

William Manlove
1st Commissioner District

Nelson K. Bolender, President
2nd Commissioner District

Harry A. Hepbron, Vice President
3rd Commissioner District

Phyllis Kilby
4th Commissioner District

Mark Guns
5th Commissioner District



Alfred C. Wein, Jr.
County Administrator
410-996-5203

Board of County Commissioners
107 North Street, Elkton, MD 21921
410-996-5201 Fax: 410-996-1014

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

129 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921

Cecil County Information
410-996-5200
410-658-4041

16 March 2005

David & Linda Holsten
3288 Blue Ball Road
North East, Maryland 21901

RE: The Onion Bed

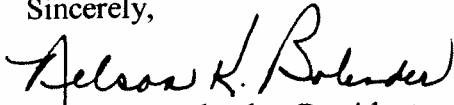
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Holsten:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of County Commissioners, at our meeting of Tuesday 15 March 2005, has approved your nomination to designate the above referenced site as a historic district. This designation includes the buildings to the east and west of Blue Ball such as the dwelling, springhouse, kitchen/cooper shop, and the open corn crib/granary.

It should be noted that any exterior work to these structures that requires a building permit will need to receive a certificate of appropriateness from the Historic District Commission.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve Cecil County's historic heritage.

Sincerely,


Nelson K. Bolender, President
Board of County Commissioners

NKB/ess

2005-01

Budget
Manager
410-996-5291

Department
of Aging
410-996-5295

Economic
Development
410-996-6292

Emergency
Services
410-996-5350

Human
Resources
410-996-5250

Information
Systems
410-996-5205

Permits and
Inspections
410-996-5237

Planning, Zoning
and Parks
410-996-5220

Public
Works
410-996-5265

THE ONION BED

The property is an example of an 18th century Quaker style plantation home. It consists of a dwelling, springhouse, a kitchen/cooper's shop, and a granary. The buildings with the exception of a small barn and garage date to the 18th and 19th centuries. The original house was erected in 1726 and was expanded/updated in 1786. The house consists of two brick sections and a frame section.

The property was originally part of Nottingham Lot #35. Descendants of two family members, Andrew Job and Henry Reynolds who are reported to have accompanied William Penn in the creation of the lots in 1701, still remain in the dwelling. Construction of the dwelling was begun circa 1722. In 1736 a petition was submitted to sell beer and cider on the property. A 1783 tax assessment of the property indicates that 1 dwelling, 1 barn and 1 outhouse existed on the property.

CHERRY HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The church began meeting in 1800 in a small log house near Singerly Station. In 1813, the church moved to Cherry Hill. In 1833 a 20X24 church was erected across the street from the present church. The present church was erected between 1857 and 1859. The parsonage and stable ~~was~~^{were} built in 1872. Land for the cemetery was purchased between 1877 and 1879 and in 1888 an organ was added. A stained glass window was added in 1890. The Cherry Hill School was added to the rear of the church in 1960. The application for nomination includes church, parsonage, church house and cemetery. The church is presently included in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places.

HDC 2/1/05

CECIL COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM

Please refer to separate detailed instructions for completing this form.

Definition

"Property" refers to the entire geographic area being nominated. It may be an individual building, site, structure or object; or it may be a district consisting of numerous buildings, sites, structures or objects. An area consisting of several types of structures with different owners is also a property that is a district.

Nomination Information:

Please Print or Type

1. a) Name of property:

The Onion Bed - CE-197 = "Meadowbrink".

b) Estimated age or historic dates: c1726, c1786

2. Address of property: 3288 Blue Ball Rd North East, MD 21901

3. Tax Map: 12 Parcel Number: ~~33~~407-Grid 11

4. Name, address, and telephone number of all property owners of record within the District:

David + Linda Holsten
3288 Blue Ball Rd
North East, MD 21901

(Attach separate sheet, if necessary)

5. Description of property boundaries of the District:

The buildings east and west of Blue Ball Rd to include:
the house, the spring house, the out building/cooper's shop, and
the open corn crib/granary.

