

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA  
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

48

COUNTY: Elizabeth City

CLASS: Home

Photographs

--- " C L O V E R D A L E " ---

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Research made by  
Mrs. Eleanor B. Jacobs, March 9, 1937.  
139 Locust Ave. Hampton, Virginia.



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## 1. SUBJECT:

"Cloverdale."

## 2. LOCATION:

8 miles northwest of Hampton, Virginia on Route #27, thence .5 mile east on private road.

## 3. DATE:

Four rooms built about 1737 and five rooms added in 1851.

## 4. OWNERS:

This land was the Kings grant to Thomas Celey when he came to America in 1611. He in turn sold it to Major William Wilson on July 31, 1695. Through the heirs of William Wilson marrying the Smiths, they in turn married the Vaughans, the land stayed in the family until 1879, when it was sold at Public Auction in Hampton, Virginia for a \$1,000 indebtedness incurred by Robert H. Vaughan from Mr. Henry Lane Schmeltz. At the sale the place did not bring even the thousand dollars so Mr Schmeltz bid it in and then gave it to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sinclair Collier, the present owners.

## 5. DESCRIPTION:

The farm "Cloverdale" contains about 1500 acres of land, all facing the highway or Back River, nearly half of it is or has been at one time under cultivation. The timber on the land is now very fine.

The south end of the house is only two stories high and was the first section built, later the three story north end was built. The entire house is forty-five feet long and forty feet wide. The front porch is thirty-eight feet long. There is another porch on the back which is twenty feet wide and thirty-eight feet long, all the floors are of wood and painted gray. The front porch has square columns and very fancy carved railing and balusters. The house has beaded weatherboarding, painted white, up to the second floor and then it has wood shingles to the roof; these shingles are very unusual, instead of sharp points on the shingles they are rounded and a very unusual gray color. It is said that nothing has ever been done to them in the way of paint or oil. The roof is made of wood shingles. There is not a window or opening of any kind in the north end, only a very large old chimney. From the front porch one enters through a four panel door, thirty-nine inches wide and seventy-one inches long, painted dark brown.

The reception hall, which is ten feet by eighteen feet, is papered above the thirty-one inch wainscoting which is of plaster and a wood strip three inches wide at the top of the plaster to form the wainscoting. On the left side is the living room. This room and the reception hall are in the part that was added in 1851. The living room is eighteen feet by eighteen feet with a ten foot ceiling, and is papered. The mantel is very elaborate and is in the north end of the room. There are four windows of fifteen seven and one half inches by nine and one half inches, with window frames fifty-nine inches long and thirty inches wide. From the reception hall to the right you step down about half a step and that room is used as a den, it is eighteen feet by eighteen feet with a seven and a half feet ceiling. The walls are papered and it has the same style wainscoting. There are three windows and three doors, one leading out of the reception hall, one to the side porch and the other a double door leading into the dining room. The mantel is very plain with a brick hearth. The double door, seventy-one inches long and thirty-two and a half inches wide, leads into the dining room which is also eighteen feet by eighteen feet with a seven foot ceiling, two windows and four doors, one to the side porch, the double doors to the den, one to the steps leading up stairs and another to the back porch. These are four and six panel doors. There is a mantel at the south end painted green as is also the woodwork in this room, and the wall is calcimined white. The door to the south end leads out to the side porch and to the left of the side porch is a door leading into a store room ten feet by eight feet with no windows. From the door at the north end of the dining room you go into the back porch, and from the back porch to the right is a door leading into the kitchen, which has been added in the last ten years. It is ten feet by ten feet, the walls are ceiled, there are four windows and one door which leads to the outside on the south.

There are four bedrooms upstairs, the two in the old section of the building are eighteen feet by eighteen feet with a six and a half foot ceiling and six and three fourths inch dark oak floor boards. The room on the east has two dormer and three plain windows, and no closets. The stairway from the dining room enters into this room, the walls are white calcimined and white woodwork. There is a door the same size as the one downstairs between these rooms in the old building. The west room has two plain windows and two dormers. From this room you go up four steps into the hall of the new addition and there are two bedrooms, one is six feet by eight feet, on the front, with one window and the other room, over the living room, is eighteen feet by eighteen feet with a ten foot ceiling. It has a very elaborate fireplace, papered walls and the wainscoting idea is still carried out. In the hall from these rooms is the stairway leading to the third floor which has two

rooms the same size as the two below. The small room has three windows, two of which are dormers, and one door leading into the large bedroom which has four dormer windows, six foot ceiling, calcimined walls, and pine board floor six and three quarter inches wide.

