

Chestnut Hill Tenant House  
HO-891  
8170 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City  
Howard County  
ca. 1840-1910  
Private

The Chestnut Hill Farm Tenant House (ca. 1860s) is a 2-1/2-story, 3-bay, cross-gable, wood-frame house in fair condition. The house has asbestos shingle siding and a standing seam metal roof. It retains wood six-over-six windows. The primary façade of the house faces south. The front façade is symmetrical about its entry bay. The central entry opening holds a Italianate style wood door with sidelights and transom flanked by two window openings. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story has three window openings that are vertically aligned with the 1<sup>st</sup> story openings and are graduated. A smaller window opening is centered in the front cross gable. A shed-roofed 1-story porch extends across the front façade. The porch appears to have a concrete deck and 20<sup>th</sup> c. wood post and rails.

The Chestnut Hill Farm Tenant House is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. Chestnut Hill Farm is representative of prosperous farms that were once the most characteristic element of Howard County's cultural landscape and economy. Established by the Claggett family in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c., the property was owned by James Ellicott Tyson, who was a descendent of two of Maryland's most influential and prominent families. After Tyson's death in 1904, the property was once again farmed by local families. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Route 40 was run through the property and the character of the area changed from rural to suburban.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-891

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Chestnut Hill Farm Tenant House (preferred)

other Claggett Farm

### 2. Location

street and number 8170 Baltimore National Pike not for publication

city, town Ellicott City vicinity

county Howard Co.

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

name Alice B. Strathen

street and number 8170 Baltimore National Pike telephone 410-465-4705

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Land Records liber folio

city, town Ellicott City tax map tax parcel tax ID number

### 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 at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>3</u> <u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>0</u> <u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>0</u> <u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>0</u> <u>0</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>3</u> <u>0</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>0</u>

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. HO-891

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Chestnut Hill Farm Tenant House (8170 Baltimore National Pike) was surveyed from the public way because the owners did not grant permission to survey the property. This should provide enough information for general inclusion in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. However, additional documentation should be taken if the property is going to be developed or if any building on the property is going to be demolished.

The Chestnut Hill Farm Tenant House (ca. 1860s) is a 2-1/2-story, 3-bay, cross-gable, wood-frame house in fair condition. The house has asbestos shingle siding and a standing seam metal roof. It retains wood six-over-six windows. The primary façade of the house faces south. The front façade is symmetrical about its entry bay. The central entry opening holds a Italianate style wood door with sidelights and transom flanked by two window openings. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story has three window openings that are vertically aligned with the 1<sup>st</sup> story openings and are graduated. A smaller window opening is centered in the front cross gable. A shed-roofed, 1-story porch extends across the front façade. The porch appears to have a concrete deck and 20<sup>th</sup> c. wood post and rails.

Two additional buildings are partially visible behind the house. One building is an intriguing 2-story, stone, side-gable building located northwest of the house. The small section of this building that is visible suggests that it could be early-to-mid 19<sup>th</sup> c. and well worth proper documentation. The granite or gneiss stone is dressed in regular rectangular blocks, which is unusual for a building of this size and form, which were usually constructed of field stone. A broad brick fireplace chimney is visible on the gable end.

A wood-frame outbuilding, probably dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> c., is located west of the stone building. The end-gable structure has wood weatherboard siding and an asphalt roof. The building appears to have originally been a barn, and later converted to a workshop or dwelling. The gable end appears to have originally enclosed a vehicular entry opening and loft opening, which are now covered. Four window openings have been added in the south (side) façade at the 1<sup>st</sup> and loft stories.

The house is located on a 2.419-acre lot that once part of a 274-acre farm. A private drive leads back to house with late 20<sup>th</sup> century houses lining the west side of the drive. A pasture with a barn, now on a separate lot, is located east of the house. Church Lane Drive dead ends at the back of the property and another early 19<sup>th</sup> c. house (greatly altered), which was probably once part of the farm, is located at the end of that roadway.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-891

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

**Specific dates** 1831, 1877, 1920, 1933, 1956, 1963 **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** ca. 1840, ca. 1860s, ca. 1910

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Chestnut Hill Farm Tenant House is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. Chestnut Hill Farm is representative of prosperous farms that were once the most characteristic element of Howard County's cultural landscape and economy. Established by the Claggett family in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c., the property was owned by James Ellicott Tyson, who was a descendent of two of Maryland's most influential and prominent families, in the fourth quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After Tyson's death in 1904, the property was once again farmed by local families. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Route 40 was run through the property and the character of the area changed from rural to suburban.

