

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Stepney or White House Farm Inventory Number: K-85  
 Address: 406 Cross Street City: Chestertown Zip Code: 21620  
 County: Kent USGS Topographic Map: Chestertown  
 Owner: DVCC, Inc. C/O Kent Research and MFG, Inc. Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_yes  
 Tax Parcel Number: 26 Tax Map Number: 44 Tax Account ID Number: 002253  
 Project: Chestertown DBM Emergency Services Tower Agency: DCM  
 Site visit by MHT Staff: \_\_\_no \_\_\_yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property located within a historic district? \_\_\_yes x no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district \_\_\_yes Eligible district \_\_\_yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible xyes \_\_\_no

Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B xC \_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G \_\_\_None  
 Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Form

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

White House Farm is situated southwest of Chestertown and ¼ mile west of the Chester River. A long drive leads to the main house and several outbuildings and horse pastures. The house is an L-Plan red brick structure oriented to face the Chester River with the ell portion facing Chestertown.

From the original construction date of 1659, this house has undergone many changes, yet owners have managed to integrate the original house and materials into a large, expanded house to suit modern needs. The main house wing, constructed in the 1820s, is a three-story brick structure with a gambrel roof. Three double-window shed dormers extend from the shingled roof. The main house is five bays long and two bays deep with a central hall plan configuration. Internal chimneys are positioned at both gable ends. The fenestration on the façade consists of five six-over-six double hung windows across the second story and two windows flanking the central front door on the first story. The windows are capped with flat arch lintels with bulls-eye decorative corners. A one-story, central pedimented porch extends the length of the first floor. The porch is supported with simple Doric pilasters and the porch roof eave is detailed and supported with a series of closely-spaced brackets resembling dentil work from a distance. The wide front door is flanked with vertical side lights.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <u>X</u>	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___A ___B <u>X</u> C ___D	Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
Comments: _____	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>11/09/04</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>12/1/04</u> Date

200402572

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

K-85

The five-bay, Flemish-bond bricked original section of the house, the ell, dates from 1659 and extends from the main house to the west. This portion is two stories tall with a very low-sloped pitched roof. Documents note that the roof was originally a gambrel form and the house was composed of brick for the first story with a frame second story.<sup>1</sup> The second story brick addition and new roof were added around the 1850s. A wide cornice adorns the roofline. A glass enclosed porch runs along the length on the south side. Five six-over-six windows line the second story, and two windows of the same type flank the central, original back door to the house. A one-story frame shed-roof addition abuts the west end of the house.

Several outbuildings remain on the property. Two livestock barns, a large corn crib, hay barn, equipment shed, garage and a small frame structure which could have been used as a tenant house or office are found west of the house.

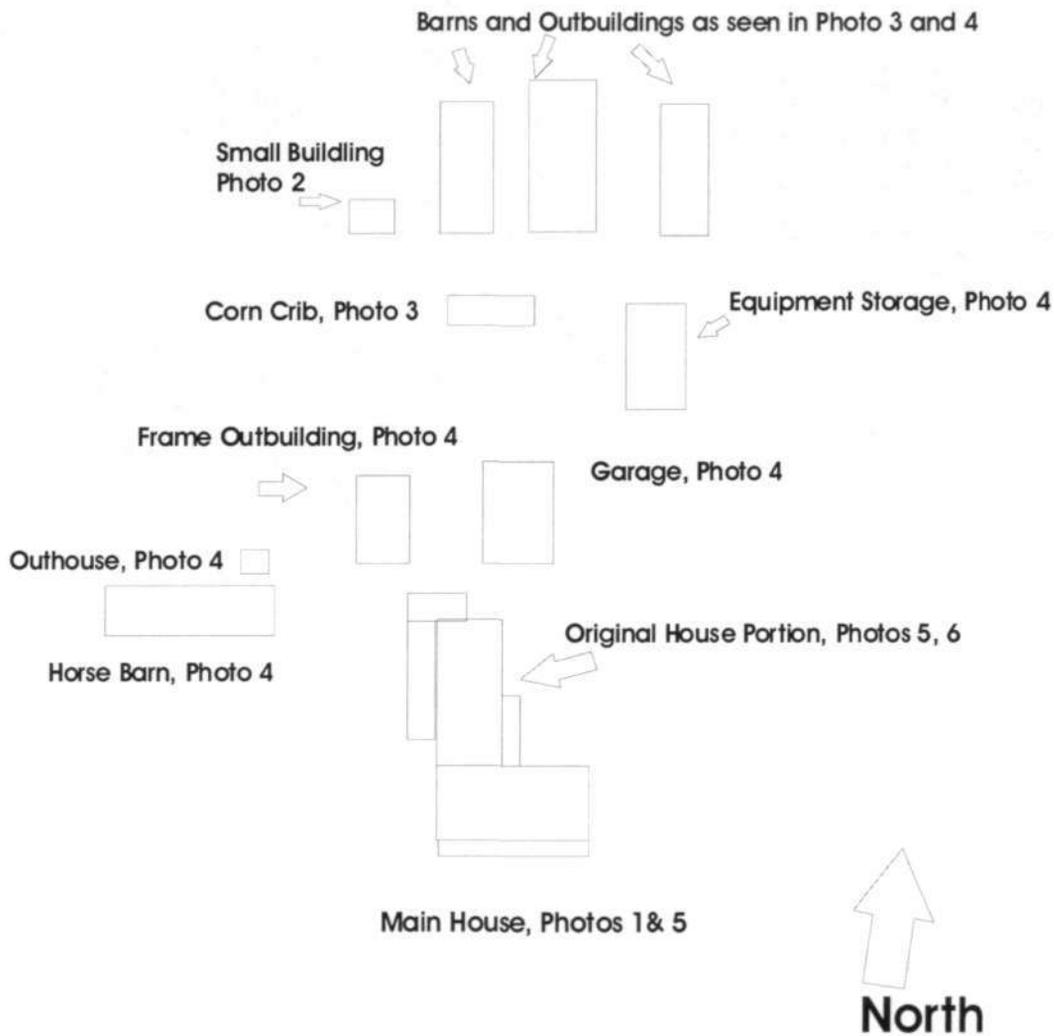
The property retains a significant amount of integrity and was established prior to the establishment of Chestertown in 1706. The original owners of the farm, Simon and Rebecca Wilmer, were responsible for laying out Chestertown and dividing and selling lots. The original land grant was issued to English Colonist Dr. Richard Tilghman and included the land where Chestertown is today. The White House farm was passed down through the family with only a brief period of ownership outside the family. Changes were made, yet the historical significance of this evolved, Colonial house remains. The house and associated farm outbuildings are considered eligible for the NRHP under Criteria C.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

