

K-271  
Trumpington  
Rock Hall  
Private

18th Century

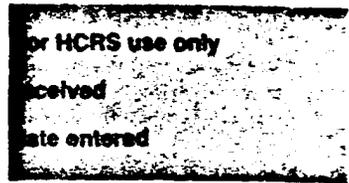
In 1680 Thomas Smythe, grandson of Sir Thomas Smythe of Jamestown, Virginia, was granted 400 acres at the mouth of Church Creek. A dwelling was constructed on the site, but it burned and was replaced by the present house, Trumpington, which probably was constructed in the third quarter of the 18th century. The building is still owned by descendants of Smythe.

The building is of brick, two and one-half stories tall and five bays wide, and resembles other buildings of its period, especially Ringgold's Fortune (or Violet Grove, K-97). It is little altered with most interior woodwork, stairs, and mantles in place. Also on the property is the ancient family graveyard and an unusual holly grove.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Trumpington

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number West side of Maryland Route 445, about 1.7 miles south of Napley  
Green Road and about 5 miles south of Rock Hall — not for publication

city, town Rock Hall  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Kent code 029

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: VACANT

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Robert H. Strong

street & number Route 2, Box 222

city, town Rock Hall  vicinity of state Maryland 21661

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

K-271

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Trumpington is located near the southern tip of Eastern Neck in western Kent County. The house looks out across a large salt marsh that stretches along the bay shore, with views of Eastern Neck Island, Kent Island, and the Western Shore.

The main house is of brick construction five bays long, two rooms deep, and 2½ stories high with a single flush chimney centered at each end of a pitched gable roof. A 1½-story brick wing extends from the northwest gable of the main house. A log plank meathouse lies to the northwest of the wing, and one 19th century granary survives among a scattered collection of farm buildings. Brick foundations of another early farm building have survived and are now incorporated into a 20th century implement shed. A small cemetery lies to the southeast of the main house. Also standing on the property a 20th century barn and mid-20th century frame cottage near the lake.

The principal facade of the main house faces southwest, toward the water. The fenestration is symmetrical, with a broad center door flanked by two large 12/12 windows on each side, with five 12/12 windows ranged across the second floor. Three-over-three cellar windows are located directly below each first floor window. Three dormer windows have been added on this facade in the 20th century. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above a molded ovolo watertable and a Flemish bond foundation. The window openings have splayed jack arches while the door opening has a single-course rowlock segmental arch. The window frames appear to be early if not original, with ovolo moldings set back from the face of the wall. There is a four-light transom above the door, and the opening is finished with paneled soffit and jambs set off by a broken-field fascia with ovolo backband. The second floor eave is finished with a box cornice with complex bed mold and crown mold. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A one-story Victorian porch with turned posts and scrollwork brackets stretches across the first floor facade, stopping approximately four feet shy of each gable.

The southeast gable is distinguished by very fine brickwork, laid in glazed header Flemish bond from ground level all the way up to the base of the upper chimney shaft. The eaves are highlighted by a single chevron course of glazed headers, and a horizontal course of all glazed headers defines the base of the upper chimney. Above this point, the chimney is laid in stretcher bond with no glazed bricks. Also of interest are the put-log holes left unfilled on this wall.

A pair of 12/12 windows is symmetrically placed on the second floor of this facade, and two 6/6 windows flank the chimney on the third floor. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located at the east end of this wall. The opening was apparently exposed originally, but was covered at an early date with a small brick entrance with a gable roof. The northeast wall of this structure is laid in Flemish bond, while the southwest wall is three-course bond. Double doors in the southeast wall allow access. Inside, the arched lintel above the original entrance is still exposed, consisting of a segmental arch one brick high, with a soldier brick alternating with a pair of headers.

The northeast facade, facing inland, is similar to the southwest facade. The original fenestration pattern is identical but only two dormers were added. The box cornice, ovolo window frames, and paneled door surround are similar, except that the door lacks a transom on this facade. One detail of interest is a seam in the brickwork on the right side of the door opening, clearly suggesting that the door has been reduced approximately 8 inches in width.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DESCRIPTION, continued

A five-sided entrance porch on this facade is a 20th century reproduction of the porch evident in a late 19th century photograph. That porch was torn off and replaced circa 1900 by a bracketed porch that stretched across the entire first floor facade, similar to the existing porch on the water facade.

The northwest gable is now partially covered by the early 1½-story wing. The brickwork is very distinguished on this wall as well, consisting of three-course bond with the header courses all glazed, creating a banded effect also found at the C.C. Harper farm near Centreville and at Bordlington, near Ruthsburg. There is no glazed chevron pattern along the gable eaves, but a band of glazed headers defines the base of the upper chimney. Put-log holes are also visible where they have not been covered by the wing. A pair of 6/6 windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable are the only openings in this facade. A later chimney stack serving the southeast end of the wing has been constructed against this wall, rising up the center and forming a T-shaped stack above the ridge.

The southwest facade of the wing is four bays wide, with wide doors in the central two bays flanked by one 6/6 window on each side. The doors have splayed jack arch lintels; the windows do not have visible lintels. The door in the left bay is a very fine example of a batten door with beaded boards laid in a diamond pattern. A four-light window has been cut into the upper portion of the door. The door in the right bay is a large six-panel door with ogee panel molds and boldly raised panels. The brickwork on this facade is three-course bond. An open, one-story porch stretches across the entire facade.

The northwest brick gable wall is laid in random bond and extends only to the level of the first floor eave. The upper gable is of frame construction, covered with wood shingles. A door opening in the left bay and a window in the right bay have been bricked up recently, but were not original openings. A single flush chimney rises at the center of this gable.

The northeast facade of the wing is three bays wide, with a door in the central bay flanked by a 6/6 window on the right and paired modern 6/6 windows on the left. Original pitched roof dormer windows with 6/6 sash survive in the left and right bays on the second floor; the central bay is not expressed.

The interior of the main house is laid out in a variation of the full Georgian plan, with a wide central stair hall flanked by two rooms on the northwest and a single room on the southeast that runs the full depth of the house. The two northwest rooms are not equal in size: the east room was presumably intended as a parlor and/or dining room, while the west room is smaller and probably served as a library or small sitting room.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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## DESCRIPTION, continued

The entire first floor of the house is distinguished by refined woodwork, and the fireplace walls in the smaller northwest rooms have very fine paneling. It is interesting to note that the southeast room is clearly the grand room, yet the gable wall is not paneled. Refinement is derived largely from the size and proportions of the room, aided by fine chairrail and architrave moldings, splayed and paneled windows, embrasures, and a handsome mantel. One subtle detail can be observed in the flooring of this room, which is joined with a tongue-and-groove joint and concealed nails, whereas the flooring throughout the rest of the first floor and the upper stories is half lapped and face-nailed, leaving the nails exposed to view.

The two smaller rooms on the northwest side of the hall are more elaborately finished. The larger east room has a paneled chimney breast with a built-in four-door cupboard to the left of the fireplace. A door to the right leads to the wing. A complex chairrail, beaded baseboard, and a dentil course cornice encircle the room.

The fireplace wall of the smaller west room is also paneled, with a built-in two-door cupboard to the right of the fireplace. The chairrail and baseboard in this room are similar to the east room, but there is no interior cornice and the window openings are framed with a simple ovolo molding; but not a full architrave.

The stair rises against the northwest wall of the hall to a double landing against the northeast wall, then turns and rises to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with turned newels and balusters and a simple walnut railing. The stair ends are not decorated, and the area below the carriage is plastered, not paneled. This does not appear to be the original stair, but rather a replacement dating to the second half of the 19th century. Changes in the flooring on the second and third floor landings reinforce this conclusion, suggesting an earlier stair of similar dimensions.

