FHR-8-300 (11-78)

QA-87

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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: Upper Deale; Lansdowne

and/or common: Lansdowne (preferred)

2. Location

street & number: MD Rt. 305 — n/a not for publication

city, town: Centreville — X vicinity of — congressional district: First

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Queen Anne's — code: 035

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: Mrs. Jean A. Crook

street & number: Lansdowne Farm

city, town: Centreville — X vicinity of — state: Maryland 21617

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Queen Anne's County Courthouse

street & number:

city, town: Centreville — state: Maryland 21617

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

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

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

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X 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:

Lansdowne is a large dwelling located near Centreville, the seat of Queen Anne's County, on the rural Eastern Shore of Maryland. The house was built in two distinct periods: the earliest house (c.1760) was of brick laid in Flemish bond, two stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep, with a single flush chimney on each gable; this house was incorporated as a wing of a large Federal house built in 1823. The new house, also of brick, 2½ stories high and two rooms deep, was built directly adjoining the west gable of the earlier structure, resulting in a two-part composition. The later section, whose construction date is documented by a datestone at the southwest corner of the west parapet gable, has remained virtually untouched and represents an outstanding example of rural Federal architecture. The house is brick, two-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide and two rooms deep. It sits on a high cellar, with brickwork laid in Flemish bond above a foundation laid in four-course bond. There is no watertable. A massive flush chimney centered on the west gable serves two fireplaces on each floor. Parapet gables with stone stops, carefully cut stone lintels over the windows, and two gable roof dormers with segmental arched sash are prominent features of the building. The principal facade faces south toward the road. The entrance door is in the east bay, with six-over-six windows in the center and west bays, three six-over-six windows on the second floor, and two six-over-six dormers with segmental arched sash. The entrance is very grand, with a large paneled double-leaf door flanked by leaded sidelights and surmounted by an elliptical transom with leaded lights and decoration. The opening is set off by an elliptical rubbed brick arch and a finely worked stone sill. The entrance is further embellished with turned columns between the sidelights and the door, a heavily molded cornice below the transom, and paneled soffit and jambs. The brickwork on the west gable is laid in random common bond, with one section of Flemish bond at the first floor level. There are three windows on both the first and second floor, but the middle opening is actually a false window, covered with permanently fixed original louvered shutters. These are flanked by six-over-six windows. A segmental arched fanlight in the upper gable and the exposed faces of the stone cornice stops add refinement to this elevation. The rear facade is almost identical to the front, but the door is quite simple, without sidelights or transom. Other decorative elements include a very fine molded cornice with vertically reeded fascia board on the front facade, a somewhat simpler cornice

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

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DESCRIPTION SUMMARY (continued)

on the rear, and a false watertable on both facades, suggested by whitewashing the foundation up to just above the cellar windows. The interior of the later building is arranged in the side hall-double parlor plan typical of this house type. The hall extends along the east gable wall, and doors lead off the hall to both parlours and to the earlier wing. The open string stair rises along the east wall at the north end of the hall. Simple turned newels and tapered tiger maple ballusters support a plain walnut railing, which terminates in an outward turn at the foot of the stair. Scrolled fretwork brackets decorate the face of the carriage, and raised paneling fills the space below. The molded baseboard is carried up the stairs and across the landing. The two parlours are almost identical, each with a fireplace on the center of the gable wall. These are quite elaborate, with marble facings and hearths, handsome cast iron firebacks decorated with oval Adamesque sunburst and floral swags, and very ornate mantels consisting of simple Doric columns supporting a heavily molded tympanum and a shelf dominated by a flat quirked ovolo. Other decoration includes a complex molded plaster cornice throughout the first floor, molded baseboard, splayed window openings, and raised panel doors. The two rooms are joined by a very wide opening with the original paneled doors still in place. All door and

window openings have reeded architraves with rosette corner blocks, and paneled jambs and soffits. The second floor plan is similar to the first. The two west chambers are heated by fireplaces with original mantels, much plainer than their counterparts on the first floor. These mantels have reeded pilasters with double brackets supporting a simple shelf. The window jambs have a raised panel below the sill. The cellar of the main house retains a large kitchen fireplace, original wide board shelving, and mud insulation in the ceilings.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 2

Lansdowne Farm is located on the north side of Maryland Route 305 approximately one mile east of U.S. Route 301. The west gable of the main house is visible for some distance, and is a distinctive landmark along Route 305.