K-85

**Photo Key and Site Plan:**



Prepared by: Kathryn St. Clair

Date Prepared: July 9, 2004

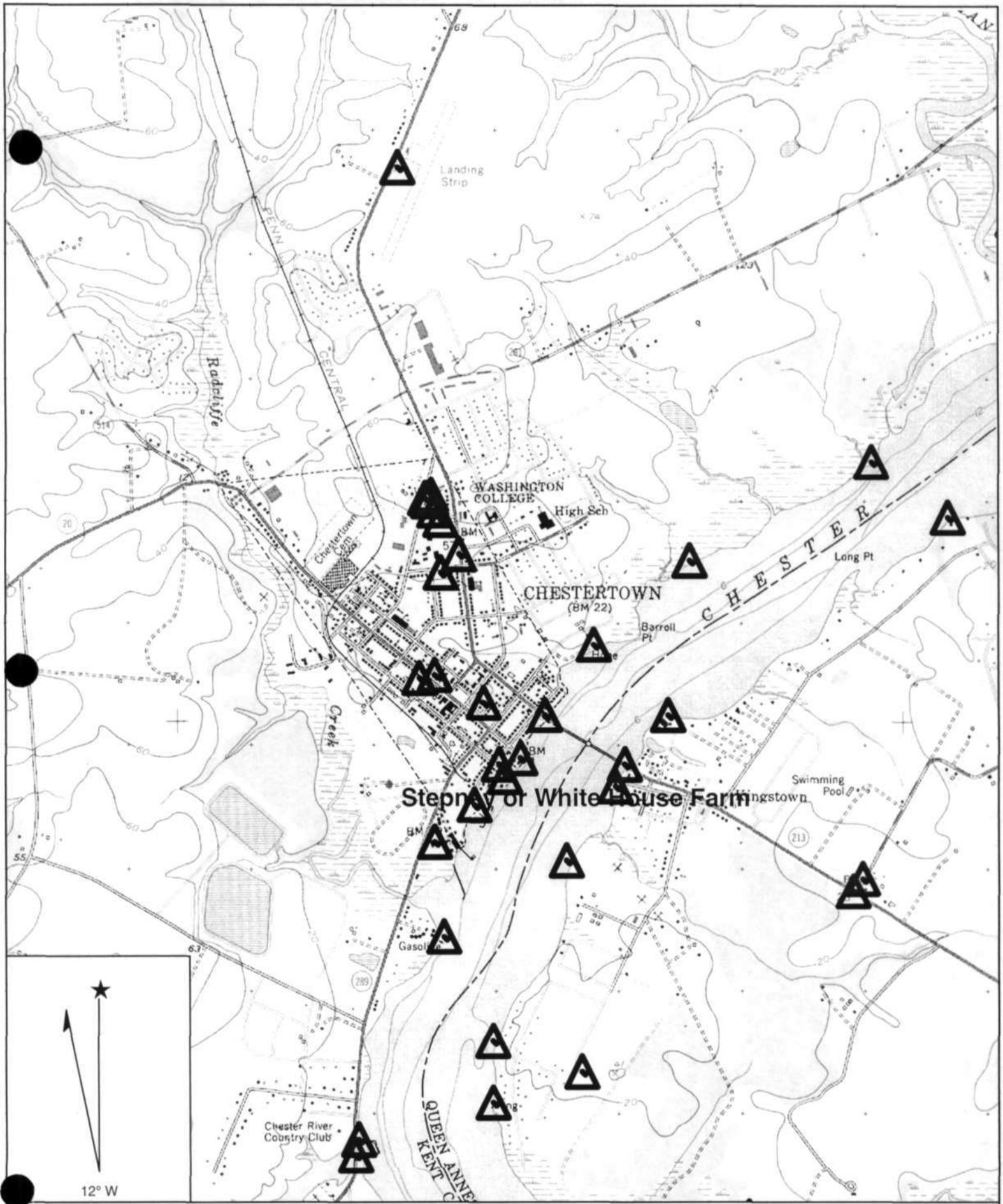
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

K-85

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<sup>i</sup> Fritz, Marsha. "Inventory form for State Historic Sites Survey- MHT," August, 1977.



Name: CHESTERTOWN  
 Date: 7/20/2004  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 12' 48.85" N 076° 03' 52.78" W  
 Caption: Stepney or White House Farm  
 K-85  
 Chestertown, MD



R-85

Stepney / White House Farm

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair, 06/04

NEG: MD SHPO

View of the newer section or main house  
(facade). View looking North from  
Cross Street.

