

CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-04-2016

NR Eligible: yes x
no

The roof extends over the length of the east façade to create a porch roof supported by four square wood posts. Two brick steps lead to a brick landing for the main entrance. According to the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey prepared in 1978, the original main entrance was on the west side of the house. The north elevation of the central massing is occupied with the north addition, and two, six-over-six wood sash windows positioned at the attic level between the two

Date _____

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chimneys. The west elevation (back) consists of the same fenestration as the east (main front) with a back door in line with the front for cross-ventilation. Two dormer windows also extend from the west roof slope.

The two story north addition is also a frame building supported on brick foundation walls. The side-gable roofed addition is flush with the façade of the central massing of the house, yet this addition is clad in vinyl siding. The façade fenestration consists of a plain, modern door on the northeastern side with a single, one-over-one replacement window on the lower level. Two, one-over-one replacement windows occupy the upper level. The most distinguishing feature of this addition is the large exterior brick fireplace and chimney on the north gable end. The chimney features stepped shoulders and an exterior fireplace with a heavy timber lintel. The west side of this addition is recessed from the west elevation of the central massing.

The south two-and-one-half-story addition likely dates from the first quarter of the twentieth century (according to the 1978 MHT Inventory form based on the property owner's recollection) and is composed of a T-plan configuration with the front (east) elevation recessed from the main central massing of the house. This addition is also supported with brick foundation walls and is sheltered with a side-gabled roof. Three eight-over-eight wood sash windows on both stories comprise the east elevation fenestration. The addition is clad in wood lapped siding. A side entrance and exterior brick chimney occupy the south gable end of this addition. The rear ell that extends to the west has a small covered porch, and a one-story frame addition extending from the southwest corner. This small addition was likely added in the mid-twentieth century and is supported on a concrete masonry unit (CMU) foundation.

The site also hosts several outbuildings. A CMU-constructed open two-bay garage is located northwest of the house. A frame, side-gabled roof shed is adjacent to the garage. The small shed is a single bay in length and width and is clad with flush wood planking. A brick spring house remains on the property just north of the main house. A front gabled roof shelters the structure. The MIHP form indicates the spring house was a dairy and was rebuilt in 1922. An additional small frame outbuilding is found just east of the north section of the house. A front gabled roof extends over the walls to create deep eaves and shaded elevations. Lapped wood planks clad the structure. This outbuilding is likely a well or pump house.

Statement of Significance

The Letchworth's Chance property is an example of a consistently occupied dwelling that has evolved over time. The modified farmhouse hosts several architectural details and influences that respond to the changing needs of the occupants. The building is a vernacular interpretation of a frame, Federal style house that likely originated as a modest dwelling on a farm supported with several outbuildings. The house is in good condition, with some historic fabric remaining. The property also retains integrity of location, feeling and association as a nineteenth century farm in this rural community. The property landscape also retains some outbuildings and the unobstructed view of the water from the hilltop setting. It is likely, with more research, that this property can yield additional significant historical information and a more complete understanding of architectural changes the building has undergone. The property is a good example of an early vernacular Federal style farm house on the Chesapeake Bay. The property is considered architecturally significant and therefore recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Research has not revealed any association between the property and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Criterion D considering the archeological potential of the property was not evaluated.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

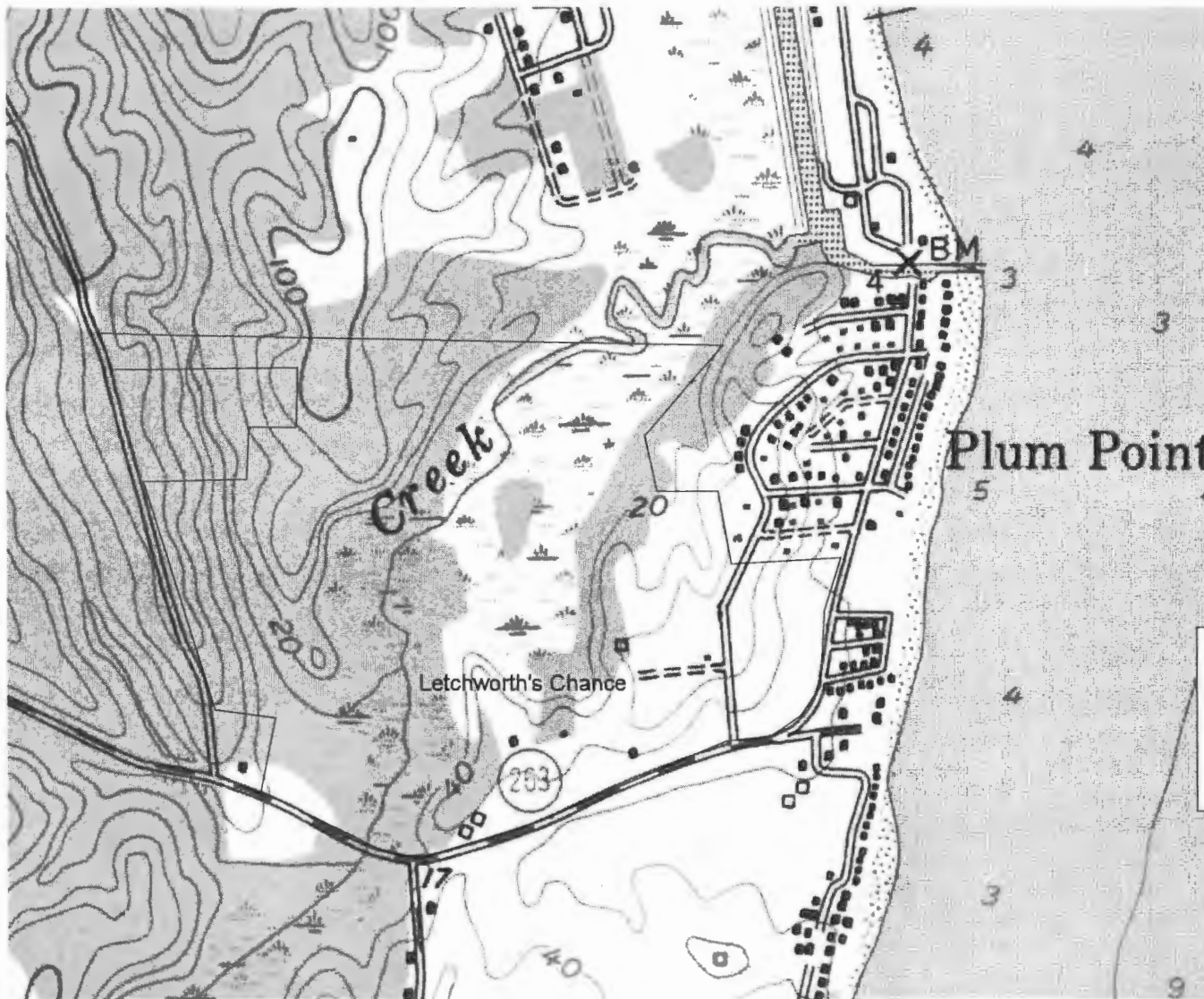
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

SHA - Calvert



Letchworth's Chance, CT-25
Approximate boundaries shown
Prince Frederick Quad

0.4 0 0.4 0.8 Miles





CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, MD

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

MD SHPO

Facing west towards dwelling

#1 of 12

22 00 10 10 00 07/12/07



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, MD

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

MD SHPO

Facing southwest towards dwelling

#2 of 12

21 00 MO Y0 D0 07/12/07



CT-25

Litchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Md.

Rebecca Crow

7/2/07

MD SHPO

Facing south towards exterior fireplace

3 of 12



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance
Calvert County, Md.

Rebecca Crew

7/12/07

MD SHPO

Facing south towards rear of dwelling

#4 of 12

15 08 10 70 D0 07 12 07



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance
Calvert County, Md.

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

MD S#PO

Detail east side between main block,
South addition, and rear ell

#5 of 12



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, MD

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

MD SHPO

005725 18 274 5R24 17

Facing northwest towards garage

#6 of 12

17 00 10 10 00 07/12/07



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, MD

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

Md. SHPO

Facing north towards shed

#7 of 12

005725 19/274 (5R24 11)

10 00 M0 Y0 D0 07/12/07



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, MD

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

Md. Skpo

Facing north towards spring house

#8 of 12

19 00 00 00 00 07/12/07



CT-2S

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, MD

Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

MD SHPD

Facing north towards pump house

#9 of 12

20 00 MB VB 00 07/12/07



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance
Calvert County, Md.

