

K-273

Spencer Hall or Hynson's Division (Site)  
Eastern Neck Island  
c. early 18th Century

The only documentation of the appearance of Spencer Hall was undertaken in 1957-58 by H. C. Forman and recorded in Old Buildings and Furniture. In his book, he indicated that the gambrel roof structure with brick ends was built in two stages (similar to Godlington Manor and Presbury). Like Godlington, the first section of the house had exposed major framing members and a large fireplace with winder stair in the corner. There was one door and one window on each side and a basement with bulkhead on its south gable. On the east side of the first section, there was one dormer, but on the west side there were two—one to light each chamber. The first building measured 24' - 1 1/2" x 20' - 8".

Later in the 18th century, an extension was built on the north side nearly doubling the building's size. (The extension measured 21' - 3".) It too had a single room with enclosed stair in one corner, similar again to Godlington Manor and to Presbury. Further to the north there was a kitchen wing, which by the time it was recorded in 1957, had been replaced with a board and batten structure.

The building appears to have been altered periodically, with new windows or doors. Even the weatherboard may have been replaced in the 19th century when the building was probably a tenant house.

From the land records, it appears that the majority of Eastern Neck Island was owned by Thomas Hynson and Joseph Wickes from the 1650's to

1680 when it was divided between them. John Hynson (d. 1705) devised “ ... the plantation where I now dwell and all the land I have in the eastern neck ... ” to his son, John. During the 18th century it is difficult to determine how Hynson’s Division was subdivided amongst the descendants. By 1783, parts of Hynson’s Division were owned by Charles Chambers (320 acres), Nathaniel Hynson (300 acres), Benjamin Hynson and Benjamin Hynson, Jr. (200 acres between them), and Mary Wickes (100 acres).<sup>1</sup>

In 1817, Nathaniel Hynson (probably the 4th) sold 350 acres of Hynson’s Division on Eastern Neck Island, which he had inherited from his father, to Thomas Worrell.<sup>2</sup> After Thomas Worrell died (intestate), the farm was sold to Richard Spencer, Jr., but the deed was unrecorded. Richard may not have lived on Eastern Neck Island, as he refers to his dwelling plantation on Davis Creek, the same dwelling plantation as his father (Richard Spencer, d. 1825). When Richard II wrote his will in 1836, he bequeathed his Eastern Neck Farm to his daughters, Martha and Maria.<sup>3</sup>

By 1852, the property was listed under the name of Alexander Harris, (husband of Maria Spencer). The buildings were described as “Frame House & other Buildings in Tolerable repair, Formerly to Martha Spencer.”<sup>4</sup> The farm remained in the family until 1940.

In 1966, the entire property was acquired by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and combined with other properties for the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

1. Kent County Tax Assessment, Lower Langford Bay and Eastern

Neck Hundreds, 1783.

2. Land Records, Lib. WS 1, fol. 277.
3. Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 18.
4. Kent County Tax Assessment, 1st District, 1852.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Survey No. K-273

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "Hynson's Division"

and/or common Spencer Hall

## 2. Location

street & number Eastern Neck Island \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rock Hall  vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 5

street & number 300 Westgate Ctr. Dr. telephone no.:

city, town Hadley state and zip code MA 01035-9589

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 20

street & number Cross Street folio 147

city, town Chestertown state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region 5 - Historic Site

date 21 May 1990; updated 10 June 1992  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

city, town 300 Westgate Ctr. Dr., Hadley state MA

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-273

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The only documentation of the appearance of Spencer Hall was undertaken in 1957-58 by H. C. Forman and recorded in "Old Buildings Gardens & Furniture...". In his book, he indicated that the gambrel roof structure with brick ends, was built in two stages, similar to Godlington Manor and William Comegys House. Like Godlington Manor, the first section of the house had exposed major framing members and a large fireplace with winder stair in one corner. There was one door and one window on each side and a basement with bulkhead on its south gable. On the east side, the first section, was one dormer, but on the west side were two dormers, one to light each chamber. The first building measured 24'-1½" x 20'-8".

If the house was built with the gambrel roof originally, it would not have been constructed before the second quarter of the 18th Century since there is no documented gambrel roof prior to the 1730's on the Eastern Shore. No matter when it was constructed, the house was built by one of the Hynsons, who owned the northern half of Eastern Neck Island from the beginning settlement of present day Kent County.

Later in the 18th Century an extension was built on the north side nearly doubling its size (extension 21'-3"). It too had a single room with enclosed stair in one corner, just like the two aforementioned Kent County dwellings. Unlike the first section, the new wing had no window on the east facade first floor and none on the west side of the second floor. Farther to the north was the kitchen wing which, by the time it was recorded in 1957, had been replaced with a board and batten structure.