The house was built in two distinct periods. The earliest house was of brick, two stories high, three bays wide and two rooms deep, with a single flush chimney on each gable. Dating to the second half of the 18th century, this house was incorporated into a larger, Federal house built in 1823 by Peregrine Wilmer. The new house was also brick, two-and-one-half stories high, and was built directly adjoining the west gable of the earlier structure; the latter was incorporated into the new plan as a wing to the larger, more formal house. Unfortunately, the northeast corner of the earlier building collapsed in 1972 and had to be rebuilt, complicating the task of interpreting a confusing and unorthodox plan. The later section, however, has remained virtually untouched and stands as a pristine rural example of Federal architecture.

The original house is brick, two stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on both of the facade walls and the exposed gable wall. The gable is highlighted by numerous glazed headers.

The principal facade faces south, toward the road. There is a door in the east bay of this facade, with six-over-nine windows in the center and west bays. Three six-over-six windows are ranged across the second floor. The lintels above the first floor openings have splayed jack arches, but the second floor openings are immediately below the cornice, and appear to be plain.

On the east gable, there is a six-over-six window to the left of the chimney on the first floor and a door to the extreme right. On the second floor, two bricked up windows with arched soldier course lintels flank the chimney. A pair of six-light casement windows flank the chimney in the upper gable.

The rear facade has been completely rebuilt, from ground level up to the eaves. There is a door in the west bay and six-over-six windows in the center and east bay on both the first and second floors.

The house now has a boxed cornice with crown mold and bed mold, but the east end of the soffit is open on the rear cornice, and the joists have scrolled ends, indicating that the eave was originally exposed.

The interior floor plan has apparently been altered and is not typical of 18th century houses in this area. It presently consists of

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 2

DESCRIPTION, continued)

a single room across the entire south facade, with a small stair hall in the rear of the west end, and a larger, rectangular room to the east.

The original plan probably consisted of four rooms, with the south room divided by a partition wall, creating a small entrance hall in the southeast quadrant of the house, a small stairhall in the present location, and large rooms heated with fireplaces in the southwest and northeast quadrants. The original fireplace remains in the west wall of the southwest room, and it is evident that there was a corner fireplace in the southeast corner of the northeast room.

Several early features have survived on the first floor. The ceiling joists in the northeast room are still partially exposed; these have beaded edges, and were originally exposed. The winder stair remains in the northwest room. The mantel and all interior trim on the first floor date to the 1823 construction period.

The second floor remains relatively intact to the 18th century. Again, the floor plan is rather unorthodox, with the winder stair opening into a large rectangular hall in the northwest quadrant. There are two sleeping chambers opening off the hall along the south side of the house, and a small unheated chamber with exposed, beaded ceiling joists at the east end of the hall. The sleeping chambers each have a small fireplace on the gable wall, with very simple early 19th century surrounds. The fireplace in the southwest room has a plastered face, painted yellow, with a band of green accenting the opening. This appears to be an early feature, though it is uncertain if it dates to the original house or to the 19th century renovation.

The majority of the doors on this floor appear to be 18th century, while the trim is almost entirely early 19th century.