Rebecca Crow

7/2/07

MD STPD

005725 14 27 5R24 11

Facing northwest towards barns
#10 of 12

13 00 M0 Y0 00 07/12/07



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Md -

Rebecca Crow

7/2/07

Md. SHPD

005725 13/27 (5R24 11)

Facing Northwest towards barn

11 of 12

12 00 MB Y0 00 07/12/07



Letchworth's Chance
Calvert County, Md.
Rebecca Crew

7/2/07

Md. SHPO

005725 12 274 (5R24 11)
Facing southeast towards intersection of Ridge Rd and
MD 263, showing CT-472 in background (and
Chesapeake Bay)

#12 of 12

11 00 H0 Y0 D+2 07/12/07

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

Section 7. DESCRIPTION

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

SUMMARY

Letchworth's Chance is located north of Plum Point Road at 2608 Ridge Road. The property is approached from Plum Point Road; there are two large, brick piers with decorative, concrete caps on either side of the entrance to Ridge Road. A sign, "Neeld Estate," calls attention to the large historic property and a twentieth century subdivision. The tract called Letchworth's Chance was extensive; the land grant included 1,100 acres.¹ When resurveyed 73 years later in 1736 the acreage had grown to approximately 1,700.² The house on Letchworth's Chance is considered to be one of the "original manor houses of Calvert County," a fine example of a frame house with a two-story, double-parlor Federal plan.³ When the Neeld Family purchased Letchworth's Chance in 1893 the farm consisted of 263 acres.⁴ Today, Letchworth's Chance is comprised of rolling agricultural fields, hills from which to view the Bay, and undeveloped forest land. The farm includes many buildings; a grand farmhouse, three outbuildings including a meathouse and a dairy, a modern shed, and a twentieth century tobacco barn as well as a small family cemetery plot.

DESCRIPTION

Farmhouse⁵

The farmhouse on Letchworth's Chance sits at the top of Neeld Point overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. Letchworth's Chance has a long, tree-lined, gravel driveway from Ridge Road to the main house yard. The farmhouse has been updated and expanded during various building periods; the original house block (north section) is one-and-a-half story, two-by-two bays with a large exterior chimney. There are modest plantings around the foundation and some old-growth trees in the east yard. The house has a clear view of the Chesapeake Bay to the east, and agricultural fields to the east, and north. An undeveloped forest encircles the house to the southwest.

¹ Calvert County Land Records Original Patent 5: 431.

² "Letchworth Chance." *American Motorist Magazine* May 1993.

³ "Letchworth Chance." 1993. and Dames & Moore, "Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1995, 4-17.

⁴ Eshelman, Ralph. "Plum Point: A Short History." Calvert County Marine Museum: Unpublished manuscript, c 1980s.

⁵ Letchworth's Chance was previously documented in 1977 with a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form. The following paragraphs expand and update that original survey form; for additional information regarding the building periods of the house and outbuildings construction reference the 1977 form.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

The farmhouse on Letchworth's Chance has five building periods. The oldest house block is the north section, built circa 1790. It is two-story, two-by-two bays with a large exterior chimney.⁶ The second building period and main house block was built during the Federal Period (1785-1815) and is a two-and-a-half story, three-by-two bays with exterior end chimneys and dormers. A two-story, three-by-two bays addition on the south elevation, a rear ell, and a one-story, one-by-two bay addition were all built between the 1920s and 1950s.

The main house is two-and-a-half story, three-by-two bays with a steeply pitched, side-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. There are four, shallow pitched, front-gable dormers in the roof, two on the east façade and two on the west elevation. The dormer roofs are steeply pitched and clad with asphalt shingles. The dormer's exteriors are clad with a secondary sheathing of aluminum siding. There are single, six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows in each dormer. There are two, exterior end brick chimney's with corbelled caps on the north elevation. The house is of wood-frame construction with an English basement of brick. The façade's exterior is clad with beaded weatherboard on the east façade only. The rear, west elevation is clad with a secondary sheathing of aluminum siding. The exterior has corner board. The façade's fenestration is asymmetrical. Windows on the first story are nine-over-six, double-hung sash wood with wood casing. Windows on the second story are six-over-six, double-hung sash wood with wood casings. The asymmetrically placed window lights the stairwell and hall.⁷ All façade windows are flanked by louvered shutters with metal shutter braces. In the 1950s a two-story portico was added to the east façade. The portico has a flat roof with overhanging eaves supported by two-story square columns. The entrance is on the south bay up three brick stairs to a landing. The door is paneled wood with a surround.

In 1933 the American Motorist Magazine described Letchworth's Chance undergoing renovation and excavations that uncovered original materials. The main block's "frame is of yellow poplar, with the studs dovetailed into the plates and all members joined with mortise and tenon joints and wooden pins. The weatherboarding was entirely of white pine and the floors are fir. During restoration the walls and partitions were filled with rock will to reduce fire hazard; the original trim and window were retained and repaired and ever effort was made to preserve the original woodwork intact."⁸ In 2009 it was noted that the south façade retained the exterior weatherboard and window trim.

⁶ Resources disagree regarding the original date and building for the current manor house. Some resources consider Thomas Letchworth to have built the first home in 1690, a one-story dwelling on the hill, and that this home was incorporated into the northern wing when expanded ("Letchworth Chance." *American Motorist Magazine*). Other sources cite the north wing as the oldest claiming the entire home was built in 1790 by Samuel Chew for his son upon the son's marriage (Stein, Charles Francis. "A History of Calvert County." Schneidereith & Sons: Baltimore, 1977). Regardless of when the northern wing was constructed, it was the original home and it fronted west.

⁷ Stinson, Merry. MIHP Form CT-25 "Letchworth's Chance" 1978. The MIHP Form states that the family considered the east façade the "back" of the house.

⁸ "Letchworth Chance." 1993.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

The oldest house block to the north is a two-story, two-by-two bay wing with a shallowly pitched, side-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles.⁹ The roof has slightly overhanging eaves and a cornice with boxed returns. There is an exterior end brick chimney with a corbelled cap on the north elevation. The chimney's large fireplace and wood lintel is visible from the exterior. The chimney is located where a log kitchen connected to the main house building. The house block is of wood-frame construction with a brick foundation. The exterior is clad in a secondary sheathing of aluminum siding and has corner boards. The fenestration is asymmetrical. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash with wood casings. All façade windows are flanked by louvered shutters. There is an entry on the north bay of the main facade. Two brick stairs lead to a landing and a wood panel door.

The south wing is an ell-shaped two-story, three-by-two bay wing with a steeply pitched, side-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. The rear addition projects to the west and has a gable-roof clad with asphalt shingles. There is an exterior end brick chimney with a corbelled cap on the south elevation. The south ell is of wood-frame construction with a brick foundation. The exterior is clad in a secondary sheathing of aluminum siding with corner boards. The fenestration is asymmetrical. Windows on the first story of the east façade are eight-over-eight, double-hung wood sash; windows on the second story of the east façade are six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. All windows on the façade are flanked by louvered shutters. There is a set of French, multi-light doors on the south elevation of the south wing. The doors lead to a brick patio with stairs to the side, south yard. Windows on the rear ell are six-over-six, double-hung sash on the first story and eight-over-eight, double-hung sash on the second story. There is a one-story, one-bay shed-roof entry porch on the south elevation of the rear ell. It is clad with asphalt shingles and has overhanging eaves and a cornice with boxed returns. The porch is supported by two, wood posts. There is another shed-roof entry portico on the north elevation of the rear ell.

There is a one-story, two-by-two bay addition to the west off of the rear ell. The addition has a shallow roof clad with asphalt shingles. It is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The exterior is being replaced with smooth concrete. The original weatherboard sheathing is visible on the east and north elevations. The west gable-end is clad in weatherboard. The addition has single, six-over-six, double-hung sash vinyl windows.

Around the main house's yard is a large bonfire pit as well as a small, enclosed garden. There is a small family cemetery plot in the south yard. The stone is a granite tablet with ornamental rose detailing in the top corners. The headstone is machine engraved "Rheba Ann Degges July 10th, 1952 to September 22, 2008."