Photo 1/6



K-85

Stepney / Whitehouse Farm

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair, 06/04

NEG: MD SHPO

View of a small frame building on the northwest  
side of the property.

Photo: 2/6



K-85

Stepney / White House farm

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair, 06/04

Neg. MD SHPO

View of the barns, corn crib and outbuildings  
associated with the house.

Photo 3/6



K-85

Stepney/White House Farm

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair, 06/04

NEG: MD SHAD

View of the Horse Farm property looking south  
towards the house.

Photo 4/6



K-85

Stepney/Whitehouse farm  
Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair, 06/04

NEG: MD SHPO

View of the original 17<sup>th</sup> Century Portion of  
the house (looking west).

Photo: 5/6



K-85

Stepney/White House farm

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair, 06/04

NEG: MDSHPD

View of the north side of the original portion  
of the house.

Photo 6/6

K-85

Stepney or White House Farm  
Near Chestertown  
4th quarter 17th Century (?)

In 1659 Peter Boverly, mariner, was granted 500 acres on the west side of the Chester River adjoining the lands of Mark Penxax (Radcliffe Cross).<sup>1</sup> The grant extended from Radcliffe Creek to Barroll Bight along the river and included lands later taken up by both Chestertown and the Kent Free School. The land escheated to the Proprietor and was later (1666) re-patented to Mary Bateman.<sup>2</sup>

In the 1728 deed for the Kent Free School land there is reference that Mary Bateman sold her land to Richard Perry who later sold it to Mary Tilghman, widow of Dr. Richard Tilghman (d. c. 1675).<sup>3</sup> Mary Tilghman sold the 500 acre tract to Simon Wilmer, who had married her daughter Rebecca. This deed, however, was not recorded. In 1688 Mary Tilghman transferred her adjoining 1000 acres called Tilghman and Foxley Grove (Patented 1675), to Simon and Rebecca Wilmer.<sup>4</sup>

Simon Wilmer originally came to the Patuxent area of Maryland in 1678 or 79. By 1680 he was in the area which was to become Kent County where 500 acres, located adjacent Tilghmans & Foxley Grove, was patented to him under the name Wilmer's Farm. He continued acquiring and selling land for the next fifteen years and became involved in many aspects of 17th century colonial life. He was burgess from Kent County between 1689-1699, served as surveyor of Kent County in 1694 and assisted in laying out the boundary between the newly established parishes of the county. Wilmer

also served as one of the first vestrymen for St. Paul's Parish. He died in Kent County in September of 1699 and was buried at the Hermitage the home of his brother-in-law in Queen Anne's County.<sup>5</sup>

Simon and Rebecca Wilmer (d. 1725) may have built the 1-1/2 story brick house (19' x 38') now forming the back section of the present house. Fig. From the little that is visible, it can be conjectured that the walls were laid originally in Flemish bond with glazed headers above an English bond basement. The lack now of original fabric makes the initial kitchen situation uncertain. It may have been located in the basement or was perhaps a detached structure. Eventually it was later replaced with a new kitchen on the east gable of the house. The unusual feature about the later kitchen is that it had a full basement at a period when most kitchens were built with a dirt or brick floor close to the grade. The only sure way of dating the back wing is by dendrochronology on original timbers or by archeological investigation.

From additional information in the basement it appears that the space was divided into two nearly equal spaces with chimneys at both ends. The arch support on the east end continued through the wall in such a way as to suggest there was a bulkhead on this end, just as was done at Rich Hill near Sassafras.

The first alteration to the building appears to be the addition of the later kitchen on the east, a 19' x 19' structure which appears on the 1783 Tax Assessment and in an overmantel painting originally painted in the house in the 1790's and now at Washington College.<sup>6</sup> In that painting, the

house is depicted with four windows and a door centered between the two easterly windows. This arrangement corroborates the evidence for a brick division wall nearly centered in the structure. It also affirms the evidence for two end chimneys, but the presence of a third chimney complicates the interpretation, unless, it belongs to a leanto on the north side of the building, traces of which are not immediately visible.

Simon Wilmer II acquired most of Stepney after his father's death. When the county was resurveyed in 1706, he was responsible for the laying out of "Chester Town," the new county seat, which was situated on his own land. Soon after, he began to sell lots. Simon Wilmer, II, also continued to operate the grist mill which he had inherited from his father and established a saw mill.<sup>7</sup> He is most likely responsible for the construction of the brick Miller's House mentioned in his will and which will be discussed later. In 1737, Simon II left specific farms to his sons William, Lambert and Charles and lots in town to his daughters Dorcas, Mary and Margaret, but to Simon III, he left "all the rest & residue of my lands, houses and improvements," ie. Stepney.<sup>8</sup>

Apparently, Simon III moved to the Sassafra River on a farm now called Shorewood. Lambert, his brother, owned Stepney in 1750, when his will was written. Lambert bequeathed Stepney to his son Simon IV,<sup>9</sup> who owned the farm and mill in 1783, when the Tax Assessment was recorded. Simon IV, son of Lambert owned 123 acres of Tilghman and Foxley Grove and 127 acres of Stepney in that assessment. There were eight whites and two blacks living on the farms. The buildings are briefly described as "two brick dwelling houses and kitchens, one grist mill, 7 out Houses, two

orchards - joining Chestertown."<sup>10</sup>

Simon IV was a contributor to the founding of Washington College and holder of Pew No. 19 at the Chapel of East of Chester Parish in Chestertown. His first wife was Ann Ringgold and his second, Mary Dunn. When Simon IV wrote his will in 1794, he bequeathed "the land on which I now dwell with the houses and improvements ..." to his son James. To his second son Simon V, he bequeathed land extending from the "lot sold to the trustees of the poor at the foot of Stoney Hill" (opposite Chester Cemetery) to and including the Grist Mill. His son William H. Wilmer received the land bordering the Grist Mill on the opposite side of the road from Simon's bequest. John Ringgold Wilmer's bequest adjoined that of William and the College lands. Peregrine, his seven year old son, received a parcel of land between those of James and William and daughter Ann received a "lot adjoining the Methodist meeting House, now in occupation of Thomas Worrell ..." (at the end of Princess St.). He even made provisions for an unborn child, which as it turned out, was Lemuel.<sup>11</sup>

