

— Capsule Summary  
SM-615  
Clarke House  
St. Inigoes Vicinity  
Private

1890s

— Situated on a low ridge and nestled among large black walnuts overlooking Maryland Route 5 near St. Inigoes, Maryland stands the Clarke House. Probably constructed in the 1890s, the dwelling is significant for its combination of traditional and trendy architectural forms and details. The overall orientation of the house appears conventional. The exterior consists of a main block and kitchen ell which are aligned facing west towards Route 5. The south elevation, however, is organized to face the main dirt driveway. The dwelling, therefore, features dual primary facades -- with the south elevation being the functional approach and the west the traditional or perfunctory entrance. The interior is embellished with a stair that features a turned newel and balusters with intricately scroll sawn stringers. Other trendy decorative details include mantles decorated with chamfered edges, recessed panels, and reeded scroll sawn brackets that support a flat shelf.

— Purchased in 1891 by Jennie Clarke, the tract surrounding the house was originally 395 acres, consisting of Bluestone Neck (164 acres), Part of Elizabeth Manor (30 acres), and one half Hill House (200 acres). Soon after she purchased the tract, the Clarke House was built -- probably replacing an earlier building that was listed in an 1817 Orphans Court assessment of the property taken for orphan John F. Leigh. No evidence of this earlier building is apparent in the current structure. Members of the Clarke family owned this house until 1988 when Evelyn S. Clarke sold the property. Ronald J. and Theresa B. Harvey, the current owners, have dutifully rehabilitated the house and surrounding 2.313 acres.

SM-615, Clarke House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Rural  
Historic Function and Use: Residence  
Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-615

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Heritage Hill, Clarke House (pref.), Bluestone Neck, Part of Elizabeth Manor, Hill House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 48374 Heritage Hill Lane  not for publication

city, town St. Inigoes  vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-63, G-22, P-360

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> dlstrict	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Ronald J. and Theresa B. Harney

street & number 48374 Heritage Hill Lane telephone no.: 301-757-4207

city, town St. inigoes state and zip code Maryland 20684

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-615

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Clarke House is approximately two miles south of St. Mary's City just off of Route 5 near St. Ingoes, Maryland. Situated on a grassy ridge on the east side of Route 5, the dwelling is approached via a meandering 0.1 mile long dirt drive that terminates on the south side of the house at a circular, stone covered drive. While the house appears from Route 5 to be oriented on an east/west axis, the dwelling is actually on a north/south axis thus creating two primary facades--one largely traditional and the other more functionally convenient. A host of large black walnuts, a ginkgo tree, as well as a number of other hardwood trees surround the dwelling. Shrubbery includes several boxwoods--one set located at the center of the circular drive while another set surrounds a flagstaff on the west side of the property. The property is bounded to the west by Route 5, to the north by a wooded tract, to the east by a cultivated field, and to the south by the dirt drive. Just to the north of the dwelling is a board-and-batten shed and a storage shed.

The Clarke House is a frame, two-story, single pile, center passage dwelling with a two story kitchen ell. The house rests on a brick foundation and the frame walls consist of circular sawn timbers covered with "German" or bevel siding attached to the frame with cut nails. This original sheathing was later covered over by a layer of asbestos shingles and then in more recent years by vinyl siding. A wide eave with a boxed cornice projects over the exterior wall and raised seam metal covers the roof of the entire dwelling. Two interior, corbelled brick chimneys pierce the main block's roof while the ell's roof features a single interior end brick chimney.

For the purposes of this description, the primary facade will be the south elevation. The first floor of this side consists of three bays--a centrally located modern panel door with a single pane transom flanked on either side by a two-over-two, double-hung sash window. All of these bays are shaded by a porch decorated with a series of prefabricated Tuscan columns and a balustrade. The second floor fenestration consists of a central projecting bay that extends out over the porch. This projection is pierced on its south side by three, two-over-two windows while its east and west sides are pierced by only one two-over-two window. This central bay is flanked on either side by two-over-two windows that are symmetrically aligned with the windows on the first floor.

