

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Crouche's Gift Inventory Number: CH~~28~~ - 346

Address: Livingston Road City: Indian Head Zip Code: 20640

County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: Pt. Tobacco Quad

Owner: Frederica A. Bunting (and John W.) Is the property being evaluated a district? yes

Tax Parcel Number: 184 Tax Map Number: 21 Tax Account ID Number: 010168

Project: Mason Springs Cell Site - Verizon Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

<i>If the property is within a district</i>		District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	Eligible district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Non-contributing but eligible in another context <input type="checkbox"/>		

<i>If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)</i>	
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*
 This rural site is located on the south side of Livingston Road (MD 224) approximately 1 mile east of Maryland Route 225, near Mason Springs, in Charles County. The property is the site of the former Crouche's Gift, private residence and related farm outbuildings (including various sheds and one large early 20th century tobacco barn). Today the property is vacant. The two story tobacco barn is extant, but in very poor condition. The roof and a large percentage of vertical cladding is missing. Materials that do remain are badly deteriorated. Due to the overgrown foliage and grounds photographs were difficult to obtain. Other later 20th century shed structures are in even worse condition and not of individual architectural significance. The large frame residence described in detail in the MIHP inventory form appears to have been completely dismantled. It is mysterious that there is no evidence of original framing or wood members around the site. The three large brick chimney forms are extant to varying degrees, but there is no evidence of fire damage to surrounding materials that do remain. Some badly deteriorated metal (standing seam) roof material remains in a large pile. However, there is no evidence of the frame structure that once graced this site. The site is completely overgrown with briars and brush, including trees that appear to be over five (5) years in age. Still intact are the stone piers marking the entrance to the former estate. Unfortunately, in this historian's view, the property no longer exhibits characteristics necessary for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Kate Mahood Date Prepared: 1-11-03

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>Jamie Yee</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>3/5/03</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>2/2/03</u> Date



CH-346

CROUCHES GIFT

LIVINGSTON ROAD, MASON SPRINGS VIC,

CHAS CO., MD

KK MAHOOD / JANUARY 10, 2003

NEGATIVE BY SHPD

GENERAL VIEW, BARN STRUCTURE, LOOKING NW,

PHOTO 1 OF 5



CH - 346

CROUCH'S GIFT

LIVINGSTON ROAD, MASON SPRINGS VIC.,

CHAS. CO., MD

* MIAHOD / JANUARY 10, 2003

NEGATIVE BY SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW, BARN STRUCTURE

PHOTO # 2 OF 5



CH-346.