When Simon's inventory was listed in 1798 the appraisers were the same as for the estate of Emory Sudler, his neighbor at Radcliffe Cross, John Rowles and Joseph Garnett. The estate inventory included eleven slaves and eighteen horses and the total value was over @1525. Simon V and James were the executors of his estate.<sup>12</sup>

In 1801 James Wilmer and his wife Ann, who had moved to Queen Anne's County, sold the home place to Thomas Worrell. It is unknown if

Thomas and his wife, Ann, had any familial connection with the Wilmers. If not, their seven year ownership of Stepney would be the only break in family ownership for many years.<sup>13</sup>

Rev. Simon Wilmer V purchased Stepney from Thomas Worrel in 1808, then sold it in 1818 to his youngest brother Lemuel.<sup>14</sup> Lemuel sold the home as well as the lot left him by his father in 1822 to his second cousin Mary Frisby Gordon, the wife of Joseph N. Gordon (daughter of James and Ann Frisby of the Violet Farm; her great grandfather was Simon II).<sup>15</sup>

Joseph Nicholson Gordon is referred to as "Dr. Gordon" in the account of the Battle of Caulk's Field. He was the Clerk of the Court between 1822-1845. In the Tax Assessment for 1846, Gordon is listed as residing at the Nicholson House on Queen Street. In that same year, he and his wife Mary sold Stepney to their son, James Frisby Gordon, who had resided there as early as 1841. In this deed Stepney is referred to as "commonly called White House."<sup>16</sup> The Tax Assessment mistakenly records James' personal property in the town instead of in the 2nd Election District.

Joseph N. Gordon was buried in the family graveyard south of the house. None of the markers remain, but three stones were retrieved from the creek in recent years, one being that of Joseph N. Gordon who died at age 73 years in 1848.

James F. Gordon and his wife Sarah Marie were undoubtedly responsible for constructing the three story, five-bay long brick structure on the east side of the old house. Its exterior is severely simple with a full

length porch on its east facade. When constructed, the house had a low-pitched hip roof, with monitor in the center similar to Middle Plantation. In form it was also like Fairfield. Judging from the photograph taken around the turn-of-the century, the oldest part of the house was raised to two full stories, but built of frame. On the west end of the old building a three-bay, one-and-a-half story, frame wing was constructed, probably housing a kitchen and pantry. Fig.

The interior of the 'new' house was quite simple, with large proportions. The stairhall was nearly twelve feet wide having a continuous railing from the carved newel post to the third floor. Its painted, tapered balusters were identical to those at Radcliffe Cross, but the latter are of natural tiger maple. When constructed, the north parlor had six windows, but two flanking the fireplace were later bricked up.

James F. Gordon had, like his father, been Clerk of the Court (1851-56) for Kent County. Before selling the property in 1862 to his brother-in-law, he and his family had moved to Howard County.<sup>17</sup> James B. Ricaud, his brother-in-law, was Judge of the Circuit Court of this district and intimately involved with affairs of the area, including Washington College. He and his family lived at the "White House Farm" until his death in 1866, after which time it descended to his second wife, Cornelia, and later to his daughter Mary Rebecca Walker, wife of William S. Walker.<sup>18</sup>

William Walker was the son of John W. and Elizabeth Constable Walker, born in 1832. He attended Washington College and Princeton and returned to farm. In 1884 he was elected judge of the Orphans Court. He was very active in the Episcopal Church and was on the board of Visitors

and Governors of Washington College.

In fulfillment of James B. Ricaud's will, after the death of Mary R. Walker, his farm Stepney was to go to his granddaughter Anna Walker, who was later to marry Walter H. Beck of St. Louis, MO. Both mother and daughter, however, joined in a deed in 1909, transferring Stepney to Walter Wright for nearly \$5,000 less than Judge Ricaud had paid for it in 1862.<sup>19</sup>

Walter and Joanna Wright lived at Stepney until 1924 when they sold the farm to Frank H. Worrell of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania,<sup>20</sup> who subsequently sold it to Thomas W. Spranklin in 1928.<sup>21</sup> In 1928 and 1936, the Spranklins sold off several parcels along the water for an oil company, the National Guard Armory, and the sewage treatment plant.

Perhaps it was the income from the sale of the waterfront that enabled the Spranklins to undertake the most ambitious remodeling of Stepney since that of James Frisby Gordon in the 1850's. Their remodeling included removing the third story and replacing the whole with a bold gambrel roof giving more headroom to the two third floor rooms. On the back section, the one-and-a-half story frame wing, which appears in the early photograph, was removed. The west gable of the old house was demolished and a six foot extension was added. At the same time, the second story was reconstructed of old brick, producing a more typical antebellum house than had been produced seventy-five years earlier. A porch was built across part of the south facade. Its new plan then consisted of a kitchen and dining room, with pantry and back stair between. Fig.

