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Alton Site
Eastern Neck
19th Century

Around 1944 the old house which had stood on this farm burned to the ground. One photograph and a painting of the old house have survived which indicate an unusual four-part, frame building composed of a three-bay, two-story section with a one-and-a-half story wing on the south and a one-story wing on the north. A two-story, fourth section was constructed at right angles to the southern wing. The age of the building cannot be determined by the photograph alone, but at least part of the building was standing in 1844 when the farm was sold at auction by George Vickers.¹

In the report prepared by George Vickers, trustee, to the State Chancellor, it states that the property was put up for sale according to accepted practice and went on to describe it as "The Tavern and plantation lying and being in Kent County . . . in Eastern Neck adjoining the lands of Doctor Thomas Wilson and commonly called Trumpington and "Smith's Chance" containing one hundred and forty-four acres and a half of an acre . . .
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The land had been the property of William Browne, part of which he had acquired in 1817 from William Quinn. The same land was mentioned in the 1783 Tax Assessment in the possession of William Crabbin.

At the auction on the tavern porch of Carl Strandburg in Chestertown, the property was sold to Dr. Thomas Willson for \$3310.00.³ Thereafter, the farm has remained in the possession of the Willson family,

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appearing on the 1860 Map in the possession of C. Daniel Willson and in the 1877 Atlas as the residence of Alexander H. Wilson. The farm was sold in 1918 to Alexander Carroll Willson by his siblings.⁴ After being advertised in the Enterprise in 1948, it was purchased by J. Ernest and Mary R. Willson, in whose family it remains.⁵

- 1. Chancery, Lib. 162, fol. 635.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Ibid.
- 4. Land Records, Lib. APR 3, fol. 419.
- 5. Land Records, Lib. WHG 9, fol. 330.