6. Attach a map showing the boundaries and location of the site or District.

7. Please provide photographs or slides showing the important structures or features of the property.

8. Please check all designations that apply to this nomination. Add descriptive information for those checked. Is or has this property, in any part, been listed or nominated to:

Cecil County Historic Designation: This is the first time the
nomination form has been completed as far as I know.

Maryland Register of Historic Properties: _____

____ National Register of Historic Places: _____

Maryland or Cecil Inventory of Historic Properties? CE-197

____ A Preservation Easement by any historic organization? Identify _____

____ Are there any other easements or rights of way affecting the District? Explain _____

____ Other, explain _____

9. Please check all of the following criteria that apply to the property.

A. Historical or Archeological

The property has character, interest, or value as part of the development or cultural characteristics of the County, State, or Nation.

____ The property is the site of a significant County, State, or National historic event.

____ The property is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the County, State, or Nation.

B. Architectural

The property has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.

____ The property represents the work of a master builder, designer, architect or landscape architect whose work influenced the development of the County, State, or Nation.

____ The property has elements of design, detailing, materials or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant.

____ The property has elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.

____ The property has a unique location or singular physical characteristic that makes it an established or familiar usual feature.

The property has character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.

The property has significant interior features. List Fireplace; Stair

10. Attach a statement describing the property, its historical significance, and the reasons why it should be designated to the Cecil County Register of Historic Places. At the end of the statement, please list your sources of information, including bibliographic references.

11. Signatures of owner(s) of record consenting to this nomination. If there are more than two owners, please attach a separate sheet providing the information indicated.

A. Print Name: David HOLSTEN Date: 1/3/05

Signature: D K Holsten

B. Print Name: Linda HOLSTEN Date: 1/3/05

Signature: Linda Holsten

12. Name, address and telephone number of person submitting application:

Name: DAVID HOLSTEN

Address: 3288 Blue Bell Rd
North East, MD 21901

Telephone Numbers: (Home) 410 398-4076 Hours Available: after 5pm
(Work) 410 506-7544 Hours Available: Tue - 4:30pm

E-mail address: dholsten@zoominternet.net

Date 1/3/05

Official Use Only

Application Number: _____
Date received: _____
Date of Public Notice: _____
Election District: _____
Zoning District: _____
Land Use District: _____
Tax Map: _____
Parcel(s): _____

HDC Hearing Date: _____
PC Hearing Date: _____
CC Hearing Date: _____

HDC-05-01

The Onion Bed


David + Linda Holster
Map 12 / Parcel 407



AP 12 PARCEL 33 GRID 11

SUBDIVISION APPROVED *M53435*
MAY 16 2003

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation CECIL COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back View Map New Search Ground Rent
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STR

Account Identifier: District - 04 Account Number - 043219

Owner Information

Owner Name: HOLSTON, DAVID K. & LINDA S.	Use: RESIDENTIAL
	Principal Residence: YES
Mailing Address: 3288 BLUE BALL RD NORTH EAST MD 21901-1428	Deed Reference: 1) WLB/ 1551/ 334 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 3288 BLUE BALL ROAD NORTH EAST 21901	Legal Description LOT 1 - 4.799 ACRES 3288 BLUE BALL ROAD S OF BLUE BALL
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Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	MS3435
12	11	407					1	81	Plat Ref:	

Special Tax Areas Town Ad Valorem Tax Class ELKTON FIRE CO

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1725	2,621 SF	4.79 AC	000000
Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior
2	YES	STANDARD UNIT	BRICK

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2005	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2004	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2005
Land:	75,950	105,950		
Improvements:	122,800	157,990		
Total:	198,750	263,940	198,750	220,480
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