On the second floor, the west end of the stair hall is partitioned to form an unheated chamber, with two larger chambers on either side of the hall. The stair continues up to the third floor, but with a somewhat different balustrade. The balusters are square rather than turned, and there are only two per step rather than three. The newels are heavier, and the railing is interrupted rather than continuous.

The two southeast rooms have diagonal fireplaces back to back on a shared chimney. Both rooms have complex molded chairrails, baseboards, and interior cornice. The mantels are identical, consisting of a plain backboard with applied ovolo backband and complex shelf. A similar ovolo backband is used on the door and window architraves, and paneled interior shutters.

The hall chamber has been converted into a modern bath, but the Federal-period window section of chairrail have survived.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 3.

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DESCRIPTION, continued

The fireplaces in the northwest rooms are centered on the gable wall in each room. The fireplace wall is paneled in the west room with one-door cupboard on either side. The mantel is a board surround with molded backband and complex shelf. A crown mold cornice extends across the fireplace wall, and molded chairrail and beaded baseboard encircle the room. A door has been cut in, connecting this room with the east room. The fireplace wall in the east room is not paneled in the usual sense, but has molded vertical styles dividing the plastered wall into "panels". There is a small built-in cupboard with a single raised wood panel above the door. A crown mold cornice is carried across the fireplace wall, and complex chairrail and beaded baseboard are carried around the room.

The third floor is now divided into a central stair hall with two rooms in the southeast side of the hall and one large room on the northwest. All of these partitions appear to be relatively modern and were probably added when the dormers were installed in this century. One beaded batten door with wrought H-L hinges and some molded baseboard are the only early details of interest.

The cellar is divided into a "central hall" with one large room on either side by a pair of brick bearing walls below the first floor hall partitions. The west half of this "hall" is screened off by a lattice partition to form a protected store room. Although screened storerooms and vegetable bins are relatively common on the Eastern Shore, this example is of exceptional quality and is constructed using wrought nails; the door retains an early wooden box lock. Small window openings in the interior bearing walls are fitted with wooden frames and have had riven slat-like vertical bars nailed in at a later date. Two arched chimney bases are located on the northwest gable wall, and a single large base with arched recess is centered on the southeast wall. Several large beaded batten doors hung on wrought strap hinges have survived, and an iron fireplace crane remains stored in the southeast room. Iron hooks hang from the ceiling in this room.

One construction detail of particular interest is the manner in which the flooring was installed. From the cellar it is possible to see that the cracks between the floorboards were battened at the time of construction. This was a relatively common practice in the 18th century, but in this case it has been done with an incredible degree of craftsmanship. Before each board was laid in place, a notch was cut in every joist below the flooring seam. A 1½ inch square batten was then set into the row of notches, placing it under the seam and thereby sealing it. The floorboard was then laid in place and nailed down. This was of minor consequence below the large southeast room, which had a tongue-and-groove floor, but strengthened and sealed the half-lap joints in the remainder of the house.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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DESCRIPTION, continued

The first floor of the wing is divided into two rooms. The northwest room serves as a kitchen, the southeast room as a dining room. The southeast wall of the dining room is paneled with a fireplace near the center flanked by a series of paneled doors concealing two closets and a short stair to the cellar of the main house. A door to the first floor of the main house is set back in an alcove to the left of the fireplace. The mantel is a plain board surround with an ovolo backband and a relatively simple shelf. The chairrail consists of a narrow board beaded on both edges, while the baseboard is moldered. A crown mold cornice encircles the room.

The northwest room has been modernized to accommodate a kitchen. A large brick fireplace is centered on the gable wall, and a steep, enclosed companionway stair to the left of the fireplace leads to the second floor. A wrought iron fireplace crane survives in the kitchen fireplace.

The second floor of the wing is divided into a small chamber at the northwest end and a larger chamber at the southeast end, with a small connecting hall and bathroom between. All of the trim in these rooms is plain, and there are no fireplaces. Seams in the floor in the vicinity of the fireplace and the stair suggest that some changes have occurred, including a minor shift in the location of the stair.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

The 361 acres included in this nomination have been owned and farmed by the same family since the last quarter of the 17th century. (Thomas Smyth acquired title in 1680). The boundaries utilize geographical (Chesapeake Bay on the west and south sides), visual, and physical features (Maryland Route 445 on the east) and a line of convenience (existing property line on the north). The house, which has had only minor alterations over the years, overlooks wide expanses of open agricultural land, woods, and salt marsh, with views of Eastern Neck Island, Love Point, and the Chesapeake Bay. The isolated and rural character of the tract has been undisturbed by significant intrusions and allows a rare glimpse of the general character of the Tidewater landscape of the pre-industrial era.

# 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 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 (in one paragraph)**

SIGNIFICANCE

Trumpington is a late 18th century house which is significant for its architecture as a carefully preserved example of a large Georgian plan house type that was widely favored by wealthy landholders in the Tidewater in the latter half of the 18th century, and for its association with the Smythe family, which has owned and farmed this tract of land since the last quarter of the 17th century. The Smythe family was active both politically and economically in this region in the 18th and early 19th century, and the house at Trumpington can be viewed as a symbol of the family's prominence.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Although the overall size, massing, and plan of this house is repeated in numerous other structures throughout the Tidewater region, several characteristics are relatively unusual. In particular, the striated banding in the brickwork of the gable walls is a feature of the main house found in scattered examples on the northern part of the shore, generally dating to circa 1775-1790. Both the C.C. Harper Farm and Bordlington in neighboring Queen Anne's County display similar brickwork as well as overall proportion and plan. Also of interest are the put-log holes found in the gable walls, a decorative feature that appears to have gained considerable favor in this area in the last decades of the 18th century.

The interior of Trumpington has undergone few changes since it was built. Virtually all of the original woodwork has survived, including handsome fielded paneling in both the main house and one room in the wing. Other features of interest include a screened storage room in the cellar with riven lath screen and door, and the high level of craftsmanship evident in the battened floor framing below the first floor of the main house. Also worthy of note is the family cemetery to the south of the house and a dovetailed log plank meathouse adjacent to the wing.

The tract of land was first patented in 1658 by Thomas South. In his will, probated in 1674, Thomas South left Trumpington to his daughter Sarah, but in 1676 the Trustee's of Thomas South were ordered to offer the plantation for sale, possibly meaning that Sarah had also died. Land records are confusing regarding the disposition of the land, but in 1677 John Hinson sold Trumpington to Nathaniel Evitts and circa 1680 the property was acquired by Thomas Smythe (Smyth, Smith b. 1648 d.1719), who had emigrated from England and served as a member of the Provincial Court from 1682-1719 and as Deputy Commissary General from 1707-1718.

Following the death of Thomas Smythe, the property passed to his son, Thomas Smythe II (1710-1741), who served as a member of the Maryland Assembly. In 1741 Trumpington passed to Thomas Smythe III (1729-1819), who served an apprenticeship to James Calder, a Chestertown lawyer, and became a practicing lawyer. The house is believed to have been erected for Thomas Smythe III.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

He married (2nd) Margaret Hands, daughter of Thomas Bedingfield Hands, a well-known Chestertown merchant and co-owner of the Chestertown Rope Walk with Dr. William Murray. Judge of the Kent County Court, 1757-1759, signer of the Association of Freemen in 1775, Thomas Smythe (III) was also a member of the Maryland Committee of Safety from 1774-76. As one of the Kent County delegates to the Provisional Convention in Annapolis in 1775. Smythe joined William Ringgold, Joseph Earle, and his father-in-law, Thomas B. Hands. "Later Smythe served as Head of Maryland's Revolutionary Provisional Government (until 1776)..." (from Widehall, K. 6, MHT Inventory Form for SHSS, 1972/76, R. Neill, M. Bourne) Smythe is also remembered as one of the benefactors of Washington College, founded in 1782, and served on its first Board of Trustees and as Treasurer.