The building appears to have been altered periodically, with new windows or doors. Even the weatherboard may have been replaced in the 19th Century when the building was probably a tenant house.

It was reported that an overmantel panel presented to the Maryland Historical Society in 1896 by Mrs. Charlotte Spencer Wickes came from this house, however, that Spencer Hall was located on Piney Neck and the shipyard which it depicts was probably on Davis Creek.

# 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Pat. 1680; 1<sup>st</sup> half 18<sup>th</sup> c. **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Spencer Hall stood on part of "Hynson's Division", the northern half of Eastern Neck Island resurveyed for John Hynson in 1680. This included two earlier parcels surveyed for John's father, Thomas Hynson(d.c.1670's), called "Market Place" and "Elke Point".

From the land records it appears that the majority of Eastern Neck Island was owned jointly by Thomas Hynson and Joseph Wickes from the 1650's to 1680 when it was divided between them. John Hynson (d. 1705) divided "...the plantation where I now dwell and all the land I have in the eastern neck..." to his son John. During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it is difficult to determine how "Hynson's Division" was subdivided amongst the descendants. By 1783, parts of Hynson's Division were owned by Charles Chambers (320 acres), Nathaniel Hynson (probably the 3rd; 300 acres), Benjamin Hynson and Benjamin Hynson, Jr. (200 acres between them) and Mary Wickes (100 acres).

In 1817 Nathaniel Hynson (probably the 4th) sold 350 acres of "Hynson's Division" on Eastern Neck Island, which he had inherited from his father, to Thomas Worrell. After Thomas Worrell died, intestate in 1819, the farm was sold to Richard Spencer, Jr. but the deed was unrecorded. Richard may or may not have lived on Eastern Neck Island because he refers to his dwelling plantation on Davis Creek, the same dwelling plantation as his father (Richard Spencer, d 1825). When Richard II wrote his will in 1836 he bequeathed his Eastern Neck Farm to his daughters Martha and Maria.

By 1848 the property was divided between Maria Harris, wife of Alexander Harris, and Charlotte A. Wickes, wife of James P. Wickes, both daughters of Richard Spencer II. Charlotte, however, sold her portion to her sister and the farm continued in the family until 1940.

In 1957 a subdivision was created south of the old house, which was in ruins at that time. Finally the entire property was acquired in 1966 by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and combined with other properties for the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-273

Rock Hall Historical Collection, 1957.

Forman, H.C., Old Buildings, Gardens & Furniture of Tidewater Maryland,

Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, MD 1967.

Original Deeds & Wills, Kent County Courthouse.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Langford Creek, MD

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>						
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>						
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>						
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D	<input type="text"/>						
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E	<input type="text"/>						
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F	<input type="text"/>						
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G	<input type="text"/>						
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H	<input type="text"/>						
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Michael Bourne	
organization	Historical Society of Kent County	date February, 1995
street & number	P. O. Box 663	telephone 410-778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state MD

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCO  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K-273

1. STATE Maryland  
COUNTY Kent  
TOWN Rock Hall VICINITY Eastern Neck Is.  
STREET NO.

2. NAME Spencer Hall

ORIGINAL OWNER  
ORIGINAL USE - dwelling  
PRESENT OWNER - U.S. Gov't (Park)??  
PRESENT USE Wildlife Refuge - Site  
WALL CONSTRUCTION  
NO. OF STORIES

DATE OR PERIOD ?  
STYLE  
ARCHITECT  
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC yes

wildlife refuge -  
Col. Spenser??

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered gone Interior

Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

See Forman,

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

WAS

DATE OF RECORD

4/19/91

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



K-273

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Langford Creek Quad

B  
A  
Y

C  
H  
E  
R

Wilson Pond

The Cedars

C  
R  
E  
E  
K

Baybush Pt

Short Cove

BM 5

Ringgold Pt

Eastern Neck Narrows

Wilson Pt

Fryingpan Cove

Boxes Pt

Tubby Cove

Belts Bar Pt

Califacature Cove

EASTERN NECK

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Bogle Cove

EASTERN NECK

Overton

Durdin Cr

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Wickes Beach

Cabin Cove

I  
S  
L  
A  
N  
D

Shipyard Cr

QUEEN ANNES CO  
KENT CO

Baybush Pt

Panhandle Pt

Hail Cr

Hail Pt

Narrows Pt

Cedar Pt

C  
H  
E  
S  
T  
E  
R