

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #78-14a Building Date: 1820's
Building Name: Keokuk
Location: 4101 Ritchie-Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

Keokuk is a two-story frame plantation house, set back southwest of Ritchie-Marlboro Road, at one of the highest points on a tract of rolling farmland. The main block is five bays by two bays, one-room deep, with central passageway and two flanking parlors. Entrance is in the central bay of the five bay main (east) facade. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, and have black louvered shutters. There is an exterior brick chimney with weatherings at the north gable end, and an interior chimney at the ridge near the south gable end. The roof of this main section is covered with slate, and the building is sheathed with aluminum siding. There is a one-bay-deep addition on the west facade, and a two-story two-bay-deep kitchen wing attached at the south gable end. Keokuk is a complete farm establishment, and has many outbuildings; the most interesting is the small frame slave quarters located a short distance southwest of the main house. South and east of this building are several small twentieth century sheds, and to the west of the complex are several tobacco barns.

Significance:

Keokuk is an excellent example of an early nineteenth century vernacular farmhouse, one-room-deep, with central stairhall and flanking parlors. The main block of the house was probably standing in its original form by the 1820's when the large plantation was the home of Eleanor Berry. In 1869 the plantation was acquired by that extensive landowner, Thomas Clagett of Weston, who bought up for members of his large family much of the farmland west of Upper Marlboro. Thomas Clagett, one of the grandsons of Thomas Clagett of Weston, left Maryland in 1850 and settled in Keokuk, Iowa. When he returned to Prince George's County after the Civil War, his grandfather purchased for him the 630-acre farm which had been the home of Eleanor Berry. Upon resettling in Prince George's County, Thomas Clagett named his new farm "Keokuk", and henceforth referred to himself as "Thomas Clagett of Iowa." After taking possession of the house Clagett undertook repairs and alterations, including the rebuilding of the kitchen wing, and the construction of the westerly addition. Thomas Clagett of Iowa farmed "Keokuk" until his death in 1910; it remains to this day in the possession of the Clagett family. The house stands as the center of a working farm; together with its outbuildings, dating from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it makes up a complete farmstead in one of the most beautiful and historic agricultural areas of Prince George's County.

Acreage: 234.8 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Keokuk

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4101 Ritchie Marlboro Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro Westphalia
vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name George G. Clagett et al

street & number 4101 Ritchie-Marlboro Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Md. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5855

street & number Main Street folio 852

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. p.G. #78-14a

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

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

Keokuk is a two-story frame plantation house, constructed in several sections. It is set back ca. one-third mile southwest of Ritchie-Marlboro Road, at one of the highest points on a large tract of gently rolling farmland. The main block is five bays by two bays, one-room deep, with central passageway and two flanking parlors. The floors of this section are composed of whole logs, planed and levelled on top to form the floor surfaces. Entrance is in the central bay of the five bay main (east) facade, through a door which has two-pane sidelights and a rectangular transom sectioned in rays. Its surround includes dentilled frieze and bullseye corner blocks. There is no porch. Windows, which were originally 6/6 double hung sash, have been altered to 2/2, and have black louvered shutters. Foundations are of brick. There is one exterior brick chimney with weatherings at the north gable end, and an interior chimney at the ridge near the south gable end. The roof of this main section is covered with slate, and the building has recently been sheathed with aluminum siding.

There is a one-bay-deep addition on the west facade which increases to three bays the depth of the entire main block: it includes a cross gable section on the north, perpendicular to the main block, with two bays in its west gable end, and a three-bay section continuing across to the south. This five-bay addition has a more gently sloping roofline (covered with asphalt shingle) than that of the main block. There is a small, partly-enclosed shed-roof porch sheltering the second and third bays.

Extending three more bays to the south is a two-story two-bay-deep kitchen wing. It is sheathed with aluminum siding; the roof is covered with asphalt shingle which replaces wood shingle. Across the west facade is a one-story shed roof porch supported by turned posts. There is an interior chimney at the ridge at the south gable end. As in the main block, the foundations are of brick.