Buildings at the location of 8170 Baltimore National Pike appear on both the 1860 Martenet Map and 1878 Hopkins Atlas and are labeled John Claggett. The main house, and probably the stone building behind the house were likely built by the Claggetts who farmed the property until 1877 when the farm was sold to James Ellicott Tyson (1816-1904).

The Tyson family was amongst Baltimore's most successful and well-connected Quaker families. They owned mills and mines in several states and abroad, had extensive land-holdings, and were quite wealthy. A biography of James Ellicott Tyson is included in the **Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia of the State of Maryland** (1919). James Ellicott Tyson was the son of Nathan Tyson (1787-1867) and Martha Ellicott Tyson (1795-1873). Nathan Tyson was the son of Elisha Tyson (1750-1824), well documented in Baltimore history as a businessman and abolitionist. Martha Ellicott was an authoress and abolitionist who was the daughter of George Ellicott, one of the founding brothers of Ellicott Mills.

James Ellicott Tyson had extensive landholdings in Howard County and it is not known whether he built a manor house at Chestnut Hill Farm, although it seems unlikely. His biography states:

Almost any afternoon he could be seen gun on shoulder and dogs at heel, tramping about on one of his large estates in search of game. Farming was his hobby, his first venture in this line being a large plantation given to him by his grandmother, Elizabeth Brooke. In addition he owned a large amount of real estate in various localities, including the estate "Warwick" [in Howard County], a farm at Ocean City, Maryland, large tracts in Pennsylvania, and valuable properties in Baltimore and elsewhere. He was very successful in most of his farming enterprises, and uniformly so in dealing in real estate properties, becoming widely known as having excellent judgment as to the value of real estate in general. "Warwick," where the last years of his life were spent, an estate of 1000 acres, granted to one of his Ellicott ancestors, was always kept in a high state of cultivation, and was his especial pride.<sup>1</sup>

Folks knowledgeable about Howard County properties have never heard of Warwick, nor were there many 1000-acre farms in Howard County at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is not currently known where Tyson kept a house in Howard County, although he is

<sup>1</sup> Richard Henry Spencer, **Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia of the State of Maryland**, p.228.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-891

Name

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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also known to have owned the house that became the Patapsco Female Institute. It is, therefore, an educated guess that the existing house was used by a farm manager for Chestnut Hill Farm. The house and the intriguing stone building that can be glimpsed behind the house almost certainly predate the Tyson era of ownership, and would be associated with the Claggett period of ownership. Access to the buildings would be needed to clarify their date of construction.

Chestnut Hill Farm was located along a private lane, historically known as the Claggett Road, which has been largely lost. The roadway ran from Oella, on the Baltimore County side of the Patapsco, north along the river, crossing the River at the Union Manufactory Mill Dam switch on the B & O line, ran north past "The Oaks" (HO-243), through Chestnut Hill to what is now Church Lane Road ending in Jonestown, just south of Old Frederick Road. Although the maps show that "The Oaks" was owned by Hares in 1860 and Captain Edward Dennis in 1878, there is an interesting mention in a self-published pamphlet on the history of the Oaks of an association with the Tyson and Ellicott families that might be worth further research.

James Ellicott Tyson died in 1904. By 1920, the farm was owned by Howard and Mathilde Mann, who took a \$10,000 mortgage on the property. The Manns sold or lost the farm during the Depression and the Emma and William Thompson bought the property in 1933. Emma Thompson was a Kirn daughter and they previously built and lived in the Thompson House (HO-867) on Kim Hill. Thompson descendants sold the house to the current owners, the Strathens, after the death of William Thompson in 1963.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-891

Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule, 1860-1930.**

Hopkins, G.M. **Atlas of Howard County, Maryland, 1878.** Ellicott City, MD: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975.

Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Martenet, Simon J. **Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland.** Baltimore, 1860.

Meyer, Evelyn P. **The Sleeper: Original History of The Oaks.** Self-published, ca. 1970s.

