Easement

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Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Godlington Manor
AND/OR HISTORIC: Godlington Manor

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Wilkins Lane (north side)
CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24 | COUNTY: Kent | CODE: 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☒ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☒ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☒ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify) Vacant	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Hiram S. Brown
STREET AND NUMBER: Godlington Manor
CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Kent County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square
CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Places
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 | ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☒ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Godlington Manor is significant as the only known example on the Eastern Shore of a house with stencilled walls and as one of the few southern examples of this important facet of American folk art. The eighteenth century farm residence, now vacant, contains stencilling used as the overall wall coverings in each of four rooms. Stencilling is generally confined to linear ornamentation e.g., the Duffy House, Centerville, Queen Anne's County.

The Manor Tract is located four miles south of Chestertown, Maryland, on the north side of Maryland Route 664, Wilkens Lane, east of the junction of Route 664 and Maryland Route 289.

The house faces north toward the Chester River. The building has a gambrel roof section with a long, frame, one-and-one-half-story kitchen wing. The gambrel roof section contains five rooms, four of which are covered with the stenciling in approximately eight separate patterns. Covered over and over through the years with several layers of interior paint, the stencil work has been carefully exposed in sample areas of the rooms to make a thorough recording possible.

The colors and designs of the stencilling in the four rooms creates a "calliope-like" effect as first seen--gay, whistling, confused, and with north/south border humor--dating from 1800-1830. The designs are stylistically similar to and of equal quality to stencilled rooms of the first quarter of the nineteenth century found in New England, New York State and Ohio, however such decorative work is not a northern phenomenon. In Maryland a few houses in the predominantly-nineteenth-century western county buildings have stencilling.

On the first floor, only the east room has stencilling. At cornice level a frieze of fruit-swags-with-hanging-tassels encircles the room. A pattern of alternating stripes, one of the alternates paired-leaves, the other intertwining-vines, descends from the frieze to the chair rail. Polka dots decorate the wainscot. A pattern of dentils-and-daisies frame each door and window. The background color in this room is peach with the stencilling executed in red, blue-green and white. Bright red urns filled with flowers are found on the ceiling over the doors and in each of the four corners of the room. In the center of the ceiling four of these urns back up to one another forming a medallion.

The east room on the second floor was originally painted the color of a ripe pumpkin and stencilled with large red sunbursts alternating with red wreaths. A similar daisy and dentil pattern surrounds the dormer windows and follows the black baseboard.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* Late 18th (house); c.1800-c.1830 stencilling and kitchen wing

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☒ Other *(Specify)* Architecture
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	Folk Art
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old house on Godlington Manor, patented to Thomas Godlington, a London merchant, in 1659, is significant as a tract of land, originally 1,000 acres, owned at the end of the seventeenth century by Michael Miller, a large landowner, whose lineal descendants still own and live on the property (1971).

Godlington's gambrel roof section constructed in the late eighteenth century was one of several houses on the manor tract. It is doubtful that Michael Miller or his son, Arthur, or grandson, Arthur, lived in the extant house. In 1747 the land on which the house stands was rented to John Jordan and then to Bartus Wilkins, a ship carpenter. After 1768 when the land returned to Arthur Miller's possession the same tract (although ten acres smaller) was conveyed to his daughter Sarah Miller Merritt and to her daughter Mary Ann Merritt who later married Robert Anderson. After Sarah Merritt, the mother, died in 1783, the tract, according to the terms of the original deed, would have become the property of her daughter, Mary Ann. A 1799 land transaction indicates the possibility that Mary Ann Merritt Anderson, Arthur Miller's granddaughter, lived in the extant house. She and her husband--by 1799 residents of Chestertown--sold the tract and the old house to her brother Samuel Merritt, son of Sarah Miller Merritt, who already owned the remainder of the Godlington Manor tract which he had inherited from his grandfather, Arthur Miller, in 1790.

It is possible that between c. 1783 and 1799 the Andersons lived in the old house on Godlington Manor before moving to Chestertown. They may have enlarged the one room tenant house (possibly rented by Jordan and/or Wilkins) to the present gambrel roof building. Samuel Merritt may have lived in the old house on Godlington Manor tract, or he may have occupied his grandfather's house elsewhere on the manor.