⁹ As the American Motorist states in "Letchworth Chance" 'This wing is interesting for it used logs for joists and rived lumber and hewn timbers. The nails were all forged by a blacksmith. As originally built we are sure that it extended beyond the present north wall for the original kitchen fireplace is still seen standing and can be seen against the north wall of the house, it faces north. Old foundation walls were found for a much smaller structure under the present three story section and the foundations of ancient chimneys and fireplaces were exposed further excavation at the time the new south wing was built.'

ADDENDUM

**Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009**

Outbuildings

There are three outbuildings on Letchworth's Chance. Due to the fluctuating nature of outbuilding use and need it is likely that other outbuildings were constructed, demolished, relocated, or reused throughout the course of the farm's history. The existing outbuildings cluster around the main house to the north in close proximity to where the log kitchen stood.¹⁰ There are agricultural fields to the north and a rolling yard with a long gravel driveway to the east. Due to the reuse of materials and the nature of outbuildings fluctuating in and out of use it is difficult to provide concrete dates of construction.

The closest outbuilding to the house is located to the northeast, just past the oldest portion of the house. It is the only outbuilding located to the south of the gravel driveway. The outbuilding is one-story, one-by-one bays with a rectangular plan. The front-gable roof is clad with wood shingles and has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The building is of wood-frame construction with a brick foundation. The exterior is clad in wide, pit sawn weatherboard. There is a board and batten entry door on the south façade with wrought iron hinges. There is a spigot off of the foundation on the east elevation. Due to its close proximity to the main house and the existence of a spigot, it is likely that outbuilding one was a wellhouse. The wellhouse is in good condition, both stabilized and weatherproofed.

A dairy outbuilding is located to the north, just past the oldest wing of the house and the wellhouse. The dairy is located slightly west of an old growth tree on the north side of the gravel driveway. The building was rebuilt in 1922 when the conical roof was replaced with the existing steeply pitched, front-gable roof. The roof is clad with wood shingles and has deep overhanging eaves that end two feet from ground level. The dairy is of brick-masonry construction with thick brick walls and a deep brick foundation. There are "window vents" on the east, west, and north elevations. The vents have horizontal wood plank shutters with iron hinges. The gable ends are clad with wide wood shingles. Access to the dairy's interior is on the south façade by a board and batten door. The dairy is in need of stabilization and weatherproofing as it is rapidly deteriorating.

To the west of the dairy outbuilding, north of the oldest wing of the house is the property's meathouse. The meathouse is located just north of the gravel driveway before an extensive, rolling agricultural field. The meathouse is one-story, one-by-one bays with a steeply pitched, side-gable roof. The roof is clad with replacement asphalt shingles and has a boxed cornice return. The meathouse is of wood-plank construction. Although described as originally being clad with "random width feather edge weather board" the exterior appears to have been rewrapped with standard width machine cut wood weatherboard. The entry door is on the south façade; the door is board and batten with 'strap and loop' hinges. The meathouse on Letchworth's Chance is similar in form, massing, and location to the

¹⁰ Stinson, Merry. MIHP Form CT-25 "Letchworth's Chance".

ADDENDUM

**Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009**

meathouse on the neighboring Ireland Farm (CT-26). The meathouse is in good condition however has been altered with modern or reused materials.

Northwest of the outbuildings, approaching the forest line is a modern shed that is non-contributing to the property. The location of the modern shed was chosen as the reconstruction of an existing equipment and machine shed buildings were converted to the modern shed. The shed has a front-gable roof with two shed-roof side bays on the east and west elevations. The roof is clad with corrugated metal sheets. The shed is of wood-frame construction and is clad with vertical wood boards. There are pairs of four-pane vinyl windows in each elevation.

Tobacco Barns

There is one extant tobacco barn on the Letchworth's Chance property.¹¹ It is located in the north agricultural field near the forest tree line to the west. It was built in the early-to mid-twentieth century for the purposes of drying tobacco.

The barn has a steeply pitched, metal standing seam, front-gable roof. The exterior is clad in machine-cut, vertical planks that are not flush and vary in width. Like many twentieth century tobacco barns, the barn's exterior vertical planks have ventilation doors. The barn is wood frame, the trussing system of drying poles is indicative of the barn's use as a tobacco barn. The stripping room was a separate structure southwest of the barn and has been demolished. The foundation is concrete block piers. There are single, batten, wood plank doors on the south façade and north elevations. There are double, batten wood plank doors on the east and west elevations. All doors are secured by a wooden latch. The doors sizes imply that it was not possible to drive modern, twentieth century farm equipment into the barn.

¹¹ The existing barn may be Barn #2 described in the original MIHP Form CT-25 having fourteen rooms and two transverse sills.

ADDENDUM

**Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009**

Section 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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.)

SUMMARY

Calvert County encompasses a narrow piece of land between the Chesapeake Bay to the east, and the Patuxent River to the west and south. It is surrounded by water on all sides except to the north where it adjoins Anne Arundel County. Calvert County is the smallest of the five counties of Southern Maryland and fourth oldest in Maryland.¹² Although the County once stretched to the headwaters of the Patuxent River in modern-day Frederick County, it now measures only 218 square miles, making it the smallest of all Maryland counties. High cliffs characterize Calvert County's bay side shoreline. Conversely, the numerous creeks along the Patuxent River facilitated maritime traffic, servicing the County's richest agricultural lands.

Wilson Road runs parallel to the Chesapeake Bay and is bound to the north by Plum Point Road and to the south by Emmanuel Church Road. Huntingtown and Prince Frederick are the two largest towns in close proximity. Letchworth's Chance is located on a stretch of road between the Wilson Road and Plum Point Road intersection to the north and the Wilson Road and Emmanuel Church Road intersection to the south.

Ornate and modest twentieth century homesteads, tobacco barns, farm outbuildings, and tenant houses are linked by Wilson Road, which has been a prominent local thoroughfare since the mid-nineteenth century (Figure 6). Other significant landscape features along Wilson Road in the mid-nineteenth century include a steamship landing, a wharf and a windmill located at Plum Point.¹³ Dunn Road is the only other road that dates to the mid-nineteenth century. Dunn Road branches off Wilson Road and originally extended all the way east to the Bay and as far west as the Freeland properties.¹⁴ Today, Dunn Road ends at Suit's Chance, a farm in a County Agricultural Preservation District.¹⁵ In historic maps dating to the mid-nineteenth century, many large farm properties stand along Wilson Road including Letchworth's Chance (CT-25), the Ireland Farm (CT-26), the Owen H. Jones Farm (CT-476), the Baden-Anderson Farm (CT-27), and a modest side-parlor house known as the Plank House (CT-257).¹⁶

¹² Stein, Charles Francis. "A History of Calvert County." Schneidereith & Sons: Baltimore, 1977: 1.

¹³ 1865 Martenet Atlas of Maryland.

¹⁴ Morris Suit Interview. Oral History Interview with Amy Bolasky Skinner for Wilson Road Historic Context Study, 10 March 2009.

¹⁵ Morris Suit Interview.

¹⁶ A.D. Bache, United States Coast Survey, Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay, 1847. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

The Wilson Road area can be found on maps dating to the seventeenth century. Augustine Hermann placed Plum Point on his map in 1675, and depicted a number of plantations along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Later, in the mid-nineteenth century, the Martenet map shows Plum Point in excellent detail. In 1892, the United States Geological Survey depicts Plum Point and Wilson Road, and subsequent modifications to this map by the USGS reveals various changes on the landscape, including the addition to new structures and the alteration of roadways, including Plum Point Road. For example the 1910 USGS Topographic Map shows three improved roads extending east from Wilson Road toward the Bay.¹⁷ The northernmost road is Patience Place. The Ireland family farmstead (CT-26) is located along this road. Although the property and buildings were visible in the mid-nineteenth century, Patience Place does not appear mapped until about the early-twentieth century.¹⁸ The next road to the south is Angelica Drive. The Owen H. Jones family farm (CT-476) is located at the end of this road. The Owen H. Jones farm can trace its roots to the Hance and Wilson families back to the mid-nineteenth century. The southernmost road is Camp Kaufmann Road. The Agnes Buckler House (CT-478), visible on the 1910 topographic map, is located at the end of Camp Kaufmann Road on a dirt trace.