CROUCHER'S GIFT

LIVINGSTON ROAD, MASON SPRINGS VIC,

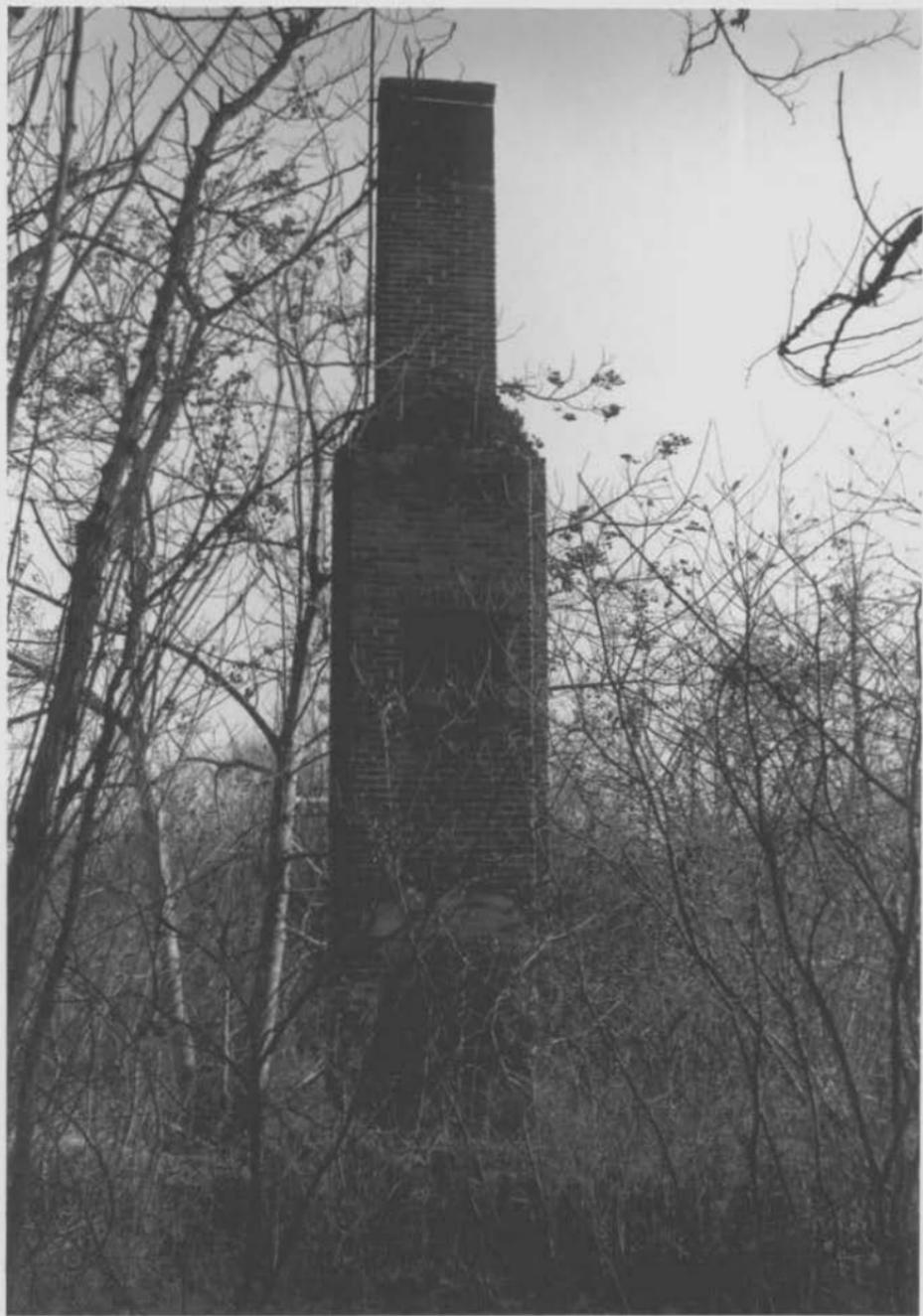
CHAS. CO., MD

REMAINED / JANUARY 10, 2003

NO. BY SHPO

(WEST) CHIMNEY REMAINS OF MAIN HSE

PHOTO # 31F 5



CH- 346
CROUCHER'S GIFT

LIVINGSTON RD, MASON SPRINGS VIC
CHAS. CO., MD

~~K MAHOD~~ / JANUARY 10, 2003

NEGATIVE by SHPO

CHIMNEY REMAINS OF MAIN HSE

PHOTO # 4 of 5



CH-346

CROUCHER'S GIFT

LIVINGSTON RD., MASON SPRINGS VLG
CHAS CO, MD

KIMAHOOD / JAN 10, 2003

NEGATIVE w/ SHPO

OUT BUILDING ^(FORMER) NE, of MAIN HSE

(MAIN HSE IS NO LONGER EXSTANT.)

PHOTO # 5 OF 5

ADDENDUM

CH-346

Crouches Gift (demolished)

Charles County, MD

Mason Springs, vic.

Cathy Currey Hardy, February 2002

7. Description

Crouches Gift was destroyed by fire some time after 1990. The dwelling was associated with 245.64 acres at the time of the survey. The house lot now has been parceled out, and the remaining 244.64 acres is owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

9. Bibliographical References

The site was extensively documented by J. Richard Rivoire before 1990 and published in Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture in Charles County, published in that year by the Southern Maryland Studies Center of the College of Southern Maryland. Original measured drawings and research notes on Crouches Gift are found at that institution.

