

M50/6/26/96

**K-510**  
**Boyer-Williams House**  
**or Prevention of Inconvenience**  
**Rock Hall**  
**c.1800**

For all intents and purposes, the Boyer-Williams House appears to be a modest 19th century dwelling. However, upon closer examination it is apparent that the house encompasses a late 18th century, one-room, plank structure. Made of yellow pine, a material which rarely survives <sup>in plank buildings</sup>, this small old house would most likely have gone the way of many others if the present structure had not been built around it.

In its original form the little plank house had a central door with two flanking windows. The chimney was located on the north side of the room and the ceiling joists were exposed and beaded. In a photograph taken during a remodeling in the 1970's, the dovetail corner construction can be seen. At present, the only place where the planks are visible is in a closet beneath the stair. It appears that they had been whitewashed and that the gaps had been neatly filled with a plaster-like mortar.

On the property there is also a small barn for horse and carriage. The name of the owner was chiseled into one of the horizontal member: J.W.Boyer, Rock Hall.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "Prevention of Inconvenience"

and/or common Boyer-Williams House

### 2. Location

street & number 21139 Green Lane    not for publication

city, town Rock Hall    vicinity of    congressional district 1st

state Maryland    county Kent

### 3. Classification

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

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

name Mr & Mrs. H. Thomas Williams

street & number 21139 Green Lane telephone no.: 410-778-0976

city, town Rock Hall state and zip code MD 21661

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 48

street & number Cross Street folio 338

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town    state

# 7. Description

Survey No K-510

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Green Lane, south of the town of Rock Hall contains several late 19th Century and early 20th Century frame dwellings, some of which appear on the 1877 Atlas. The unique feature about the Boyer-Williams House is the fact that the northern room is an early log or plank building. In the third quarter of the 19th Century the house was enlarged to its present size (front) and the porch was added around 1900.

In its original form, the Boyer-Williams House was a one room yellow pine plank cabin with exposed beaded ceiling joints (bead on sides of joists only). Its facade had a central door and two flanking windows and the chimney/fireplace was on the north side of the room.

In the third quarter of the 19th Century the old house was engulfed by an enlargement that tripled its size. The plan adopted was the central stair hall plan with two flanking rooms and a kitchen wing to the rear of the old plank cabin. The new stair hall and parlor were two steps lower than the old cabin, but the second floor was all on the same level.

The building remained, with two front doors, even after the porch was added around 1900. The next major remodeling occurred in 1956 when the one story kitchen wing was replaced with a new two story frame structure with porch on its west end.

In 1972 a third remodeling changed the kitchen into a dining room. A kitchen leanto was built on the north side of the old kitchen. During the same remodeling the old north fireplace was disassembled and a new block one was built outside the house. When the remodeling was underway, a photo of the plank walls was taken showing dovetail corner construction. The only place the planks are visible now is in a closet beneath the stair. They appear to have been whitewashed and the gaps were neatly filled with a plaster-like mortar.

The trim and doors from the 19th Century are of the simplest materials.

West of the house is a small 3 bay frame stable constructed of hewn and circular sawn materials mortised and tenoned and pinned together. The exterior was covered in board and batten, but is now covered with ersatz brick. The stable originally had two stalls on the south end and there was a dirt floor. A wood floor was added in the 20th Century. The doors were re-made but original strap hinges with penny end and heart shaped end remain. An original hasp is still in use. Around the outside of the roof overhang is a scalloped board.

Next to one of the doors on a horizontal member is chiseled in the name of the builder: "J.W. Boyer Rock Hall".

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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**    c.1800; c.1870    **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.

The Boyer-Williams House is significant for two reasons: The first is the fact that it started life as a one room yellow pine plank structure. The second is the fact that it has been in the same family since at least the 1860's.

In the mid 19th Century, the Rock Hall farm, which belonged to Joseph Harris, extended on the south side of the harbor or creek to incorporate the present Green Lane area. Around 1864 J.B. Boyer began buying and selling property in the area. By 1877, "J. Boyer" appears to have established himself in the present location, although family oral tradition states that the old log building was moved to its present site from a location in the field closer to the bay. From that time until the present it remained in the family of J.B. Boyer.