The most significant change to the area occurs in the mid-twentieth century. The 1932 US Geological Survey Topographical Map shows subdivisions and new roads along Wilson Road as Calvert County connects with surrounding counties.¹⁹ Letchworth's Chance (CT-25) is subdivided and the Neeld Estates appears with many private properties clustered along the Bay's shoreline. Additionally, on this map Dunn Road no longer connects to Stinnett Road. Since the 1930s Dunn Road has only been accessible from Wilson Road. A new road, branches east off Wilson Road, south of Patience Place. Paul Hance Road is the location of the original Paul Hance House (CT-474) as well as the former H. Oscar Bowen House (CT-473). Although they no are longer standing, both properties were visible in the mid-nineteenth century.

The last major alteration to the roads connecting to Wilson Road was documented in the 1939 Topographic Map surveyed by the US Department of Agriculture and also appears on the current Topographic Map for Wilson Road.²⁰ The map shows the original northern curvature of Plum Point Road; however, it also demonstrates the changed and improved Plum Point Road running due east towards the Bay and the wharf ruins. The modern road takes this path.

¹⁷ Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1900. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

¹⁸ Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1900. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

¹⁹ Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1932. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

²⁰ Topographic Atlas of Maryland Counties of Calvert Charles and St. Mary's, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1939. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum and Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1993. Available through Terrain Navigator.

ADDENDUM

**Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
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August 10th, 2009**

The history of the Wilson Road area can be defined by two overarching themes: Agriculture and Transportation. The movement of goods, such as tobacco, was facilitated by water transportation that linked individual plantations to shipping centers in the County and around the Chesapeake Bay. Later, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the development of inland road networks became essential to the commercial success of Calvert's plantations.

Water transportation had always been the most effective means for shipping and receiving goods throughout Calvert County. Until the twentieth century roads in Calvert County were rural and unimproved; steamships took goods to places like Baltimore to be sold or shipped overseas. "The creation of regular commercial and passenger service on the Bay helped boost the local economy. The most successful of the early attempts to create a regular shipping line in Calvert County was established by Captain George Weems in 1817. The Weems Steamship Line was the principal carrier between the Port of Baltimore and southern Maryland."²¹

In the Wilson Road vicinity there was a wharf at Plum Point. The first wharf at Plum Point was located 250 to 300 feet north of the present Plum Point Road. It was relocated further south in 1893 and rebuilt three quarters of a mile long, "L-shaped" and one of the longest on the Chesapeake Bay. The location of the wharf was one catalyst for development along Wilson Road. Areas around the wharf became gathering places where locals could watch the ships load and use the private beaches. Some families allowed the public to park on their land while others created private beach cottages for rent.²² The Wilson Store (later the Dixon Store) was a combined store and post office often frequented by locals and visitors alike. Plum Point was a bustling area along Wilson Road until August of 1933 when a hurricane devastated the farms and the crop along Wilson Road. The hurricane demolished the warehouse as well as most of the pier.

Wilson Road's association with agriculture can be seen in the landscape and found in the local relationships of residents. One result of the reliance on tobacco is seen in the area of Calvert County along the Bay, notably a lack of central towns, as well as "the significant role that elite planters had in the political and social life in the community, and the complex interrelationships between the various classes and races living together within the community."²³ Wilson Road, an example of the broader characterization of Calvert County, was a prime location for tobacco farming, a "combination of favorable soil and topography, good river transportation and fortunate economic considerations contributed to Calvert County's being overwhelmingly agricultural from its beginning, with tobacco the

²¹ Dames & Moore, 1995:4 and Stein 1977:169.

²² Eshelman & Associates, "Calvert County Steamboat Wharves and Landings: Architectural Level Survey and Inventory." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1996 and Carpenter, Evelyn B. "A History of Carpenter's Beach." Calvert County Marine Museum: Unpublished manuscript, 1984.

²³ Kulikoff, Allan, "Tobacco and Slaves." University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill, 1986 and Dames & Moore 1995: 5.

ADDENDUM

**Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009**

principal cash crop.”²⁴ Families settled along Wilson Road to live and grow tobacco. Wilson Road has no town center nearby with the closest town being Huntingtown, 9 miles to the northwest, or Prince Frederick 4.5 miles to the southwest. Being in such close proximity, all the families along Wilson Road socialized with, went to school with, worshipped with and often married one another. Many of the current residents along Wilson Road have surnames such as Bassford (later Carpenter), Wilson, Hance, Jones, Ireland. The expansive layout of family farms along the landscape of Wilson Road highlights the way Calvert County was settled as a result of tobacco farming. Tobacco would remain the chief crop and one of the defining features of the County until well into the late twentieth century.

After World War II with improvements to transportation a “dramatic change to the character and landscape of Calvert County” occurred.²⁵ The area is now linked to the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area and real estate prices have increased while demands for tobacco have decreased. With properties along Wilson Road no longer focused on tobacco farming tenants have moved away and dwellings are vacant. Many family homesteads have been subdivided to provide land and houses for current and future generations.

Despite modern changes to Calvert County, the agricultural landscape along Wilson Road is not so altered that one cannot discern the historic character. The Wilson Road area can be characterized as a rural farming community whose origins are firmly rooted in the production of tobacco. From its first settlements at places like Angelica in the 1600s, farming was the primary economic focus that helped establish the community along Wilson Road. In many ways, the community remains largely unaltered, with descendants of nineteenth century settlers still living in the area today, namely the Degges at Letchworth's Chance (CT-25), the Carpenter's at Belcar (CT-472), the Ireland farm (CT-26), the Hance's at Paul Hance Farm (CT-474), the Hance/Jones' at Owen H. Jones Farm (CT-476), and the Buckler's at Agnes H. Buckler Farm (CT-478 and S. Chester Buckler Farm CT-492). These families continue to leave their legacy along the landscape through the buildings, structures, and vistas that have historically characterized Calvert County.

Tobacco became the principal agricultural crop in Calvert County due, in part, to fertile soil conditions and the accessibility to water transportation. Tobacco grew naturally in Calvert County and was used by Native Americans; however, early Colonists cultivated a tobacco plant used by the Spanish in South America, known as Orinoco.²⁶ Maryland Broadleaf, a hybrid of the local wild tobacco and Orinoco tobacco is “cultivated and cured by methods which the early Colonists developed and became a distinctive type of tobacco in the world market.”²⁷

²⁴ Dames & Moore 1995: 4.

²⁵ Dames & Moore 1995: 17.

²⁶ Stein, 1977: 46.

²⁷ Stein, 1977: 46.

ADDENDUM

**Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009**

Tobacco farming not only impacted the social networks along Wilson Road, it also had a profound effect on regional architecture. Maryland Broadleaf tobacco is best air-cured; this practice led to the development of a regional barn type. Tobacco barns specific to this region are "a type of structure in which the board siding of the barn is left with cracks or air spaces to permit the air to circulate, thereby drying and curing the tobacco."²⁸ Barns were located in the middle of patches of tobacco, conveniently situated to take advantage of passing winds.²⁹ "Tobacco barns differed from other barns and granaries because they were built to satisfy two basic requirements: to provide a dry and protected building for storing tobacco leaves, and to allow for the circulation of air needed to cure the tobacco. Thus, the strength and durability of construction usually required for barns was modified to provide an open and well-ventilated interior in which to dry the leaves. Long poles spanning the width of the building were hung with tobacco and then set in several tiers."³⁰

Barns in Calvert County were constructed during three distinct periods, creating an evolution in the tobacco barn style. The earliest extant tobacco barns in Calvert County (1800-1830) were square in the barn's main section and were built of heavy timbers. "Drying poles separated the interior into 'rooms' and formed the basis of the structural system. The standard barn consisted of four-foot rooms and eight-foot bays, although a system of five-foot rooms and ten-foot bays was common in the eighteenth century."³¹ Doorways were narrow, limited to foot traffic, and spanned with large, hand-hewn sills. Sheds for tobacco stripping and storage were commonly added to two, three or four sides.³²

Between 1830 and 1900, farmers in Calvert County began to construct fairly standardized barns for curing tobacco. These barns are more rectangular than the square barns of the early-nineteenth century and often have only one original shed located on the south side.³³ The roof is usually an asymmetrical gable; there is a door for foot traffic on each long elevation. "On the interior, these barns had four tiers of poles below the plate and three above, with the small top known as the 'cat tier.'"³⁴ In the Wilson Road vicinity, along Plum Point Road is the North tobacco barn, one of the two Carpenter Barns (CT-1348). The North tobacco barn has a steeply pitched, front-gable roof with two shed-roof wings on the east and west elevations. The barn construction and layout date from 1830 to 1900.