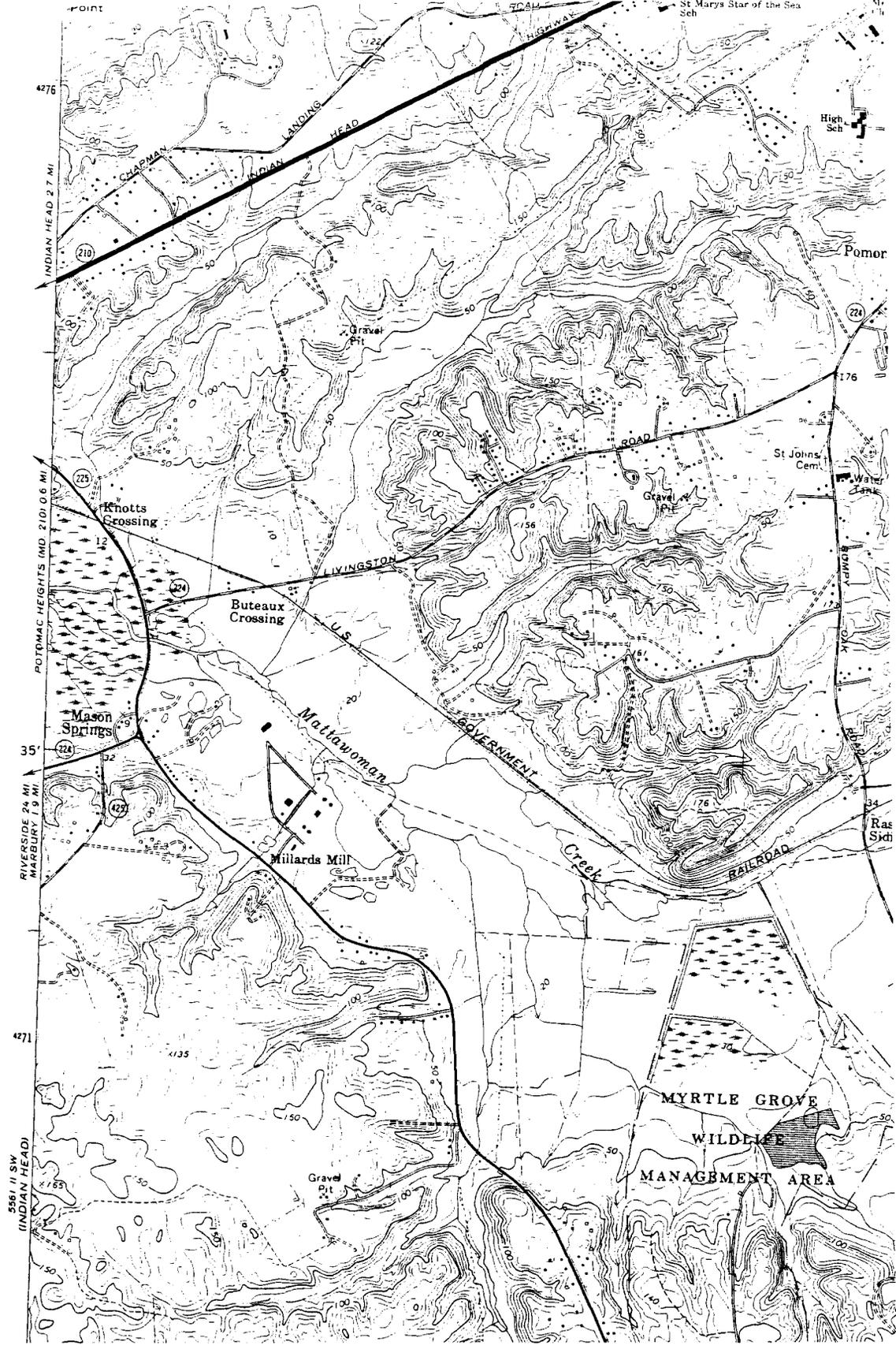
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property known as Crouches Gift and is designated as Parcel 186, on Map 21 on the Charles County Property Map.

