FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

CE-65

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received
date entered

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: Great House

and/or common: Great House

2. Location

street & number: 284 Great House Farm Road — n/a not for publication

city, town: St. Augustine — X vicinity of — congressional district: First

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Cecil — code: 015

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	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Mr. and Mrs. Richard duPont

street & number: 284 Great House Farm Road

city, town: Chesapeake City — X vicinity of — state: Maryland 21915

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Cecil County Courthouse

street & number: Main Street

city, town: Elkton — state: Maryland 21921

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: 1978-1979 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Great House is a large brick dwelling constructed in the second quarter of the 18th century, located on Bohemia Creek near St. Augustine in Cecil County, Maryland. The house, which faces south toward the creek, is four bays wide and two rooms deep, and stands two stories high above a raised brick foundation with a beveled water table. The entrance is located in the bay second from the east, and consists of twelve-panel, double-leaf doors. The remaining bays of the first-floor elevation hold 12/12 sash windows with paneled shutters. On the second story, above a shingled pent roof (restored), four 8/12 sash are aligned above the first-floor openings. All openings have segmental arches. A boxed cornice defines the gable roof; a T-section interior brick chimney with corbeled cap rises from each gable. The facades are laid in Flemish bond and the ends in English bond. The west gable has two 12/12 sash on the first story, two 8/12 sash above, and two 6/6 sash lighting the attic, with two circular vents in the peak. The north facade is symmetrical, five bays wide, with a transomed central entrance. An original kitchen wing, four irregular bays wide by two bays deep, extends from the east gable; constructed of brick and stone, the wing was recently given a frame second story. A modern porch spans the wing's south facade, and a frame garage adjoins the east gable. The interior of the main block is arranged in a four-room plan, with each room heated by a fireplace with a diagonal hearth. The house retains virtually all its original interior detailing and hardware, including paneled doors and fireplace walls, glazed-door cupboards, molded cornices, chair rails, baseboards, and architraves, as well as its stair and balustrade and original flooring.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Located on Great House Farm Road on the north side of Bohemia Creek in Cecil County, Maryland, Great House is a two-story Georgian brick house with the original brick and stone kitchen and a new frame garage at the east end. Two rooms deep and four bays wide on the water (south) side, the house has a gable roof with a boxed cornice and two T-shaped interior end chimneys with corbeled caps. It is set on a raised brick foundation with a beveled water table and has a pent roof above the first floor on both sides. The pents hang from a two-string belt course and have cyma recta cornices. The facades of the building are laid in Flemish bond, and the ends in English bond. The first story has 16/16 sash windows and three-panel shutters; the second story windows have 8/12 sash, and the gable ones 6/6 sash. All windows and doors have segmental arches composed of headers, pegged frames, and plain wood sills.

On the river or south side, the main door is in the bay second from the east; between the west bays and under the east bay are basement windows. Reached by a flight of stone steps, the twelve-panel, double-leafed door has a molded sill and the original brass knob and knocker.

The west end has two windows in each story including the attic, two round holes flanking the chimney, and a four-light basement window in the south bay.

The north side has five bays with a door in the central bay. On the second story, the side windows are arranged in pairs inflecting the central bay. There is a basement window between the west bays and one east of the central bay, and the water table steps above them. The six-panel door has architrave trim and a four-light transom.

The east end is partly covered by the kitchen wing, which is set back slightly. There are two gable windows and a door in the basement south bay. The window in the second floor south bay has been blocked up.

The kitchen wing with brick sides and a stone end is four bays long and two bays deep. It has a new frame second story, a porch on the south side, and a new brick chimney in the east end. The fenestration is irregular.

Across the south side of the kitchen is a recent, one-story, shed-roofed porch, although apparently there was a porch here before. The door is in the second bay from the east and is flanked on the west by two newer windows and on the east by an original window. The east corner to the door is stone, and the rest of the wall is brick. The door frame has a long lintel that extends beyond the jamb, and the trim is plain with square-cut corners.

The east end of the kitchen wing is partly covered by the new garage, which is set back slightly. A window in the south bay of the kitchen wing appears to be original.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The north side of the wing has two windows: in the east bay is a top-hinged, six-light window, and in the west bay is a 6/6 sash window with a single shutter and a segmental arch. The trim of both appears to have been replaced.

The first floor plan consists of four rooms with a central stair on the south (creek) side and a central vestibule on the north. All rooms have the original floorboards with handmade nails, paneled corner fireplaces, paneled window seats, glazed-door corner cupboards, molded ceiling cornices, bolection chairrail, six-panel doors with strap hinges, and window and door architraves.

The kitchen wing consists of three rooms: the kitchen on the south side and two smaller rooms and a stair to the main section on the north.

The main hall in the southeast corner of the house has a fireplace in the northeast corner and a cupboard in the southeast corner; the stair is against the west wall. In each wall are doors to the adjacent rooms and under the stair is a four-panel door to the basement. The fireplace has a brick hearth and a paneled overmantel; the mantel has a molded shelf and bolection trim around the plastered arched opening. The details in this room are typical of those throughout the house: the southeast window has a paneled spandrel and window seat (the east window has just a paneled seat); a beaded fascia connects the molded ceiling cornice to the window and door trim; the ceiling molding and chairrail continue across the corner cupboard, which has two fluted sides and a Palladian arch door with twelve panes over two panes. The three-run, open-string stair is paneled below and has simple brackets on the step-ends, turned balusters and newel post, and a curtail step where the rail ends in a scroll.

The southwest room is larger and grander than the others: the door trim, chairrail, and ceiling cornice are all wider and more elaborate than in the rest of the house, and the cornice breaks out over the windows, overmantel, and cupboard. The fireplace is in the northwest corner and the cupboard in the northeast corner; there is a door between them on the north wall. The fireplace, a panel longer than the others in the house, is flanked by full-length Doric fluted pilasters, and the paneled overmantel has a row of triglyphs with four fillets under the cornice. Bolection molding surrounds the tiled fireplace opening (although these tiles are new, there were tiles originally), and there are hooks for a fireback. The corner cupboard has fluted sides, a round-arched twelve-light over two-panel door with a keystone, and bolection trim.

In the northwest room, the fireplace in the southwest corner has been blocked up. The east wall is paneled and in the middle is a door to the back hall.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Between the northwest and northeast rooms is a short back hall with a bathroom inserted in an original closet at the south end. The bathroom door is original and has a three-light transom. In the middle of the east wall is a door to the northeast room. In the northeast room the fireplace is in the southeast corner and the cupboard in the northeast corner. Between them in the east wall is a door to the kitchen wing.

The second floor has essentially the same plan as the first. Here all the rooms have fireplaces; instead of corner cupboards, there are cupboards next to the fireplaces. These are built into the paneling and have Palladian arched doors with ten panes over two panels. The window and door treatment, ceiling cornices, chairrail, and baseboard are simpler versions of those downstairs.

There is little variation between the first and second floors or among the rooms themselves, except as noted. In the hall, the wall separating the stair from the hall is paneled. In the south corner of the east wall is a door to the second floor of the kitchen wing.

Between the northeast and northwest rooms is a bathroom where there used to be a dressing room. The east wall in the northeast room is lined with closets with paneled doors.

The fireplace in the southwest room is longer than the others, to correspond to the one below it.

The third floor also has the same plan as the first floor, with a trap door to the attic in the southeast room. The rafters are pit-sawn and pegged together; around the outside walls is a vertical board wainscot; and the interior walls are vertical board. There is no trim around the windows and the doors are board and batten.

The kitchen has been altered, but still has hand-sawn beams and the original brick fireplace in the east wall, flanked on the south by a low wall containing a Dutch oven in the base. In the center of the north wall is a door to the northeast room.

In the northeast room of this section, the east wall contains two doors with steps leading up to the north door. Over the window in the north wall is the outline of a segmental arch.

In the northwest corner of this section is a small room and in the southwest corner is a flight of steps to the main section.

There are two levels of basement; the lower one in the northeast corner was used as a root cellar or to store wine. The ends walls are stone, and the side and interior walls are brick.

8. Significance

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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
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 2nd qtr. 18th cent. **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Level of Significance for evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Great House derives significance from its architecture, embodying several features which are unusual among the mid-18th-century houses of tidewater Maryland. Its floor plan represents a significant alternative to the double-pile, central passage plan which typifies large houses of the period in the region in dispensing with the usual central passage and providing a unique heated stair hall in the southeast corner of the main block. Another unusual plan feature is the vestibule inside the north entrance. In addition, the house retains practically all its exemplary mid-18th-century interior trim and hardware. Each room of the main block features paneled doors and fireplace walls, built-in cupboards, molded cornices, chair rails, baseboards, and architraves. The fireplace surround in the front (southwest) parlor is an interpretation of a classical entablature: fluted pilasters frame a paneled overmantel surmounted by a triglyph-and-metope frieze. The stair features a heavily molded handrail, turned balusters, and step brackets. Other uncommon features include the T-shaped chimneys and oculus attic vents; the latter are sometimes found in houses of the period in Delaware. The original kitchen wing retains its fireplace and Dutch oven.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The property on which Great House stands is a small section of a 20,000-acre tract of land that was granted to Augustine Herman by Lord Baltimore in 1660 in exchange for a delineated map of Maryland. Presumably the property remained unoccupied until the year 1684, when Augustine Herman unwillingly granted to Peter Sluyter, Jasper Danckers, Petrus Bayard of New York, John Moll, and Arnoldus de la Grange of Delaware a tract of 3,750 acres of the then Bohemia Manor.

Sluyter and Danckers were two representatives of the Labadists, a religious sect formed by John Labadie in the latter part of the 17th century. Sluyter and Danckers were given the responsibility of finding a suitable spot for an American colony of Labadism. The two men befriended Augustine Herman's son, Ephraim, in New York and convinced him to become a convert. While visiting his father at Bohemia Manor, they seem to have been promised part of the manor to establish a colony.

The other three men involved in the grant eventually gave their interest over to Sluyter and Danckers. They had served their purpose of adding legitimacy and permanence to the project, and also satisfied Augustine Herman for the moment. Later Herman found out about Sluyter and Danckers' crooked intentions, but by then he was already bound by his promises. Danckers conveyed his interest to Sluyter in 1693 because of his involvement with the colony in Wieward, Holland.

The Labadists were never more than 100 in number in Cecil County, and they lived by a severely stern system of self-denial and restrictions. Sluyter, however, was grossly inconsistent with his regulations, especially since he was known to have raised tobacco and dealt cruelly with slaves. The parent Labadist community in Holland began to dissolve in the late 17th/early 18th century. The dissolution of the Bohemia Colony began about the same time.

A partial division of land occurred in 1698, dividing the tract into four necks extending into the creek. The land was conveyed to Herman Berkelow, Nicholas de la Montagne, Peter de Koning, Derick Kolchman, John Moll, Jr., Hendrick Sluyter, and Samuel Bayard. Hendrick Sluyter was Samuel Bayard's brother-in-law, and it was these two men who purchased one of the four necks of the Labadie Tract, that on which Great House is located.

Samuel Bayard was married twice - first to Elizabeth Sluyter and secondly to Susanna Bouchelle. Bayard died in 1721. He was the father of five children; the one most important to this history is James Bayard, who was the owner of the property from 1738 to the mid-1750s. Due to the construction techniques and style of the house, the date of the construction is thought to fall within this period.

See Contination Sheet No. 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

James Bayard lived in Cecil County and was the father of three children: John Bubenheim, James Asheton, and a daughter who died at age seventeen. John and James were twins and born on August 11, 1738. In time they both moved to Philadelphia.

John Bubenheim Bayard gained quite a reputation during the Revolution. He served on the Committee of Safety, Council of Safety, and the Supreme Executive Council. He also served as a colonel and was personally thanked by Washington for services rendered in New Jersey. He participated in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown in 1777. In this same year he served on the State Board of War and was the Speaker of the State House of Representatives. Between 1777 and 1780 he served on various committees, and in 1781 he gained a seat on the Supreme Executive Council. In 1783 he was the Judge of the High Court of Appeals, and in 1785 he was elected to the Continental Congress.

His twin brother, James Asheton Bayard, was a doctor in Philadelphia. He gained ownership of the "Great House" property in 1759 from his brother and wife. John Bubenheim Bayard seems to have gained the property back in 1770 when his brother died.

Another famous personage associated with Great House during the Bayards' ownership was George Whitefield, a traveling minister who stayed here on three different occasions. Whitefield was extremely well known in his day, visiting and preaching in Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Moorfields, Scotland, Bermuda, Ireland, and England. His first visit to Great House was in November 1740, the second in April 1747, and the third in December 1754. George Whitefield was well known for his emotional and inspirational sermons and is credited with helping John and Charles Wesley found Methodism.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andrews, J.R. The Life of George Whitefield.

Johnson, George. History of Cecil County, Maryland and the Early Settlements around the Head of Chesapeake Bay and on the Delaware River with Sketches of some of the Old Families. Elkton: published by the author, 1881.

Read, William T. Some Leaves: The Early History of Delaware and Maryland.

Land Records of Cecil County, Cecil County Courthouse, Elkton, Maryland.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries are depicted on the attached site plan.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, approximately 1.9 acre, encompasses the house within its immediate setting and retains its historic orientation to Bohemia Creek. Boundaries were chosen to exclude several large 20th-century farm buildings located to the north and west of the house, and are defined by Bohemia Creek on the south, fence lines on the north and west, and on the east by a line projected from the eastern edge of a graveled parking area adjacent to the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 6

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.9 acres

Quadrangle name Cecilton, Maryland/Delaware

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	428870	4136856	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

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	Natalie Shivers and Paul Touart, Historic Sites Surveyors		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	August 1978/fall 1979, revised 2/1984
street & number	21 State Circle	telephone	(301) 269-2438
city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland 21401

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 [signature] 4-26-84

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

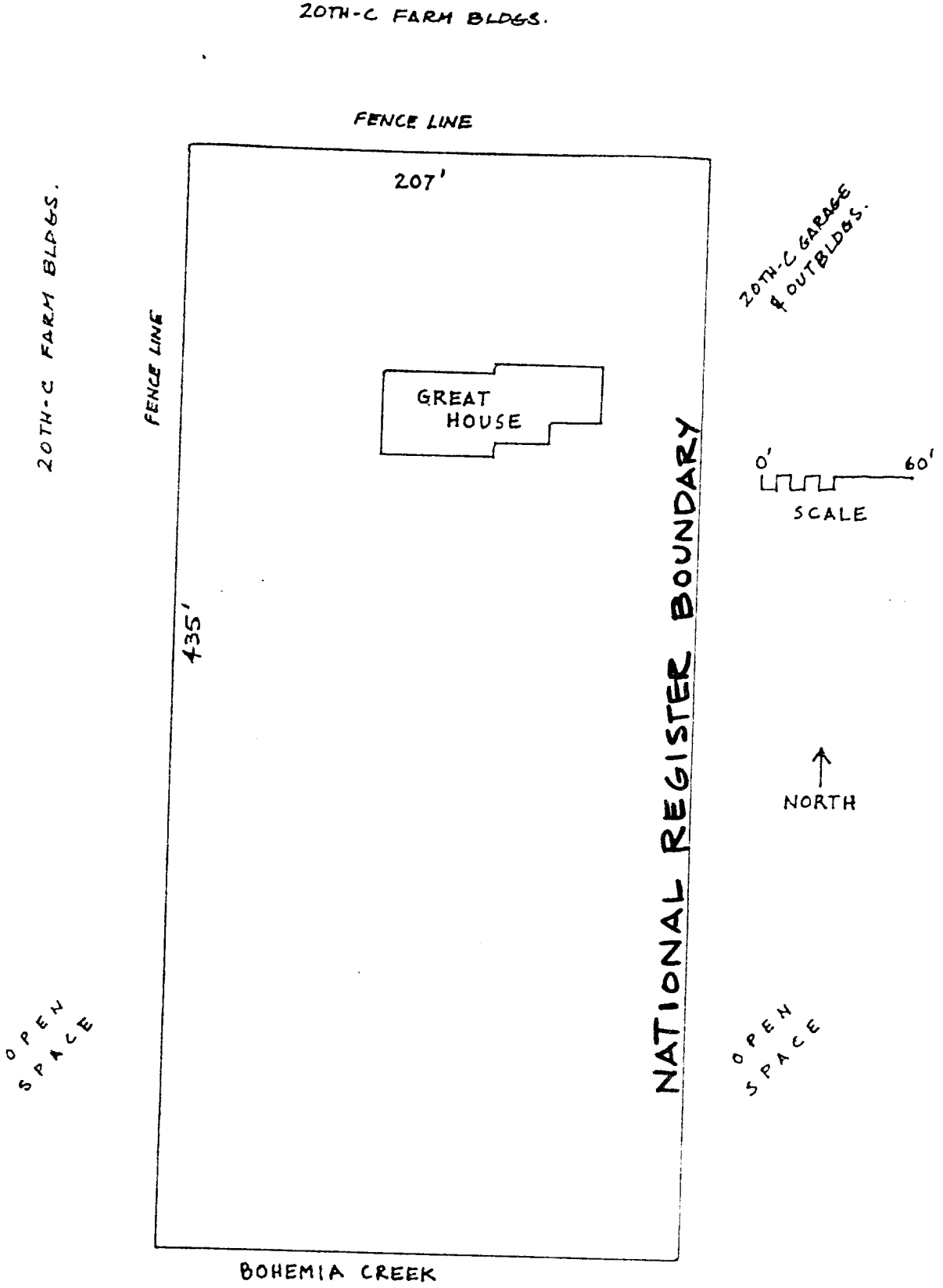
Attest: date

Chief of Registration

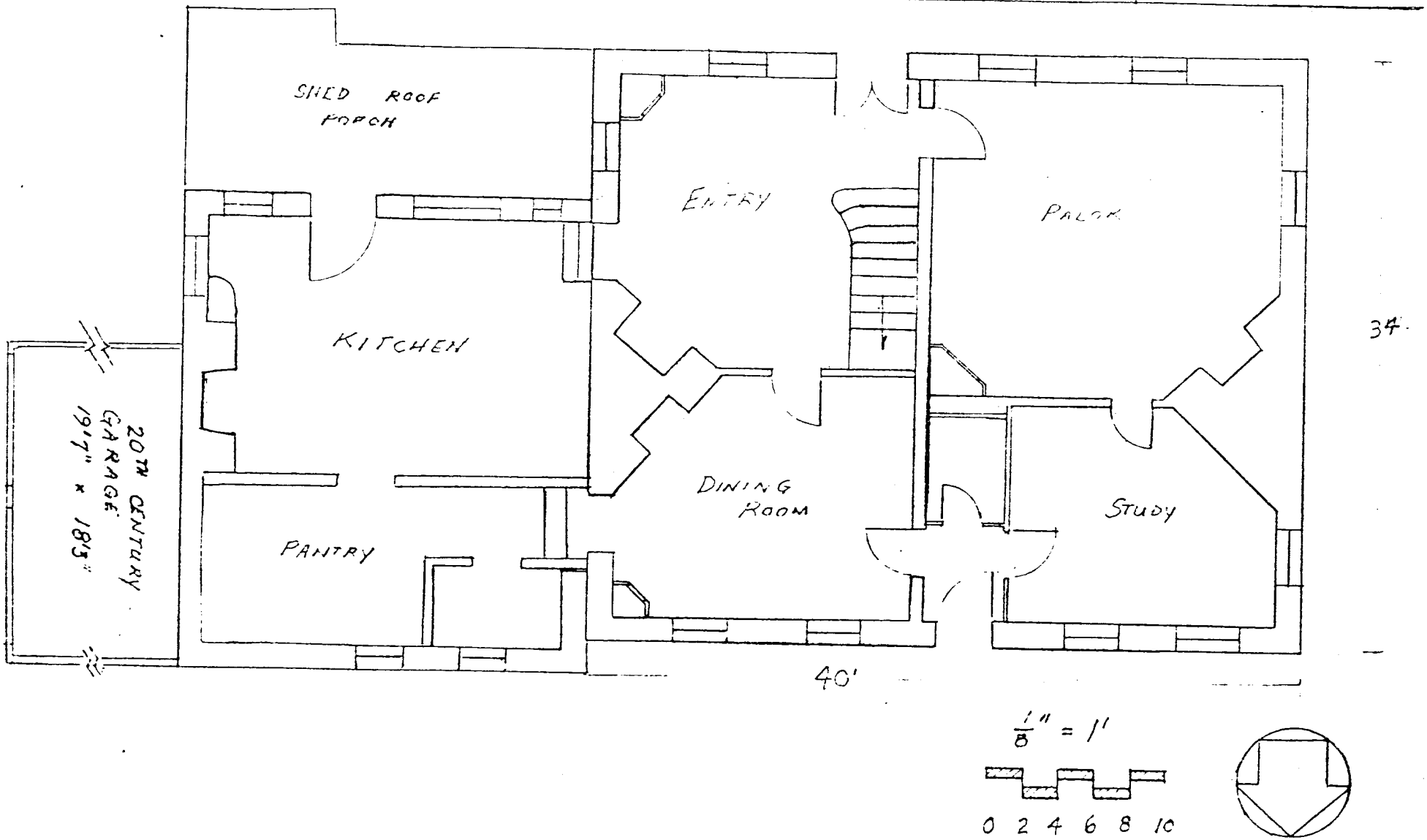
GREAT HOUSE
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