The west or roadside elevation consists of the main block and the kitchen ell. The main block's first floor features a set of paired two-over-two windows and a fifteen pane door with a transom overhead. The second floor is pierced by two, two-over-two windows. The kitchen ell has been somewhat altered over time. The front porch has been enclosed and is currently lit by a modern one-over-one sash. A single two-over-two window lights the second floor.

The north elevation consists of the kitchen ell and the rear of the main block. Near the juncture of the enclosed porch and main part of the kitchen ell is a modern door that provides entry into the basement. There are no other openings on this elevation.

The east elevation consists of the side of the kitchen ell and the main block. The ell is pierced on the first and second floor by a two-over-two window. A small pantry or mud room addition was later added near the intersection of the main block and ell. A modern door permits entry into this addition, while a pair of two-over-two windows are located on its north side. The main block is pierced by two, two-over-two windows on the first and second floors.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-615

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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Situated on a low ridge and nestled among large black walnuts overlooking Maryland Route 5 near St. Inigoes, Maryland stands the Clarke House. Probably constructed in the 1890s, the dwelling is significant for its combination of traditional and trendy architectural forms and details. The overall orientation of the house appears traditional in that it consists of a main block and kitchen ell which are aligned facing west towards the Route 5. The south elevation, however, is organized to face the south approaching drive. The dwelling, therefore, features dual primary facades -- with the south elevation being the functional approach and the west the traditional or perfunctory entrance. The interior is embellished with a stair that features a stubby, turned newel and balusters with intricately scroll sawn stringers. Other trendy decorative details include mantles decorated with chamfered edges, recessed panels, and reeded scroll sawn brackets that support a flat shelf.

Purchased in 1891 by Jennie Clarke, the tract surrounding the house was originally 395 acres, consisting of Bluestone Neck (164 acres), Part of Elizabeth Manor (30 acres), and one half Hill House (200 acres). Soon after she purchased the tract, the Clarke House was built -- probably replacing an earlier building. Curiously and Orphans Court assessment of the property taken for orphan John F. Leigh in 1817 noted that

...there is on the land a dwelling house and kitchen 56 by 16 feet in bad repair, one Corn house and Granery 18 by 28 feet in Tolerable repair, one Barn 24 by 34 feet in Tolerable repair, Pale Garden in bad repair, there are about Ninety acres Cleared Land under a pale fencing and one Hundred acres of pine wood Land, the whole tract containing 190 acres being part of Blue Stone Neck and part of Elizabeth Manor, 200 acres of Forrest Wood Land part of Hill House...<sup>1</sup>

No evidence of this earlier building is apparent in the current structure. Members of the Clarke family owned this house until 1988 when Evelyn S. Clarke sold the property. Today, the house and surrounding 2.313 acres has been dutifully rehabilitated by the current owners Ronald J. and Theresa B. Harvey.

<sup>1</sup> St. Mary's County, Registry of Wills, Orphans Court, Annual Valuations and Assessments, Liber JF & EJM, Folio 46, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.



SM-615, Clarke House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

Overall, the outline of the house created a T-shape. The main block follows a center passage, single pile plan and is entered via the south side of the house. The center passage features an ornate stair that consists of a stubby turned newel, turned balusters, and intricate scroll sawn stringers. The doors and windows throughout the house feature architraves decorated with corner blocks. To the west of the passage is a parlor. The wall between these two spaces has been eliminated. This parlor exhibits a mantle decorated with chamfered edges, recessed panels, and reeded scroll sawn brackets that support a flat shelf. The east parlor features a similar mantle and is currently used as a dining room. The kitchen, entered through the east parlor consists of a sitting room and a modern kitchen that was incorporated into the now enclosed porch space. According to the current owner, the sitting room once contained a stair to the second floor--presumably for a service entrance.