12. Property Owner

name David A. Boswell et al street & number PO Box G
city or town Bryans Road state MD zip 20616-0060



CH- 346 Charles County, MD
 Name: CROUCHE'S GIFT (DEMOLISHED)
 Location: MASON SPRINGS VIL.
 Quad: PORT TOBACCO 1978

CHAS-346
CROUCHE'S GIFT
Vicinity of Mason's Springs
Private

18th and 19th centuries

A large "T"-shaped structure, Crouche's Gift is an interesting and important example of regional architecture. The original one story two room house, now the middle section, was of a type popular here during the second half of the eighteenth century and may be one of the earliest examples yet recorded. Of additional interest is a three bay, Federal style frame addition positioned at a right angle to the earlier dwelling. At the rear of the house stands a kitchen-curtain wing believed to date from the early nineteenth century.

Crouche's Gift was purchased from the Brawner family in 1866 by Dr. Edward Miles. In more recent years, it was the "home farm" of John Waring. The records of the disposition of Waring's estate, probated in the 1920's, provides valuable information regarding the improvements on several adjacent farms as well as descriptions of various early commercial structures that made up the nucleus of the nearby former town of Pomonkey.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-346

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAI #0303405204

1 NAME

HISTORIC

CROUCHE'S GIFT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(MD 224)

South side of Livingston Road, approx. 1 mile east of Md. Rte. 227

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mason's Springs X VICINITY OF Indian Head 1st

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Charles

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fred Bunting, Attorney

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 168

Folio #: 729

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P. O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Crouche's Gift is a large, three part frame house that despite its weathered exterior appearance is in good structural condition. Over the past two centuries or more the house has undergone various alterations, basically resulting from several expansions, so it is difficult to estimate the approximate age of the oldest part from the existing exterior features. (Despite repeated attempts, access to the interior has not been allowed. However, the owner has stated that an examination of the interior will be permissible later this fall. Additional material gathered at that time will be appended to this report.)

It would appear that the oldest part of the house is the middle section. It was probably initially a one story, two room structure similar to the Trinity Lake House (CHAS-294) and Molly's Delight (CHAS-342), among others. Its original exterior chimney, with a broad base and wide stack remains, but is encased within a later addition. In the early nineteenth century (c. 1820-35) the original house was extended by the addition of a two story section at the south end. At about the same time a kitchen-curtain wing was built at the north end of the older part. At a later date, probably in the late nineteenth century, the roof of the original house was raised to its present two story height and the north end of the house extended on both floor levels about six feet. It is the last addition that encased the earlier exterior chimney.

The front of the present house is at the south end, created by the early nineteenth century addition. Of basic Federal styling, it is three bays in width at both floor levels. Typical of this style the entrance door, once sheltered by a small porch, occupies the first bay from the (west) end and has two adjacent windows. Across the second floor are three windows. The first floor windows frame four-over-four sash and retain their louvered shutters. The second floor windows are all of six-over-six sash. The west end of this section has a single window at both floor levels and in the attic gable. At the opposite end stands a single exterior chimney. It has stepped shoulders at the second floor ceiling line and a free-standing stack. To the right of the chimney is a narrow first floor window and a wider second floor window above, and there are two small windows with fixed sash in the gable. Most of the exterior of this section is sheathed with "novelty" siding and the roof is covered with tin. The foundations, like the chimney, are of common bond brick.

The middle section of the house is two rooms deep and extends across the full width of the north side of the south end section. Its east side is four bays wide. The oldest section of the wall has a centered door flanked by two windows and there are two windows in the later second floor level aligned with the two windows below. When this

(continued on attached sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Crouche's Gift, a large "T"-shaped structure, is an interesting and important example of early regional architecture. The original one story two room house, now the middle section, is of a type fairly popular here during the second half of the eighteenth century and may be one of the earliest examples yet recorded. Unlike other examples of this distinctly local architectural form, it has a single exterior chimney with a broad base and wide stack similar in plan to the two end chimneys of Maxwell Hall (CHAS-196;NR). The original plank section of Linden (CHAS-48;NR;circa 1730) was built with a similar chimney that was removed c. 1780 and replaced by the existing and more common double chimney with pent. The house is of further significance in that most examples of this form were extended at one end by a two story addition positioned at a right angle to the earlier part. Two representative examples of the many known to exist are the Trinity Lake House (CHAS-294) and Molly's Delight (CHAS-342); however, in most instances where this expansion occurred the addition is generally of the post-Civil War era and not nearly as refined as the early nineteenth century Federal style south wing of Crouche's Gift.