Sarah Spranklin, in 1936, sold the farm three years after the death of her husband Thomas.<sup>22</sup> Margaret R. Massey, a nurse for the County Health Department, owned the farm for ten years, during the same period she owned the Harris House on High Street. Between 1946 and 53, Stepney was owned by John and Lois Jones, from New York and later Detroit.<sup>23</sup> In 1953 Arthur and Esther Lusby purchased the farm and established a trotting track, which remains in use today.<sup>24</sup>

1. Patents, Lib. 4, fol. 472.
2. Patents, Lib. 10, fol. 198.
3. Land Records, Lib. JS 10, fol. 267.
4. Land Records, Lib. C, fol. 125.
5. Skirven, Percy, Seven Pioneers of the Colonial Eastern Shore, Maryland Historical Magazine Vol. Page 414, 19 .
6. Janson-LaPalme, Robert J. H., A View of Chestertown from the White House Farm, Maryland historical Magazine, Vol. 88, 1993, P. 38-51. Mr. Janson-LaPalme's article illustrates and documents the house and the painting which originally was an overmantel in one of the rooms. The painting depicts not only the house and its smaller kitchen wing, but also a bee-hive oven on the kitchen gable covered by a shed.
7. When Rebecca Wilmer died in 1725 it was stipulated in her will that her "Negro man James" 'keep' the mill for two years for Simon II's use, as well as the use of her brother Richard Tilghman. Tilghman had bought a half interest in the mill in 1709. James was to be set free after his two years of service at the mill. Simon II was executor of his mother's will.
8. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 58.
9. Wills, Lib. 3, fol. 137.

10. 1783 Tax Assessment, Worton and Chester Hundred.
11. Wills, Lib. 7, fol. 608.
12. Inventories, Lib. 11, fol. 50.
13. Land Records, Lib. TW 1, fol. 514.
14. Land Records, Lib. BC 5, fol. 293; Land Records, Lib. WS 2, fol. 268.
15. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 166.
16. Land Records, Lib. JNG 12, fol. 252.
17. Land Records, Lib. JKH 3, fol. 215.
18. Wills, Lib. JB 1, fol. 334; Lib. JF 1, fol. 354.
19. Land Records, Lib. JTD 19, fol. 575.
20. Land Records, Lib. RRA 2, fol. 640.
21. Land Records, Lib. RAS 3, fol. 346.
22. Land Records, Lib. RAS 15, fol. 512.
23. Land Records, Lib. RAS 40, fol. 205.
24. Land Records, Lib. WHG 29, fol. 162.

K-85

White House Farm, Stepney Manor  
Chestertown  
Private

18th Century, mid-19th Century

The present day Stepney Manor incorporates the brick walls of an early manor house into a large country residence which did not achieve its present form until early in the 20th century. Now forming a part of the rear ell, the early house was a five bay brick gambrel roof building which faced Chestertown; it was built by the Wilmers, a prominent early Kent family. By the middle of the 19th century a large brick building with bracketted cornice and wide front porch was constructed; the present gambrel roof was added about 1919. Inside is a graceful Victorian stair with "Tigers Eye" maple balusters and walnut newel.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-85  
MAGI # 1500855004

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

White House Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Stepney Manor

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Quaker Neck

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lusby, Sr.

Telephone #: (301) 778-0886

STREET & NUMBER

Quaker Neck

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: EHP 71

Folio #: 803

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

K-85

<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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The present day Stepney Manor incorporates the brick walls of an early brick manor house into a large country house which did not achieve its present form until early in the 20th century. Fortunately the early house, now only a shell, has been well documented through the years for it once hosted the Marquis de Lafayette and other notable Revolutionary period figures. The house itself was painted by Charles Wilson Peale with Chestertown in the back ground.

The present building stands west of Chestertown, facing the Chester River but set back about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from it. The main house is a two and one-half story gambrel roof brick building, with a one story, five bay porch which extends across the entire front. The house was probably constructed in the middle of the 19th century with the earlier house forming an ell to the rear. As initially constructed the main house was a typical one of its period: five bays wide, one room deep, it had a flat roof, short, enclosed end chimneys and a central entrance and stair hall. Most interior and exterior details of the building date from this period. Windows have 6/6 sash on both first and second floors, plain projecting wooden sills, and 1" bead trim. The deep lintles above the windows have turned corner blocks. The main entrance is massive and simple with two-panel double doors and sidelights with tiny panels beneath each. Bolecti moldings enrich the entrance ensemble; there is a five-pane transom light. There were originally two windows in each room in both gables and two 3/3 sash windows in the attic. These windows were topped by flat arches. Those on the southeast gable, first floor have been closed. The porch has a central pediment and square Doric type columns. Wooden bracketts are used beneath the cornice.

Around 1919, the present gambrel roof was added. Seams along both sides of the now squat chimneys show that the roof was made taller. The present roof has a bold cornice and return and three shed dormers with double 3/3 sash windows in each.

Inside, the most striking element of the interior is the stair which rises with in a well to the third floor. Tigers Eye maple is used for the plain tapered balusters and the newel is walnut. Architrave trim used on the windows and doors of the interior is heavy and plain showing Greek Revival influence.

The original building was a five bay gambrel house which faced Chestertown (roughly northeast). It has glazed headers in its Flemish bond facade and a stepped water table over basement windows similar to those used on the Buck-Bacchus Store, 116 High Street, Chestertown (K-37 )& The Reward, Walnut Point, Quaker Neck (K-90) Fragments of a fireplace arch in the cellar, southeast wall and hearth framing, & northwest wall, suggest that there were end chimneys The position of the original stair is unknown; a present stair in the center of the building is a 20th century introduction. One old wooden lintel remains in the southwest wall center bay suggest this window originally was a wide door. Such a wide door is also found in The Reward and appears to have been an entrance leading to a kitchen or other service facility. The Peale painting shows that

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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

"situated on the very edge of Chestertown, it's fields running to the river on one side, this pleasant, picturesque home was called for many years "The White House Farm". The same family has owned it for several generations, as Mrs. Walker is a lineal descendant of the first proprietor. The original grant of the land was conferred upon the early English Colonist Dr. Richard Tilghman, and the tract thus patented included what is now the site of Chestertown.