Available documents give no clue as to the identification of the person responsible for the stencilling at Godlington.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Recorders: Michael Bourne 7/71
Nancy Miller 9/71

SOURCES:

Kent County Land Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Carson, Cary, Ph.D., St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland. Interview September 27, 1971. Mr. Carson

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	10'	50"	76°	03'	37"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	39°	10'	50"	76°	03'	17"						
SE	39°	10'	34"	76°	03'	17"						
SW	39°	10'	34"	76°	03'	37"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Please see attached

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust
DATE: October 13, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland
CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date October 13, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Godlington Manor

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The middle room on the second floor has a white background with red and black stencils. A frieze of intertwining vines, different from that design on the first floor, was placed along the cornice. Alternating stripes of paired leaves similar to those on the first floor, done in vermillion with closely spaced polka dots, cover the walls. The dentil-and-daisy pattern exists in this room.

The third room on the second floor has black and red stencilling on a ripe pumpkin colored background. The same fruit swags-and-hanging-tassels found on the first floor decorate the cornice of this room. Two alternating stripe patterns, not found elsewhere in the house, of intertwining vines are found in this room. One of the vine stencils resembles a lace pattern.

The stair wells each contain a continuation of the patterns extended down from the room above.

On the exterior of Godlington Manor a lean-to porch roof extends across the north and south facades of the gambrel roof section. The floor area beneath the porch roof is paved with brick. Wooden benches are located against the wall of the house under the porch. Much of the original wide, beaded clapboard remains under layers of whitewash. A brick chimney is located within each gable of the gambrel section and in the west-kitchen gable. The first story of each of the two end-chimneys is exposed.

The interior of Godlington Manor is divided into four first-floor rooms - two in the gambrel section and two in the kitchen wing. The west room, not stencilled, in the gambrel portion has a mid-eighteenth century paneled fireplace wall. It has a door and window on the north and south facades. The floor is four inches higher here than in the east room. There is a cellar beneath this portion only. It is possible that this west room is the earliest part of the dwelling, as it is framed separately.

The east room in addition to the stencilling mentioned above, has late eighteenth century woodwork on the fireplace wall consisting of a mantel with dentils and recessed panels, a glazed cabinet, and paneled doors to the closet and stair. This room appears to have been framed separately. The brick nogged framing is also covered with beaded clapboards. The north and south walls have two windows and a central door.

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Godlington Manor

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The six over six sashes appear original and are glazed with irregular glass panes.

The kitchen wing is very crude and is finished with wide split lathe which holds the mud-fill in the walls. The whole irregular surface is covered with several layers of whitewash. It has a large pyramidal fireplace, reconstructed within the last twenty years. The ceiling beams are exposed and covered with whitewash. The kitchen was painted a turquoise blue dating from the same period as the stencilling. A steep ladder beside the fireplace reaches to the second story rooms. A bathroom lean-to has been added on the north side of the smaller of the two rooms.

An Aldrian~~n~~dge Stove Works unit has been found intact in the house. The company of that name in the nineteenth century made iron products used on the Eastern Shore. It failed to survive into the twentieth century.

Two old outbuildings remain - a frame milkhouse and a brick smokehouse. The milkhouse is a square building with three windows and a door, beaded siding, batten shutters and pyramidal roof with obelisk finial. Its interior is plastered and has a sunken area with a water trough around the exterior walls. The smokehouse is a rectangular structure with an "A" roof; stepped, brick cornice and a batten door. These are located immediately west of the kitchen; the smokehouse is on the north and the dairy is on the south.

A boxwood garden, laid out c. 1900 is east of the house. The rest of the grounds were planted c. 1930, when plans for constructing a new mansion house were abandoned due to the Depression.

Measurements of every detail were made during the summer of 1971, in order to prepare Historic American Building Survey Drawings. The owners are considering leasing the building to the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities for restoration.

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#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Manor. The New York Historical Association, cognisant of the importance of this folk art form has in its collection at Cooperstown the Bump Tavern which is noted especially for its stencilled rooms.

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(Number all entries)

Godlington Manor

#9. REFERENCES continued

headed the team, Maryland Historical Trust-St. Mary's Summer Project team, which measured Godlington.

Chancery Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Kent County Debt Books. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Kent County Guardian Bonds. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Kent County Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Little, Nina Fletcher. "The Painted Decoration." Antiques. Vol. LXXV. (February 1959), 182-185.

Martenet's Map of Kent County Maryland." Baltimore: Simon J. Martinet, 1860.

Rent Rolls (Kent County). Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Ruth, Thomas DeC., Norman Grieb and Bartus Trew. "Colonial Quaker Neck Tracts Granted by Lord Baltimore." Baltimore: A. Hoen and Company (Lithographens), 1967.