During these periods Thomas Smythe (III) was residing in Widehall, an important structure in the Chestertown Historic District (Kent County, Maryland) and included on the National Register. Smythe was active as a merchant as well, with ships trading to England and the West Indies. Later in life he retired from Chestertown to his country residence, Trumpington, and died there in 1819. Thomas Smythe (III) also owned the River House property in Chestertown's Historic District.

In his will, Thomas Smythe (III) left the property to his son, Dr. James Smythe of Baltimore. If Dr. Smythe died or did not want the land, Trumpington was to pass to Thomas Smythe's son-in-law, Dr. Thomas Willson, who had married Anna Marie Smythe (b. 2/17/1786, d. 1823) in 1806. Either Dr. Smythe died or he declined possession, for the property passed to Dr. Willson (b. 9/28/1778, d. 10/28/1859 at Trumpington). Dr. Willson was a native of Queen Anne's County and lived in Queenstown before marrying Anna Maria and later moving to Trumpington. Dr. Willson left Trumpington to his son, Richard Bennett Willson (b. 12/10/1817, d. 1901) and in 1902 the property was purchased by two of Richard's children Julia Willson Ringgold and Notley Oswald Willson. In 1923 Notley Willson devised his half of Trumpington to his wife Mary Camp Willson, who sold it to James Ernest and Mary Ringgold Willson, son-in-law and daughter of Julia Willson Ringgold. In 1936 Julia died and left her half of the property to Mary Ringgold Willson, reuniting the two shares in a single ownership. In his will, probated in 1976, James Ernest Willson devised the property to his wife, Mary R. Willson, and then to their daughter, Mildren Willson Strong, the present owner.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 361 acres

Quadrangle name Langford Creek Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1,8	39,40,2,0	4,32,53,4,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1,8	39,43,0,0	4,32,34,4,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1,8	39,38,0,0	4,32,30,2,0
---	-----	-----------	-------------

D	1,8	39,33,7,0	4,32,41,6,0
---	-----	-----------	-------------

E	1,8	39,33,8,0	4,32,53,2,0
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen B. White; Orlando Ridout V

organization Kent County Committee; Maryland Historical Trust date April 1979; October 1979

street & number 107 S. Mill Street; 47 Fleet Street telephone (301) 778-2263; (301) 263-6309

city or town Chestertown; Annapolis state Maryland 21620; 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. Smith* date 8-25-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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- River House, Chestertown, Maryland. A pamphlet of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland
- Rock Hall Historical Collection. Published in 1957 by Rock Hall Commemoration, Inc., Rock Hall, Maryland.
- Kent County, Maryland Land and Probate Records, Courthouse, Chestertown, Maryland
- Numerous papers and other materials in possession of Mrs. Mildred Willson Strong, inherited from previous owners of Trumpington.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded on the ~~west~~<sup>east</sup> by Maryland Route 445, Eastern Neck Island Road, on the south and west by the Chesapeake Bay, and on the north by the present property line as designated in Kent County Deeds EHP 72/318 and EHP 78/832 and Kent County Will ERB 8/93.

5' 426 425 423 2'30" 421

J S A P E A K E

TRUMPINGTON

B A Y

CHESTER RIVER

Langford Creek USGS Quad

20

to ROCK HALL

Hickory Thicket

CHURCH CREEK

K-271 Goose Cove

Gum Pt

BM 16

23

Wilson Pond

The Cedars

CREEK

Baybush Pt

Wilson Pt Short Cove Eastern Neck Narrows

BM 5

Ringgold Pt

Fryingpan Cove

Boxes Pt

CHESTER RIVER

Tubby Cove

Belts Bar Pt

Calypso Cove

RTE. 445

Spencer

Bogle Cove

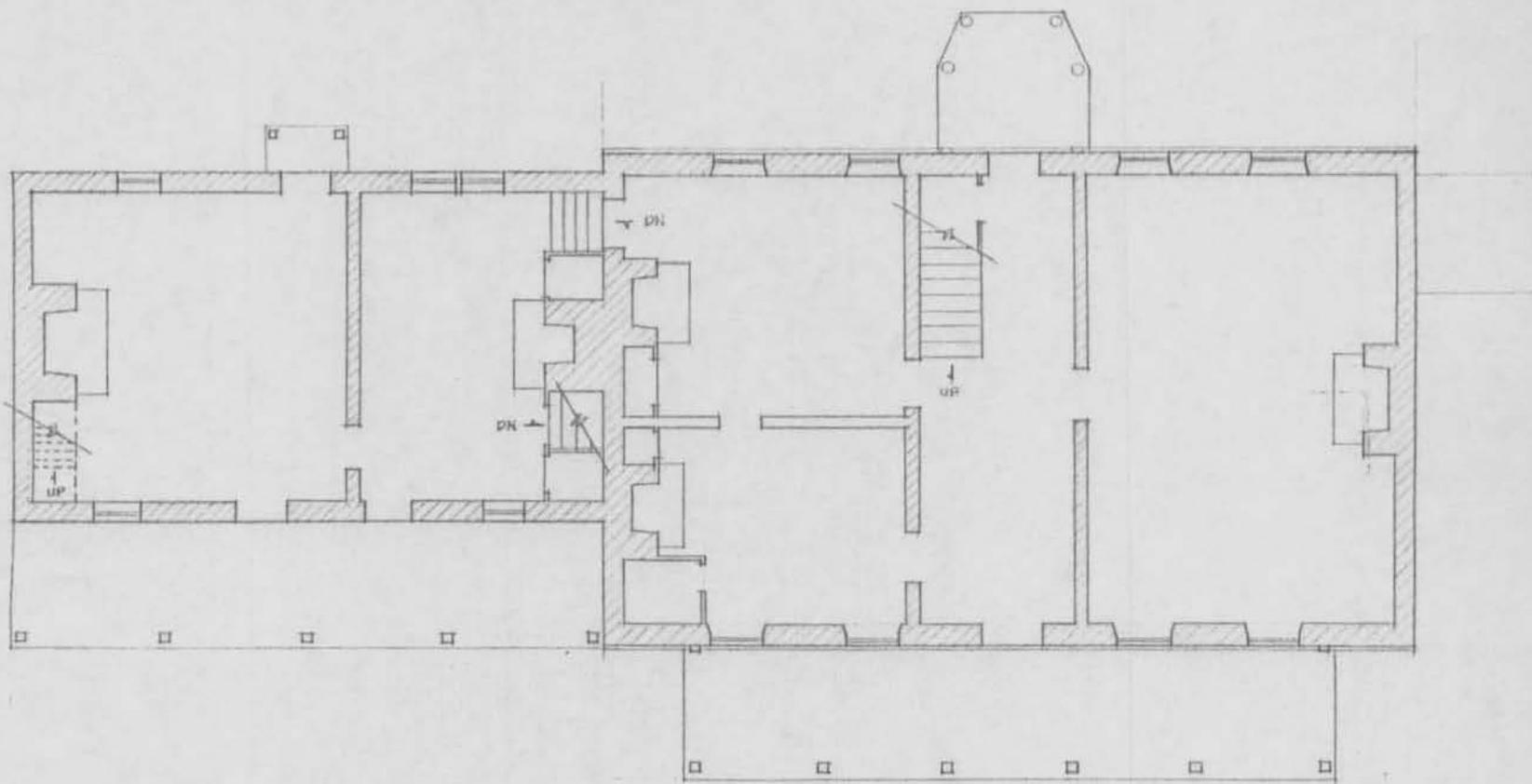
EASTERN NECK

Overton L

Durbin Cr

Wickes Beach

I S L A N D



0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
   
 SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

K-271

TRUMPINGTON  
 ROCK HALL, MARYLAND

MAY 9, 1979

K-271

K 271 C

K-271

Trumpington  
Eastern Neck  
c. 1780

Trumpington was first patented as 400 acres in 1658 to Thomas South. In 1687 Thomas Smyth (I) purchased this tract from two separate grantees who had acquired it earlier. An immigrant, Smyth (1648-1719) was a member of the Provincial Court from 1682-1719 and was Deputy Commissary General from 1707-1718. He was also one of the founding members and vestryman of St. Paul's Church.<sup>1</sup>

