

K-106

Handy Point or Green Hill
Near Worton Creek
c. 1780's

Great Oak Manor was a 2000 acre patent to Governor Josias Fendall dated 16 August 1658. It comprised most of present day Fairlee Neck, bounded by the Chesapeake Bay and Worton Creek and a line drawn from the mouth of Fairlee Creek to the head of Worton Creek and adjoining a later patent called Packerton.¹

The first Marmaduke Tilden (d. 1726) to reside on Great Oak Manor was the son of Charles Tilden, an early patentee of the Reward on Quaker Neck. Marmaduke Tilden married Tabitha Harris, daughter of William Harris (1644-1712) who owned 300 acres of the Manor in the late 17th Century. It is most likely that the land came to Marmaduke through a bequest from William Harris. Marmaduke's second wife, Rebecca Wilmer, was the daughter of Lambert Wilmer.

Marmaduke Tilden was a member of St. Paul's Parish, as his father had been serving in the capacity of Church warden (1715) and vestryman (1718). He was a member of the Lower House the year he died, 1725. He left his dwelling plantation to his son and namesake Marmaduke II.²

Marmaduke II (1714-1767) who, first married Susanna Lanham, purchased 670 more acres of Great Oaks Manor between 1751-1768. When he wrote his will in 1767, he bequeathed his plantation to his second wife Sarah for her widowhood and then it was to descend to his son Marmaduke III.³ The personal property listed in the inventory of his estate amounted to

@960.10.3.4

Sarah's will was probated in 1774 and she bequeathed many specific items which she listed by room. To daughter Martha, she bequeathed "one featherbed standing in the hall shed room ..." and "... one looking glass ... in my lodging room." Tabitha received "one feather bed standing in the room upstairs." Tabitha and her brother Marmaduke received a pair of "gilted looking glass(es) standing in the hall." To grandson John Waltham she bequeathed "my chimney glass standing in my Hall as also the New York Map in S^d Hall hanging over said glass ..." In her husband's will, there was mention of a Corner Cabinet that be kept part of the house and not be appraised with his personal property.⁵

When Marmaduke III's farm was listed in the 1783 Tax Assessment, it included 455 acres of Great Oak Manor with "one very bad house, kitchen, outhouses and orchard ..." on Worton Creek. In all probability, Sarah's dwelling was a frame, story-and-a-half, hall-parlor plan house with a leanto off the hall; the lodging room corresponding to the 'parlor' in the plan, in the same manner that Mrs. Bowles' accommodation is listed in 1727 at Sotterley in St. Mary's County. By 1783 the house had fallen on hard times. Also in the 1783 assessment there were nine slaves, fifteen horses, thirty five cattle and 16 oz. of plate, for a total valuation of @682.10.

If the present house was not standing in 1783, it seems likely that Marmaduke III began designing and building his plantation house, which he named Green Hill, soon thereafter. The house he built was a large scale farm house with many sophisticated features including a semi-circular

fanlight above the door with pedimented architrave, rusticated jack arches above the windows, and a well-executed modillion and Wall-of-Troy cornice. Its west facade was laid in Flemish bond above a molded, two-course, water table. Although the facade appears symmetrical, the south window is slightly closer to the gable than the north window and the south chimney projects 5" beyond the face of the gable as opposed to the north gable being on one plain. Unlike the west facade, the south gable windows have rubbed and gauged brick jack arches. The south wall is on the same plain as the four-bay, two-story service wing, built considerably lower.

The house plan consisted of a central stairhall with one room on each side. To the rear of the south room and three steps lower, there was a heated room and beyond it was the original kitchen. (see plan) Although it possesses the same number of rooms as many of Kent County's farmhouses, it is atypical in having the rooms arranged in an 'L', rather than in a straight line. 'L' plan dwellings are much more common in the late 19th century and tend to focus more attention on the principle facade. In its original form, Rich Level and Widehall in Chestertown had such an arrangement, with their kitchen wings to the rear.