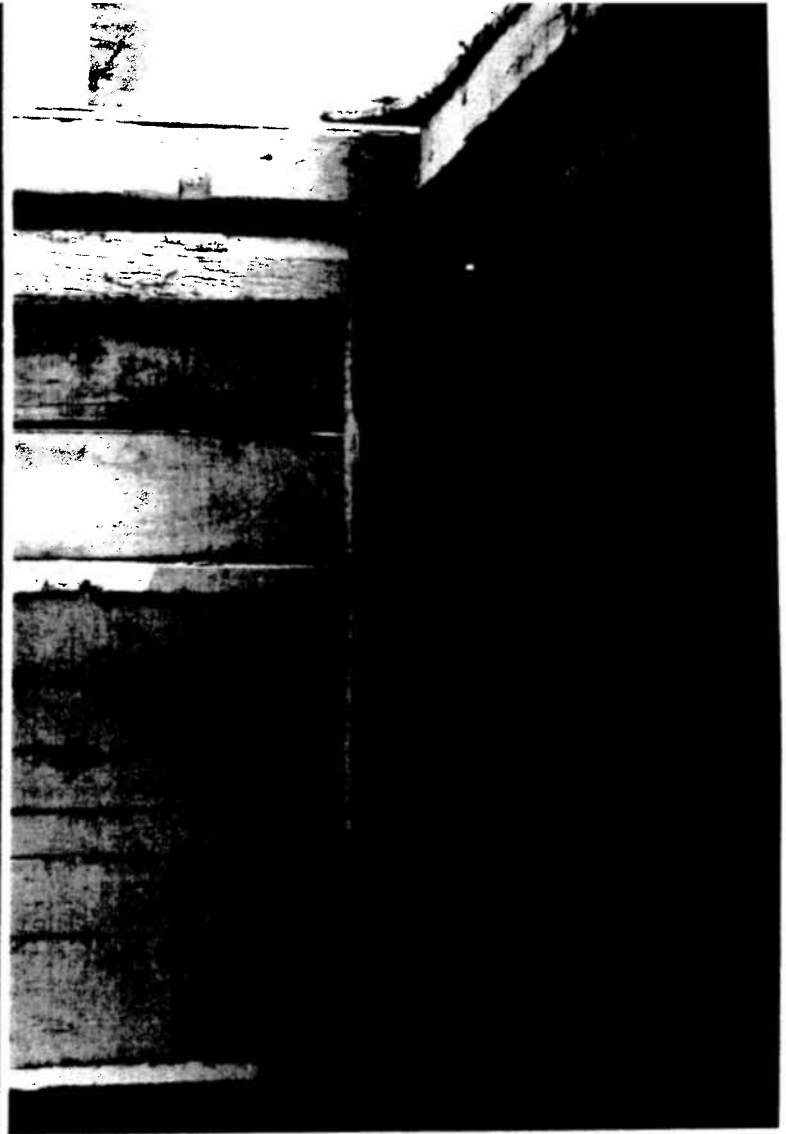
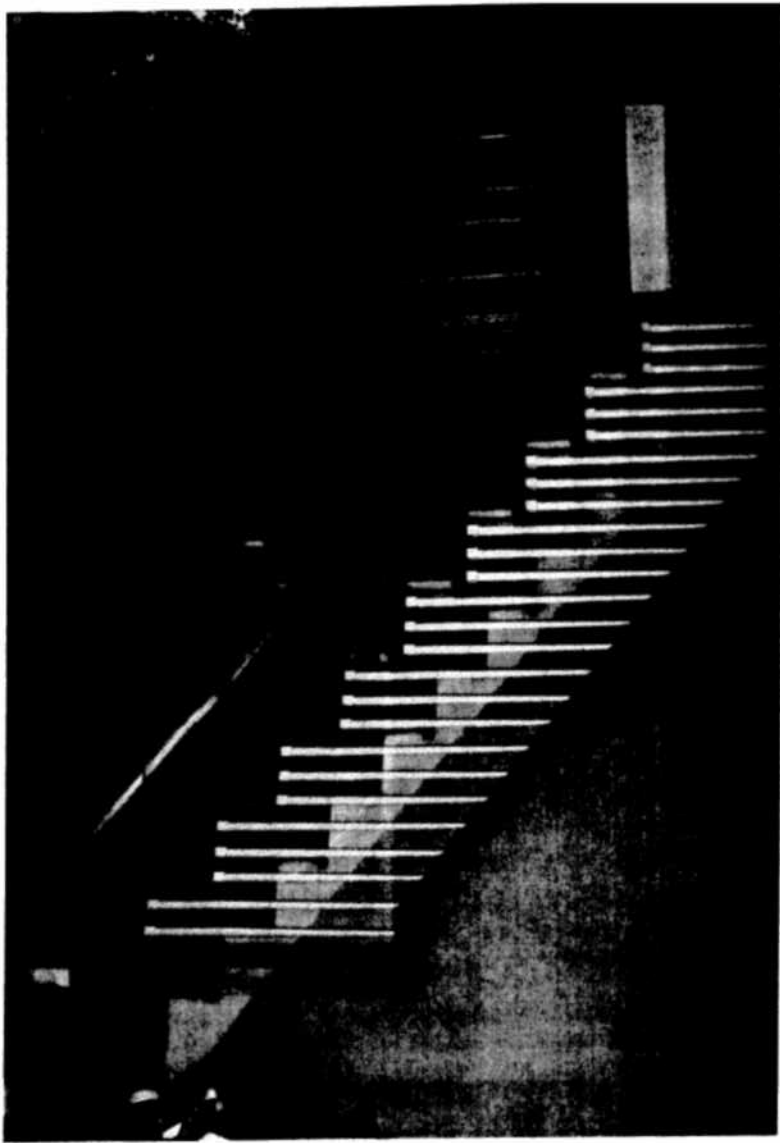
Seller: REYNOLDS, THOMAS H. & Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Date: 12/15/2003 Deed1: WLB/ 1551/ 334	Price: \$206,000 Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2004	07/01/2005
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0