Upon his death in 1719, Trumpington passed to his minor son, Thomas, II (1710-1741), who became nearly as active as his father in local affairs. But the younger Thomas was to die at only thirty-one years of age and the plantation was again passed on to a minor son, Thomas, III (1729-1819).<sup>2</sup>

Thomas, III studied under James Calder, a prominent Chestertown lawyer and soon thereafter practiced law. A successful merchant, he was in business at one time with Emory Sudler, his brother-in-law, and later with his sons, Thomas and Richard Smyth, was also co-owner of the Chestertown Rope Walk with Dr. William Murray. From 1757-59 he was a judge of the County Court and in 1764 Sheriff of Kent County. Eleven years later Smyth was named a delegate to the Provisional Convention in Annapolis and was a signer of the Association of Freemen. Between 1774-76 he was also a member of the Maryland Committee of Safety. In short, Thomas Smyth, III was active in the revolutionary cause and served in numerous capacities during the war. When Washington College was chartered, Smyth, a

benefactor, served on the first Board of Visitors and Governors as treasurer.<sup>3</sup>

Building was definitely in Smyth's blood for in 1769 he purchased Water Lot No. 16 adjacent the town wharves in Chestertown and built the best example of mid-Georgian architecture in the County—the house now called Widehall. In 1784, he purchased another water lot and began building River House which he later sold to his son, Richard Gresham Smyth. In 1785, he purchased the Buck houses from Emory Sudler and immediately advertised them for sale in the Maryland Gazette. His real estate transactions were many and varied. By 1783, Smyth owned over 2500 acres in the southern part of the County.

The date of construction of Smyth's project at Trumpington is not as well documented as with his other properties; judging from the various details, inside and out, the house was probably constructed in the 1780's. It was most certainly standing when the property was advertised for sale in both the Maryland Gazette and the Chestertown Apollo in 1793:

" . . . Also, about 500 acres – Windmill in working order . . . "4

As it turned out, Trumpington was not sold, but mortgaged to his brother-in-law, and remained his home until his death in 1819.

Smyth's country house was not as grand as the houses he had built in Chestertown, but it did possess the same number of rooms on the ground floor as Widehall. The plan of the house was nearly the same as James Frisby's Violet Farm, with central stairhall, one large room on one side and two smaller rooms on the other. The kitchen wing, however, was closer to the plan of his house in Chestertown, with a large kitchen and a breakfast

room.

Trumpington's five-bay, two-story facade faced the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay beyond. Originally, there were no dormers on the roof; only the full size windows on the gables lighted the attic rooms. On the northwest gable, the common bond is laid with dark or glazed headers creating horizontal bands similar to the south gable at the Archibald Wright House (Kitty Knight House) in Georgetown.

While the kitchen is early, neither its brick walls nor chimney are bonded into the main house, indicating a later date of construction. One of the interesting features of Trumpington's kitchen wing is the board and batten doors with diamond pattern on the exterior, a feature Smyth employed at River House in Chestertown.

The stair has an open string with turned newels and balusters and a simple walnut railing. It appears to have been reconstructed in the second half of the 19th century. The balustrade from the second floor to the attic is totally different.

There are five rooms on the second floor, all finished with chair rail and baseboard. Only one room has a paneled wall, like the two below.

On the third floor, the space is divided into three rooms and stairhall. It is the reverse of the first floor plan. The arrangement probably dates from the time the dormers were installed in the late 19th or early 20th century.

An extraordinary feature exists in the basement in the use of a lattice partition which encloses the southwest half of the central passage as a storage room. This room is exceptional in the quality and construction and in the fact that it has survived the years in good condition. Two small window openings in the interior brick walls have wooden frames with riven slat-like vertical bars.

While in the process of restoration, the footings of an earlier house were located enclosed in the dimensions of the existing basement. In relaying the floor, the outline was marked out in a different brick pattern. It measured approximately 22' x 32'.

Southeast of the house there is a small cemetery where the remains of Thomas Smyth, III are buried along with other family members.

Upon his death in 1819, the farm was purchased by Smyth's son-in-law and daughter, Thomas and Anna Maria Willson, who had previously lived in Queenstown.<sup>5</sup> Dr. Willson's will of 1859, leaves Trumpington to his son, Richard Bennett Willson (1817-1901).<sup>6</sup> R. B. Willson is listed as owner of Trumpington on both the Martinet Map and the 1877 Atlas. In 1902, the property was divided between Richard's two children, Julia Willson Ringgold and Notley Oswald Willson.<sup>7</sup> In 1923, Notley devised his half to his wife, Mary, who sold it to Julia's daughter and son-in-law, Mary and James Ernest Willson.<sup>8</sup> When Julia Willson Ringgold died in 1936, the other half came into the possession of her daughter, Mary, reuniting the two shares. After the deaths of Ernest and Mary Willson, the property was purchased by their daughter and son-in-law,<sup>(a)</sup> who have gradually restored the house on

this farm, which has remained in the same family for over 300 years.

Trumpington is on the National Register and is a Bicentennial Farm.

1. Pappenfuss, P. 750.
2. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 160.
3. Pappenfuss, p. 756, White M. P. "Washington College."
4. Maryland Gazette, October 10, 1793, The Apollo, October 4, 1793.
5. Land Records, Lib. ,fol.
6. Wills, Lib. JS 1, fol. 171.
7. Wills, Lib. JTD 1, fol. 1.
8. Wills, Lib. RRH 1, fol. 436, Land Records, Lib. RRA 2, fol. 210.
9. Land Records, Lib. EHP 11, fol. 169.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Trumpington

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Near Eastern Neck Island

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hall

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. R. H. Strong

Telephone #: (301) 639-7131

STREET & NUMBER

General Delivery

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hall

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21661

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: E4D 72

Folio #: 38

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**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Trumpington, the ancestral home of the Smyth, Willson, and Hall families of Kent County faces south overlooking the Chesapeake Bay on land which has been in the same family for nearly 300 years.

The old brick house was built in the 18th century, (According to tradition, this house was built in 1723, however, house form and detailing would place its construction date later in the 18th century. Portions of the building may be earlier, but careful examination of the interior was not possible at this time.) and replaces an earlier house which stood nearby. The main portion of the building is five bays wide, one room deep and two and one-half stories high. It has a gable roof with six dormers and stands on a brick basement emphasized on three sides by a quarter round molded water table laid in Flemish bond. Front and rear facades are Flemish bond; the south gable in Flemish bond with glazed headers and the north gable is 1/5 common bond with the header courses glazed. The chimney, enclosed within the south gable, has a stepped cap. That in the north gable is T-shaped; an additional flue from the kitchen wing having been added.

Window and door openings are evenly spaced with central entrances front and rear. All windows have 12/12 sash, flat brick arches and louvered shutters. Basement windows have no arches. The entry door on the water side has a five pane transom light and door with six raised and beveled panels with quarter round edges. There are corresponding panels on jamb and head. The approach door is similar except that a segmental brick arch replaces the transom. (Actually the existing door and frame appears to have been set inside of an earlier and wider frame. Panel edges have ogee moldings.) Access to the cellar is through a gable-roofed brick entry on the south gable.