Marmaduke Tilden, III, and his wife Mary lavished great detail in the north room and stair hall. In the former there is a classical chimney breast with pedimented overmantel flanked by fluted pilasters with double-crossetted inner panel. The design for the chimney breast was certainly copied from a contemporary design book, as it is well proportioned and well executed. The north parlor also had raised panel dado, window jambs and window seats. The paneled dado is carried into the stairhall and up to the top of the stair. The south room had no dado, but chair rail between the

otherwise identical window seats and a built-in corner cupboard.⁶

Green Hill Farm passed from Marmaduke III in 1816 to his daughter Mary, who had married Dr. Geo. D. S. Handy.⁷ Unfortunately for Marmaduke, his son Marmaduke IV, had died 14 years before, but not without leaving heirs. Upon Mary's death in 1850, the farm was to be sold, but her youngest son, Luther Handy, purchased the farm from the heirs and carried on operations, through hard times as well as good times.⁸ In the Tax Assessment of 1852 Luther is listed with 261 acres of Great Oak Manor with "Brick House and other buildings in good repair." After his death the house probably remained untouched and tenanted until it was purchased by Elizabeth Dixon, in 1927,⁹ who gave it to her daughter and son-in-law in 1932.¹⁰ At this juncture, a large portico/porte-cochere was constructed on the west facade and if anything else was undertaken, it was all to be changed after 1940, when F. Bramwell Geddes and his wife Alice purchased the farm and enlarged the house.¹¹

After 1940 the porte-cochere was converted into a porch and the drive was carried to the back of the house. On the back of the house a two story four-bay long and one-bay deep extension was constructed extending over the first bay of the service wing.

Paneling and bookshelves were added to the north and south rooms, the old kitchen was enlarged into a dining room. A new kitchen and servants' quarters were added to the east end of the house. The Geddes carried on a full farm operation until their deaths in the early 1960's.

Eight of the original acres remain with the house, the remainder still in cultivation and under an agricultural easement.

1. Patents, Lib. Q, fol. 423; Rent Rolls, Vol. 1, fol. 6,8,81.
2. Pappenfuss, E., Maryland Legislators.
3. Wills, Lib. 4, fol. 341. Marmaduke Tilden petitioned the Court in 1747 to have his lands resurveyed. The two witnesses were his neighbors William Graves, aged 31 and John Carvill, aged 40. (Land Records, Lib. JS 26, fol. 100).
4. Inventories, Lib. 6, fol. 208.
5. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 164.
6. Marmaduke Tilden III was a member of Chester Parish and occupied pew No. 43 at the church at I.U. He was vestryman in 1780-81. He was a member of the Lower House, 1781-82; tobacco inspector at Worton Creek Warehouse 1773; Justice for nine years. In his will of 1815 he manumitted "My Negro Man Cuff and my negro woman" and stipulated that over the next 31 years, 13 other slaves be set free, (Wills, Lib. 10, fol. 23). His total personal estate was appraised for \$3,387.99.
7. Wills, Lib. 10, fol. 23.
8. Land Records, Lib. JFG 1, fol. 563.
9. Land Records, Lib. RRA 9, fol. 67.
10. Land Records, Lib. RAS 8, fol. 40.
11. Land Records, Lib. RAS 23, fol. 405.

K-106

Manor Shores, Handy Point Farm
Chestertown
Private

1800

In 1928, a two-story porte cochiere was constructed on the front of a late 18th century brick dwelling. A fine example of 20th century neo-classical design; the porte cochiere has a fine denticulated cornice. The house also has a fine 18th century fireplace with tabernacle overmantle.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-106
MAGI # 1501065204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Manor Shores, Handy Point Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Manor Shores

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

J. Hurst Purnell (Mr. & Mrs.)

Telephone #: (301) 778-1377

STREET & NUMBER

Handy Point

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: EHP 69

Folio #: 604

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-106

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Handy Point House was originally constructed about 1800, probably by Marmaduke Tilden III. It was altered somewhat through the years, but in 1923 the building was greatly altered in the neo-classical style of that day. From its grand two story pediment and balcony, the house has a sweeping view of the Chesapeake Bay.

The main house is five bays long and one room (two bays) deep. It is a tall two and one-half stories with high water table and gable roof. Behind the house is a long ell of brick and frame.

The house is typical of its earliest period in form and detailing. The main facade (west) is laid in Flemish bond and the water table has upper course of cove molded brick and second course of quarter round brick. 6/6 sash windows are evenly spaced on the west facade and there is a central entrance. There are three original windows on the south gable; the two on the first floor have splayed, flat arches of gauged brick. Frames, some replaced, have beads and quarter round backband moldings. On the west facade are flat wood arches with key stones that date from the 1920's. Sills are rounded. Shutters are paneled on the first and louvered above; they are painted dark green.

