

K-269

Ellendale Site or Huntingfield
Eastern Neck
1722

One of the largest tracts in the lower county was Huntingfield, a 1200 acre tract patented to the first Thomas Ringgold in 1659.¹ Ellendale is one of the several farms into which it was divided as the Ringgold family grew. The early house on the property is described by Mary Camp in a missive to Mary Ringgold Willson:

"The original house, which was long looked upon as one of the oldest in the county, had the date of its erection, 1722, in glazed black brick in the east gable, large figures. This home was destroyed by fire winter of 1851 and rebuilt on old foundation the following summer. The old house was 1 1/2 stories high and the brick walls, including inside partitions, started from cellar foundations. On the first floor was a large central hall with two rooms on either side. The windows in the two front rooms were placed between broad fluted columns which extended from floor to ceiling. The window seats were deep and window panes quite small.

The parlor mantel was broad at either end yet narrow in the center and rested on fluted columns like those at the windows. Above the mantel, fixed in the wall, was a large oil painting (pastoral scene). The newel post in the hall was large and square and beautifully carved and paneled to match wainscoting. There was little plaster in the house, four bedrooms on the second floor, sloping walls, dormer windows and queer little end windows. In lower hall two outside doors were double paneled on inside and arranged in diamonds on outside. Front door had huge brass knocker on a heavy plate.

Main building was brick, kitchen at east end was frame."²

From Mary Camp's description, the old house sounds as though it was similar to White House Farm, the one and a half story brick house built by Daniel Perkins bearing the glazed date of 1721 in its gable. But, the interior here sounds more sophisticated and in that way similar to the Violet Farm, a 1762 residence built by James Frisby and his Ringgold wife, Rebecca.

After the original house burned, the remodeled house was reworked in a very simple Greek Revival style. It had a partially submerged basement with four rooms and central hall which was devoted to kitchens and pantries. The first floor had a similar arrangement with two additional rooms in a frame shed-roof addition. The second floor also had four rooms and a central hall. It was similar in plan to other mid-19th century farmhouses, except that the second floor was frame on the old patched brick walls of the first floor. Along the south front of the house there was a porch with brick floor on grade and brick columns supporting a Greek architrave with dentil molding.

The farm had been purchased in the 1830's by Captain George H. Willson and it was he who rebuilt the house after the fire.³ In the 1852 Tax Assessment, Willson was assessed on "398 acres of Huntingfield with a New House & other Buildings in good repair." Amongst his taxed property was the schooner "Pearle" – a 24 ton sailing vessel.⁴

The house and some of the farm was purchased in the 1880's by Mr. Louis E. Smith in whose family it remains to this day.⁵ Sadly, years of

erosion brought the shores of the Chesapeake closer and closer until the house was eventually consumed by the power of the Bay.

1. Patents, Lib. , fol.
2. Courtesy of Mary Louisa E. Kelley -
3. Land Records, Lib. , fol.
4. 1852 Tax Assessment.
5. Land Records, Lib. , fol.



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Huntingfield or Ellendale ~~XXXXXXXX~~
Eastern Neck
c. 1930
Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Library

K-269

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

76°15' 392000m E
39°07'30"

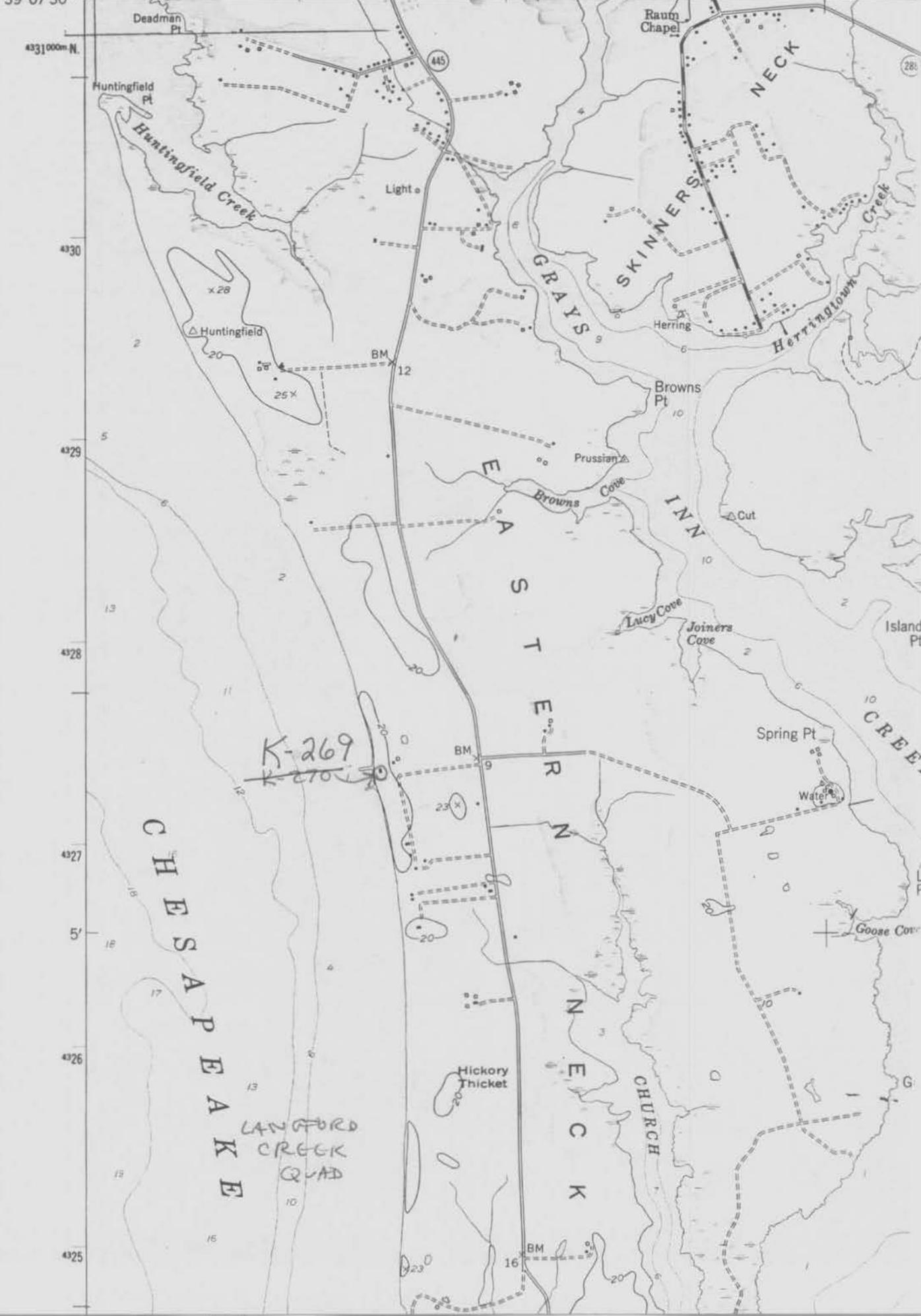
ROCK HALL 0.8 MI.

394

FAIRLEE 7.5 MI.
EDESVILLE 2.5 MI.

285

K-269
12'30"



4331000m N.

4330

4329

4328

4327

4326

4325

C H E S A P E A K E

LANGFORD
CREEK
QUAD

E A S T E R N
N E C K

CHURCH

C R E E K



K-269

C- -

Credit:

LOUISE KELLY