The shift to mechanization on the tobacco farms of Calvert County in the twentieth century is evident in tobacco barn construction of this period. Low barns with doors in the gable ends began to appear; barns became longer structures with single or double aisle plans to provide access for modern farm vehicles.

²⁸ Stein, 1977: 46.

²⁹ Ranzetta, Kirk E. "The Myth of Agricultural Complacency: Tobacco Barns of St. Mary's County, Maryland 1790-1890." *Building Environments Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*. Knoxville : The University of Tennessee Press, 2005: 81-96.

³⁰ Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-5.

³¹ Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-5.

³² "Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland." Pamphlet. Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1991.

³³ "Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland." 1991.

³⁴ Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-7.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

The large door opening now allowed a tractor to be driven through it, which improved efficiency. A specialized room for stripping tobacco is also found within the modern barn's footprint. The room might be heated or made more airtight (than the rest of the barn) for the comfort of the laborers.³⁵ The large number of vertical ventilation planks, propped open by hinges suggests a change in the method of ventilation. This new type of barn was often built "60, 80, or 100 feet in length."³⁶ An example of this type of tobacco barn can be found on the Ireland Farm (CT-26). The barn has a steeply pitched, metal standing seam, front-gable roof. It is a typical example of twentieth century tobacco barns in Calvert County with double aisle plan and interior stripping room. Other examples of twentieth century barns along Wilson Road can be found on the Owen H. Jones Farm (CT-476).

Although many tobacco barn styles can be found throughout Calvert County the most popular barn styles along Wilson Road are the asymmetrical and gambrel types, seen on the Carpenter, Ireland, and Jones Farms.³⁷ Asymmetrical gable roofs have gable roofs with a lower shed roof wing along the south elevation and are the distinctive feature of many barns built between 1830 and 1900, such as the Carpenter Farm's North barn. The gambrel-roof barn became more popular than previous traditional tobacco barn styles beginning in the 1940s due to the higher interior space provided to cure tobacco.

The patent of Letchworth's Chance was granted by Lord Baltimore to Thomas Letchworth or Leitchworth on August 31st, 1663.³⁸ The land grant is said to have been a reward for transporting early settlers to Maryland.³⁹ One of the early land grants Letchworth's Chance was located at its present day location but extended to the north past Plum Point to the Upper Cliffs and Lordship's Favor and south to Dorsey. The tract called Letchworth's Chance was extensive; the land grant included 1,100 acres.⁴⁰ When resurveyed 73 years later in 1736, the acreage had grown to approximately 1,700 acres.⁴¹ The house on Letchworth's Chance is considered to be one of the 'original manor houses of Calvert County' and is considered an exemplary example of a frame house with a two-story, double-parlor Federal plan.⁴²

³⁵ Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-7.

³⁶ Martin, Christopher. Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey, Phase III-Oral History and Folklife. Engineering Science, Chartered, 1992.

³⁷ "Tobacco Barns: Calvert County Maryland." 1991. Additional styles include: "Bonnet" Barns result when sheds on both gable ends extend past the barn's face forming a bonnet. This variation occurs in barns built between 1815 and 1880. Decorative elements such as gables, Palladian windows and elaborate doorways were added to some barns at the end of the nineteenth century. Double barns (two barns built side-by-side) share no framing members. They occur between about 1870 and 1940. Ridge vents and other roof ventilations on tobacco barns date to the 20th century.

³⁸ Calvert County Land Records. Original Patent 5: 431.

³⁹ Bassoff, Andrea. "Haunted History recalled: Manor house may host ghosts." Recorder 27 October 2000.

⁴⁰ Calvert County Land Records. Original Patent 5: 431.

⁴¹ "Letchworth Chance." American Motorist Magazine May 1993.

⁴² "Letchworth Chance." 1993 and Dames & Moore 1995: 4-17.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

Much of Letchworth's Chance early history is unknown, rather, slaves and locals have pass on lore and legends of the "manor house." It has been said that the area known as "Devil Steps" lives a black dog with eyes of fire.⁴³ There are also the popular legends of a child crying (or a baby wailing) at midnight after falling to their death off the second story landing or the woodchopper chopping wood in the middle of the night or the whistling west parlor ghost. Neeld family members claim to have never heard the baby cry and since the extensive mid-twentieth century renovation the woodchopper (or a loose shingle and shutter) no longer chops. After the northern chimney was fixed the ghost no longer whistled.⁴⁴

Thomas Letchworth was an important Puritan settler in Calvert County serving as a member of the Lower House of the Assembly. He was also Justice of Calvert County.⁴⁵ The property of Letchworth's Chance passed from him to his son Joseph Letchworth. Sources disagree regarding the transmission of the parcel from 1678 to 1704. One account states that Joseph Letchworth sold it to Richard Johns in 1678 and then in 1704 Richard Johns sold part of the large tract to Samuel Chew.⁴⁶ Another account has Joseph Letchworth dividing the parcel and selling a portion to Richard Johns and a portion to Samuel Chew.⁴⁷ The property known today as Letchworth's Chance passed from Samuel Chew to his son, who in 1735 sold it to Robert Freeland. Freeland's daughter Frances sold Letchworth's chance in 1758. After the Freeland's various families owned the estate including Roberts, Stevens, Broomes, Dalrymples, Lowes, and Chews. The Morsell family owned Letchworth's Chance for many years in the mid-nineteenth century and neighbor Thomas L. Carpenter owned the property for a number of years in the late-nineteenth century.⁴⁸ When the Neeld Family purchased Letchworth's Chance for \$6000 in 1893 the farm consisted of 263 acres.⁴⁹

Resources disagree regarding the original date and building for the current manor house. Some resources consider Thomas Letchworth to have built the first home in 1690, a one-story dwelling on the hill, and that this home was incorporated into the northern wing when expanded. Other sources cite the north wing as the oldest claiming the entire home was built in 1790 by Samuel Chew for his son upon the son's marriage. Regardless of when the northern wing was constructed, it was the original home and it fronted west.

⁴³ "Letchworth Chance." 1993.

⁴⁴ "Letchworth Chance." 1993. and Bassoff, Andrea. "Haunted History recalled: Manor house may host ghosts."

⁴⁵ Stein, 1977: 289.

⁴⁶ "Letchworth Chance." 1993.

⁴⁷ Stein, 1977: 289.

⁴⁸ Morsell sold a portion of Letchworth's Chance along Plum Point Road at the Chesapeake Bay to Samuel Wilson in 1869. Calvert County Land Records Deed SS 1: 310. The Wilson property contained a store as well as the Wilson-Dixon House CT-286.

⁴⁹ Eshelman, Ralph. "Plum Point: A Short History." And Sundermann, Anne M. "Harbours, Creeks & Places: The Steamboat Wharves & Landings of Calvert County, Maryland" The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 2001. Almos D. Neeld Sr. purchased the property after viewing it from steamboat decks while traveling along the Chesapeake Bay. He lived on the property for several summers before abandoning it due to fears of malaria. His son, Almos D Neeld Jr. moved back in 1922.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009

The eighteenth century manor house was approached by a 'Big Gate' approximately 200 feet west of the house on the old country road (Plum Point Road). A brick walkway and stairs led from the gate to the house. It is said the walk was 'hedged with lilacs, magnolias, and roses.'⁵⁰ During the house's renovation of the twentieth century a two-story portico was put on the east elevation and the house's façade changed from the west to the east, with a view of the Bay. The property was subdivided in the 1930s to create "Neeld Estates". Neeld Estates has a very active community association (NECA) that provides recreational and educational activities relating to living on the Chesapeake Bay. Although lots are privately owned, the Neeld Estate Beach is privately owned by the Neeld family (Plum Point Corporation).

There is one grave plot located to the south of the main house. The stone is a granite tablet with ornamental rose detailing in the top corners. The headstone is machine engraved "Rheba Ann Degges July 10th, 1952 to September 22, 2008." A family cemetery is located to the south of the house however all evidence of graves, markers and tombstones were removed sometimes before the 1930s.⁵¹ Three graves of unknown origins have been found while working on the land surrounding the house.⁵² They are located in the west yard.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Letchworth's Chance is significant architecturally as a large Federal style manor house with a Colonial-era foundation. Its outbuildings are representative of small farm outbuildings and the vanishing Maryland tobacco barn. The property is also significant to Calvert County's rural-agricultural heritage as an example of an original tract from the seventeenth century granted by Lord Baltimore that continued into the twentieth century as a family tobacco farm.