Keokuk is a complete farm establishment, and has many outbuildings. The most interesting is the small frame slave quarters located a short distance southwest of the main house. It is two bays by one bay, with entrance in the second bay of its east facade. There is an exterior chimney west of the ridge at its south gable end. The building is covered with plain board siding, and rests on brick foundations. South and east of this building are several small twentieth century sheds. To the west of the complex are several tobacco barns.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #78-14a

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	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/humanitarian
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ theater
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ transportation
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☒ other (specify)
		☐ invention		local history

Specific dates 1820's Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

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

Keokuk is an excellent example of an early nineteenth century vernacular farmhouse, one-room-deep, with central stairhall and flanking parlors.¹ It is the nucleus of a complete farm establishment, thus exemplifying an ante-bellum plantation.

The main block of the house was probably standing in its original form by the 1820's when Benjamin Berry deeded the large plantation (parts of four tracts) to his widowed daughter-in-law. Eleanor Berry soon lost the plantation, however, and it became the home for thirty years of the Beall family.² In 1869 the plantation was acquired by that extensive landowner, Thomas Clagett of Weston, who bought up for members of his large family much of the farmland west of Upper Marlboro.

Judge Thomas William Clagett, one of the sons of Thomas Clagett of Weston, left Maryland in 1850 and settled in Keokuk, Iowa. His son, Thomas, who as a teenager had accompanied him to the west, decided to return to Prince George's County after the Civil War, and requested that a farm be purchased for him. Accordingly, his grandfather, Thomas Clagett of Weston (82A-7) and his uncle, Charles Clagett of The Cottage (78-18), purchased the 630-acre farm which had been the home of Eleanor Berry and later William Z. Beall. They sold the southern half of it to their young kinsman, who returned from Iowa in 1869.³ (The northern half went to one of the sons of Charles Clagett, and is known today as Ingleside, #78-14b.) Upon resettling in Prince George's County, Thomas Clagett named his new farm "Keokuk", and, to distinguish himself from relatives of the same name, henceforth referred to himself as "Thomas Clagett of Iowa." After taking possession of the house in 1869, Clagett undertook repairs and alterations, including the rebuilding of the south kitchen wing, and the construction of the westerly addition. Further repairs in 1903 (by the Wyvill brothers, local builders) included new siding and roof, and a porch across the east facade.⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#78-14a

Cf. Chain of Title

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 234.8 acres, TM#91 p. 15Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Section E

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting	Northing							

B

Zone	Easting	Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate July 1985street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate 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

Chain of Title

Keokuk
P.G. #78-14a

#6047:374 25 Jan 1985 Deed	Charles T. and Carmen Clagett to Charles T. Clagett, trustee for Clagett family trust; all interest in Keokuk, 234.8 acres, acquired by #3244:154, #4475:437 and #5855:852.
#5855:852 29 Feb 1984 Deed	David C. Clagett, representative of estate of John D. Clagett, to Charles T. Clagett et al., 234.8 acres, Keokuk, acquired by #3244:154 and #4475:437.
#4475:437 11 April 1975 Deed	Elizabeth Clagett Clark to Charles T. Clagett et al., (7), Keokuk, 234.8 acres.
#3244:154 7 Dec 1965 Deed	Robert S. Ernst to Elizabeth Clagett Clark et al., (10), Keokuk, contain 305 acres exception 50.2 acres sold by #3244:152.
#3244:149 7 Dec 1965 Deed	Elizabeth Clagett Clark et al., (10) to Robert S. Ernst, Keokuk, containg 305 acres, same owned by the late Guiger H. Clagett.
WDA #1:324 13 March 1956 Will	Testator, Margaret W. Clagett; half interest to R. Bowie Clagett, half to Elizabeth Clagett Clark et al., (9), in Keokuk, 305 acres.
WCH #2:256 4 May 1954 Will	Testator, Guiger H. Clagett; half interest to wife Margaret W. Clagett, and half to Eleanor Bowie, Sophia Clark et al., (14), in Keokuk, 305 acres, same which testator acquired from his father, Thomas Clagett of Iowa and by #190:33.
#5891 1925 Equity	Guiger H. Clagett vs. Thomas Clagett of Oregon, for partition of real estate. Thomas Clagett of Iowa died 1910 possessed of 305-1/2 acres "Keokuk" (comprised of contiguous tracts Groomes Lot, Good Luck, Creighs Neight and Clarks Neglect which Thomas Clagett of Iowa acquired by HB #3:275), leaving widow and 10 children including plaintiff and defendant. Widow died 1922, other eight children have conveyed their interest to plaintiff, defendant is non-resident, property cannot be divided. Petition court to sell property; court so decrees. Property sold to Guiger H. Clagett, 27 March 1925, for \$15,000.

