St. Clair Tobacco Farm **1930**
CH-718
Newport vic.
Private

St. Clair Tobacco Farm, consisting of over 200 acres of relatively flat fertile soils, stands near the village of Newport and is bordered by Newport Run to the west and Budds Creek Road to the north. Including a 1930's 2 story, L-plan farmhouse, seven tobacco barns, two tenant houses, a stable, and two sheds scattered within wide open fields, the St. Clair farm is an exceptional example of a 20th century tobacco farm in Charles County and one of a rapidly dwindling number of operating tobacco farms in Southern Maryland.

The property is known historically as Race Field Farm which may refer to an otherwise undocumented previous use. In 1929, William and Mary St. Clair purchased the existing farm from the Posey family and erected a home on the site soon after. The farm continues to be operated by the St. Clair family today.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-718

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	St. Clair Tobacco Farm
other	Race Field Farm

2. Location

street and number	11905 Budds Creek Road	___	not for publication
city, town	Newport	X	vicinity
county	Charles		

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

name	William A. and David W. St. Clair et al				
street and number	11905 Budds Creek Road			telephone	301-934-4525
city, town	Charlotte Hall	state	MD	zip code	20622-9801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	74 p. 9		
city, town	Charlotte Hall	liber	1720	folio	146

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
___ Other _____

6. Classification

Category
___ district
X building(s)
X structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
X agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
X domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
12	___	structures
___	___	objects
13	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-718

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
X	good	___	ruins
___	fair	___	altered

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

St. Clair Tobacco Farm, consisting of over 200 acres of relatively flat fertile soils, stands near the village of Newport and is bordered by Newport Run to the west and Budds Creek Road to the north. Including a 1930's 2 story, L-plan farmhouse, seven tobacco barns, two tenant houses, a stable, and two sheds scattered within wide open fields, the St. Clair farm is an exceptional example of a 20th century tobacco farm in Charles County and one of a rapidly dwindling number of operating tobacco farms in Southern Maryland.

The dwelling consists of a three bay, two story frame I-house with a decorative cross gable. The house sets slightly back from Budds Creek Road and opposite Kentucky Avenue. The relatively shallow roof pitch is consistent with later cross gable I-houses which first appeared locally in the late 19th century. Two brick interior chimney flues pierce the roof. The first is in the main block, and the other is located above the service wing extending from the rear west end of the dwelling. The house also includes a typical hipped roof porch which rests on four Tuscan columns. The porch shelters an entranceway lighted with a 6-light transom and sidelights. Paired replacement windows flank the doorway on the first floor. The second floor is symmetrical with paired windows on the exterior bays and a single 1/1 window in the center. Above this is a decorative square window in the cross gable. The gable ends hold single, centered first and second story windows. An enclosed shed porch is found in the L interior of the rear elevation. The house is currently rented and therefore, the interior was not available at the time of the survey.

The farm is bisected by two farm lanes. The first and principal lane runs in a southeasterly direction connecting Budds Creek Road with the back of the farm and providing convenient access to most of the agricultural outbuildings including four of the seven tobacco barns, a stable, granary and one of the two tenant houses. This lane is intersected with a second lane connects the dwelling and nearby outbuildings to the agricultural outbuildings.

The tobacco barns were constructed between the first and third quarters of the 20th century and consist of two principal styles. The earliest is characterized by its gable roof, all running on a NE-SW axis. These are long rectangular buildings covered with vertical board siding and metal roofs. Most have sheds extending the full length of one of the eave elevations. These gabled tobacco barns generally include a single or double center-isle following the roof ridge. The gable ends include centered double doors. The earliest examples of this style have a single narrow centered door on the gable end. Later tobacco barns include two mid-20th century gambrel roof structures with double center isles that follow the roof ridge, vertical board siding, hinged vents and a metal roof are found on each. The granary and stable are smaller rectangular structures with gable roofs clad in metal and vertical board siding.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-718

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	X agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philospohy
__ 1800-1899	__ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
X 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__ ethnic heritage	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime industry	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates 1930 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1930

Evaluation for:

____ National Register ____ Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Established in 1929, the St. Clair Tobacco Farm is an exceptional example of a large early 20th century tobacco farm in Charles County. Consisting of 225 original acres, St. Clair stands on unusually fertile soil near the historic villages of Allen's Fresh and Newport. The property is known historically as Race Field Farm which may refer to an otherwise undocumented previous use. In 1929, William and Mary St. Clair purchased the existing farm from the Posey family and erected a home on the site soon after. The farm continues to be operated by the St. Clair family today.

Tobacco has been the single most important cash crop in Charles County since the area was initially settled in the 17th century. Throughout the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, Tobacco cultivation has remained an important part of Charles County's culture and economy. Because Maryland tobacco had lacked the slow burning quality sought after in cigars, local tobacco crops were generally exported to France and other European countries where stronger blends were preferred. After World War I, mechanization of the tobacco industry, led to mass produced and packaged cigarettes. Imported Arabic and Turkish tobaccos were replaced by Maryland tobacco after the war disrupted trade in 1914. Between 1915 and 1918 prices climbed from $8.50 to $30.00 a hundredweight. While fluctuating in the 1920's they remained higher than pr-war prices. In Charles County both the number of acres under cultivation with tobacco and the number of pounds of tobacco produced each year rose consistently between 1890 and 1930. In 1930 almost half, or 756 of Charles County farms included between 100 and 500 acres.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-718