The eighteenth century history of the property is unknown at this time. However, it has been determined that it was owned in 1866 by Dr. Edward Miles who had purchased it from the Brawner family. The property today is made up of two additional tracts of land known as Clarke's Purchase and Part of Cornwallis Neck. At one time the main road between the head of Mattawoman Creek, an early inland waterway, and the north central area of Charles County, passed close by the house. This route was frequently traveled by George Washington when visiting various friends he had in the area. In the 1920's the property was the "home farm" of John Waring. The records concerning the disposal of Waring's estate provide valuable information concerning homes in the area no longer standing as well as a number of commercial structures which made up the nucleus of the nearby former town of Pomonkey.

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

Crouche's Gift is located on a 245.64 acre tract of land indentified as Parcel 106, Maps 12 and 21, Charles County Tax Maps (revised January 1976.)

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

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

Continuation of #7 (Description)--CROUCHE'S GIFT
Page 2

section was extended at the north end a second first floor door opening into a small hall was provided at the north end of this elevation. It presently frames a fully glazed "French" door. Extending the full width of this elevation is a shed roofed porch with square chamfered posts and planked wood platform. The first floor level, beneath the porch roof, retains early, random width, lapped beaded siding. Because the siding extends over onto the east end of the two story south section to the right of the chimney, it is probable that the siding is no older than the early nineteenth century construction date of the south section. The remaining wall areas of the middle section are sheathed with "novelty" siding. On the west side is a single centered window at both floor levels. The roof is covered with tin. The original north end chimney projects from the roof about two feet east of the ridge line.

Extending out from the north end of the middle section is a one story kitchen-hyphen. The kitchen may at one time have been detached from the house and later joined to it by the existing hyphen, the latter now housing the "new" kitchen, since the construction date of the hyphen remains undetermined. It has a door and window on its east side as well as a one story porch. A single window is located on the west side. The kitchen section has a single centered door on its east side and a window on the opposite side. At the north end is an exterior brick chimney with stepped shoulders and free-standing stack.

J. Richard Rivoire

CROUCHE'S GIFT

Notes on architectural development.

PHASE I (circa 1820):

One story, two room frame dwelling with an exterior chimney that also served a former wing at NE end (possibly original kitchen). First floor plan of main block consisted of two back-to-back rooms. Stair in W corner of NW room gave access to two attic chambers of similar arrangement. Overall plan typical of local architecture, c. 1780-ca. 1830.

Exterior walls sheathed with beaded lapped siding. Roof shingled. Doors and windows later altered, but probably had centered door flanked by one or two windows front and back. Interiors plastered, but with edges of corner posts exposed in first floor rooms.

Remaining original trim, nails, and carpentry details all typical of ca. 1820-30 period. Supporting joists, sills and flooring of 1st floor reworked this century.

PHASE II (circa 1840-50):

Two story, side passage and parlor addition made to SW end of original house. Addition formerly had full width, shed-roofed porch across front. Other than replaced siding and some minor alterations wing remains as built.

It is possible that formerly detached kitchen at NE end of existing building contemporary with Phase II, but not before.

PHASE III (circa 1850-1860):

Phase I section raised to two stories and extended at NE end, covering former exterior chimney. Phase I roof rafters and knee wall studs used in building new roof. One pair of original roof trusses remains in place. Porch added to SE side of this section of house (balustrade removed and posts relocated since then).

PHASE IV (ea. 1900s):

Area between house and formerly detached kitchen filled by one room plus loft ~~xxxxx~~ addition. This built on site of Phase I wing, whose fireplace in back wall of chimney was bricked in. Jig sawn balusters from Phase III porch reused on stair well in loft of this addition.

