

George Clayton House
Guilford
Accomack County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-629

HABS
VA
1-GUILK,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HABS
VA
1-6-61
1-

GEORGE CLAYTON HOUSE

Address: Guilford, Accomack County, Virginia.

Present Owner: Herbert V. Ewell, Guilford, Virginia.

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: Storage - hay, feed, baskets, etc.

Brief Statement of Significance: Example of an early 19th-century Accomack County dwelling.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and Subsequent Owners: 1664, Robert Hill patented; next owned by Lawrence Robinson; 1673, John Robinson; next owned by William Jarman; 1705, Thomas Townesen; followed by several owners until eventually inherited by Tabitha Kelly, wife of George Clayton Hinman; 1811, George Clayton acquired the interests of his brothers; 1846, Caroline K. Clayton (Mrs. Nathaniel P. Marvel) followed by other owners. 1936, John T. Willet. A few years later the property was sold to Herbert V. Ewell who still owns.

B. Date of Erection: May have been built by George Clayton c. 1820.

C. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Modern section added to rear c. 1900.

D. Sources of Information: Personal inspection; Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of North Hampton and Accomack Counties, 2 vols. (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951), p. 1113; court records; interview with Herbert V. Ewell.

Prepared by Commander John A. Upshur
Consultant, Colonial Williamsburg
February 1962.

VA
1-6016
1'

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Exterior brick chimneys and good interior trim.

2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: One-and-a-half stories; two rooms per floor, 17' x 34'.

2. Foundations: Brick.

3. Wall construction: Wood frame construction. Clapboards beaded on edge with 5-3/4" exposure.

4. Openings:

a. Doors: Six-panel front door with plain frame.

b. Windows and shutters: Six over six light, double-hung windows. Present shutters are later replacements.

5. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wood shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Molded, wood, box cornice with shaped terminals at ends of eaves.

c. Dormers: Three gabled dormers on front roof slope and two on rear slope.

6. Chimneys: Brick, built outside of structure and free of building above first-floor fireplaces.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Each of two floors has central stair hall with a room to either side. Brick cellar in crawl space below east room.

2. Stairways: Plain stairway, but hallway has paneled wainscot.

3. Flooring: Wood; boards of uniform width (approximately 8").

VA
1-6-61
1-

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings, with raised panel wainscots in first floor west room, and plain, paneled wainscot in east room.

5. Doors: Casings have back band molding. Doors are of five raised panels; two vertical panels above one horizontal panel with two vertical panels below.

6. Trim: Mantel in west room has four vertical panels over two horizontal in line panels above mantel shelf. Mantels are a later addition although old.

7. Hardware: Butt hinges on doors with late rim locks.

8. Heating: Stovepipe thimbles in chimney breasts of east room.

D. Site: Flat terrain west of Guilford Creek, sited in open cultivated field. Faces south southeast.

Prepared by Archie W. Franzen, Architect
National Park Service
March 1960.