The second floor follows a similar floor plan. It consists of a center passage which permits access to all second floor spaces. On either side of the passage are a bedroom. A sun room is contained within the projection over the south porch, and a study/office is situated on the second floor of the kitchen ell.

SM-615, Clarke House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 454, Folio 493

Grantee: Ronald J. and Theresa B. Harvey

Grantor: Samuel A. and Elda L. Branham

Date: January 27, 1989

Notes: The deed notes that the property contains 2.313 acres. A plat was recorded on plat record liber 28, folio 48.

Reference: Liber 394, Folio 173

Grantee: Samuel A. and Elda L. Branham

Grantor: Evelyn S. Clarke

Date: January 11, 1988

Notes: Thomas B. Clarke died leaving Evelyn in sole ownership of the property (See Estate # 4058).

Reference: Liber CBG 63, Folio 223

Grantee: Thomas B. and Evelyn S. Clarke

Grantor: Mary R. Fowler

Date: June 7, 1956

Notes: Here the tract is listed as being a part of Bluestone Neck, Part of Elizabeth Manor, and one half Hill House land--totalling 183.47 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 63, Folio 221

Grantee: Mary R. Fowler

Grantor: Thomas B. and Evelyn S. Clarke

Date: June 7, 1956

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 149

Grantee: Thomas B. Clarke

Grantor: Jennie B. Clarke

Date: October 14, 1932

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 422

Grantee: Jennie Clarke

Grantor: Jane L. Bean

Date: March 16, 1891

Notes: The acreage for the three tracts is listed as follows: Bluestone Neck, 164 acres, Part of Elizabeth Manor, 30 acres, and one half Hill House, 200 acres--total 395 acres.

SM-615, Clarke House  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 151  
Grantee: Alexander Hamilton Bean  
Grantor: Joseph H. Key, Trustee  
Date: April 26, 1887

Notes: As the result of a circuit court of equity case between Susan E. Birch and George W. Wayson (Decree Record Liber JFF 5, Folio 441) the property is sold at public auction for \$1900. Former owner of the property John M. Smith took out a deed of mortgage from David W. Tyler in July 1863. Smith subsequently sold the tract to George W. Wayson, who inherited the mortgage payments. In the interim both Smith and Tyler died, and Wayson soon faltered in his payments. In depositions Wayson charged Tyler's heirs with usury. The court sympathized with Wayson but still found him responsible for over \$1100 that was still owed to the Tyler's heirs. The property was sold at auction to settle the debt.

Reference: Liber JFF 6, Folio 23  
Grantee: Irene Wayson  
Grantor: George W. Wayson  
Date: July 26, 1882

Notes: Here the property is merely called Blue Stone and contains 409 acres.

Reference: Liber JFF 1, Folio 137-139  
Grantee: Dr. George W. Wayson  
Grantor: John M. Smith  
Date: December 27, 1873

Notes: The property is listed as containing 409 acres and is called Hill House land and Blue Stone Neck.

Reference: Liber JTB 2, Folio 534-535  
Grantee: John W. Smith  
Grantor: James T. Yates and Robert Ford, Trustees  
Date: August 4, 1857

Notes: In a less contentious Circuit Court of Equity case, the heirs of Theodoseus Courtney commonly determine that the property cannot be divided evenly among themselves. The case between Harriet P. Courtney vs. John B. Courtney, James A. Courtney, Mary W. Courtney, Susan E. Courtney, and John T. Courtney results in the public sale of the property with the proceeds going to the heirs. Here the acres is given as 385 acres--one half hill house land, 200 acres, Part of Blue Stone Neck, 165 acres, and Part Elizabeth Manor, 20 acres.

Reference: Liber JH 12, Folio 17-18  
Grantee: Theodoseus Courtney  
Grantor: Cornelius Combs, William J. Edelin and Ellen Edelin  
Date: June 9, 1840

Notes: No previous deed could be found.





