East Nottingham Reynolds Farm, a.k.a. "The Onion Bed", CE-197
Cecil County Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

Item 10: Attach a statement describing the property, its historical significance, and the reasons why it should be designated to the Cecil County Register of Historic Places.

This property has historical significance as an example of a relatively complete 18th century Cecil County plantation, with its house and various outbuildings. It descends from two of the original families to settle the Nottingham Lots, Reynolds and Job. Both Henry Reynolds and Andrew Job are said to have accompanied William Penn when he first established the Nottingham Lots in 1701. The simple yet functional house represents both the simplicity the original Quaker owners believed in and the functionality needed to survive during the early years of this settlement.

The property as it remains today consists of the house, a spring house, an outbuilding kitchen/cooper's shop, and a granary, all dating to the 18th or early 19th century. A small barn/garage also remains and dates to the late 19th or early 20th century.

Exact dates for the construction of the original house and subsequent upgrades and expansions are not known. However, oral family history supported by various documented events indicate the original house dates to about 1726. The house was likely expanded and updated about 1786 in preparation for the newlyweds Thomas Reynolds and Mary Taylor Reynolds.

The house itself consists of two distinct brick sections along with a later frame addition and appears to have undergone 3 significant changes since first being constructed. The brick two bay section to the east sits on a stone foundation on hewn timbers and has no basement. This section consists of a single room on the ground floor with a large cooking fireplace, including its original crane. A spiral staircase in the corner ascends to both the second floor and the attic. The second floor in this section appears to have been a single room originally. It's now two rooms and a bathroom and was enlarged with the addition of a frame section to the rear sometime in the 19th century. The brick three bay section to the west includes a two section basement. The layout is now two rooms on the first floor and two rooms plus a bathroom on the second floor. It appears to originally have been a three room first floor with cross passage hallway and a three room second floor. The frame section on the east end of the house was added in the mid 20th century. It appears this extension replaced a small 18th century frame room. In addition to these additions, evidence in the attic indicates the roof line has been changed, probably to match the narrower east section to the west section once the frame addition was added to the rear of the east section.