190:33 27 Oct 1922 Deed	Susan E. Clagett and sisters and brothers to Guiger H. Clagett; all are children of Thomas Clagett of Iowa; grantors convey their interest in 305-1/2 acres (parts of Groomes Lot, Good Luck, Creigh's Neight, and Clarke's Neglect) part of land conveyed by HB #2:262.
HB #2:375 24 April 1869 Deed	Thomas Clagett et ux and Charles Clagett et ux for \$9,000 to Thomas Clagett of Iowa, 305-1/2 acres of Grooms Lot, Good Luck, Creigh Neight and Clarke's Neglect, which grantors acquired by HB #2:262.
HB #2:262 7 Apr 1869 Deed	Washington J. Beall et ux to Thomas and Charles Clagett, 631-1/4 acres, parts of Groomes Lot, Good Luck, Creigh Neight and Clarke's Neglect, same conveyed by AB #12:35.
WAJ #1:93 5 July 1858 Will	Testator, William Zachariah Beall; brother Washington J. Beall appointed executor, he is to sell plantation where testator resides (Home Place ca. 632 acres).
ON #1:625 25 Apr 1854 Deed	Washington J. Beall et ux, Zachariah Beall et ux, to William Z. Beall, tract made up of parts of Groomes Lot, Good Luck, Creighs Neight and Clarke's Neglect, 631-1/4 acres.
ON #1:495 13 Nov 1853 Articles of Agreement	Between Mary, widow of Otho B. Beall, William Z. Beall, Washington J. beall and Zachariah Beall, for purpose of dividing among themselves the real estate of Otho B. Beall, deceased ca. 1853; Washington J. Beall shall make division.
AB #12:35 26 Dec 1838 Deed	J. B. Brooke and C. C. Magruder, trustees (by Equity, 8 December 1835) to Otho B. Beall, parts of Grooms Lot, Good Luck, Creigh Neight and Clarke's Neglect, 631-1/4 acres.
#526 8 Dec 1835 Old Equity	Robert Beall and Eleanor Berry et al, vs. Amanda Berry and Louisa Rosalia Berry. Papers missing.
AB #4:189 14 March 1826 Deed	Benjamin Berry to Eleanor Berry (his daughter-in-law) and her daughters Amanda, Barbara and R. Rosalie (granddaughters of grantor); all that property (600 to 700 acres) where Eleanor Berry now resides, during her unmarried life, and afterwards to her daughters; Robert Beall to hold legal title during Eleanor's life and until eldest daughter comes of age.

#8 (Continued)

Thomas Clagett of Iowa farmed "Keokuk" until his death in 1910, and the farm passed to one of his sons. It remains to this day in the possession of the Clagett family. The house stands as the center of a working farm; together with its outbuildings, dating from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it makes up a complete farmstead in one of the most beautiful and historic agricultural areas of Prince George's County.

Notes:

- 1 Similar in plan to Sunnyside, P.A. #87B-21.
- 2 Prince George's County Deeds, AB #4:189; AB #12:35; ON #1:625; Old Equity #526 (papers lost); Will WAJ #1:93.
- 3 Prince George's County Deeds, HB #2:262, 375; E. G. Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County, pp. 141-150.
- 4 E. G. Bowie, op. cit; interview with Clagett family members, April and July, 1985.