Additional windows are located on the second floor (12/12 sash) and attic (6/6 sash) of the south gable and in the attic in the north gable where 6/6 sash with glazed rowlocks are found. Trim is plain with a quarter round backband molding.

Dormers are either replacements or additions. Those on the approach front have gable roofs and double 6/6 sash windows; on the river facade the central dormer has double 4/4 sash windows. Flanking dormers have 6/6 sash windows but all have widely overhanging eaves and other details which would date them to the 19th century.

Also altered from the original are the porches. On the west is a five bay, hipped roof Victorian porch with turned columns and scroll-type wooden brackets; it replaces an earlier one-bay entrance porch. On the east, a modern porch with pyramidal roof and round columns replaces a similar 19th century five-bay porch.

The roof, now covered with asphalt shingles, terminates in verge boards at the gables and a box cornice with ogee crown mold.

The kitchen wing is three bays long and one and one-half stories high. The brick walls are common bond brick. The roof is gable with gable dormers. There is an enclosed chimney with rebuilt cap. Windows have 6/6 sash in both first floor and dormers. There is a later double 6/6 sash window in the approach facade and a small entry porch with

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Trumpington is significant for its architecture and for its place in the history of Kent County.

Architecturally it is one of the great houses of the Eastern Shore, retaining much of its original, fine detailing and surviving as a prototype of houses of its period.

It remains in the same family that built it, a family prominent in shaping the Kent County in early times. Excerpts from "Gravesend, Serene but Still Profound", by Robert J. Johnson (Rock Hall: American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Rock Hall, 1975.) follow; the account is based on records of the family:

"The family lines go back to Sir Thomas Smythe of England, the East India magnet to whom the credit for the founding and toughing it out at Jamestown is often given. Perhaps from Virginia near the Jamestown settlement, a younger Thomas Smythe, grandson of Sir Thomas, came to Maryland and in 1680 acquired a tract of 400 acres. (originally granted to Thomas South, 1658, then deceased). This parcel, surrounded by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Church Creek, provided the setting for Trumpington. The first house built there was destroyed by fire.

Trumpington has never been changed extensively. A front porch was added in the early 1900's only to be removed later to recapture the original design. Except for wiring and plumbing no structural changes have been made. Nine of the house's fourteen rooms can be heated with original fireplaces. Still in its original form is the wine cellar protected by wooden bars at window openings and a latticed door fitted with the original lock and key. Adjoining the wine cellar was the cellar kitchen, with a walk-in fireplace. Nearby the butchering was done. The wainscoting and carved crown moldings are in excellent condition. A broad stairway leads from the hallway to the third floor, the banisters and railing being solid mahogany.

Colonel Smyth of Revolutionary times was active in the affairs of the county and state. For a time he lived at "Widehall" in Chester-town (K-10 ). The elder Smyth returned to Trumpington in retirement. Here in these pleasant surroundings he enjoyed a long life. Nearby was a unique holly grove, with some of its trees measuring five feet in circumference. Near the house is the little family burial ground where his headstone still stands. He lies near enough to the house called Trumpington to be its sentinel for time eternal. (Smythe gradually changed to Smyth as shown on the gravestone.)"

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Johnson, Robert J., Gravesend, Serene But Still Profound, Rock Hall, American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Rock Hall, 1975.

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Trust

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CONTINUATION SHEET

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TRUMPINGTON  
Kent County

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

gable roof and turned columns. On the rear is a long, one story porch. The original entry doors, centrally located, have unusual diamond pattern battens.

Nearby is the family graveyard where early field stone markers and later cut stones bear the names of Smyth, Willson, and Hall. Trumpington is also notable for its holly grove.

Interior:

The main house has three rooms on the first floor, the northern half of the house being divided in two. Fireplaces are centrally located in the gable walls of each room; there are no corner fireplaces on the first floor. On the second floor are four major rooms with corner fireplaces in the northern rooms only. There is a small central room off the stair hall in the west side of the house and three attic rooms. The addition has two rooms on the first floor, a dining room and a kitchen. There is a full basement under the main house.

Examination of the interior of the building shows that the main house is the earlier portion; the 1 1/2 story wing is a three-walled structure. The wing is entered from the northeast room of the main house; the brick work of this doorway shows that it was originally an exterior door.

The two-bay parlour in the south half of the main house has splayed window jambs which are finished with recessed paneling. Window and door trim is of the three-part type, the backband being a delicate cove.

Doors in this room and the others are six-panel with recessed panels on room sides and raised panels to the stair hall. Floors in major rooms are random yellow pine averaging about six inches wide. Most walls in the house have been recently replastered.

The parlour fireplace has a mantle with crossette surround made up of bold composite moldings and console frieze works on the otherwise plain frieze. Similar frieze blocks are also seen in Thornton, also in Kent County. The corner fireplaces in the rooms above are supported by a triangular mass of corbelled brick, the base of which is visible near the parlour ceiling. This structural system was used in the basement of the similar Kent house, Ringgold's Fortune.

The stair has three slender turned balusters per step and a round handrail with a gooseneck of the intermediate newels. Handrail and newels are reputed to be mahogany but appear to be a type of walnut. The stair spandrel is paneled.

In the northeast room, first floor, the fireplace wall is covered with raised and beveled paneling; there is a cupboard left of the fireplace and a molded mantle shelf. The cornice is denticulated; the window and door trim has a quarterround backband. Chairrail and baseboard are both treated with a

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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TRUMPINGTON  
Kent County

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delicate cove motif, although the baseboard molding is cut into the board instead of being applied as is usual.

Long used as a chapel by the catholic Willson family, the southeast room has similar detailing to its neighbor but without the denticulated cornice. A portion of the room behind the paneling was converted to a half bath, giving the room its present unusual shape. An alter, probably dating from the mid to late 19th century and used in this room remains in the house.

Trim in all second floor rooms are similar: quarterround backband window trim, chairrails with compound moldings, six-panel doors (recessed to room, raised to hall) and three-part door trim with a quarterround back band on the room side in the cove on the hall side. Paneled north walls have raised panels except above the fireplaces which are plastered. There are small closets in each north room; inside one the door retains early graining. In the east room, a portion of the paneling retains its original bright royal blue paint. South rooms have paneled blinds with butterfly hinges.

As the stair lends to the attic floor, the number of balusters per step drops to two.

In the wing, the room adjacent to the main house has a wall of simple recessed paneling with a plaster panel above the fireplace and a later mantle shelf. The delicacy of the molded panel edges would appear to date it to the second or third decades of the 19th century, probably after the original construction of the wing; and the fireplace seems to have been partially rebuilt to accept the newer paneling. The kitchen originally had a dirt floor, whitewashed plaster walls, and exposed but rough ceiling joists. There is a pyramidal fireplace in the north gable and a ladder stair to the second floors. In these features, this room is typical of the 18th and 19th century kitchens of this area.

In the basement of the main house are two items which appear to be original to the construction of the building or extremely early: a lattice storage area, known in the family as the wine cellar, which has its original lock and key and a whitewashed cooling oven. There are also early batten doors in place.

It is uncertain whether or not the kitchen was ever located in the basement but existing evidence makes it appear unlikely.

The building is currently under restoration. A paint analysis will reveal original finishes in major rooms.



