

QA-48

James Clements Farm
Sudlersville
Private

circa 1760-1790

The Clements House is one of four known examples of header bond brickwork in Queen Anne's County, and is a rare example of header bond found in story-and-a-half house. Of equal interest is the center passage plan with an enclosed winder stair located on the chimney wall of the west parlor rather than in the passage. Despite considerable alterations to the house in the late 19th and the 20th century, much of the early woodwork has survived on the first floor.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

James Clements Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner Maryland Route 300 and U. S. 301

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Clements

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 41

Folio #: 75

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clements House is located on the south side of Maryland Route 300 immediately to the east of U. S. Route 301.

The house has undergone one early addition and a major renovation. It began as a story-and-a-half brick house, three bays wide and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys at either end of a pitched gable roof. Unusual header-bond brickwork on the north facade suggests this portion of the house was built circa 1760-1785. A one story brick wing was added to the east gable at an early date. This was smaller than the main house, with a three bay facade and a single flush chimney centered on the east gable. In the early 20th century the main house was raised to two stories. The upper gables of the original brick house were knocked off and a frame second story was constructed, obliterating any early detail above the first floor. The cellar and first floor, as well as much of the wing, has remained relatively undisturbed, however.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The principal facade of the main house faces north, and is laid in header bond above a plain watertable and a three-course bond foundation. The door is located in the center bay, flanked by a window on each side. The rear facade has similar fenestration but the brickwork is Flemish bond with most of the headers glazed. The watertable and three-course bond foundation are carried across the south facade as well as both gables, but the gables are laid in three course bond above the watertable as well. All door and window openings have arched soldier-course lintels, but the front and rear door have been reduced in width, and all doors and windows are 20th century replacements. The east gable is almost completely covered by the later wing, but the west gable remains exposed. The only opening in this wall is a bulkhead entrance to the cellar in the extreme south corner. The opening has been reduced in size and fitted with a handsome raised panel door.

The north facade of the wing is flush with the front facade of the main house, but the south facade is set back from the rear facade. On the north facade, the brickwork is laid in four-course bond, with a

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

plain watertable that runs approximately two feet above ground level on the west portion of the facade, then drops down to within a few inches of ground level on the east portion. There is a door in both the center and the west bays, with a six-over-six window in the east bay. A seam clearly defines the division between the original house and the later wing.

The east gable of the wing has been completely rebuilt in the 20th century, leaving just enough of the original brick at the corners to prove that the size of the wing was not changed when it was rebuilt. There are no openings in this wall.

On the rear facade, the door is offset slightly to the east of center, with a six-over-six window in the east bay and a similar opening lacking sash in the west bay. The latter of these retains an early batten shutter mounted on wrought strap hinges. All of the openings on both facades have flat wooden lintels except the west door on the front facade, which has a segmental arched lintel.

The interior of the main house presently consists of a hall-parlour plan with the larger hall to the west and the parlour to the east. There is a fireplace

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

on the center of each gable wall, and the fireplace wall in the west room is fully paneled. The mantel consists of a relatively simple board surround with a beaded inner edge and an ogee backband. The fascia of the surround is broken into two fields by a simple ogee molding. The raised panels above and to either side of the fireplace are relatively small, and include a combination of rectangular horizontal panels alternating with small square panels. To the right of the fireplace there is a handsome four-door cupboard. The upper doors are glass, with eight lights in each door, while the lower doors are paneled. The original butterfly shelves remain in place. To the left of the fireplace, the paneled wall breaks forward to enclose a steep winder stair and an original closet. The winder stair is no longer functional, and has been replaced by a modern stair on the south wall of the hall, but the center post and the top stair remain in place.

The east room is much plainer, with raised paneling on the front face of the chimney breast but plain plaster walls on either side. A fairly simple Greek Revival mantel with reeded convex pilasters has been added, but the mantel covers the lower portion

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

of the raised paneling, clearly demonstrating that it post-dates the paneling. The windows in both rooms have splayed and paneled jambs and paneled soffits. The doorway between the two rooms is similarly treated but the jambs are not splayed.

Evidence found concealed below the modern stairway suggests that the present hall-parlour plan is a modification of an earlier, though not necessarily original center hall plan. A scar remains in the plaster below the stair from a one-inch board partition which formed a hallway approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. The early baseboard and chairrail remain on this section of wall, and the outline of the board partition is clearly outlined on the trim. Although the trim does cross the line of the wall, there is no paint where the partition and the corresponding trim butted against it, and a pair of carefully cut notches in the baseboard show where the partition baseboard was mitred into place. The seam in the plaster also indicates that the partition was put in before the wall was plastered, and not as an afterthought.

The upper floor of the main house dates entirely to the early 20th century alterations.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

There is a full cellar below the original house, divided into two rooms by a brick partition wall. The first floor joists are hewn and pit-sawn and are set parallel to the gable walls. The chimney bases have recessed relieving arches but no fireplaces. The bulkhead entrance in the west gable has been reframed using pieces of beaded boards. These may be fragments from the early hall partition described earlier, and it is interesting to note that one board retains a small section of early wallpaper, consisting of a geometric pattern executed in red or brown ink against a light background.

