

S M -293

JOSEPH B. HERBERT HOUSE

Clements

Private

4th quarter 19th century

This large, two-story frame house with an A-roof is now abandoned and rapidly deteriorating, but when built in the last quarter of the 19th century, it was one of the largest and most substantial houses belonging to a black family in rural southern Maryland. The house was built in a T-plan. The principal block has a three-bay, balanced facade and is one room deep. It has two rooms on each floor and a central chimney. The rear wing is two bays long and also has two rooms downstairs and upstairs. According to oral tradition, this house was built by Joseph B. Herbert, a black landowning farmer. It is still owned by his descendants who live in a new ranch style house nearby.

S M - 293  
Joseph B. Herbert House  
Clements  
Private

C. 1870's

This two story frame house built in a T plan is now in ruinous condition but was once the handsome and rather spacious house of a prominent black landowning family, the Herberts. One of its most significant features was its blending of traditional and new methods of frame construction.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM -293  
MAGI # MC2935604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Joseph B. Herbert House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

(Chaptico Road)  
STREET & NUMBER South side of Route 234, 3/4 mile west of junction of  
Routes 234 and 242.  
CITY, TOWN Clements CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7  
STATE Maryland VICINITY OF COUNTY St. Mary's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Ruins

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Scanlon and Katie Herbert Telephone #:  
STREET & NUMBER 663 Kirk Avenue  
CITY, TOWN Ventura, California VICINITY OF STATE, zip code 93003

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 198 map 24  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse Folio #: 290 p. 126  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Leonardtown STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This large two-story frame house is now abandoned and is rapidly collapsing. Because of its dangerous condition, a full investigation of the interior was not possible. Since the stairs leading up into the chambers of the second floor had given way, no investigation of the upstairs was possible.

The house is designed in a T plan, with the length oriented toward the north serving as the principal facade. The principal roof line is oriented along a West-East axis, crossed in the east by the north-south block. The principal block is two bays in length and one bay in depth, while the perpendicular section is two bays long and one deep. The frame was originally clad in board and batten siding, which remains on the western gable end. Elsewhere, the siding was replaced by asbestos shingles. The cornices were boxed with plain boards, while the verge boards were scalloped. The roof was covered with wood shingles, which have been covered with tin. A front porch once extended along the facade of the principal block. All of these features are now in ruinous condition, giving the house a derelict appearance though it was once a handsome, proud structure.

In plan the principal block of the T design consisted of one room down and one up, with a spacious cross passageway bisecting the house on both floors. The perpendicular eastern block had two rooms down and two up, and there was once a one story kitchen that extended from the south wall of that block that has since been pulled down.

The frame skeleton is of massive hewn timbers morticed, tenoned, and pegged into place. Circular saw cut, 4" x 4" studs rise from the sill to the second story plate, in the fashion of the balloon frame design. Interestingly enough, they are not toed into place as was typical of the balloon frame, but were morticed and tenoned into the sills and plates. The construction of this house is, therefore, a blend of the old and new methods.

The walls were lathed and plastered inside. An inside gable end chimney brick chimney ascended the western block with the downstairs fireplace filled in to serve a wood stove. Through the middle of the eastern block ascended another brick chimney originally built to serve only wood stoves.

To the south of the house once stood several farm outbuildings, according to descendants of the original occupants. These have since been pulled down.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SM-293

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

C. 1870's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built by Joseph B. Herbert, a black landowner and farmer. According to his descendants, he was born in circa 1848 and may have been a free Negro during the antebellum era. It is not known by them when he built this house, though the mixture of the traditional and new methods of construction suggests a date of 1870's or 80's.

As part of this survey, a number of photographs of this prominent landowning family were copied. They are of Joseph Herbert, his wife, his son, Scanell Herbert, and his two daughters who joined the Oblate Sisters of Providence Order -- Sister Cecilia and Sister Columbus. Also photographed were Herbert's grandson, Frank Herbert, granddaughter, Elizabeth Gertrude Medley, and her husband, Charles A. Medley, together with their children, Tyrone, Charlene, and a friend Odell. The result is that the original occupants of the house down through their great grandchildren today were recorded.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Herbert House

STMA-29J

West Gable End

Clements, md.

Gunn

6/77



Herbert House

STMA-293

Clements, Mcl.

TRANSOM + DOOR FRAMING <sup>side</sup> + PANELS:  
N. Side (facade)

Gum

5/77



Joseph Herbert House

STMA-293

Clements, Md.

FRaming members

Gunn

5/77



Joseph Herbert Horne

STMA-292

Framing members: mated & tenoned. studs are ascend to end floor like balloon frame.

Clements, Md.

5/77

Gwm



Joseph Herberts' House

STMA-293

Clements, Md.

5/77

GLM

FRAMING STUD: MORTISED + TENONED  
JOINT



wife of Joseph Herbert ; or  
mother of Mrs. <sup>J.</sup> Herbert

~~was~~ IDENTIFIED by Family Today, as  
either one. They weren't sure.

STMA-293

Clements, Mel.

G. W. W.

5/77



mother

Sp-2 17

MRS. Joseph Herbert

STMA-293

Clementa, Md.

2 Wm

5/77



SM-613

Mr. Joseph Herbert

STMA-293

Clements, Md.

5/77

Gunn

# Family Record

## Holy Matrimony

"For the cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."—Ephesians 5:31

William S. Herbert and Gertrude W. Butler  
BRIDE

received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

on Nov. 24, 1923

at St. Augustine Church

Witnessed by Rev. Father Olds  
OFFICIATING PRIEST

OTHERS HAVING A PART IN THE CEREMONY INCLUDED:

Marguerite Bulta Huff Herbert

OUR PARENTS ARE:

Mr. Joseph S. Herbert Mr. Charles W. Butler  
GROOM'S FATHER BRIDE'S FATHER  
Mrs. Mary Herbert Mrs. Lorena Bulta  
GROOM'S MOTHER BRIDE'S MOTHER

Herbert Family Bible

STMA - 293

Clements, md.

5/77

Gwm



STMA-293  
Clements, md.

SM-293

G-R: Son of Joseph Herbert: Scanell Herbert

Joseph Herbert

Daughter: Either of Sister of Cecelia  
or Sister Columbus

Gunn

5/77



L-R:

SISTER

Columbus

}  
}

Daughters of Joseph

SISTER

Cecilia

Herbert: OBLATE

SISTERS OF

STMA - 293

PROVIDENCE, BALTIMORE

Clements, Md.

5/77

Gum



Joseph Herbert &  
two Daughters

STMA - 293

Clementz, md.

Qum

5/77



Herbert House

STMA-293

Clements, Md.

X. View: Facade

Gwm

5/77