R-E

● 78-5b

R-A

78-5a ●

JUSTIN M. MILLER, JR., ETAL
5433 / 509
33 59A
P. 22

78-14b ●

O-S

CHARLES T. CLAGETT, ETAL
5419 / 854
303.80A
P. 5

9015

R-A

● PG 78-14a

585 1852
234.8 ... P. 15

BACK



P.G.#78-14a

Keokuk

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#78-14a

Keokuk
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#78-14a

Keokuk
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#78-14a

Keokuk

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#78-14a

Keokuk

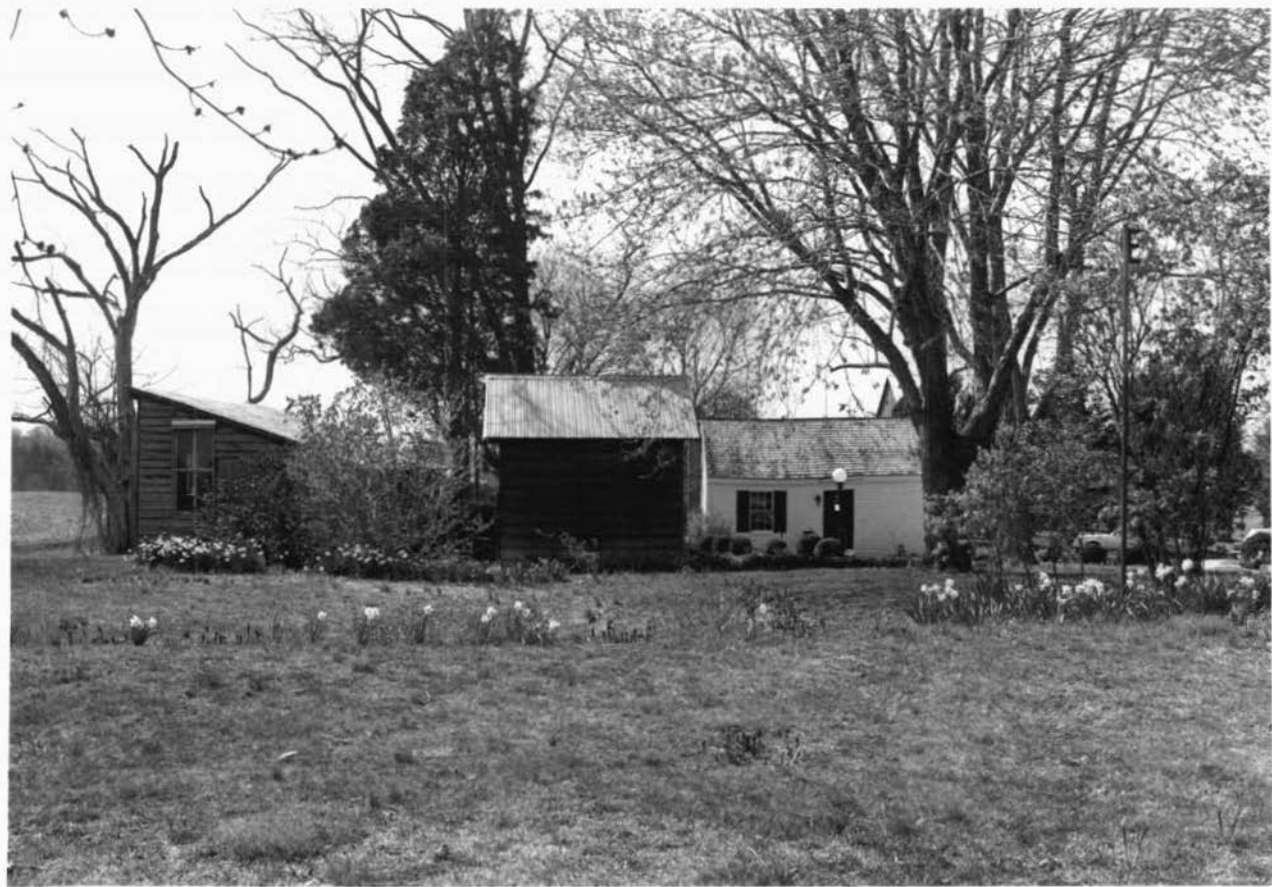
Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Slaves' quarters, Northwest

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#78-14a

Keokuk

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Outbuildings, east elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD