NPS 5 300 (11-78)

Easement

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

K-148

For HCRS use only
received
date entered 23

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Valley Cottage (Preferred)

and or common Wallis House

2. Location

street & number Princess Stop Street N/A not for publication

city, town Georgetown N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Kent code 029

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Perkins

street & number Valley Cottage

city, town Georgetown N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21930

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse

street & number High Street

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1934 X federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
X good	ruins	X altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Valley Cottage is situated on Lot 51 of the original town plat of Georgetown (1737), on the south side of Princess Stop Street. It is a gambrel roof structure consisting of a 42' long 18th century portion with a 16' long extension built in 1954. The entire structure is sheathed with wood weatherboard and is covered with a wood shingle roof. The north facade of the 18th century portion has two doors sheltered by a screen porch. Flanking the porch are two windows with 6/6 sash. There are two dormers on the second floor, with shed roof and three pane casement windows. Defining the early portion of the house are two brick chimneys located within the ends of the original dwelling. The lines of the original structure are carried through the 20th century addition on the west end.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Parallel to U.S. Route 213, the east gable has the back of its fireplace exposed and rendered. There is a 6/6 lite window south of the chimney on the first story and another window on the second story. Also visible from the east is the end of a lean-to on the south side. A small window replaces the original 6/6 lite sash (from 20th century photo).

Across three-quarters of the south facade stretches the aforesaid lean-to. It has an entrance and two windows, one being a picture window. One portion of this lean-to was a small back porch, accessible from the living room door, prior to being enclosed for a bath. Between the lean-to and the west wing is a small section of the original wall with one window having 6/6 sash and batten shutters. On the second story are three dormer windows, asymmetrically placed so as to light the two chambers and stairhall.

The south side of the new wing has a similar roof line, with lean-to. It is, however, slightly deceptive in that the lean-to is actually part of the new room. A large picture window with adjoining double-hung window is located close to the west corner. A single dormer window breaks the gambrel roof on the new wing. The west gable of the new wing has a picture window close to the south corner. Another picture window with flanking double-hung sash is located on the second story. All of the above windows were installed so as to take advantage of the yard and the view over the Georgetown Yacht Basin and Sassafras River from this elevated part of Georgetown.

The plan of the building as it exists today consists of a central stair passage with a room on either side and a third room to the west, the latter being the new addition. Behind the east room is the lean-to kitchen and utility room.

Immediately west of the hall is a room with fine paneling across the fireplace wall. The chimney breast projects two or three inches in front of the paneled closets and three-part molding around the large fireplace with three panels above; the center panel being a large horizontal rectangle and the flanking panels being narrow vertical panels. The closet doors are six-panel hung on "H-L" hinges. One retains its original open-face spring latch. Two tall panels are part of the symmetrical composition on the outer edges of the wall. A third panel extends above both the door and latter panels.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

Valley Cottage
Georgetown
Kent County, Maryland

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

On top of the paneling is a bold cornice with crown and bed moldings and a facia and soffit. The crown and facia continue around the remainder of the room. There is also a three-part chair rail and a baseboard. Batten doors open into the room from both north and south sides. The remainder of the walls are plastered.

The east room or dining room is finished simply and has a large fireplace with wooden lintel (now bricked up). Its west wall, which separates it from the stairhall is a vertical beaded board wall with three doors, one leading to the hall, the middle is a closet, and one leading to the cellar. The last has a raised panel above the door. This room was the original kitchen according to family tradition.

The stairhall consists of an entry and a stair located between the living room and the dining room closet, the latter being closed by vertical boards. The newell post is a handsome fluted square post with bold applied cap. The rail is made to fit against the closet wall and the balusters are rectangular.

On the second story there are two intermediate posts with fluting on one side only. The remainder of the balustrade is similar.

On the east side of the hall, separated by a board wall is a small bedroom with fireplace, having a plain two-part surround similar to the work below. Two new closets flank the chimney. At the head of the stair on the north wall is another board wall which contains a closet for each of the two bedrooms. This space was originally part of the east bedroom.

The south bedroom is the same size as the living room below, and like it, boasts a fireplace wall of paneling. Above the fireplace the composition is symmetrical, with four-panel doors on the outer sides, two rectangular panels in the center of the composition, flanked by two smaller panels. Beneath the symmetry, however, is the fireplace south of a large panel, the latter filling the space taken up by the flue from the fireplace below.