Dates for the construction of the original house and subsequent additions are not known, but timing of other documented events helps create a picture. The following history of the property has been gathered from various early records of Chester County and Cecil County:

As background information, this property falls within Nottingham Lot #35 originally granted to Andrew Job by William Penn. From the original Maryland patent for "The Onion Bed" surveyed for Jacob Reynolds 31 March 1787 and patented to him 3 Dec. 1789: "...there was surveyed for him, & in his name a certain tract & parcel of land called "The Onion Bed" including the

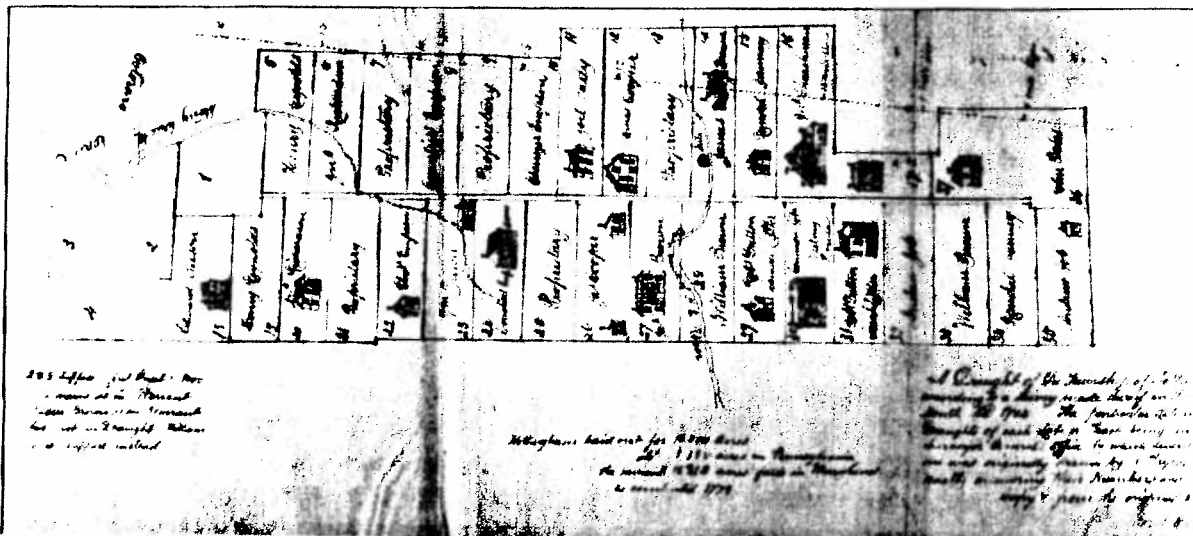
East Nottingham Reynolds Farm, aka "The Onion Bed", CE-197
Cecil County Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

southeasternmost part of the easternmost south lott marked in the ancient map No. 35 and other land adjoining there unto."

1701

The recorded history for the property begins with the granting of the Nottingham Lots by William Penn in 1701.

Andrew Job was granted lot #35, along with lot #32, in 1701, surveyed in 1702. He was one of the first to move to the Nottingham Lots, having presented his certificate of transfer from the Chester Monthly Meetings to East Nottingham Monthly Meeting in 1706. (his original home is thought to have been at or near the Blue Ball Tavern)



1722

Andrew Job's 1722 will gives the south end of lot #35 to his son Thomas along with assistance to build either a house or barn.

Andrew's will, written and executed in 1722, includes in part: "Fifty I give & bequeath unto my son Thomas Two hundred acres of Land of Ye South end of Ye Lott whereon I now live to him & his heirs I also will him two young bulls....." " My will is Ye my son Thomas shall have assistance to help him build either a convenient little house or barn which he please & to have his acomadations while its doing....."

1726

Oral Reynolds family history assigns a date of 1726 to the house.

This date is supported by Andrew Job's will given that Thomas could have started construction of a house soon after his father's death in 1722.