At the west end of the hall, the winder stair continues up to an attic, and an original cupboard is fitted into the alcove to the right of the stair. The doors to both the stairs and the cupboard have very bold raised panels, and are hung on hand-wrought H-L hinges. Apparently the attic was never used for living space. It is lighted by two six-light windows in the east gable. There were probably two more windows in the west gable, which was rebuilt in 1823. There is no evidence of dormer windows, and the ceiling was never plastered.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 4

DESCRIPTION, continued)

The roof is of common rafter construction, with hewn rafters half-lapped and nailed with wrought nails at the ridge . Very crudely hewn collars are half-dovetailed and nailed with wrought nails. The roof is thirty-seven degrees in pitch. The floor boards are tongue-and-groove, face nailed with wrought nails. Of particular interest is a short section of split sapling nailed to the underside of two rafters. This is the only remnant of the temporary cross-bracing used while the rafter pairs were being raised when the house was built.

The cellar is unusual because it is divided longitudinally by a brick partition wall; only the south room is fully excavated. A window opening in the partition wall allows access to a crawl space below the north half of the house. This crawl space is littered with broken bricks and other debris, probably dating to the 1972 rebuilding. The window opening in the partition wall retains part of the original wooden frame, similar in appearance to the cellar window frames found in most early houses, but lacking the diamond section bars.

There is an arched brick chimney base at the west end of the south room, and the east chimney base projects into the south room. All evidence of the east base in the north room has been obliterated by later construction and repairs.

The presence of an exceptionally heavy joist about fourteen feet from the east end of the south room suggests the probable location of the original first floor hall partition.

The later house, built in 1823, is brick, two-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide and two rooms deep. It sits on a high cellar, with brickwork laid in Flemish bond above a foundation laid in four-course bond. There is no watertable. A massive flush chimney centered on the west gable serves two fireplaces on each floor. Parapet gables, carefully cut stone lintels over the windows, and two gable roof dormers with segmental arched sash are prominent features of the building. Of particular interest are large cut stone blocks that terminate the parapets at the eave. The block at the southwest corner serves as a date stone, with Peregrine Wilmer's initials and the date 1823 cut into the south face.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No.5

DESCRIPTION, Continued)

The principal facade faces south toward the road. The entrance door is in the east bay, with six-over-six windows in the center and west bays, three six-over-six windows on the second floor, and two six-over-six dormers with segmental arched sash. There are three cellar windows, but the east window has been covered by the modern brick entrance porch.

The entrance is very grand, with a large paneled door flanked by leaded sidelights and surmounted by an eliptical transom with leaded lights and decoration. The opening is set off by an eliptical rubbed brick arch and a finely worked stone sill. The entrance is further embellished with turned columns between the sidelights and the door, a heavily molded cornice below the transom, and paneled soffit and jambs.

In recent years, while repairing the base of the east column on the front door, the column was removed, revealing the following inscription:

Nov. 1824 S. H. Hatch

Isaiah Boyal

Most likely these are the signatures of the carpenters who installed the column, and undoubtedly executed much of the finish work in the house.

The brickwork on the west gable is laid in random common bond, with one section of Flemish bond at the first floor level. There are three windows on both the first and second floor, but the middle opening is actually a false window, covered with permanently fixed original louvered shutters. These are flanked by six-over-six windows. A segmental arched fanlight in the upper gable and the exposed faces of the stone cornice stops add refinement to this elevation.

The rear facade is almost identical to the front, but the door is quite simple, without sidelights or transom. The windows are also identical except for the east window on the second floor, which is lower, to allow light on the stair landing inside. The east gable is almost entirely covered by the wing.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 6

DESCRIPTION, Continued)

Other decorative elements include a very fine molded cornice with vertically reeded fascia board on the front facade, a somewhat simpler cornice on the rear, and a false watertable on both facades, suggested by whitewashing the foundation up to just above the cellar windows.

The interior of the later building is arranged in the side hall-double parlour plan typical of this house type. The hall extends along the east gable wall, and doors lead off the hall to both parlours and to the earlier wing. The open string stair rises along the east wall at the north end of the hall. Simple turned newels and tapered tiger maple ballusters support a plain walnut railing, which terminates in an outward turn at the foot of the stair. Scrolled fretwork brackets decorate the face of the carriage, and raised paneling fills the space below. The molded baseboard is carried up the stairs and across the landing.