CE-65

SKETCH MAP



CE-65	GREAT HOUSE	7-18-78 PBT



CE-65
GREAT HOUSE
CECIL COUNTY
MARYLAND
18-428870 -
4368560
CECILTOP QUAD.
4371000m N.
540 000 FEET
(DEL.)
4370
4369
4368
4367
27'30"
Cayots
Cem
Ebenezer Ch
BM 84
73
Creek
Manor
BOHEMIA
BM 72
HACK POINT 0.4 MI.
Little Hack Point
BOHEMIA BRIDGE
RIVER
Greenbrier Point
Tidal Flat
GREAT
BOHEMIA
Tidal Flat
MIDDLE
NECK
69
MIDDLE
Free School Point
Georges Point
Little
Bohemia
Creek
BM 38
BM 59

CE - 65

GREAT HOUSE
NORTH ELEVATION
NEAR ST. AUGUSTINE, MD.
NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST
9/80 PBT

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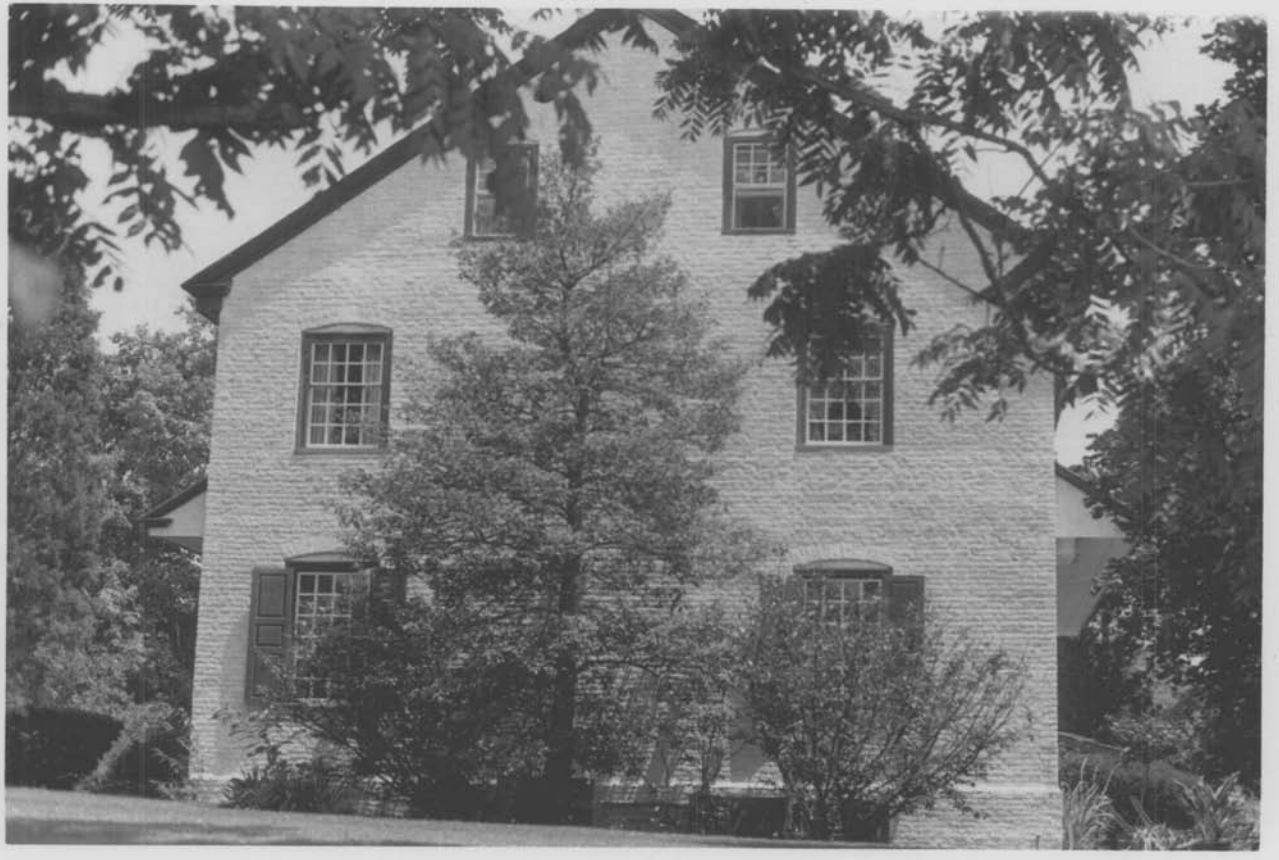
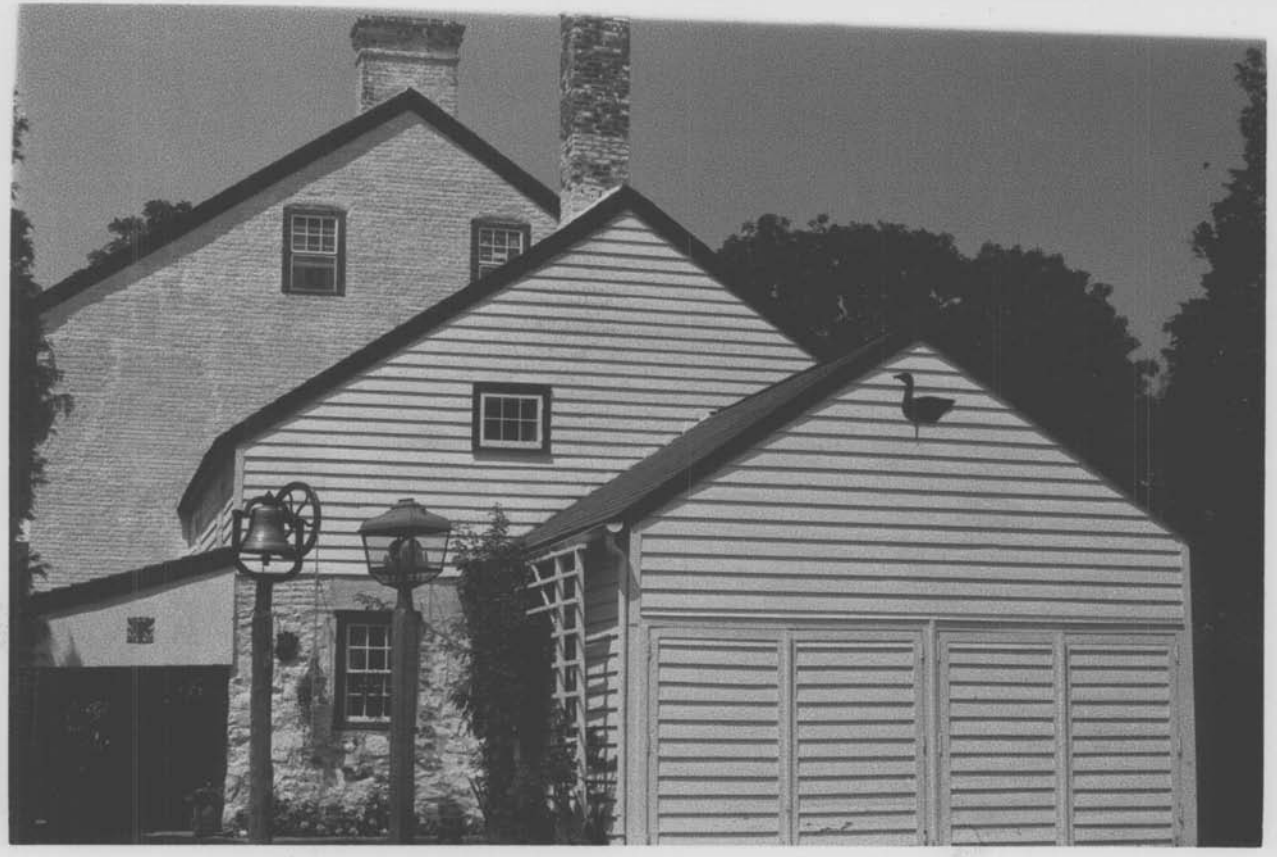
North elevation



west facade

CE-65



CE-65

Cecil Cty # 65

CE-65 (Cecil)

Great House
CE-65
Cecil County

406 DAG 1/68

SE room (stair hall)
CE-65