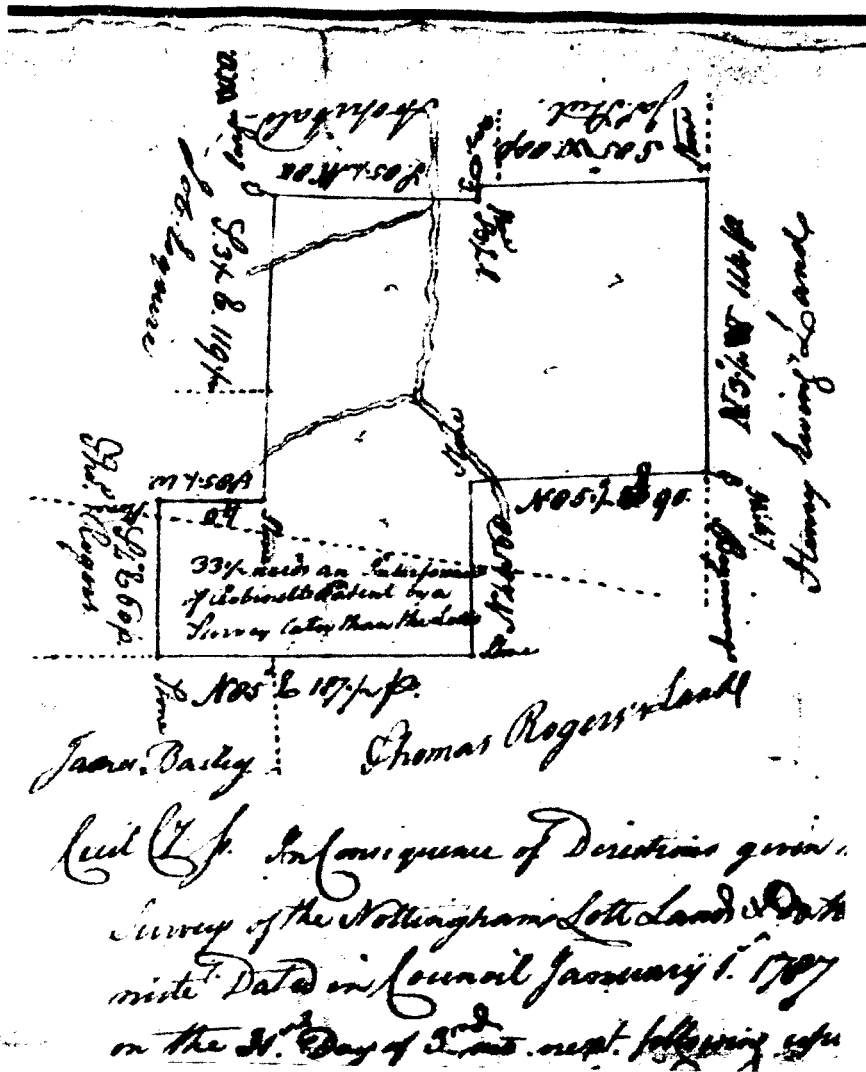
1736

By 1736 it appears Thomas Job had moved out of any home he built on the 200 acres left to him and had moved into the Blue Ball Tavern. John White and his wife Mary, daughter of

East Nottingham Reynolds Farm, aka "The Onion Bed", CE-197
 Cecil County Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