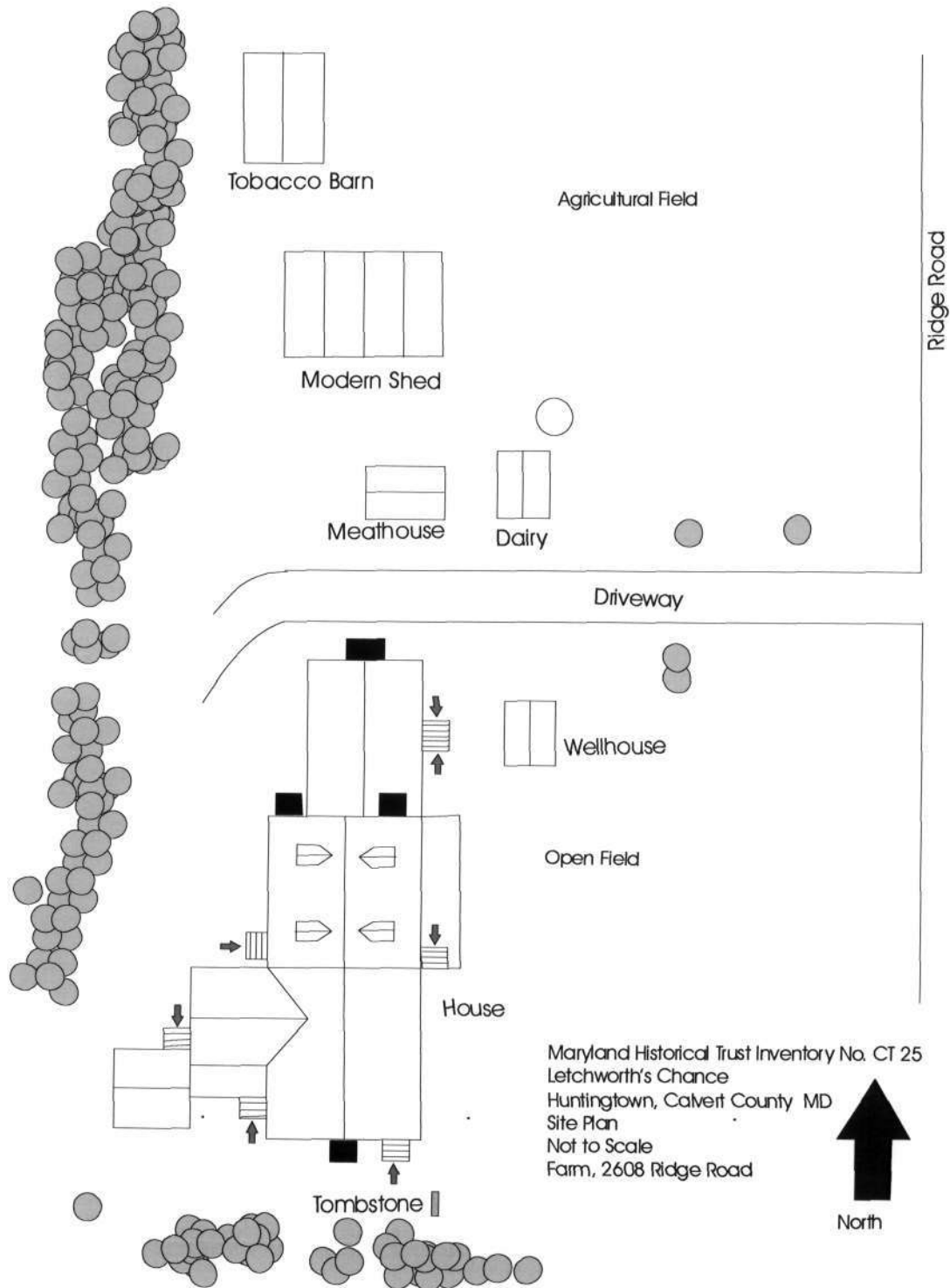
⁵⁰ "Letchworth Chance." 1993.

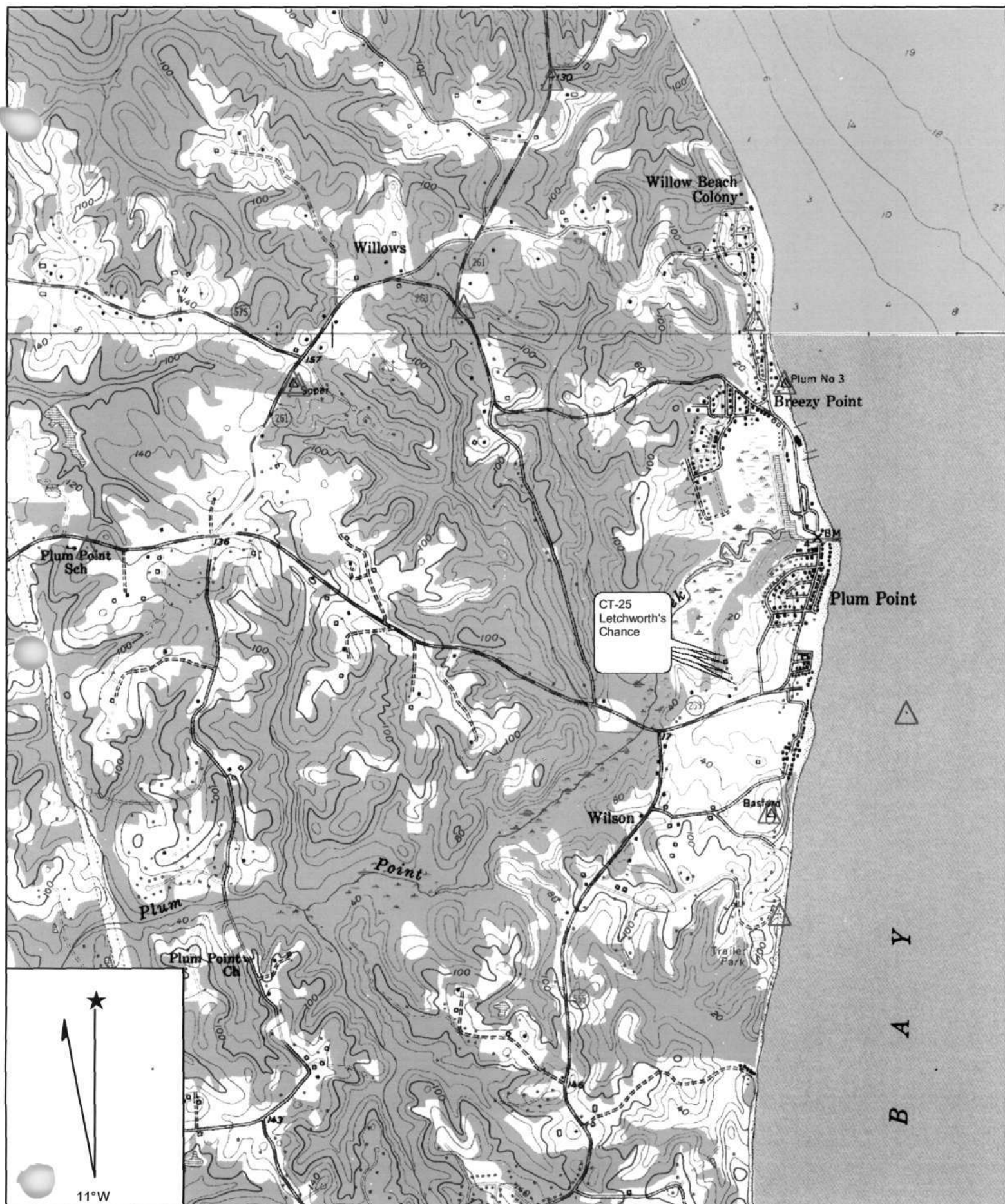
⁵¹ "Letchworth Chance." 1993.

⁵² "Letchworth Chance." 1993.