Lake, Griffing, Stevenson  
 Atlas of Kent Co., 1877  
 Fifth District Map

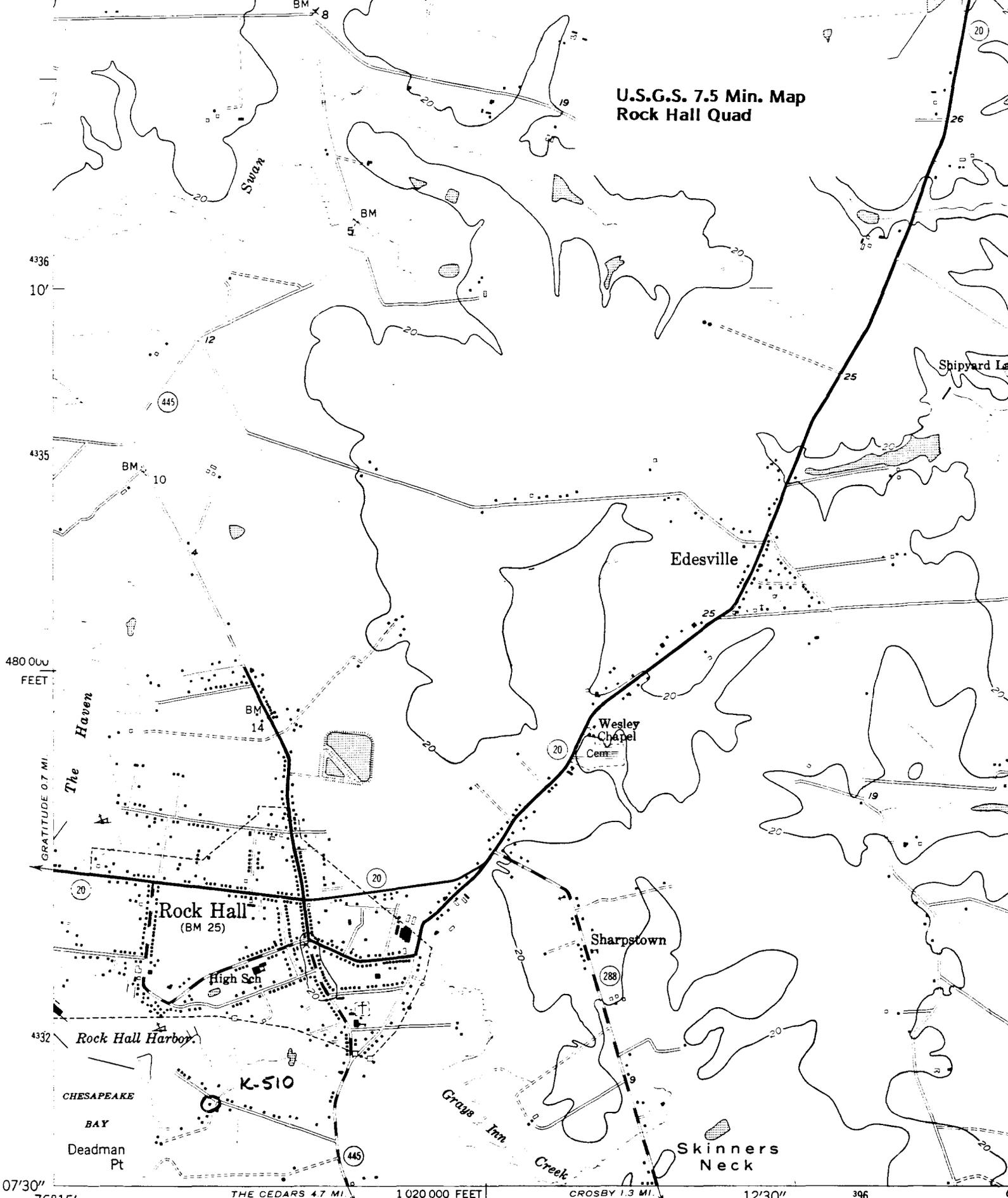
**ROCK HALL P.O.**  
 KENT CO  
 (Dist. No. 5)

J. Downey Res.	
Mrs. Ashley	
B.R. Durdin Res.	
D.P. Sharp Store & P.O.	Mrs. Leary Store
	Mrs. A.M. Taylor

**ROCK HALL BUSINESS REFERENCES.**  
 Dr. J. H. PRICE, Physician and Surgeon, Res. near Lankford P.O.  
 O. CONNELLY, Miller and Dealer in Flour, Feed, Grain, &c.  
 JOHN A. SCHWEARER, Wheelwright and Blacksmith. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done at reasonable rates. Shop at Fairlee.  
 WM. J. FAYNE, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Furs, &c. Fairlee.  
 B. B. ADKINSON, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Ready-made Clothing, China and Tinware, &c. Edesville.  
 J. W. VANLIER, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Fruits, and all goods usually kept in a first class Country Store. Edesville.  
 GEORGE H. LEARY, Manufacturer of, and Dealer in Lumber of all kinds. Peach and Berry-boxes



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Rock Hall Quad



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial





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SQUAW

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