Trumpington is a massive  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story brick house which has an unusually magnificent view over the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay. The building is said to have been built in 1723 and perhaps the kitchen wing is of that period. The major portion appears to have been built around the 3rd quarter of the 18th century. It is 5 bays long and 2 bays deep and stands on a tall foundation and basement. The 3 sides not attached to the kitchen wing are laid in Flenish bond while the latter is laid in common bond with black headers forming lines every 4 courses. The southeast gable also has glazed headers in regular Flenish bond. This gable has a brick-sided entrance to the cellar with "A" roof and batten doors. Each facade has a central door; the southwest is the main facade and has a paneled jamb and transom while the north east facade has only a segmental arch above the door with no transom. All windows have 12/12 sash, flat brick arches and louvered shutters. There is a screened porch across the entire southwest facade and a small five-sided portico over the back or land entrance on the northeast. The "A" roof has a huge chimney in each gable. The chimney on the northwest gable has a flue from the kitchen wing which makes its plan in the shape of a T. The center dormer of both main section and kitchen on the southwest side has two windows with 4/4 sash. The other dormers have regular 6/6 sash and "A" roofs.

The kitchen is 3 bays long with center door (possibly 4 bays on the southwest facade which is covered with a leanto porch) and the doors are most unusual with diamond pattern headed battens. Unfortunately both of these doors have been ventilated for installation of a window.

Kent Co. Rent Roll, Vol. 5 Md. Hall of Records

refers on 9/22/1658 to survey of "Trumpington" for Thomas South. Original Patent may be at Maryland Hall of Records.

Will 10/26/1674 probated, of Thomas South, leaves all real estate to his sister, Sarah. In event she dies without heirs it goes to heirs of sister, Anne.

info. given to owner by her mother 1/23/1676 Court orders plantation and other property of Thomas South to be sold by the trustees and attorneys for the heirs.

" Purchase by John Hynson(Hinson) and Anthony Pearce (Pursee) of "Trumpington" from Mr. Thomas South. (estate?)

" Purchase of "Trumpington" by Col. Henry Coursey. (Hamilton Family Genealogy under Smythe Family refers to Courcy Family of Talbot County which bought it from South, and deep friendship between Courcys and Smythes. P. 54, 55.

Kent Co.

Liber I, F. 112 3/26/1672, Articles of Agreement between Nathaniel Evatt and John Hinson, dividing a parcel of land that John Hinson and Anthony Pearce did buy of Mr. Thomas South, "Trumpington". Evatt is to have south of a line and Hinson to the north.

Liber I, F. 173 3/27/1677, John Hinson, Planter, with wife, Rachel, to Nathaniell Lvetts, for 7,000 lbs. tobacco, "Trumpington".

Liber I, F.270-1 Acknowledgement in Court of above Act.

K.C. Records N. Evatt to Philip and Mary Conno(e)r  
do not show N. Evatt to Richard and Elizabeth Jones  
any of these N. Evatt to \_\_\_\_\_ Browne  
transactions.

Liber I, F.328 8/22/1687, Philip & Mary Conner to Thomas Smythe  
for 6,000 lb.tobacco, 200 A., "Trumpington."

Liber I, F.329 9/25/1687, Richard & Elizabeth Jones to Thomas  
Smythe, 200 A., "Trumpington".

no record purchased by Col. Henry Coursey (Courcy, Coursey)  
Will 6/17/1695 dated, 10/30/1695 probated, of Col. H.  
Information Coursey, devising to his son, Thomas, "Trumpington"  
from owner's in Kent County.  
mother.

Will 2/14/1700 dated, 7/31/1701 probated, of Thomas  
same as Coursey, his dwelling plantation to wife, Anne,  
above during her widowhood. (How does this then get to  
Thomas Smythe? The aforementioned Hamilton Genealogy  
states "that it passed into the hands of Thomas  
Smythe" after "being sold to one of the Courcy  
family." p. 55.

Liber 7, F. 65 3/18/1750, Jane Browne, widow, Kent County, to son,  
Thomas Coursey Browne, "Trumpington", 360 A. where  
she now dwells.

Liber 8, F. 180 8/1757. Thomas Smythe asks for a resurvey of  
"Trumpington."

Information 10/13/1759, Jean brown to Thomas Smith.  
from owner's  
mother

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Thomas Smythe, (Smyth, Smith - b. 1648, D. 1719)  
member of the Provincial Court from 1682-1719,  
1707-1718 Deputy Commissary General.

Kent Co.

Will

Micro. #1

p. 97-99

6/30/1812 dated, leaving "Trumpine" and "Smyths  
Meadows" to son Thomas Smythe (b. 2/1710, d. 1741,  
m. Mary Anne Kinggold, dau. Thomas Kinggold.)

Thomas Smythe I mentions the property "I now live  
on". Thomas Smythe II, member of Md. Assembly.

Will

Micro. #2

p.160-64

11/18/1741 dated, to son (Honorable) Thomas Smythe,  
(b. 4/2/1729, d. 3/19/1819, m. 2nd Margaret Hands,  
dau. Thomas Bedingfield Hands.) devising "Trumping-  
town". Thomas Smythe (III) to be bound and  
apprenticed to Mr. James Calder, lawyer of Chester-  
town.

Honorable Thomas Smythe (III) was Judge of the Kent  
County Court, 1757, signer of the Association of  
Freemen in 1775, member of the Maryland Committee  
of Safety, 1774-76.

Will

Liber 10, P.175

8/19/1818 dated, property first to son, Dr. James  
Smythe of Baltimore, or if he dies first or does  
not accept the lands (which obviously happened)  
to Dr. Thomas Willson, who had married daughter  
Anna Maria Smythe (b. 2/17/1785, d. 1823) in 1806.  
The conditions for Dr. Willson receiving the lands  
were 8 lb. 10 shillings per acre for all lands  
due in 2 annual payments.

Dr. Willson, b. 9/28/1778, d. 10/28/1859 at Trumpington, was from Queenstown, Md. area and the first of his family to be medically educated in America. Prior to this members of the family had returned to England for their medical degree. He studied in Philadelphia, practiced in Queen Anne's County, then married Smythe's daughter, and moved later to "Trumpington."

Will 10/28/1859 date of death, to his son, Richard  
JF 1, F. 171 Bennett Willson (b. <sup>10</sup>12/12/1817, d. 1901.)

Deed 6/17/1902, purchase by Julia Willson Ringgold and  
JTD 8, F. 490 Notley Oswald Willson (two of R.B. Willson's children) for \$12,225, 350 A., "Trumpington."

Will 8/31/1921 dated, probated 1/9/1923, of R.O. Willson,  
RRH 1, F. 436 his half to wife, Mary Camp Willson.

Deed 1923, Mary Camp Willson's half purchased by James  
RRA 2, F. 210 Ernest and Mary Ringgold Willson, son-in-law and daughter of Julia Willson Ringgold.

no will date of death, 1936, Julia Willson Ringgold, her  
recorded half to her only child, Mary Ringgold Willson.

Will 1/17/1966, dated, probated 3/15/1976, James  
ERB 7, F. 566 Ernest Willson (d. 3/2/1976) to wife Mary R. Willson, and then to daughter, Mildred Willson Strong.

Deed Deed of Distribution, 1/28/1977, Mildred Willson  
EHP 72, F. 318 Strong & Julia Willson Engler, personal representatives of estate of J. Ernest Willson, and Mary R. Willson.

Will

made 1/17/1966, probated 4/26/1977, of Mary

ERB 8, F. 93

Ringgold Willson to Mildred Willson Strong,  
daughter.