ADDENDUM

Letchworth's Chance
CT-25
2608 Ridge Road
Huntingtown, Maryland
Amy Bolasky Skinner
The Ottery Group, Inc.
August 10th, 2009





Name: PRINCE FREDERICK
 Date: 5/4/2009
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 038°36' 44.65" N 076°31' 52.91" W
 Caption: CT-25 Letchworth's Chance
 2608 Ridge Road
 Huntingtown, MD



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland
Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPD

Main Facade East

1 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Context View East

2 of 23

A black and white photograph of a gravestone for RHEBA ANN DEGGS. The stone is rectangular with a slightly arched top and is set on a rough-hewn base. It features decorative carvings in the upper corners and a central plaque with the inscription. The background shows a grassy field and a line of bare trees.

RHEBA ANN
DEGGES
JULY 10, 1952
SEPT 22, 2008

HER SPIRIT. ETERNAL!

CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPD

Grave.

3 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MID SHPO

Elevation South

4 of 23



GT-25

Letehworm's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Rear Elevation West

5 of 23



CT-25

Letehworth's Chance

Calvert County Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Chimney North Elevation

6 of 23



CT-25

Letehworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Elevation North

7 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chame

Calvert County, Maryland

Andy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Small addition off west

8 of 23



CT-25

Getchworth's chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Context View Northeast

9 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Well House Facade S

10 of 23



CT-25

Wetworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Well House Elevation Southeast

11 of 23



CT-25

Leitchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Dairy Facade South

12 of 23



CT-25

Cetchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Meat House Facade South

14 of 23



CT - 25

Letehworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Meet House Elevation Northeast

15 of 23



GT-25

Letehwore's Chume

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Context View North

16 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHTPO

Modern Shed Facade South

17 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPD

Tobacco barn Facade South

18 of 23



CT- 25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Tobacco barn Elevation East

19 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Cabert Connelly, Maryland

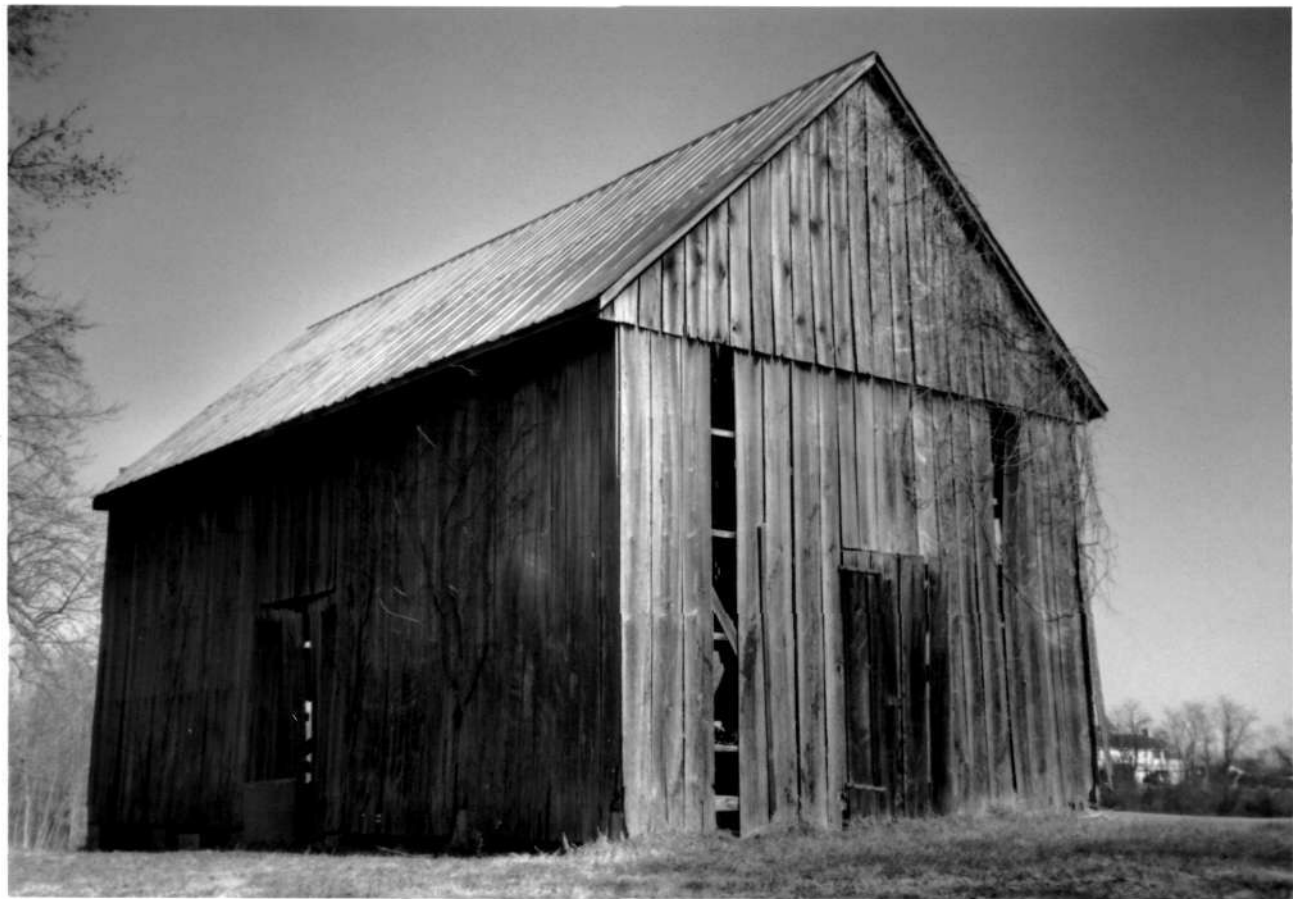
Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPD

Tobacco Barn Elevation North

20 of 23



C7-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County Maryland

Amy Skinner

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Tobacco Barn Education West

21 of 23



A black and white photograph of a wooden signpost in a rural setting. The signpost consists of two vertical wooden posts supporting three horizontal wooden signs. The top sign reads 'NEELD', the middle sign reads 'ESTATE', and the bottom sign reads 'PRIVATE COMMUNITY'. To the right of the signpost is a tall wooden utility pole. In the background, there are bare trees and a small, dark, rounded structure, possibly a shed or a small building. The ground is covered with grass and some small plants.

NEELD
ESTATE
PRIVATE
COMMUNITY

CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert Cliffs, Maryland

Stacy Patterson

February 6, 2009

MD. SHPO

Community Sign Facing South

22 of 23



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance

Calvert County, Maryland

Stacy Patterson

February 6, 2009

MD SHPO

Context West

23 of 23

LETCHWORTH'S CHANCE

The initial stage of this large, three part frame house is the two and one half story, three bay Federal main block. It has two exterior chimneys ~~at~~ at one end and a modern two story pillared porch at the principle facade. In the mid-19th. century a lower two story addition was built to the chimney end. A more recent addition stands at the opposite end of the main block.

MAGI # 0500255435

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-25

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Letchworth's Chance

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

MD Rt. 263 (Plum Point Road)

CITY, TOWN

Plum Point

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert D. Nield

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 263

CITY, TOWN

Plum Point

VICINITY OF

MD

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-25

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house has grown in several directions during several periods resulting in a huge dwelling. It commands an ideal hilltop site which gives a fine view of the Bay and the fertile valley to the south.

It is presumed that the north section is the oldest portion of the house. This $1\frac{1}{2}$ story wing has one room down and one up. There is an exterior chimney on the north end that served both the main room and a semi-detached log kitchen that has been demolished. The Nield family have owned this property since the late Nineteenth Century and have discovered much in the way of archaeological finds. Mr. Bob Nield remembers that while replacing the floors in the north wing (c.1922) charred sills were found beneath indicating that even this building is not the first on the site.

During the Federal period a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story house was built onto the south end of the north section. It is a side-hall and double parlor plan. The parlors are separated by large double doors and each has its own fireplace. Typically Federal mantles, mouldings, bulls-eye corner blocks, etc., decorate all of the rooms in this portion of the house. The hall contains a grand stairs which has a black walnut bannister that winds all of the way to the third level. The second floor is identical to the first in plan and there is a loft room on the third level. Pit-sawn rafters, lap-joined and pegged at the apex were observed in the attic.

The other portions of the house have been built since 1925. A substantial addition extended the house further south in the 1950's. It was at this time that the huge portico was added on the east facade. Mr. Nield remembers that the previous porch was a single story affair running across the entire facade. The east side of the house was considered the "back" and it contains the asymmetrical window which lights the stairs and hall.