Spencer, Richard Henry. **Genealogical and Memorial Encyclopedia of the State of Maryland.** New York: The American Historical Society, Inc. 1919.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>2.4 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>274 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Ellicott City</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Chestnut Hill Tenant House corresponds to Howard County Map 18, Grid 14, Parcel 281, which is the buildings' current legal lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	<u>Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor</u>		
organization	<u>Howard County Department of Planning &amp; Zoning</u>	date	<u>August 17, 2005</u>
street & number	<u>3430 Courthouse Drive</u>	telephone	<u>410-313-4335</u>
city or town	<u>Ellicott City</u>	state	<u>MD</u>

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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

HO-891

Chestnut Hill Tenant House  
 8170 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City  
 Howard County

## CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS.	PRICE	ACREAGE	COMMENTS
Alice B. Strathen	Roberta Strathen, Charlene Strathen, and Linda L. Reese	03-13- 1989	1980	556	Deed	0.00		Gives joint tenanship with right of survivorship to three of her children
Alice B. Strathen	Roberta Strathen, Richard Strathen III, Charlene Strathen and Linda L. Reese	01-22- 1981	1040	188	Deed	0.00		Gives joint tenanship with right of survivorship to her children
Richard J. Strathen, Jr. and Alice B. Strathen	Alice B. Strathen	04-06- 1977	816	659	Deed	5.00		
Lillian P. Thompson and Jacob Kirn Thompson, Jr. Trustees (under the will of William F. Thompson) (Howard County)	Richard J. Strathen, Jr. and Alice B. Strathen (Howard County)	05-06- 1963	399	348	Deed	5.00		Being a part of that lot of ground vested in the herein grantors under the last Will and Testament of William F. Thompson, who died on November 9, 1960 and whose Will was probated on January 5, 1961 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Wills of Howard County in Wills Liber R. L. P. No. 12 folio 218.
Mary Constance Colbert	William F. Thompson and Emma K. Thompson	07-09- 1956	285	107	Deed	5.00		
Emma K Thompson and William F. Thompson (Howard County)	Eureka-Maryland Assurance Corporation (Baltimore City)	03-31- 1933	145	276	Mortgage	3000.00	274 acres	
Coleman C. Gore and Lucy J. Gore (Loudon County, VA)	Emma K. Thompson	03-16- 1933	145	274	Deed	5.00	274 acres	"All those several pieces or parcels of ground...comprising the farm known as 'Chestnut Hill'"
Thomas Clarence Miller	Howard Mann and Mathilde B. Mann	11-11- 1920	111	250	Mortgage	10,000.00	274 acres	
Howard Mann and Mathilde B. Mann (Howard County)	Thomas Clarence Miller	11-11- 1920	111	244	Deed	5.00	274 acres	"Chestnut Hill" the farm on which Howard Mann and Mathilde B. Mann now reside. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 38/542</li> <li>2) 39/144</li> <li>3) 42/499</li> <li>4) 58/69</li> <li>5) 74/287</li> <li>6) 80/219</li> </ol>

HO-891

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## CHAIN OF TITLE

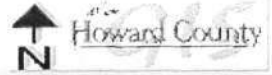
Margaret E. Voltz (widow) and James E. VanSant, Mortgagee	James E. Tyson	09-30-1901	74	287	Deed	300.00	5) 7 acres and 33 square perches	It being part of that tract of land which was devised to Margaret E. Voltz nee Jones by her Father Rezin Jones by his Last Will and Testament dated 1876 July.
Martin Rodey, Catherine Rodey and Christian F. Rappanier, mortgagee	James E. Tyson	11-30-1891	58	69	Deed	671.34	4)	44/278
Edward P. Dennis and Hermione J. Dennis	James E. Tyson	11-03-1880	42	499	Deed	16.25	3) 130 square perches	Part of 34/469
Wesley Tucker and Sarah E. Tucker	James E. Tyson	04-01-1878	39	144	Deed	Trade for another lot	2) Two lots: .85 acres 2.48 acres	Part of 23/524
Isaac D. Jones and Covington D. Barnitz, trustees	James E. Tyson	11-30-1877	38	542	Deed	8000.00	1) 383.25 acres	By a decree of the Baltimore County Circuit Court passed on the seventh day of August in the year 1876 in the consolidated cases of Jane Randall et als vs, Jane Randall etals, the above named Isaac D. Jones and Covington D. Barnitz were appointed trustees to sell the property thereby decreed to sold of which the hereby conveyed lot of ground and premises were a part. Being all of the farm of the late Mary Clagett (except four and 5/8 acres thereof sold by the said trustees to Christian Hansen)