Deed

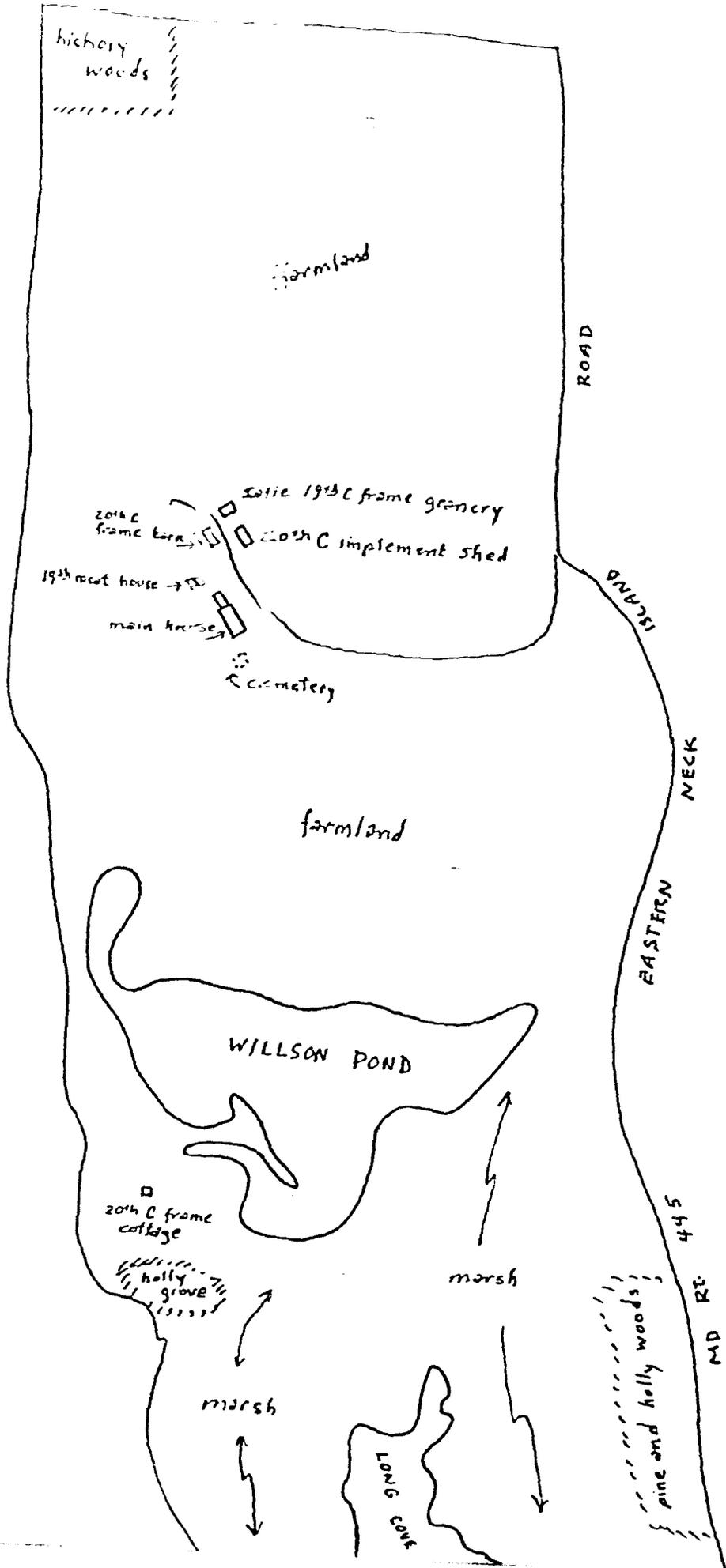
Deed of Distribution, 12/27/1978, Mildred

EHP 78, F.832

Willson Strong and Julia willson Engler, as  
representatives of estate of Mary R. Willson,  
to Mildred Willson Strong, "Trumpington".

Trumpington  
Kent Co, Maryland  
K-271  
sketch map, 1980  
scale 1"=600'

CHESAPEAKE BAY



K-271

445

MILDRED W. STRONG  
EHP 78/832  
347.50A.  
P. 3

JULIA W. ENGLER  
EHP 78/845  
100.00A.  
P. 12

K-271

Trumpington

Eastern Neck Island Road (MD 445)

South of Rock Hall

Dept. Assess. & Tax. Map (1967), 758

ISLAND

CREEK

WILLSON POND

ROBERT H. STRONG  
WHG 77/127  
107.62 A.  
P. 6

MILDRED W. STRONG  
EHP 78/842  
13.50A.  
P. 5

NECK

NORBERT C. NITSCHE  
EHP 31/123  
21.00A.  
P. 7

LONG COVE

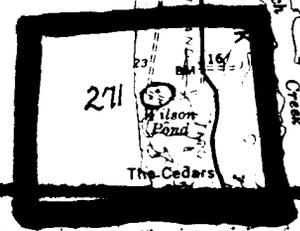
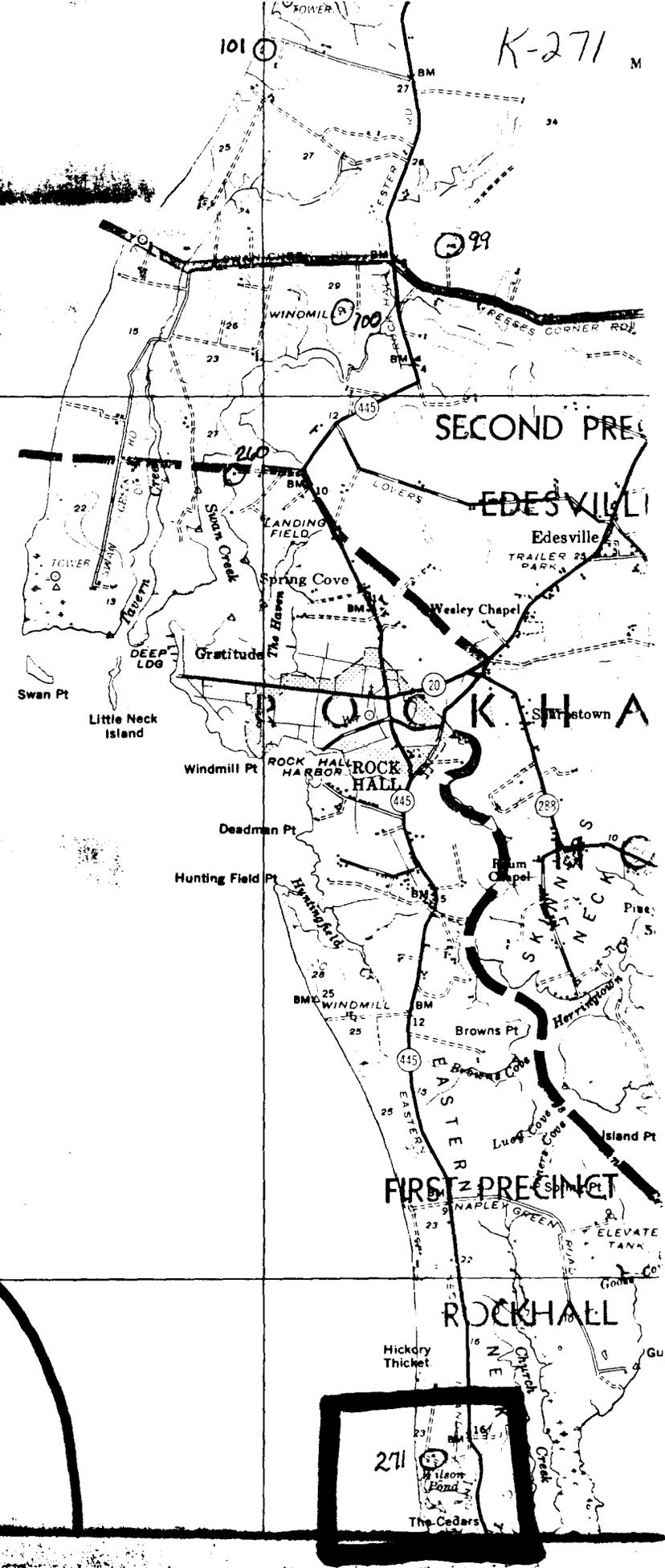
EASTERN