From the cellar stair it is possible to examine some of the structure of the two buildings. The south wall of the dining room is constructed of logs, without chinking. This wall butts against the framed construction of the living room wall. The outer surfaces of the living room wall studs and diagonal brace have uniform holes from nails to secure original weatherboards. This is a clear indication of the construction of the building in two phases, the living room being the first section of the building. Possibly these are the two buildings mentioned in the 1746 will of Thomas Atkinson.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

Valley Cottage
Georgetown
Kent County, Maryland

This observation about the living room being the first building also brings up the probability that the paneling was installed when the two buildings were joined and the entire interior refinished. This seems probable because there is no visible sign of there having been a stair in the living room.

The kitchen lean-to is quite simple and has no moldings which would indicate its age. It is extremely low and may have begun life as a porch which was later enclosed. There is a later bath in the west end of the lean-to.

From the west extension a good view down river is visible over the roofs of the boat yards. Picket fencing encloses much of the yard.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Courthouse, Chestertown, MD

Maryland Historical Trust Historical Sites Inventory: Kent County (K-148)
Michael Bourne, Surveyor

Usilton, Fred G., History of Kent County, Chestertown, 1916

Hanson, George A., Old Kent, Chestertown, 1936

Kent County Wills, Courthouse, Chestertown, MD

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
_ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	_ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
_ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
_ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
_ 1600-1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Builder Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Architecturally Valley Cottage is an important example of vernacular architecture in Georgetown. It is the earliest existing structure there and possesses a good interior. It is also the only surviving log structure in the town. It can be likened to Godlington Manor, Kent County, in its structural development and form, although Godlington had more subsequent additions. Its living room paneling is reminiscent of the work at Mattapex, Kent Island, also included in HABS, and the second floor room is like Wright's Chance, Centerville, Queen Anne's County. Log buildings were quite common in Kent County, due to being a less expensive method of construction. Few remain due to the fact that their foundations were frequently of poor quality. Several plank meat houses exist in Kent County and a few parts of dwellings. The earliest part of Knocks Folly is log, as is its neighbor closer to the water. Part of Hinchingham Farm and the Williams House, both in Rock Hall, and Killy Longfords, near Chestertown, are examples of log structures standing in Kent County. With the exception of Hinchingham Farm, the other structures have either been damaged by fire or excessive remodeling. Valley Cottage has been changed very little since its major remodeling in the 18th Century. As such, it is a good example of 18th Century vernacular architecture, well preserved and is considered a significant dwelling not only by the town of Georgetown, but also by the County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Georgetown and adjoining Fredericktown were the focus of an attack by the British on May 6, 1813. According to an account in Usilton's History of Kent County, the British burned all but the Kitty Knight House (Restaurant). The destruction in property amounted to $19,755.81 when the British troops under the command of Admiral Cockburn burned everything in sight. In all liklihood, all buildings beyond the Kitty Knight House were spared, thus the reason for the survival of Valley Cottage.

With the exception of the land battle of Caulk's Field near Tolchester, Georgetown is the only other battle or confligration written about in the history of Kent County during the "War of 1812". This fact is the reason that Georgetown and Valley Cottage are important from a military viewpoint.

The fact that two of the subsequent owners of the house were officers in the military simply indicates that its owners played a part in the complex military history of our country. This is not reason enough for listing on the National Register, it only completes the picture of the house's involvement in the military.