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 211.76

Acreage of historical setting 225

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The St. Clair Tobacco Farm is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map v74, parcel 9.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/ Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept	date	10/11/01
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-5815
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Chain of title:

1929 Mary A. Posey, widow of Adrian Posey, Mary Posey Turner and W. Carlyle Turner, husband, Katherine Ellen Posey, unmarried, and A. Inez Posey Gillespie and Julian E. Gillespie, husband, all of Charles County to William R. St. Clair and Mary A. St. Clair, wife.
WMA 51/184

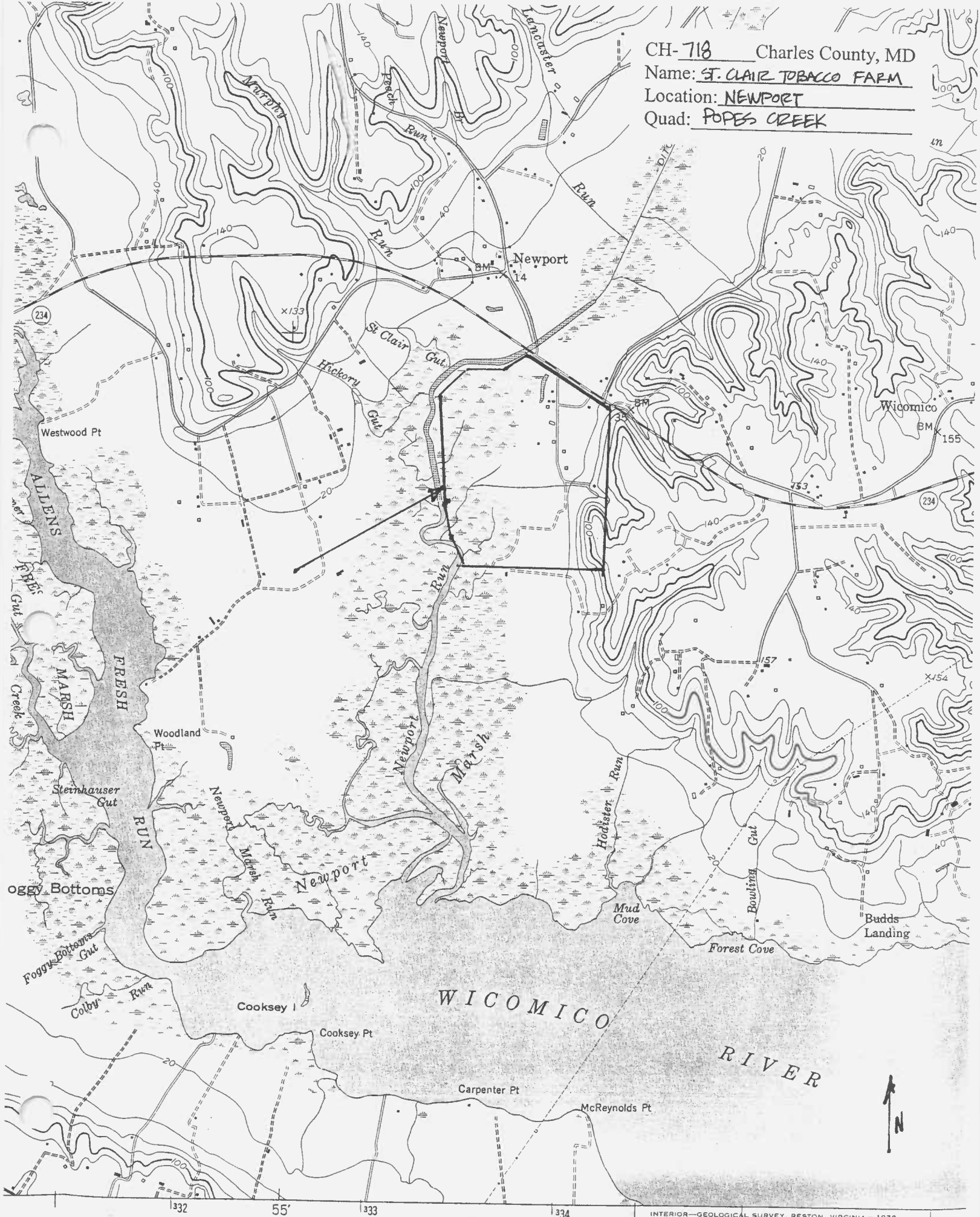
Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

CH-718 Charles County, MD
Name: ST. CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
Location: NEWPORT
Quad: POPES CREEK



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978

CH 718
ST CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO, MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
FRONT ELEVATION, LOOKING SW
1 OF 7

CH-718
ST. CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO. MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
REAR ELEVATION, LOOKING N
2 OF 7

CH-718
ST. CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO, MD
6/2001
C. COPPREY
MD SHPO
OUTBUILDINGS. LOOKING SW FROM W SIDE OF HOUSE
3 OF 7

CH-718
ST. CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO. MD.
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
LOOKING NW FROM W. SIDE OF HOUSE
4 OF 7

CH-718
ST. CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO, MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
BARN, LOOKING SW FROM ROAD
5 OF 7

CH 718
G. CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO, MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
BARN DETAIL, LOOKING NW
[illegible]

CH-718
ST CLAIR TOBACCO FARM
CHARLES CO. MD
8/2001
C. CORREY
MD SHPO
BARN, LOOKING N
7057