Distance:  ft

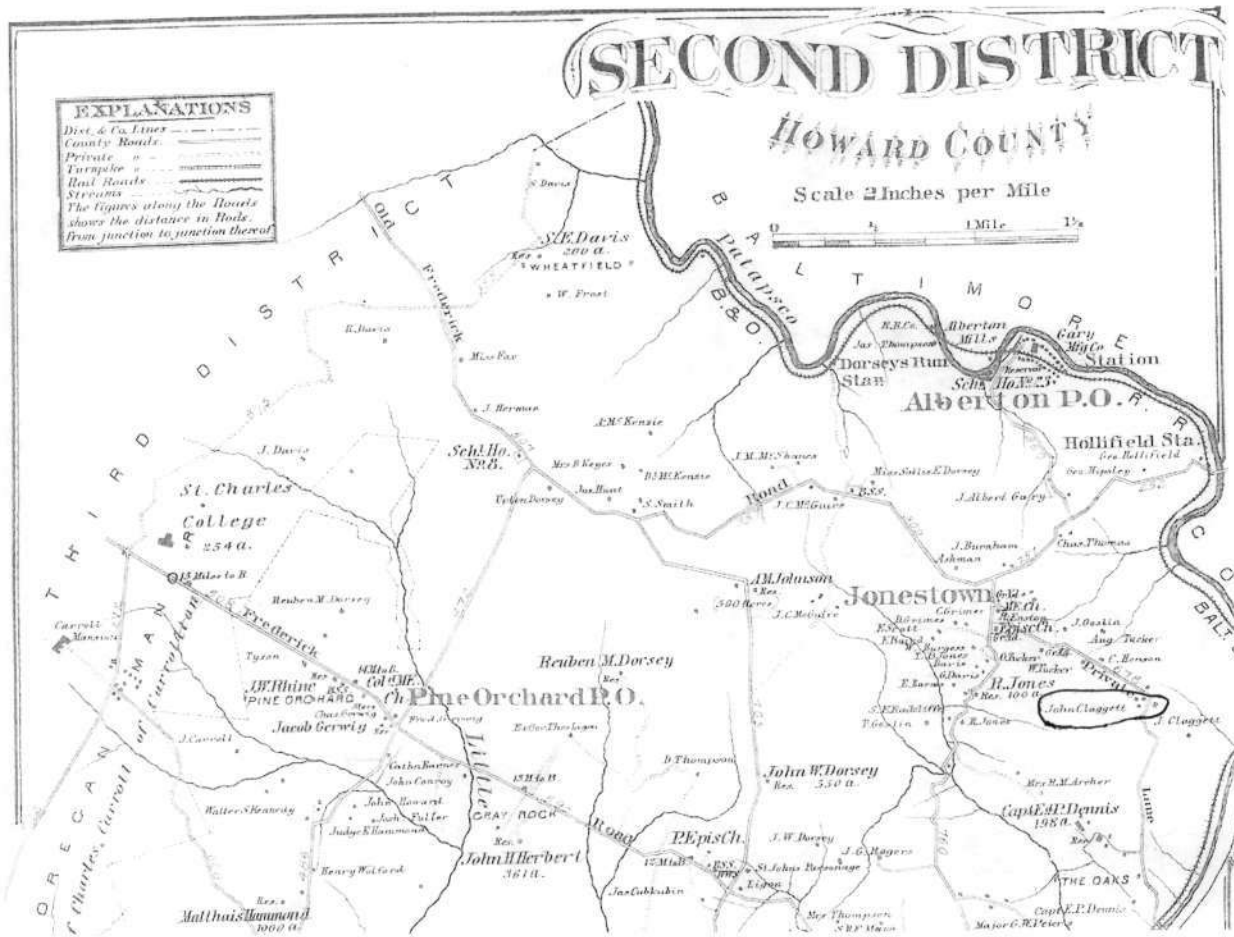
Zoom:  ft



**Chestnut Hill Tenant House (HO-891)**  
**8170 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City**  
**Howard County**  
*Site plan/Aerial photo*



**Chestnut Hill Tenant House (HO-891)**  
**8170 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City**  
**Howard County**  
**1860 Martenet's Map**



**Chestnut Hill Tenant House (HO-891)**  
**8170 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City**  
**Howard County**  
**1878 Hopkins Atlas**



**Chestnut Hill Tenant House (HO-891)**  
**8170 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City**  
**Howard County**  
**USGS Ellicott City Quad**



HO-891

Chestnut Hill Tenant House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

09-05

MD SHPO

View N.

1061

< 0825 11 403 HCHRN - 6429 >