The chimney on the north gable is entirely enclosed within the wall but that on the south gable projects about four inches and is stepped from the width of the chimney back to that of the chimney. Both have plain reconstructed caps.

In the 1923 remodeling the gable roof was modified into a T-shaped roof to cover the two story porte cochiere. The cornice with modillions and wall of troy molding dates from this time. The porte cochiere (now converted into a porch) is three bays wide and supported by square pillars.

There is a palladium-type window in the pediment of the portico and a suspended balcony at the second floor level. A flight of brick steps leads to a broad lawn.

Because the south wall appears to be continuous, the brick portion of the wing probably dates from the same period as the house although a catslide roof was flattened to install a bath. This is a simple one and one-half story wing with gable roof and 6/6 sash. A modern extension has lower gable roof with dormers and an enclosed porch.

The main entrance with fanlight, paneled jambs and old six-paneled door leads to a central stair hall. The stair is open to the third floor. There are carved step ends and turned newel and intermediates. The handrail and shadow are molded. In the stair hall wainscoting has raised and beveled panels. The spandrel has a single triangular panel.

The north parlor has a tabernacle open mantle with crossette panel and reeded pilasters. The mantle shelf is denticulated and rests on console brackets.

In the south parlor is a handsome cupboard with 12 light, double glass doors and butterfly shelves. Lower door have raised and beveled panels; other paneling in this room is modern.

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 c. 1800 constructed BUILDER/ARCHITECT
 c. 1923 remodeled

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Handy Point House is significant because it incorporates two architectural periods into one handsome building. The original building represents architectural ideas popular in the end of the 18th century; the remodeling is a re-interpretation of the classical ideas which provide the philosophical foundation for both periods.

Marmaduke Tilden III who probably constructed the building was the great grandson of the Marmaduke Tilden of Great Oak Manor who immigrated in 1658. He died in 1816 and left the property to his daughter Mary, the wife of George D. S. Handy. The property remained in the Handy family for some time, receiving its name. In 1927 Mrs. Isaac H. Dixon purchased the building and remodeled it.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland,
Easton, Maryland, 1934.
Scarborough, Katherine, Homes of the Cavaliers, 1930.

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

NAME / TITLE	DATE
Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant	August, 1977
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
Kent County Historical Society	
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
Church Alley	Maryland 21620
CITY OR TOWN	
Chestertown	

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

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Chestertown</u> VICINITY <u>melitota</u> STREET NO. <u>Handy Point Road - to end</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Marmaduke Tilden</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwellin</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Lamont D.P. Copeland</u> PRESENT USE <u>Vacant</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>k-106</u> HANDY POINT
	2. NAME <u>Memor Shores or Handy Point</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>mid 18th Cent</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p>Handy Point is a 2 1/2 story brick dwelling which has a magnificent view over the Chesapeake Bay. The west facade is four - fluted bays & is 3 bays long with center door having fanlight & pedimented trim. There is a later portico over 3 bays of the facade with square pilars and a hanging balcony at 2nd floor level. There are wood flat arches with keystones on the west facade and a double molded water table. Parallel shutters on 1st story & louver shutters on 2nd story in the main which have 1/6 oak throughout. The cornice is a bold wood grain in the modulation & portico wall, tray molding, which is repeated in the portico. There is a Palladian-type window in the pediment of the portico. On the south side, the chimneys project about four inches from the surface of the wall. The bldg. is 3 bays deep here and has flat ^{brick} arches above the windows. There is also an "h" which is built on 2 levels, constructed</p>	OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>	