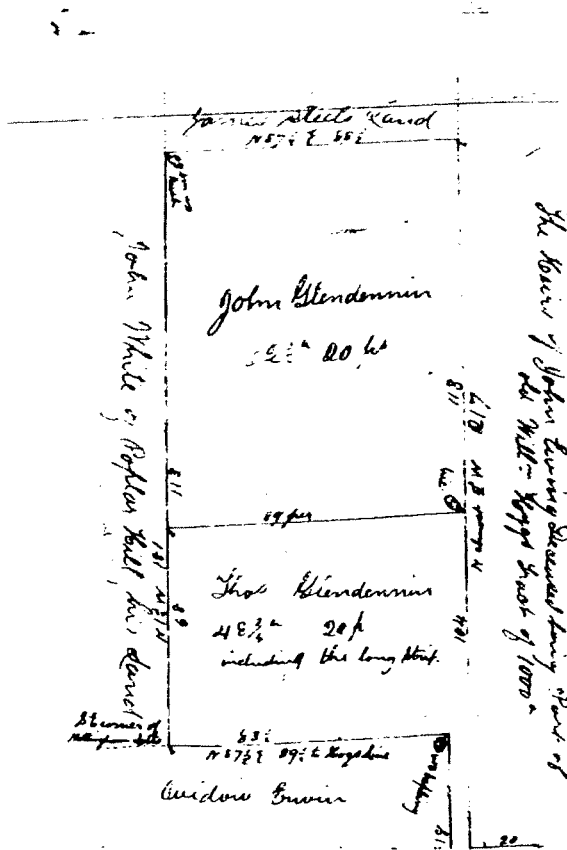
The 1783 tax assessment for the third district lists Jacob Reynolds, son of Henry Reynolds, as land owner with 1 Dwelling House, 1 Barn, and 1 Out House. The "situation" is rated as "Bad" on a scale of Good/Midling/Bad. The Quality of the soil is also rated "Bad" and the property is broken out as 120 acres "arable", 15 acres "wooded", 15 acres "meadow" with a total value of 200 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the column headed "No of white Inhabitants" a line is drawn indicating no one lived on the property. The fact that a barn and out house were present along with the fact that it appears they were in some state of disrepair supports the idea that the house had been built some time earlier.

1787 Jacob Reynolds had the property surveyed for a Maryland Patent. George Churchman survey: "In consequence of directions given me to compleat the survey of the Nottingham Lott Land by a minute Dated in Council January 1 1787 I do hereby certify that on the 31st Day of 3rd mo next following upon the application of Jacob Reynolds of County aforesaid there was surveyed for him & in his name a certain tract & parcel of Land called "the Onion Bed" including the Southeasternmost part of the Easternmost South Lott marked in the ancient map of Nottingham N. 35 & other Land adjacent thereto. Situate in East Nottingham Hundred in the County of Cccil aforesaid..."



East Nottingham Reynolds Farm, aka "The Onion Bed", CE-197
 Cecil County Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

The other Land adjacent refers to the 62 ½ acre tract belonging to John Glendenin in this 1757 survey.



1790

Thomas Reynolds, Son of Jacob, is listed as head of household in the 1790 census and is taxed as the property owner.

The house, barns, and outbuildings have remained with direct descendants of Jacob Reynolds to this day. The land has changed boundaries three times. Thomas acquired about 45 acres of land that was part of "Job's Hope" (the north end of Agnes Whites 100 acre tract) in the early 1800's. In 1842, Reuben and Israel Reynolds, sons of Thomas, split the Onion Bed with the lower 50 acres of the original Patrick Carson tract going to Reuben and later out of the family. The tract remained essentially unchanged for the next 160 years. In 2003 David Willis purchased all but about 5 acres surrounding the house, and outbuildings, from the estate of Thomas Reynolds.

East Nottingham Reynolds Farm, a.k.a. "The Onion Bed", CE-197
Cecil County Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

Description of photos:

- Three views showing the house exterior. One view includes the spring house and cooper's shop.
- View of the cooking fireplace in the east section of the house.
- View of the paneled wall and strap ends under stairs in the west section of the house.
- Detailed view of the early construction of the open granary.

Information Sources:

- Map of the Nottingham Lots was copied from *At the Head of the Bay*, published by the Cecil Historical Trust, Election Maryland. The original is in the Chestier County Historical Society.
- George Churchman survey plats were copied from the Churchman Papers at the Chestier County Historical Society.
- Andrew Job will records were taken from the Job family web, web master: Ann Joe Brown. [Http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ajobebrown/jobc.html#Andrew%20Job%20Jr](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ajobebrown/jobc.html#Andrew%20Job%20Jr)
- John White will records were copied from records in the Chester County Archives.
- Jacob Reynolds patent certificate for the Onion Bed was copied from the original in the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.
- Tax assessment records for 1783 were copied from the originals in the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.
- Later tax records were housed in the Cecil County Historical Society records.
- Tavern petition records were taken from the Chestier County Historical Society.
- Property transfer records beginning in the 19th century were taken from deeds in the Cecil County Courthouse in Election and the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.