The first floor of the wing is divided into two rooms by a brick partition wall, forming a rectangular room to the west that probably served as a buttery or pantry, and a roughly square kitchen to the east. The original kitchen fireplace as well as the entire east gable wall of the wing has been demolished and the wall rebuilt, leaving only the framing evidence as a clue to the size and proportions of the original chimney. The floor level in both rooms is approximately two feet lower than the main house, and the proximity of the door sills to ground level suggests that the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

floors were originally either dirt or paved with brick. Little detail of interest has survived in either room, and the west room has been subdivided into a small hall and a pantry.

A steep ladder-stair in the southeast corner of the kitchen allows access to an unheated loft. This loft has never been plastered or otherwise finished, leaving the rafters and collar beams exposed. These are hewn, and the rafters are secured at the ridge with pinned mortise-and-tenon joints, while the collar beams are half-dovetailed into the rafters and pegged. The floorboards are secured with wrought T-head nails.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-48

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clements House is one of four known examples of header bond brickwork in Queen Anne's County, and is a rare example of header bond found in a story-and-a-half house. This bonding pattern is largely concentrated in Annapolis and Chestertown, with only scattered examples known to exist in rural parts of Maryland and Virginia. It is generally associated with the period 1760-1780, though the earliest known example dates to the 1740's. The Clements House is located within ten miles of Chestertown, and cannot therefore be considered an isolated example. Although this house could, on that basis, date to the third quarter of the 18th century, a date of circa 1775-1790 seems more likely, particularly in view of the three-course bond employed for the foundation and the gable walls.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The interior of the main house retains considerable early detail, most significant of which is the paneled fireplace wall in the west parlour. An original cupboard with butterfly shelves is incorporated into this wall to the right of the fireplace and an enclosed winder stair and a shallow closet are located to the left. The mantel surround is early if not original, and matches the molded window and door architraves. Similar paneling adds refinement to the chimney breast in the east parlour, but the mantel is clearly a later but also very handsome Greek surround. Other details of note are the paneled jambs and soffits on all of the windows and the interior door, as well as a section of early chairrail now concealed by the modern stair.

The east wing is also of interest, probably dating to the early 19th century. Although little interior detail remains, evidence suggests that the east room was used as a kitchen, and that the floor was either dirt or paved with brick. The loft of this wing may have been used for storage or may have served as living quarters for kitchen servants. The absence of whitewash on the rafters and collar beams, however, argues against the latter.

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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
Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION DATE
Queen Anne's County Historical Society 1/31/79

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

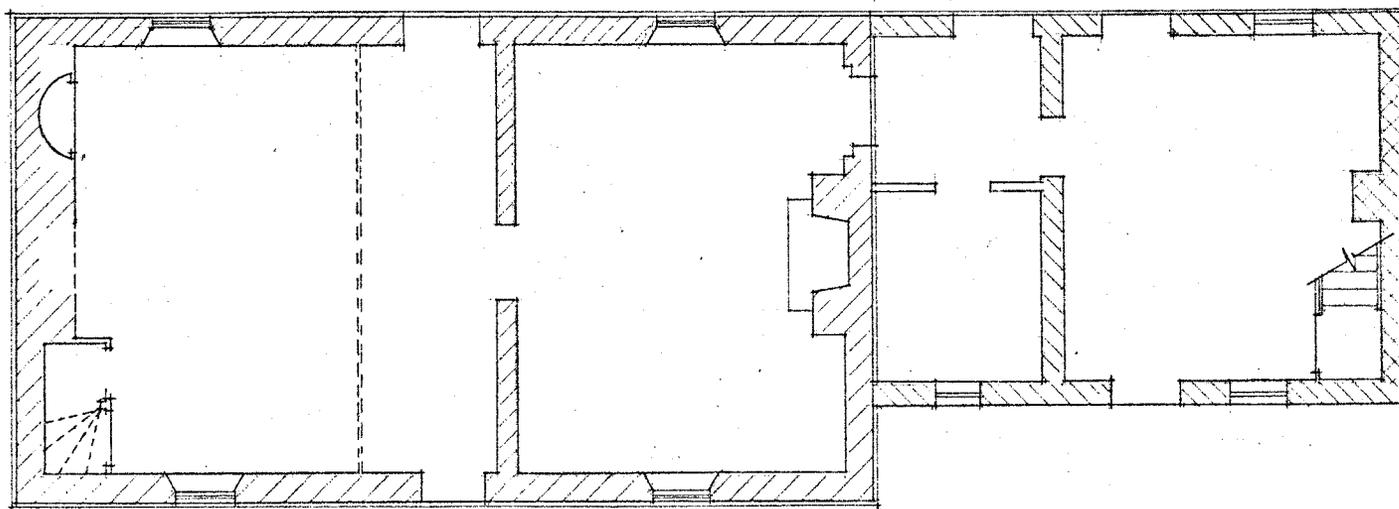
CITY OR TOWN STATE
Centreville Maryland 21617

Fieldbook QA-V, Recorded September 27, 1978.

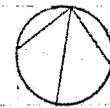
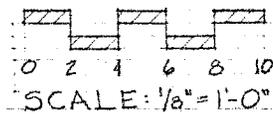
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



- ▨ PERIOD I: C. 1780
- ▩ PERIOD II: C. 1800
- ▧ PERIOD III: 20th C. REPAIR



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-48

JAMES CLEMENTS FARM
SUDLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

SEPT. 27, 1978



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James Clements Farm

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





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James Clements farm
near Sullersville

OKV 1878

109



Q4-55

James Clements farm
near Sullersville

Oct 1875

1875



Q.A. -48

#48

James Clements Farm

April 1974
gmv