J. Richard Rivoire

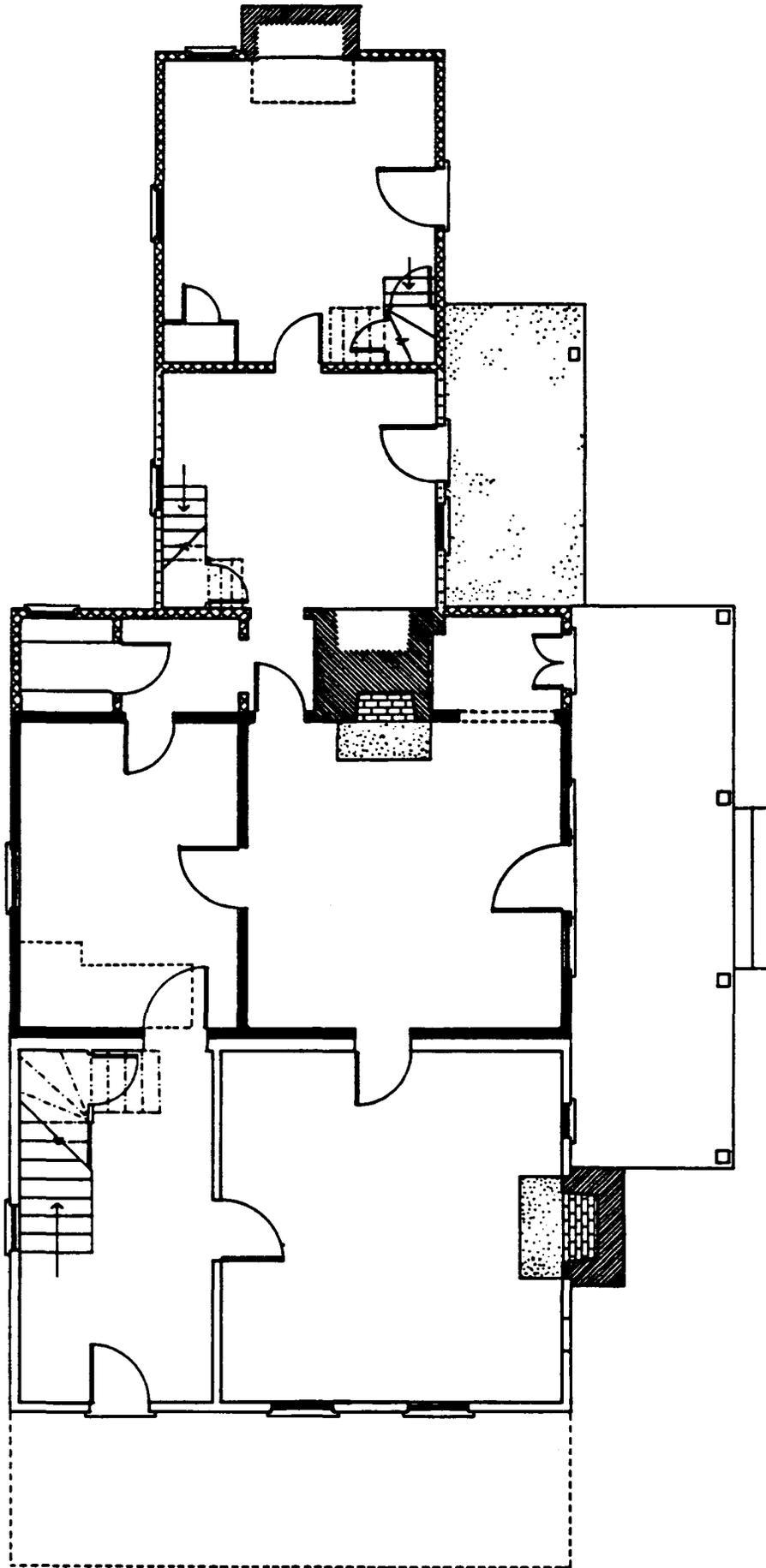
CROUCHES GIFT

Notes on chain of title:

- 1665 - Crouches Gift, 500 acres patented by John Clark
- 1779 - 313 acres sold to James Briscoe by Robert Hendley Courts via his extr. Kenhelm Stoddert.
- 1796 - Resurvey of boundaries of Crouches Gift for sons & heirs of Jas. Briscoe.
- 1844 - Briscoe heirs sell to Hezekiah Brawner.
- 1866 - Pembroke Brawner sells 375 acres to Dr. Edward Miles.
- 1878 - Edward Miles, by Richard Edelen, to John Waring.
- 1889 - John Waring from Elizabeth Meyers, pt. C.G.
- 1964 - Edw. J. Waring, heir of John Waring, to Fred Bunting, 245 a.