Waring, Janet. Early American Stencils on Walls and Furniture. reprint. New York: Dover, 1968.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

Godlington Manor

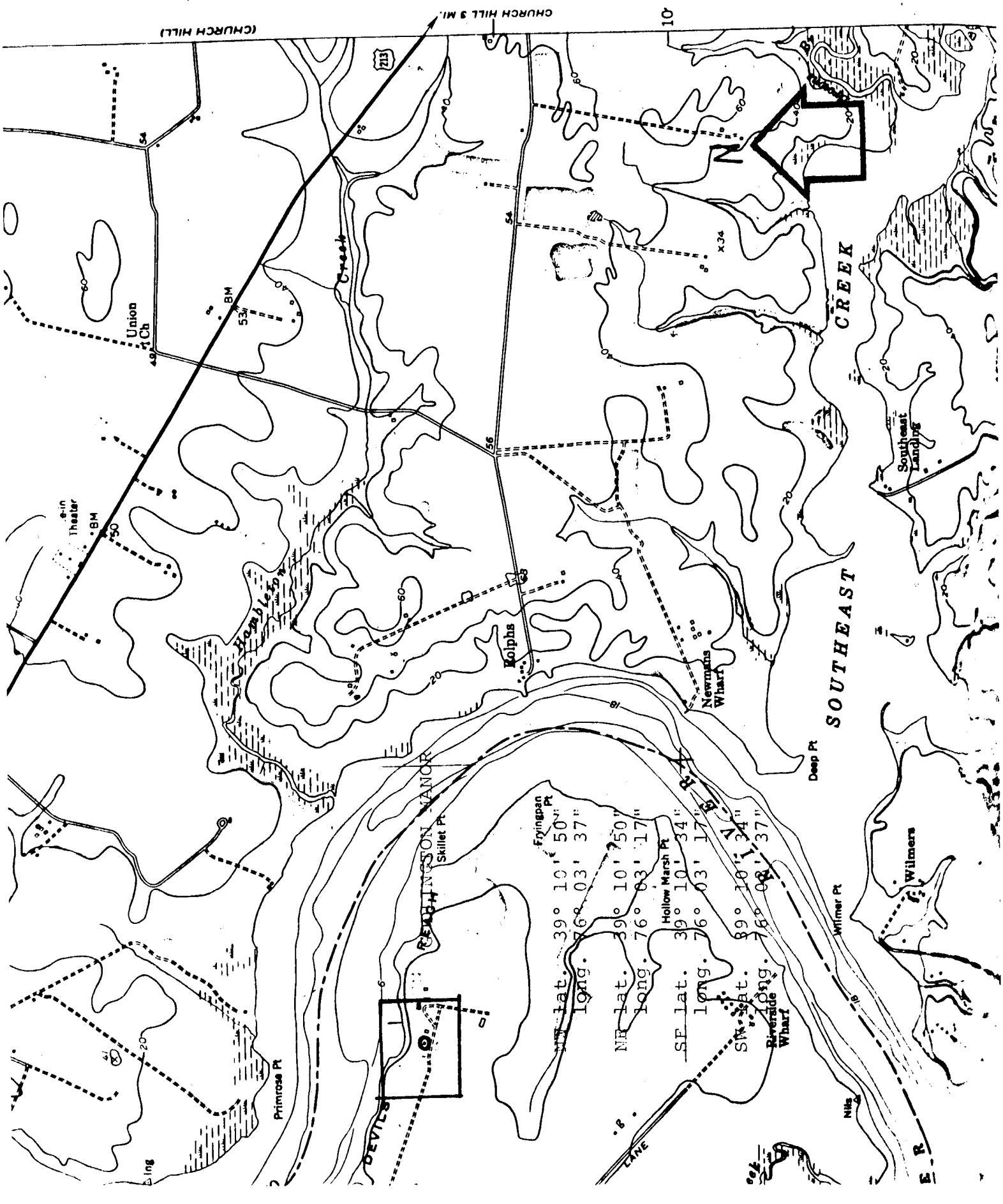
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Godlington Manor lies on the south shore of the Chester River, on a flat, open plain of grassy fields, with distant wooded groves. In this situation I selected a sixty-four square acre area as the minimum essential to protect the visual environment of the house; on the north to include the shore line; on the south, east and west to include the driveway approach and adequate area for "planting-out" with a screen of trees should any incompatible development occur. Reference to the map will show this in comprehensive layout.

Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV
State Liaison Officer

CHESTERTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
scale: 1: 24 000
;953



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Godlington Manor

Oct 77

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Godlington Manor

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Godlington Manor

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Godlington Manor

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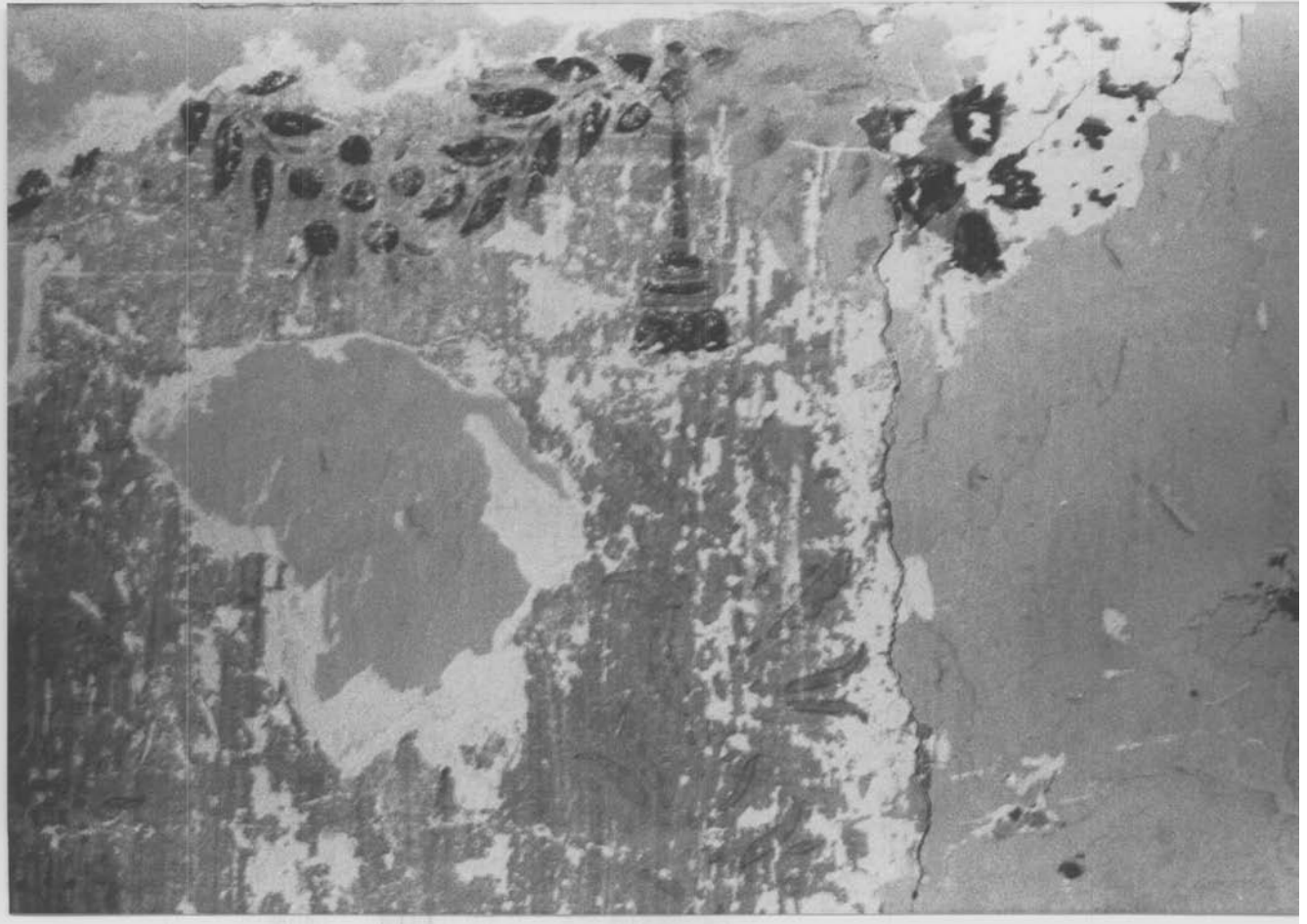

K-88

Godlington Manor

Oct 77

stencilling

Revoir

K-88
Godlington Manor
Orlando Ridout V
& Allen J. Sollers
6/1976
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K-88
Godlington Manor
Orlando Ridout V
& Allen J. Sellers

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& Allen J. Sollers
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Godlington Manor
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& Allen J. Sollers
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Godlington Manor
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Godlington Manor
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& Allen J. Sollers
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