Survey No. T-886

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Locust Hill

2. Location

street & number Cockey Road ___ not for publication

city, town Claiborne ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John T. and Julie S. Cockey Jr.

street & number telephone no.: 745-5049

city, town Claiborne state and zip code MD 21624

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 663

street & number folio 536

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-886

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Locust Hill is located off of Route 451 at the end of Cockey Road on Tilghman Creek in Claiborne, Talbot County, Maryland. The house faces south, with the principle gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Locust Hill, built before 1912, is a three bay, two-story, frame structure sheathed in wood shingles. The house is roofed with asphalt shingles and supported by a brick pier foundation infilled with new bricks.

The south (main) elevation has a central four-panel door flanked on either side by one two-over-two sash window with wide, white surrounds and green batten shutters. A gable roofed portico extends out over the central door and has been enclosed with screening to make a small front porch. The second floor is lit by two two-over-two sash windows with wide, white surrounds and green, batten shutters.

The east elevation is lit on the first floor by two two-over-two sash windows with wide, white surrounds which project slightly. The second floor is lit by two two-over-two sash windows with wide, white surrounds and green, batten shutters. A small, louvered vent is placed at the attic level. To the north is a two-story addition sheathed in shingles with a slightly sloping asphalt shingle roof. This addition, which was originally screened, is lit on the first and second floor by six one-over-one sash windows with narrow surrounds.

The north elevation consists of a two-story gable end as the western most bay, lit on the first floor by two six-over-six sash windows with wide, white surrounds and green, batten shutters. The second floor is lit by one two-over-two sash window with wide, white surrounds, and green, batten shutters. A louvered vent pierces the attic level. A two-story addition with a slightly sloping roof stretches to the east, lit on the first story by five one-over-one sash windows with narrow surrounds and a six-light door. The second story is lit by three one-over-one sash windows with narrow surrounds.

The west elevation has a gable end as the southern most wing. Both the first and second floors of this gable end are lit by one two-over-two sash window with wide, white surrounds and green, batten shutters. The northern bay consists of a three light over two-panel door with a gable roof

8. Significance

Survey No. T-886

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national X state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cockeys named their home Locust Hill because of the rise of land on which it sits surrounded by locust trees. As early as 1867 a certificate of survey for John Hansel Tunis records the existence of a steam mill on this site. Ten years later this complex had grown to include a wharf extension from the steam mill into the water, an oyster house, and seven unnamed structures shown in the 1877 Atlas and an 1877 Plat of the area. No structures are identified in this location in the 1902 USGS map of this area nor in the 1912 Plat of Claiborne. All seem to have been razed before the Cockey house was constructed. The current owner, John Tunis Cockey, notes that there are many bricks both scattered around the property and in the water of Tilghman Creek. These bricks are all that remain of the Tunis complex here.

In 1935 John Tolson and Louis K. Cockey purchased this house and the property from the Maple Hall estate. At that time the house was a simple central hall, single pile house, with an attached shed roof kitchen on the north side. From old photographs it is easy to see this one-story, shed roof, weatherboard structure lit by two-over-two sash windows and finished with corner boards. An exterior brick chimney was placed on the building's northern end. Tenant farmers had been living on the property prior to the Cockey's purchase. One of the old glass panes in the house has the name "Lewis" scratched on it.

The Cockeys removed the summer kitchen and constructed a two-story addition in its place to enlarge the house. In1936 they built the first wing of The Roost to house laying chickens. One year later John Tolson Cockey built an addition to The Roost. John Tolson Cockey kept the egg business going until the 1940s when The Roost was converted into living quarters. He and his wife then took summer guests which overflowed from

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-886

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Architectural Historian

organization Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission date 12/31/91

street & number telephone

city or town Easton state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCE
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

portico supported by square posts. The second story is lit by one six-over-six window with wide, white surrounds and green, batten shutters.

There are three outbuildings on the property. One is a small wooden chicken coop with a tin roof. The second structure is a large, rectangular wooden shed with a tin roof which shelters a boat railway that extends from the water of Tilghman Creek. This building is the heart of the current owner's boat repair business. The third outbuilding is a very large, red weatherboard, barn-like building called "The Roost." The Roost was built in1936 as a barn for laying chickens. It is constructed from Georgia long-leaf pine, and is lit with two-over-two sash windows and roofed with tin. A wing, larger than the initial building, was added to the south end of The Roost in 1937 and was later transformed into apartments for the Cockey family and guests.

the Maple Hall boarding house. Cockey worked on the Claiborne ferry for a few years and also began a boat repair business which his son, John Tunis Cockey, carries on today.

In addition to the boat railway which is still in operation, John Tunis Cockey, who was born in this house, also oystered until four years ago. He and his wife raised their six daughters here. The public landing which now cuts through the middle of their property has been a disapointing change in the landscape, however. With the permission of John Tolson Cockey, the formerly nameless dirt farm road, now called "Cockey Road", had been used by oystermen who anchored their boats at the head of Tilghman Creek. The only risk to the oystermen were Cockey's goats which were known to climb over unattended cars. Gradually, the county appropriated this land, paved the private drive, and turned it into a public landing.

T-886 Locust Hill
Claiborne
~~Annapolis~~ Quadrangle

T-886 LOCUST HILL

SE ELEVATION

T-886

THE ROOST

NE ELEVATION

T-886

LOCUST HILL

SOUTH ELEVATION

CLAIBORNE, MD

JOHN TUNIS COCKEY COLLECTION

T-886 LOCUST HILL, "THE ROOST"

WEST ELEVATION

CLAIBORNE, MD.

JOHN TUNIS COCKEY COLLECTION.