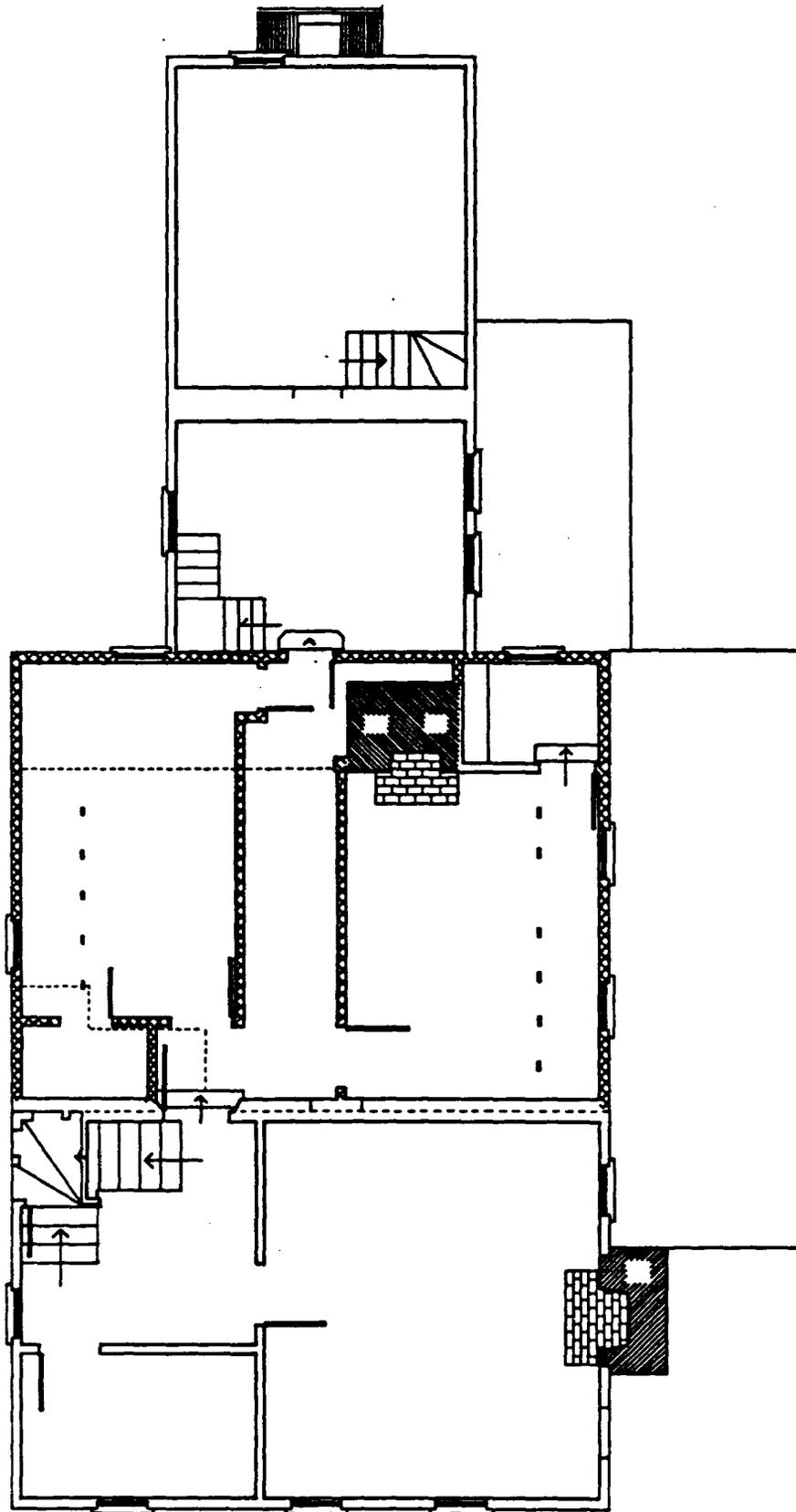
CH-346
Crouche's Gift
1st floor plan

*Reduced from original
1/2" floor plan*



CH-346
Crouche's Gift
2nd floor plan

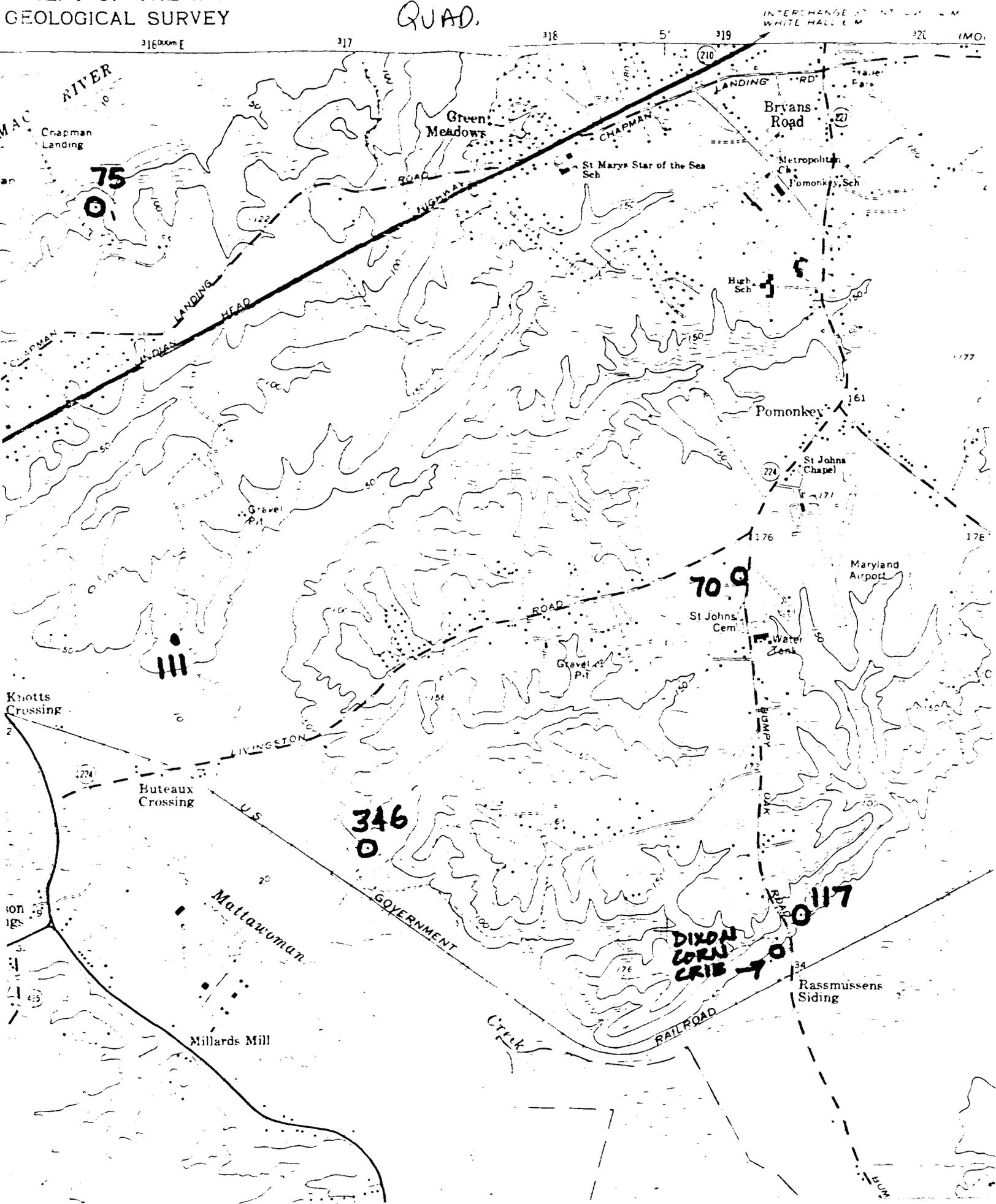
*Reduced from original
2nd floor plan*





Reduced from orig.
SE Elev.

CH-346
Crouche's Gift
Southeast elev.





CH 346 ~~PHO~~ 55% P. 94

CHAS-346

CROUCHE'S GIFT; View From
S.E. J.R.Rivoire, 1978