The two parlours are almost identical, each with a fireplace on the center of the gable wall. These are quite elaborate, with marble facings and hearths, handsome cast iron firebacks decorated with oval Adamesque sunbursts and floral swags, and very ornate mantels. The mantels are not Adamesque, but consist of simple Doric columns supporting a heavily molded tympanum and a shelf dominated by a flat quirked ovolo.

Other decoration includes a complex molded plaster cornice throughout the first floor, molded baseboard, splayed window openings with paneled soffits and jambs, and raised panel doors. The two rooms are joined by a very wide opening with the original paneled doors still in place. All door openings have reeded architraves with rosette corner blocks, and paneled jambs and soffits. The same architrave is repeated around each window opening.

The second floor plan is similar to the first, except that the hall does not extend the full depth of the house. It has been partitioned, allowing a small unheated chamber at the south end. The two west chambers are heated by fireplaces with original mantels, much plainer than their counterparts on the first floor. These mantels have reeded pilasters with double brackets supporting a simple shelf. Carved sunbursts embellish the outer face of each bracket. Original closets fill the alcove between the fireplace and the interior partition wall in both rooms. The window jambs are not splayed, but have a raised panel below the sill.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 7

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DESCRIPTION, Continued)

The third floor plan is similar to the second floor, except that the partition wall between the two west rooms was shifted to the north, making the southwest room larger, and allowing the fan window on the west wall to be centered on the exterior facade without falling in front of an interior partition. There is a small fireplace with a very simple mantel consisting of a board surround with a strip of molding supporting a shelf. A steep ladder-stair with the treads dovetailed into each carriage rises along the west wall to the right of the fireplace, allowing access to the attic and to the roof.

The northwest room is smaller, and apparently was never heated, as there is no evidence of a fireplace or stove flue. The southeast room is also unheated.

The roof is of common rafter construction, with tapered, pit-sawn rafters half-lapped with a slight dovetail and pegged at the ridge. The collars are half-dovetailed and nailed with hand-headed machine nails, and also serve as ceiling joists. The rafters rest on a heavy 4 x 4 plate which is notched over the floor joists. The joists are bedded in mortar in the top of the exterior masonry walls. Of particular interest is the use of hand-headed machine nails for the collar beam joints. These nails are generally associated with the late 18th and early 19th century, and their appearance in this house provides a rare, positively dated example of their use.

The cellar under the main house can be reached through a bulkhead entrance in the northeast corner of the east gable, and by means of an original interior stair. The plan is the same as the first floor, except that a small storage area, apparently original, has been partitioned off at the south end of the passage by erecting a wood screen constructed of vertical slats. The ceiling was plastered, and ventilation was supplied by a cellar window in the south wall, which has been covered by the modern front porch.

The southwest cellar room was apparently used only for storage. A chimney base with an arched recess dominates the west wall of this room.

The northwest room was evidently used as a kitchen. There is a large fireplace on the west wall, with a slightly raised hearth. A wide mantel shelf with a beaded fascia board and simple brackets supporting

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 8

DESCRIPTION, Continued)

a shelf remains above the fireplace. Both the ceiling and walls were plastered, and a row of wide shelves along the south wall of the room appears to be original, as they were installed before the room was plastered. The door frame to this room is beaded, and iron pintels remain on the exterior face of the frame.

Of particular interest in the cellar is the original mud insulation in the ceilings of all three rooms. One-inch boards were nailed to the faces of the ceiling joists about 2-1/2 inches below the floor, and short boards were laid in place, forming a shallow trough between each pair of joists. This was filled with mud mixed with straw, then the finish floor was laid on top of it, creating a layer of hardened mud insulation 1-5/8 inches thick below the floor.