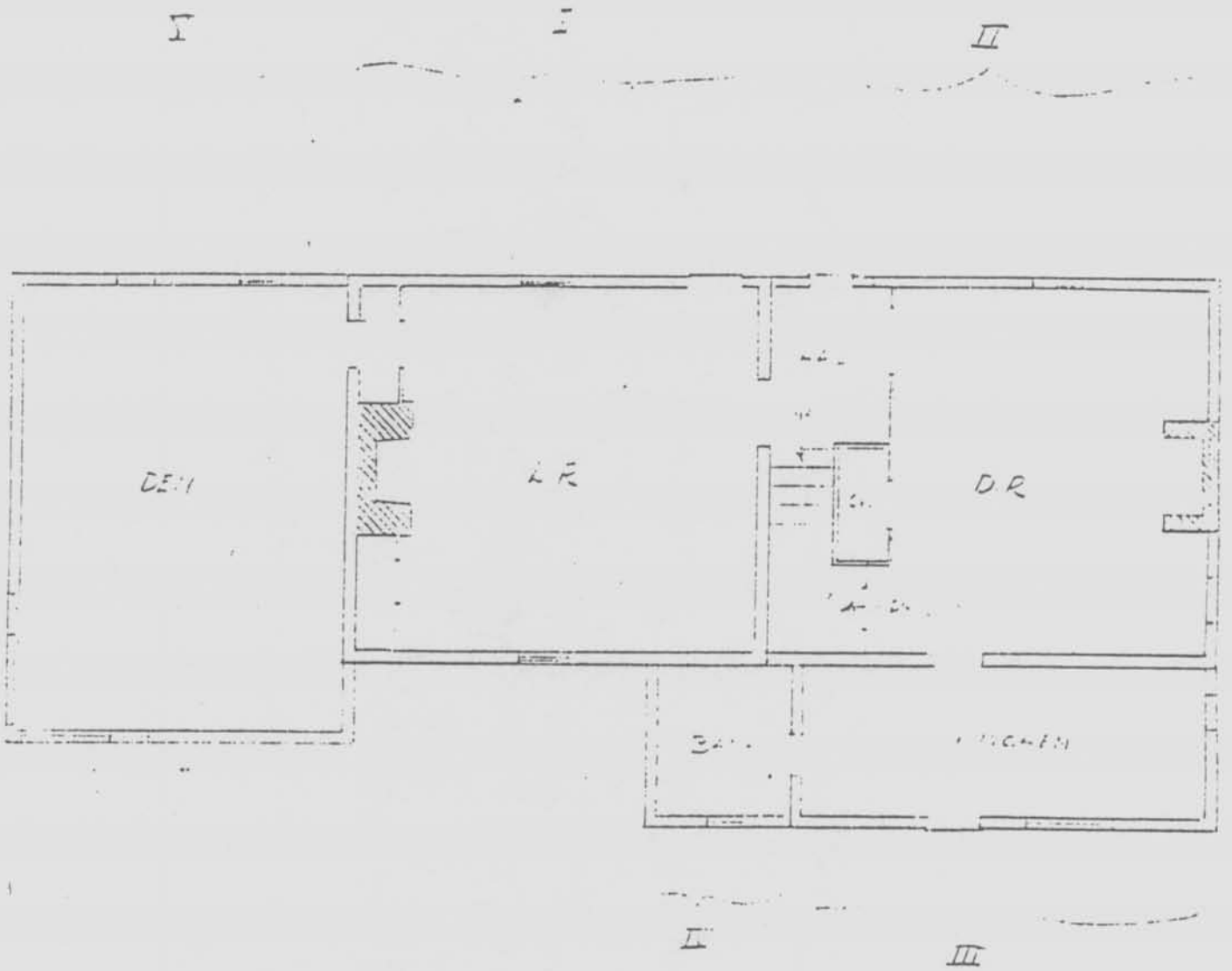
We cannot expand on the commercial importance of Valley Cottage since little is known of the history of commerce in 1800. We can, however, speculate that the British on May 6, 1813 were not out for fun, but were on an errand to destroy commercial interests in the town.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

In 1820, Reverend Purnell Smith and his wife lived in Valley Cottage. As rector of Shrewsbury Parish (Northeastern Kent County), the rector was considered an important personage in the county and town. People looked up to their ministers, as many do today. The rector's residence is a monument to a person highly esteemed by his parishioners.

Reverend Smith, upon retirement from Shrewsbury, remained at Valley Cottage, but he did not remain idle. He carried on a school in his home for the children of the Georgetown-Galena area. At this period there were no public schools. Small private schools existed around Chestertown. It was the increased interest of concerned people, such as Reverend Smith, that was instrumental in having the State enact a system for uniform primary education throughout the State in 1865. Thus, Reverend Smith is not important as a lone figure in education, but as a cog in the wheels which created universal primary education.



VALLEY COTTAGE
GEORGETOWN, MD.

X-148

9. Major Bibliographical References

K-148

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Galena, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References LAT.: 75° 52' 51" LONG.: 39° 21' 37"

No UTM ticks

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the attached plat.