By the will of Marie Foxley Tilghman, who survived her husband and was executrix of his estate, we learn that one of their daughters named Rebecca, married Simon Wilmer, another colonist from England about 1658. Marie Foxley Tilghman, the widow of Richard Tilghman in 1659 conveyed by deed to his daughter Rebecca Wilmer, and her husband, a part of his estate on the Kent side of the Chester River known as Tilghman and Foxley Grove, containing 1,000 acres and which finally received the name of Stephey, The White House Farm. The Dayster by G.L. L. Davis Esq., a Maryland historian affirms that Chestertown is located on the tract above mentioned as Tilghmans and Foxley Grove. Their son Simon, and grandson Lambert Wilmer, inherited this home place; their children intermarrying with the Gordon Family and the Tylden Families, these last intermarrying with the Hynson Family making the children of these branches lineal descendants of the first Richard and Marie Foxley Tilghman

The White House Farm remained in the possession of the Wilmers until about 1820, when it was conveyed by Simon Wilmer to his first cousin, Mrs. Frisby Gordon, whose mother was a Wilmer and whose granddaughter owned it until the last few years when it was sold to Mr. Walter Wright. Some of the Early Wilmers have long slept in the family burial ground on this White House Farm. Among the latter ones interred there is a sister of the late Judge John B. Eccleston, whose husband was Ringgold Wilmer.

Rev. Simon Wilmer, the grandfather of the former Bishop of Alabama, married his cousin, who was called the beautiful Miss Ann Ringgold and lived on this White House Farm. This Rev. Simon is seen on horseback, wearing his broad brimmed clerical hat, in the highly-prized landscape painting, by Charles Wilson Peale, and on the porch are Mrs. Wilmer and another lady, either Mrs. Wilmer's sister or daughter, it is believed. In the distance is Chestertown, the Episcopal Church and Washington College being the most prominent buildings in view.

The original plot of the White House Farm designates it as a tobacco plantation, showing but one house from the river to the mill."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (From - Usilton, Fred C, The History of Kent Co., Md., 1630-1916, Chestertown, 1916.)

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Usilton, Fred C., The History of Kent County Maryland 1630-1916,  
Chestertown, 1916.

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 Society

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

## # 7 Continued

the northeast facade was the formal one, further suggesting a service function. One original window opening has a rowlock of glazed headers.

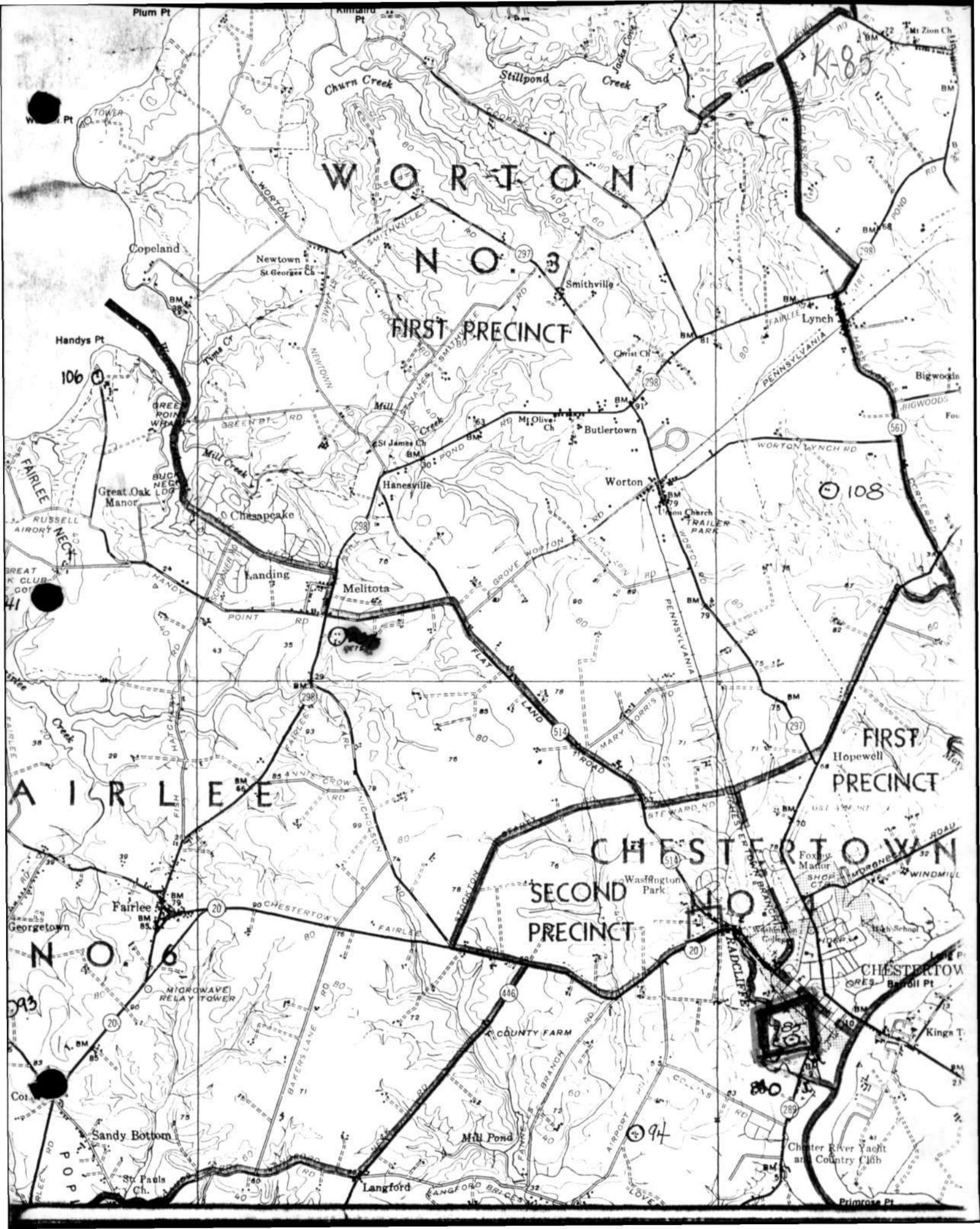
The gambrel roof was replaced with a flat roof in the mid-19th century and the end wall was rebuilt. No woodwork remains inside, that in the room adjacent the main house was removed by a family member to 2101 "R" Street N.W., Washington, DC. According to an old letter it had pilasters flanking the fireplace opening and a panel painted by Peale above the mantle. The panel, showing the exterior of the house is in Annapolis.

