senator Richard S. Dodson owned it from 1915 to 1945. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Van Lennep, purchased a little over seven acres of Canton farm, including the circa 1720 brick house, in 1947. They added a wing to this house in 1956 and changed its name back to Crooked Intention to avoid confusion with other buildings on Canton farm.