Several early outbuildings survive. One is a brick dairy which was rebuilt by Mr. B. Nield's father in 1922. Prior to then it had a cornical roof. The brick walls support heavy hewn plates which are c. 2' off of the ground. These plates support the over hanging gable-end roof. The building measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide and 10' deep. A door vents the south end and gives access to the pit; a tiny window vents each of the other three sides.

There is a meathouse which, along with the dairy, stands on the south side of the property in close proximity to where the log kitchen stood. The meathouse is of log construction although the degree to which the logs have been finished might make them more properly called "planks". Each is pit sawn to measure 7" wide and 3" thick. They are

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☒ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY Description and significance statements : Wayne Nield

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN

Form compiled by:

*Merry Stinson**architectural consultant*February 1978
DATE257-2815
TELEPHONE*Rt. 5 Box 262 B**Annapolis, Md. 21401*

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

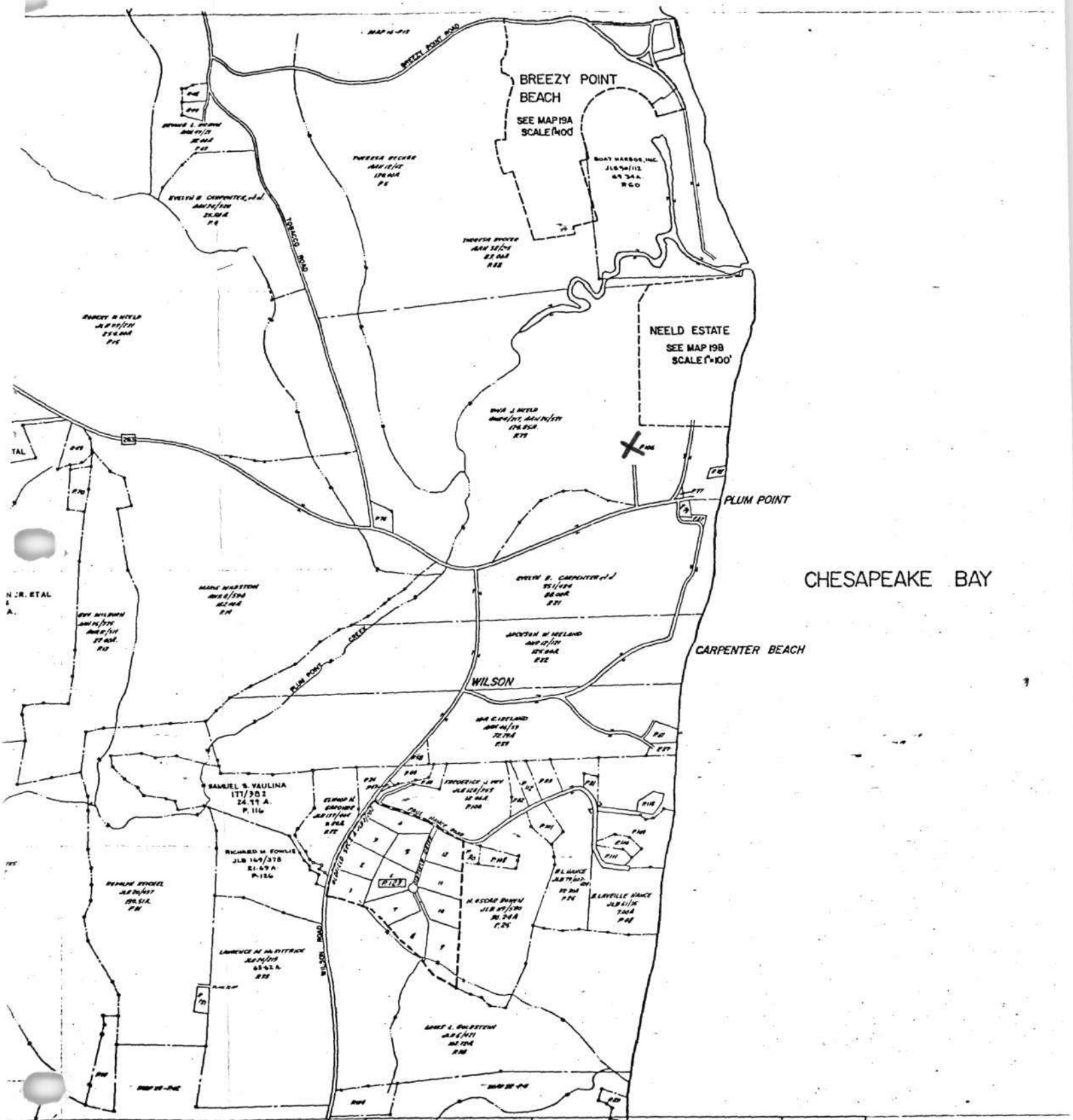
lap-notched and laid with c. 3" of space in between. They are not clinched and random width feather edge weather board was nailed to the exterior side. Some of these weatherboards remain on the north wall and measure up to 14" wide. The building measures up to 14" wide. The building measures 10'4" in depth (exterior) and 14' in length. The eaves are 6'3" above the ground.

The interior has been whitewashed, there is evidence of smoking. The tie beams are made from what are apparently reused beaded ceiling joists. (The meathouse across the road at CT-26 does too as does the one at CT-50.)

There are two tobacco barns on the property. Both are in poor condition and will be demolished. Barn #1 is closest to the house. It is a ten room barn with a single transverse sill. A south shed was added to house animals and until it collapsed, protected the original siding on the original south wall. Both 2' riven clapboards and 14' feather edged weatherboard were observed, both being attached with machine cut nails. Barn #2 has the same hewn post-and-beam frame as #1, however, it is a fourteen room barn with two transverse sills that establish a central passage between two bays.

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Calvert County TOWN _____ VICINITY _____ STREET NO. Plum Point ORIGINAL OWNER Samuel Chew ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER -- PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Wide Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 2-1/2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY CT-25	
		2. NAME Letchworth's Chance DATE OR PERIOD C. 1790 STYLE Maryland Colonial ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
OPEN TO PUBLIC NO			
<p>This is a large complex structure composed of a 2-1/2 story main house, with a new wing on the left, and an old one on the right. The main house and the old wing are C. 1790. The main house is three bays wide with the door on the left side. The first story windows are 9/6, all the rest are 6/6. There are 2 pedimented 6/6 dormers in the roof. The roof is carried out over the front to make a two story porch. There are two chimneys on the left end of the main house, separated from the wall above the second story level. The wing on the right is three bays wide, with the door on the right, with an exterior chimney on the right end. There is a fireplace on the outside of this chimney, showing where a kitchen was once attached to the house. There is a small out-building of vertical siding and there is an old brick well house.</p> <p>This house commands a superb view of the Bay, high on a hill on Neeld Point.</p> <p>Although run-down and needing many repairs, this could be an attractive dwelling and is historically important.</p> <p><u>In need of repairs</u></p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER PAB 7/24/67 DATE OF RECORD _____	

(16) Letchworth's Change CT-25




DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION

THE INFORMATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN COMPLETED
UNDER THIS DESCRIPTION AND IS NOT AN ACTUAL SUPPLY
IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS UNDER
ANY OTHER COUNTRIES AND UNDER NO OTHER DESCRIPTIONS

ARND SCHWARTZ & TOLSTON, 201 W. PULASKI ST., SUITE 2, MD		
REVISED TO:	DATE DEC-1975	LINEN 18-6

PROPERTY LINE
SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY
CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - ZLE-Z-±-2
PARCEL NUMBER - P 349 (ASSIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND MORE
OWNERSHIP MUST BE PRECEDED
BY MAP NUMBER)

SCALE: 1" = 600'				
BY C.L.D.	LAST # NO 170		QUANTITY	



SCALE IN FEET



941

CALVERT



Summer '77

CT-25

LETENWORTH'S
CHANCE

E.

W. A. ILLD



Summer '77

CT-25
REMANENT
CHANCE
E.

W. Nield



Summer '77

CT - 25
KERNWORTH'S
CHANCE
W.

W. Nield



Summer '77

CT-25
RETENWORTHS
CHARGE

W. FACADE OF
N. END

W. Nield



Summer '77

CT - 25

LETENWORTH'S
CHANCE

BARN #1

S. WALL

W. NIED



Summer '77

CT-25
BARN #1
S.E.

W. Nield



Summer '77

CT-25
MEAT HS
N.

W. NIEL D



CT-25

Letchworth's Chance