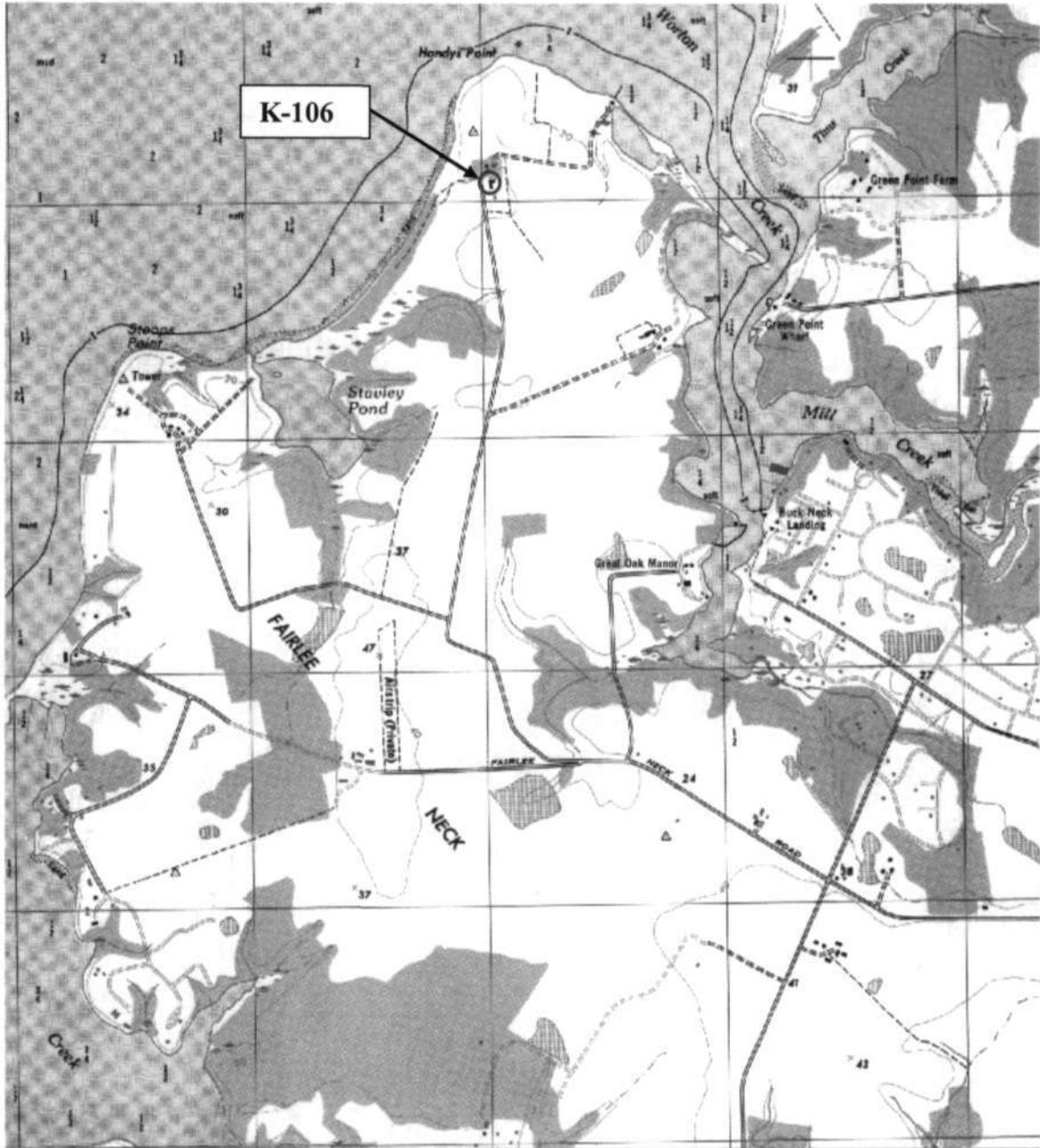
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 	7. PHOTOGRAPH
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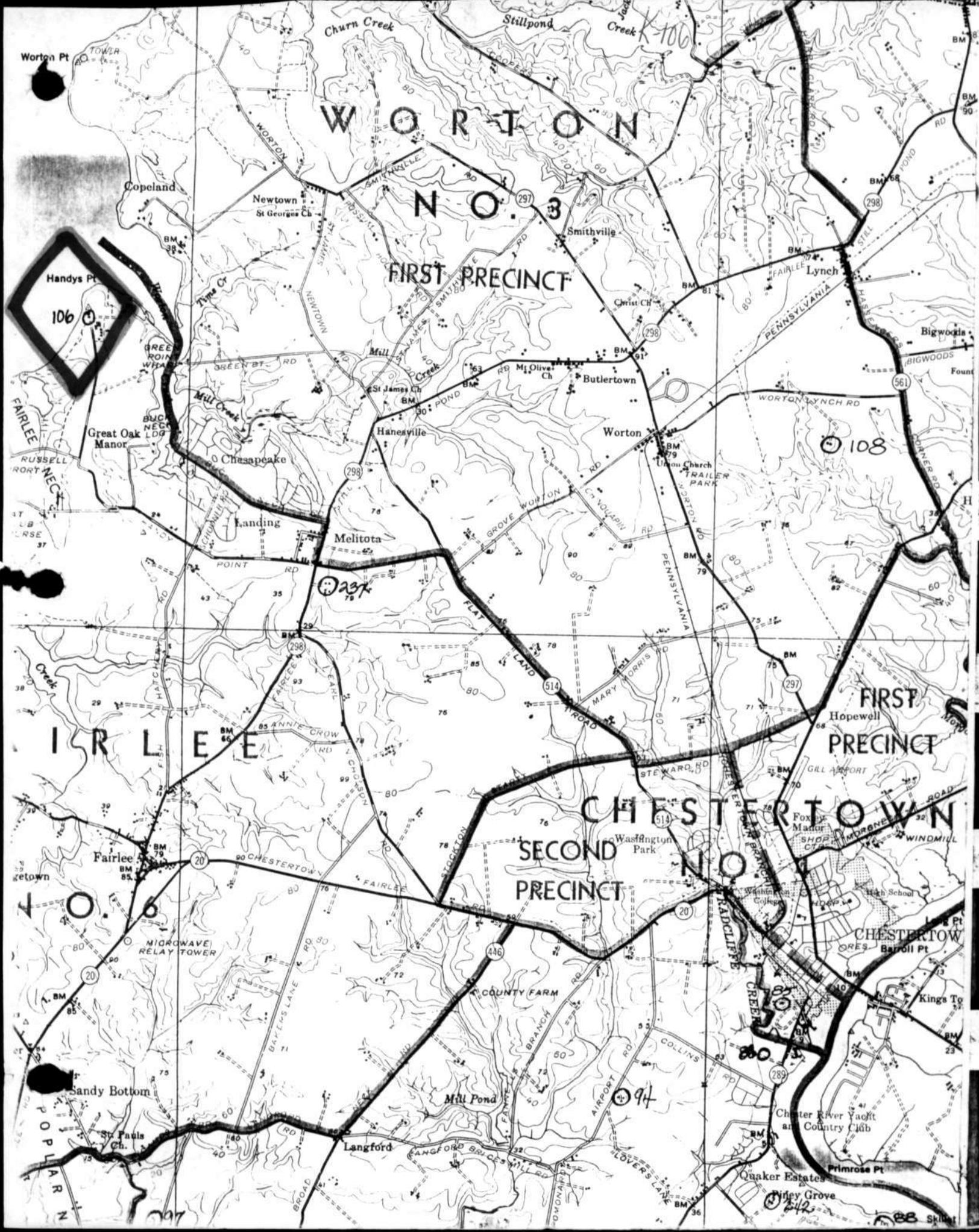
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>Early Manor & Plantation Houses, 1939, p 217, 227</u> <u>W.P.A. Guide, p 384</u>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct 3, 1968</u>
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE
 former owners
 Willington Trust
 Geddes
 Mr. Plummer - Manager

Handy Point is a two-and-one-half story brick dwelling which has a magnificent view over the Chesapeake Bay. The west facade is laid in Flenish bond and is five bays long with center door having fanlight and pedimented trim. There is a later portico over three bays of the facade with square pilors and a hanging balconey at the second floor level. There are wood flat arches with key-stones in the west facade and a double molded water table. Panelled sutters on the first story and louvered shutters on the second story trim the windows which have 6/6 sashes throughout. The cornice is a bold wood affair with modillion and wall of *troy* molding, which is repeated in the portico. There is a palladium-type window in the pediment of the portico. On the south gable, the chimney projects about four inches from the surface of the wall. The building is two bays deep here and has flat brick arches above the windows. There is also an "L" which is built on two levels, constructed of brick and a modern wing for servants' quarters.

K-106
Handy Point
(Green Hill)
22607 Handy Point Road, Chestertown
Hanesville Quadrangle







Handy Point
Handy Point Rd.
Kenttown
Facing West.
C. Erythra

MH TR-106

Aug 1977



Handy Point MHT K106

Handy Point Rd.

Chester town

First floor N.W.

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