& TAX

K-271 M

C H E S A P E A K E

490  
10'  
480  
470  
460  
05'  
450

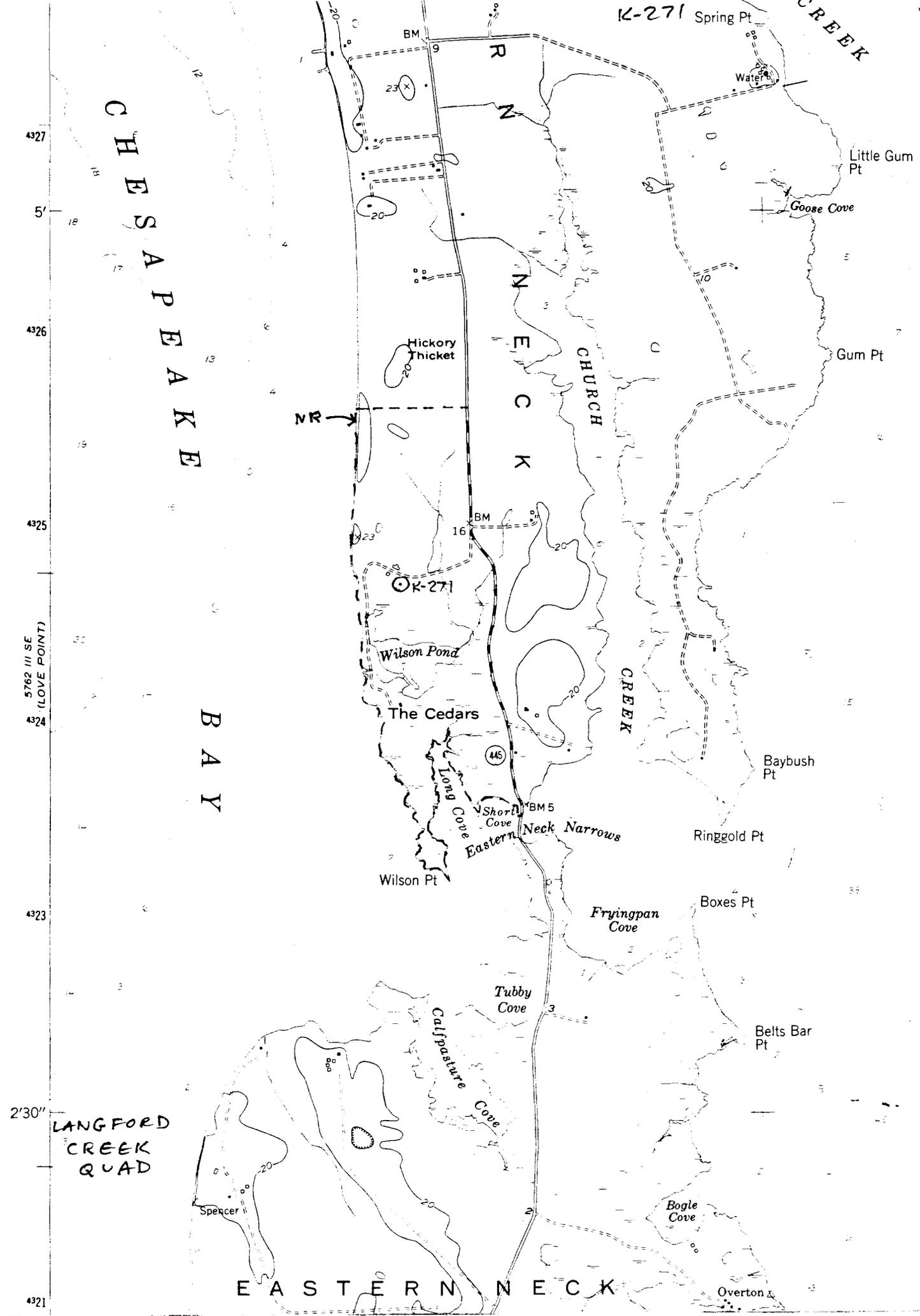




- BUSINESS REFERENCES.**
- CB,** Physician and Surgeon. Res. near O.
  - Y,** Miller and Dealer in Flour, Feed,
  - WEAVER,** Wheelwright and Blacksmithing. Works promptly and neatly on all kinds of work. Shop at Fairlee.
  - NE,** Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Furs, &c. Fairlee.
  - SOW,** Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Ready-made Clothing, Sewing Machine, &c. Edesville.
  - ER,** Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Fruits, and all goods usually kept in a country Store. Edesville.
  - HARY,** Manufacturer of, and Dealer in all kinds of Peach and Berry-boxes. Hand Mill at "Gray's Inn" Wharf.
  - W. J., Jr.,** Dealer in Tobacco, Cigars, Lard, &c. Edesville.
  - WILLSON,** Physician and Surgeon. Res. Edesville.
  - ARY,** Minister in M. E. Church.
  - I,** Carpenter, Contractor and Builder. Res. near Rock Hall.
  - Y,** Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Paints, Oils, Lumber, Window Glass, Ash Oars, Brick, &c. Terms cash.
  - NS,** Confectioner and Dealer in Cakes and Confections of all kinds.
  - ER,** Physician and Surgeon. Office Edesville.
  - STON,** Boot and Shoemaker. Is a good workman and desires the Patronage of all. Shop near Rock Hall.
  - RO.,** Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Provisions, Groceries, &c. Res. near Rock Hall.
  - DALL,** Carpenter, Contractor and Builder. Res. near Rock Hall.

**THE DISTRICT**

**EDESVILLE**  
 KENT CO  
 LAKE, GRIFING &  
 STEVENSON,  
 1877



C H E S A P E A K E

B A Y

E A S T E R N N E C K

K-271 Spring Pt

C R E E K

BM 9

R

N

N

E

C

R

E

C

K

CHURCH

CREEK

Hickory Thicket

Wilson Pond

The Cedars

Wilson Pt

Short Cove

Eastern Neck

Narrows

Fryngpan Cove

Tubby Cove

Callisture Cove

Baybush Pt

Ringgold Pt

Boxes Pt

Belts Bar Pt

Bogle Cove

Overton

Little Gum Pt

Goose Cove

Gum Pt

4327

5'

4326

4325

4324

4323

2'30"

4321

5762 III SE (LOVE POINT)

LANGFORD CREEK QUAD

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5' 4326 4325 4324 4323 2'30" 4321

MISSISSIPPI BAY

Trumpington

to ROCK HALL

Goose Cove K-271

Gum Pt

BAY

Hickory Thicket

CHURCH CREEK

23

BM 16

Wilson Pond

The Cedars

Long Cove

BM 5

Eastern Neck Narrows

Baybush Pt

Wilson Pt

Ringgold Pt

Fryingpan Cove

Boxes Pt

CHESTER RIVER

Tubby Cove

RT. 445

Belts Bar Pt

Calfpasture Cove

CHESTER RIVER

Langford Creek USGS Quad

Spencer

Bogle Cove

EASTERN NECK

Overton L.

Durbin Cr

Wickes Beach

ISLAND

Cr



Trumpington MHT - K291  
Eastern Neck Island Rd,  
Rock Hill, Md.

Front.

C. Nyström

Aug 1977



Junction

MRT - 15241

Eastern Neck Island Ry.

Rock Hill, Md.

Grave Yard.

C. Engstrom

Aug 1970