The property is a town lot.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne and Dennis Perkins

organization Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory date 12/1/80

street & number P. O. Box 716 telephone (301) 778-0069

city or town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 11-28-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

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

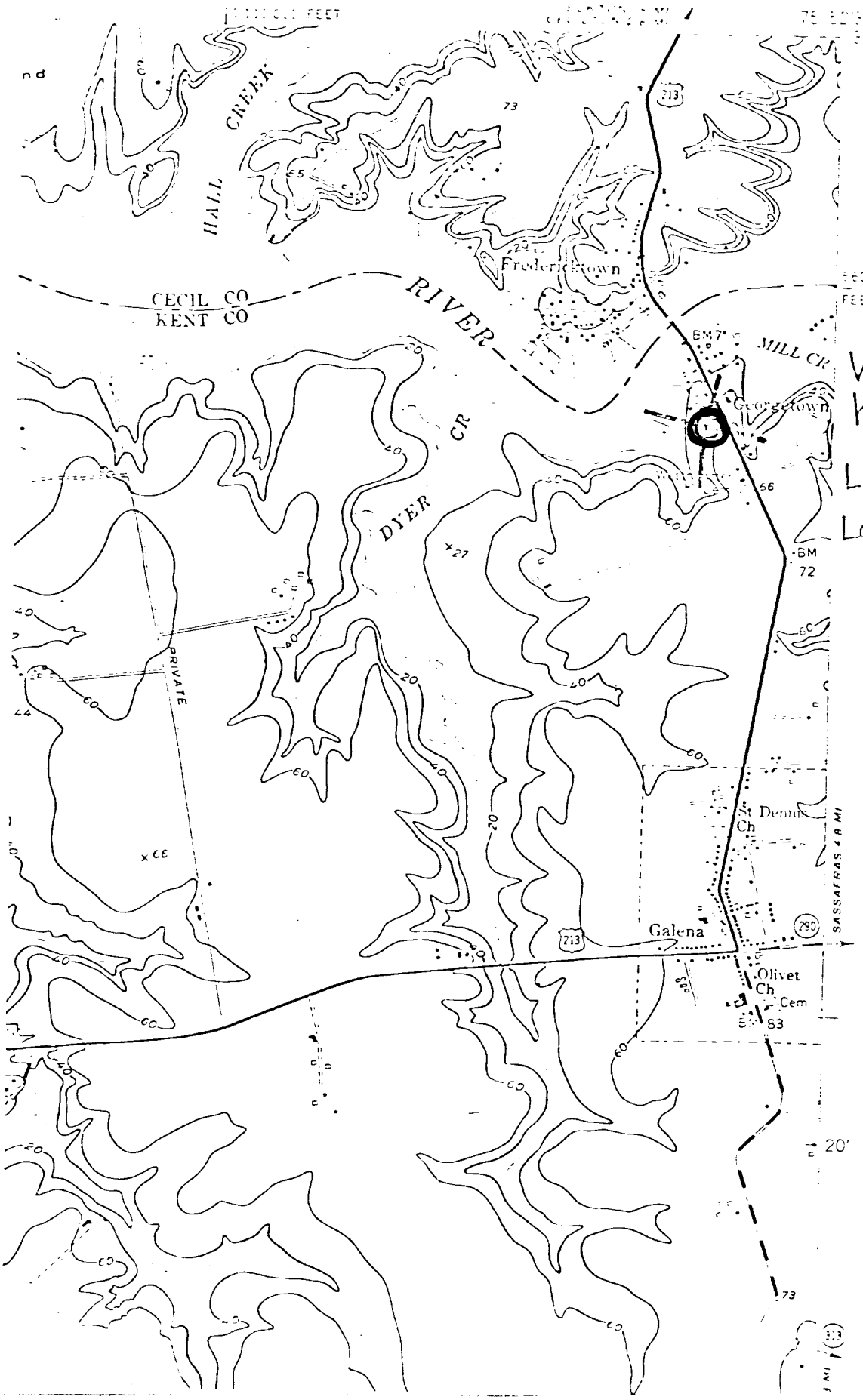
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GALENA QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 4 CECILTON 15' QUADRANGLE



K-148
VALLEY COTTAGE
KENT CO., MD
LAT: 75°52'51"
LONG: 39°21'37"

LLEY COTTAGE
WALLIS HOUSE
GEORGETOWN, KENT COUNTY

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 5 of 10

South (Rear) and Side facades
SCALE:
PREPARED: CAM 4/91
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T. GRANTOR GRANTEE

Valley Cottage
~~Dorothea House~~ (Behind Kitty Knight House)

Georgetown Md.
Kent County

K-148

MOB 1964

Valley Cottage
Georgetown

K-148

Nath

M. Bourne March 1979

Valley Cottage
Georgetown

R-1415

South

M. Bourne March 1979