Stepne Manor, located southwest of Chestertown is the result of several stages of building. The manor was granted to Simon Wilmer in 1659 who left it in turn to his son of the same name, who was one of the first vestrymen of St. Paul's Parish. When the county seat of Kent was moved from New Yarmouth to Chestertown, in , it was laid out on part of the original Stepne Manor.

The rear wing is said to have been constructed shortly after 1659. It was originally a five-bay long gambrel roof dwelling laid in Flemish bond brick with glazed headers on the longest facades. Around the turn of the century (1900), the floor plan and roof were changed and the interior woodwork removed to a house in Washington, D.C.

Around the middle 19th century, the front part of the house was constructed. This section was a five bay long, two bay wide, three story, flat roof house, also built of brick. It has a center double door with transom and sidelights wood lintels with decorative corner blocks above the windows and doors. The brick of the facade is very smooth, laid in all stretcher bond and has very narrow white mortar joints. Sash were 6/6, 6/6 and 3/3. During the alterations of the first decade of this century, the roof was made into a gambrel, removing the third story windows and wall, making a half-story of the attic, even though the apex of the roof is actually higher than the earlier roof. There are three double dormers on the gambrel roof.





W O R T O N

N O . 3

FIRST PRECINCT

A I R L E E

N O . 6

C H E S T E R T O W N

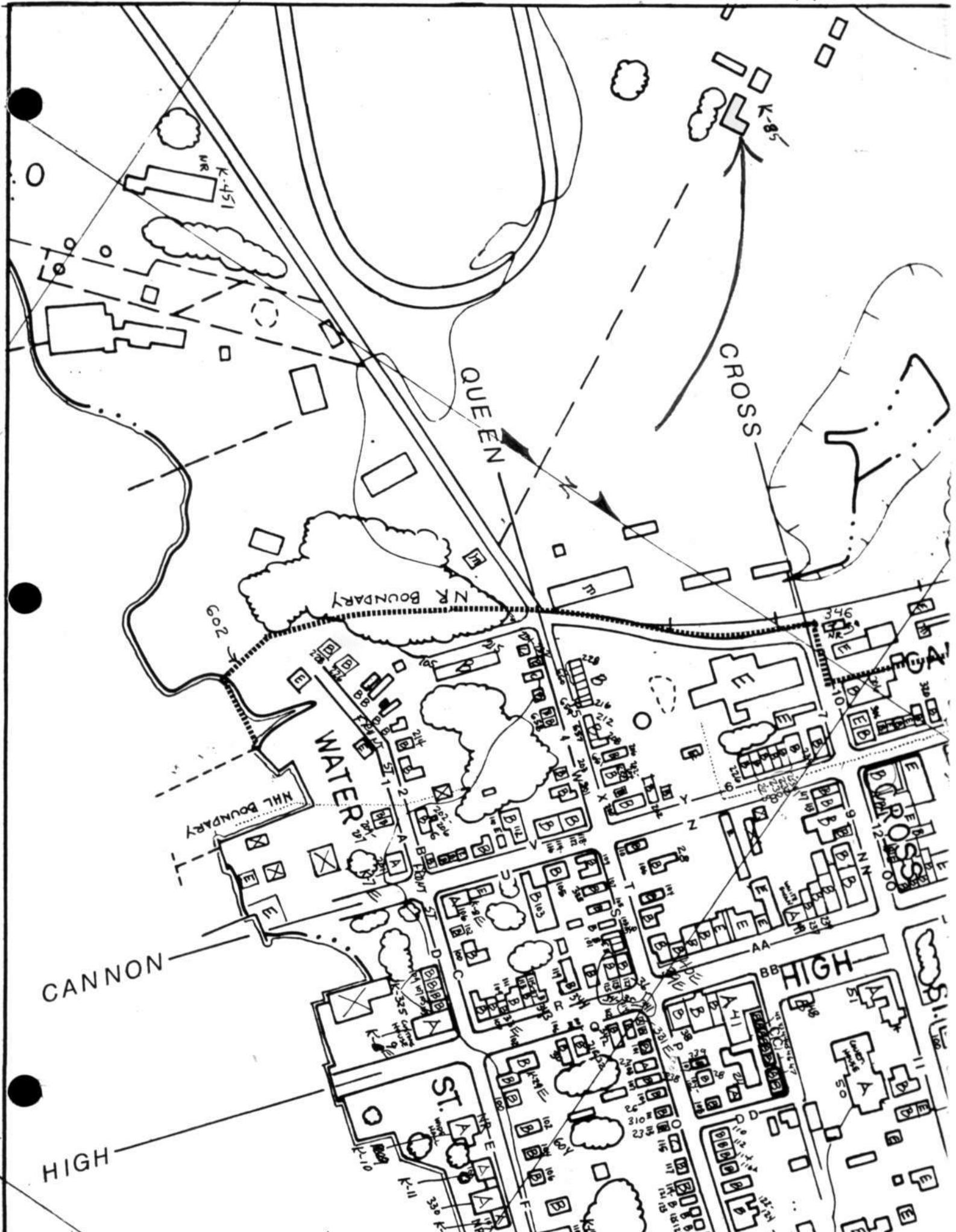
SECOND PRECINCT

FIRST PRECINCT

C H E S T E R T O W N

Chester River Yacht and Country Club

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CANNON

HIGH

QUEEN

CROSS

WATER

NR BOUNDARY

NHL BOUNDARY

ST. A

BB HIGH

G02

K-451

K-85

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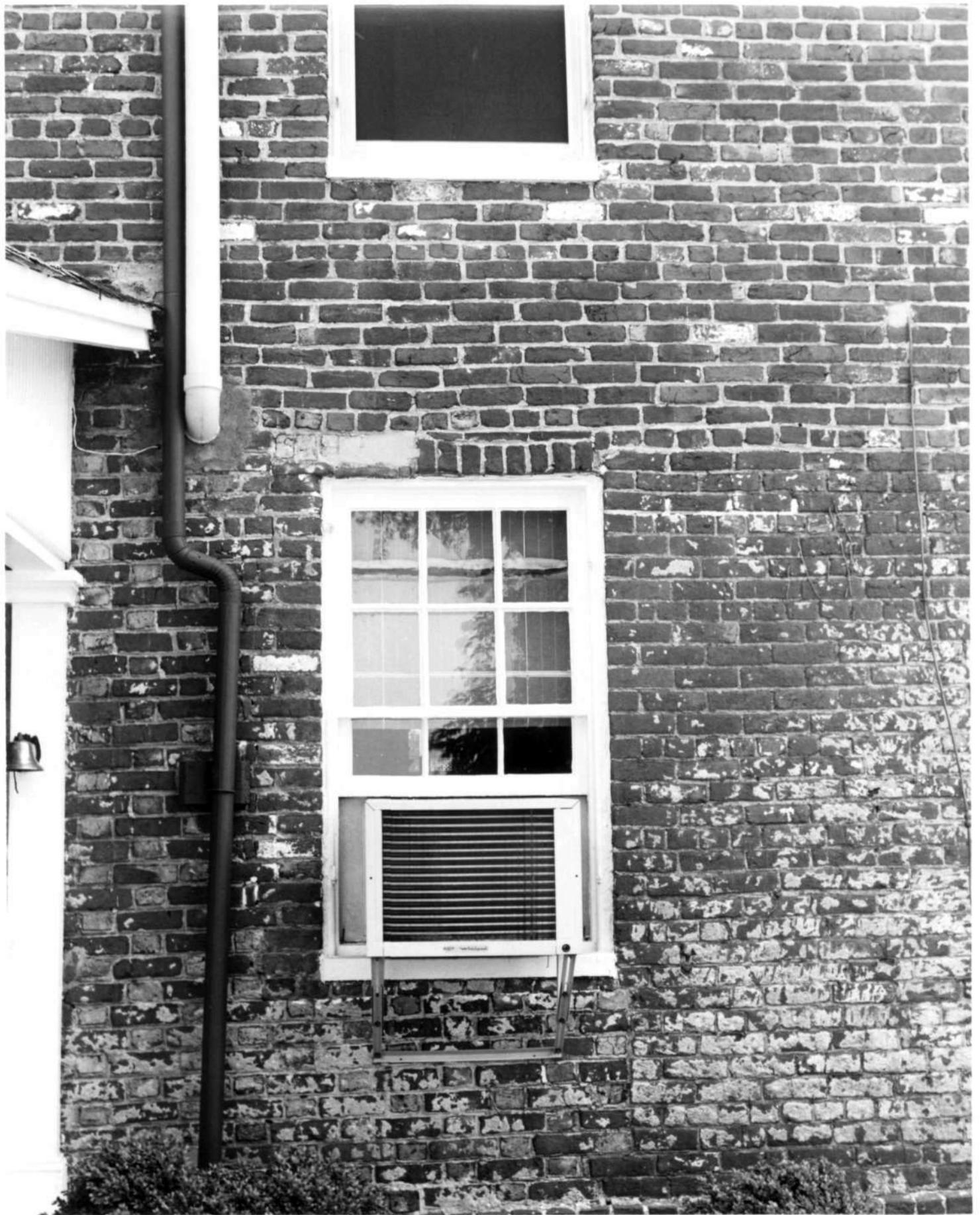
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STEPNEY MANOR MHT 85  
QUAKER NECK RD.  
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

PART OF ORIGINAL GLAZED HEADER LINTEL  
LEFT SECTION OF LINTEL ORIGINAL - RIGHT  
SECTION REPLACED.

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977



K-85

STEPNEY MANOR MHT 85

QUAKER NECK RD.

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

STAIRWAY

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K-85

STEPNEY MANOR  
QUAKER NECK RD  
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

MHT K 85

FRONT FROM SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977