The windows in the new addition have a sash of six panes at the bottom and nine panes at the top while in the old part it is viversa nine panes at the bottom and six panes at the top. All the floors are six inches painted and varnished a dark oak. All the wood work throughout the house is painted white except the dining room. There are three plain mantels painted dark green in the old section of the house, but the two oak mantels in the new addition are very elaborate and of Georgean Architecture with hand carved fans in the panel in the center of the mantel and on either side are hand carved grooves that form columns, these are painted white.

See form #3888 attached.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This piece of property was known as the "Free School Tract of Land", as the first free school in the county was built here.

Eloquent testimony to the success of the Symn's School in the next decades is found in the fact that twenty-four years later a similar and larger bequest was made the county by Thomas Eaton, "Curugeon", one time of London. It is probably significant that it was in 1654, on the year before Symn made his will that Dr. Eaton came to this county to take up a patent on Back River, the years that followed he probably took an active interest in the work of the "learned and honest Man". anyway in 1659, Thomas Eaton made his will providing for the upkeep of a school 500 acres of land near the Back River; unlike Symn he tied a string to his gift by stipulating that this school was exclusively for the poor of the county.

7. ART:

Photograph

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informant: Mr. Howard Sinclair Collier, Hampton, Virginia.

First Plantation by Marion L. Starkey, page 13, published by Houston Printing Company, found at Hampton Institute Library, Hampton, Virginia.

3686

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING CALLED FOR IN  
5-a. of BULLETIN 3400

Name of Building "CLOVERDALE"

EXTERIOR

1. Building Plan 45 feet long, 40 feet wide Cellar ( )
2. No. of stories: ( 3 ) Attic classed as 1/2 story.
3. Material: Brick ( ) Frame ( X ) Stone ( ) Log ( )
4. If brick, state what bond: Flemish ( ) English ( ) Common ( ) Other ( )
5. Kind of roof: Hip ( ) Gabled ( X ) Gambrel ( ) Lean-to ( ) Deck ( )
6. If church, describe or draw sketch of roof on reverse side.
7. Roof Material: Slate ( ) Shingle ( X ) Metal ( ) Tile ( )  
1 at north end
8. Chimneys: Number ( 3 ) Brick ( ) Stone ( ) Location 2 at south end.
9. Weatherboarding: Yes. Beaded ( ) Plain ( )
10. Cornices: Plain or Elaborate Elaborate Material Wood
11. Windows: Number ( 23 ) Size and number of panes 15 panes 7-1/2 by 9-1/2 inch.
12. Shutters: Describe: Slats painted green
13. Dormers: Number, and Shape of roof 10, gable roof.
14. Porch: 3, 1 story.
15. Type of Entrance: Plain.
16. Columns: Doric ( ) Ionic ( ) Corinthian ( ) Square ( X )

INTERIOR

17. No. of Rooms: ( 9 ) Large ( 7 ) Small ( 2 ) Approximate ceiling height 7' and 10'
18. Stairway: Open String ( X ) Closed String ( ) Describe: Boxed, from dining room. In hall, 2 flight, 10" tread, tapered dark oak round newel,
19. Cellar: Describe None. white balusters.
20. Doors: Style and type of wood 4 & 6 panel, pine, painted dark brown and varnished.
21. Walls: Panelled, papered or painted Calceimined and papered.
22. Interior Cornices None.
23. Hardware: Locks and hinges Common iron.
24. Floors: 6 and 6-3/4 inches wide painted and varnished dark oak.
25. Mantels: 5, plain and elaborate.
26. Misc: \_\_\_\_\_
27. Present condition: and state if spoiled architecturally by remodelling: \_\_\_\_\_  
No.
28. Does occupant seem to appreciate old architectural features? Yes.

Your Name Mrs. Eleanor S. Jacobs.