8. Significanc

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
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates c.1760; 1823 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Lansdowne is significant for its architecture, as one of the most perfectly preserved examples of high-style Federal architecture remaining on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Both the date of construction and the name of the builder are positively determined, inscribed on a carved datestone on the southwest parapet. The house has been carefully maintained but never restored, and retains virtually all of the original fabric. The exterior includes such refinements as cut stone door sills, window lintels, and cornice stops, a very fine entrance door with leaded sidelights and transom, and a number of the original louvered shutters. The interior is highlighted by marble fireplace surrounds, decorated cast iron firebacks, plaster interior cornices, and all of the original moldings, mantels, and doors. Most of the hardware is original, and a number of samples of original paint may be found on the upper floors. In the cellar, the original kitchen mantel shelf has survived in place, as well as the original kitchen shelving, and an early root and vegetable cellar. The use of mud insulation in the ceiling is a rare survival on this part of the Eastern Shore.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The history of Lansdowne is somewhat complicated, as it comprises four adjoining tracts of land, all acquired by Pere Wilmer in the 1820's. The "home place," with the 18th century house now incorporated into Lansdowne, was known as Upper Deale (also spelled Upper Deal). The other tracts were known as Wright's Chance, Nat's Adventure, and Hazard.[1]

Upper Deal was patented in 1677 by Stephen Tully. It comprised 500 acres and was granted as part of a warrant due to Tully for 1,050 acres.[2] In 1682 Tully sold Upper Deale to Lewis Blangey (or Blangy) of Kent County for 11,000 pounds of tobacco.[3] Lewis Blangey died in 1685 and left Upper Deale to his eldest son, Lewis. In the will, the elder Lewis also left property to his son Jacob Blangey. He further specified that if either of his sons should die without heirs, his share should pass to the other brother. If both sons should die without heirs, the property was to go their uncle, Jacob Blangey of London.[4]

Evidently the eldest son, Lewis, died without heir and Upper Deale passed to his brother, Jacob. In 1719 Jacob Blangey's will was probated, leaving Jacob's dwelling plantation, "Cilly," to his eldest sons, Lewis and Jacob. Upper Deale was bequeathed to his two younger sons, Charles Merriken Blangey and John Wells Blangey. He specified at great length how the property should be divided if one or more should die without issue and left his personal estate to his wife, Elizabeth,"for bringing up of

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

my children Lewis, Jacob, Charles Merriken and John Wells, Mary, and Elizabeth Blangey." He also notes after each property assignment that the land should be equally divided between each pair of brothers when they reach the age of twenty-one, thus all of the children were minors in 1715, when the will was written.[5]

Apparently Jacob and Elizabeth had one more child before Jacob's death in 1719, for in 1728, the younger Jacob died, leaving "Cilly" to be equally divided between his brother, John Wells Blangey, and his sister, Sarah Blangey.[6] Although no land or probate records can be found to directly explain how Sarah Blangey came into possession of Upper Deale, two indentures to partition Cilly and Upper Deale between Sarah's heirs, recorded in 1762, note that the property descended to her as the only surviving child of Jacob Blangey.[7]

Sarah Blangey married John Evans and after his death in 1741 married Andrew Price.[8] Both Andrew Price and Sarah died before June, 1747, and Upper Deale was left to Sarah's two daughters by her first marriage, Mary and Elizabeth Evans, and another daughter by her second marriage, Ann Price. All three orphaned children were minors, and in 1747 the Orphans Court of Queen Anne's County recorded a valuation of Upper Deale, which established an annual rent due to the children from their guardian, Joseph Evans.[9] A second valuation was made of the property in 1751.[10] These documents include a lengthy description of both the buildings and the farm. The property had been divided into two "plantations", and in 1747 the appraisers offered the following description:

> (We) did enter upon the said land and do find as follows: on the plantation now in the occupation of Alice Wright widow, one clapboard dwelling house 20 by 15 wants repairing, two small log houses not worth repairing, one tobacco house good rough work 40 by 20, one old corn house not worth repairing one small orchard, the fencing about the same plantation in middling good repair, and the guardian is permitted to clear 20 acres of the woodland contiguous to the same, (that is to say) 15 acres to the eastward and 5 acres to the northward, and on the plantation in the occupation of George Bennett, one old dwelling house 25 by 22, one other dwelling house 16 by 12, almost new, one tobacco house 40 by 22 very good, one other 40 by 20 not worth repairing, one corn house wants repairing, the fencing in good

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 10

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

> repair, the guardian is also permitted to clear 20 acres of woodland contiguous to this plantation (that is to say) 10 acres to the westward and 10 acres to the southward of the same, with liberty to cut timber on the said land for the necessary repairs of the houses and fences, and that we value two thirds of the said lands and plantations to 800 pounds of tobacco per annum clear of quit rents and necessary repairs.

Sometime between 1751 and 1762, Mary Evans married Basil Warfield and Elizabeth Evans married John Davidge, for in 1762 Warfield and Davidge represented their wives in claiming the estate of Ann Price, who died without issue. The section of Upper Deale which was later to become Lansdowne descended to Mary Evans Warfield.[12]

In 1783 the federal tax assessment listed "Bazel" Warfield as the owner of part of Upper Deale (218 3/4 acres), Wright's Chance (109 acres), and Natts Adventure (14 acres). [13]

Basil Warfield's will was probated in August 1785, but includes no mention of Upper Deale. Mary Warfield's will was probated in July 1788, and specifies that her son, Alexander, in return for relinquishing any claim to family lands in Frederick County, should receive her "dwelling plantation", Upper Deale, supposed to contain about 250 acres. She further specifies

> ...That my daughter Elizabeth Warfield shall have the free use and possession of a chamber above stairs in my dwelling house commonly known by and called the Hall Chamber without interruption, with free Egress, Ingress and Regress therefrom and thereto, And also her Accomodation and Diet, in the dwelling House aforesaid, suitable to her condition, to enjoy the said chamber and other The Priveleges and Provisions aforesaid during the Time she shall remain unmarried... [15]

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 11

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Alexander Warfield died in 1795 and left Upper Deale to his son, William E. Warfield, with his wife, Ann Eccleston Warfield, retaining the use of the plantation until her death or remarriage. Should she remarry, she was to receive one-third of the estate. He also left his surveying instruments to William.[16]

On the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Upper Deale is listed with the following description:

> Alexander Warfield heirs, Upper Deal 1 dwelling house brick two stories 30 x 30, 4 windows 60 x 32, 5 windows 50 x 24, 6 windows 20 x 16; kitchen logg and passage between the house and kitchen framed in all 30 x 18; meat house 12 x 14; necessary 8 x 4; stable and carriage house 36 x 13; joining the place that was Solomon Wright's.[17]

The house described is clearly the early house that still stands today, presently serving as the wing of the larger house built by Pere Wilmer in 1823. Precisely when this structure was built is not known, but the documentary evidence makes it clear that there was no large brick home here in 1751.[18]

Basil Warfield was a reasonably prominent man in the county, holding the office of Inspector of Tobacco for St. Paul's Parish in 1766 and 1767,[19] and serving as county surveyor in 1777.[20] It seems reasonable, therefore, that the brick house was built by Basil and Mary Warfield sometime during the third quarter of the 18th century. Several architectural features, particularly the use of glazed header Flemish bond on the east gable and the exposed eaves are suggestive of the first half of the 18th century, and would therefore argue for the 1750's or 1760's as the probable date of construction.

After inheriting Upper Deale in 1795, William Warfield remained in possession of the property until 1816, when he entered into a mortgage agreement with Tobias Bourke. Bourke agreed to pay Warfield $5,500.00 for several tracts of land, including Wright's Chance, Nat's Adventure, and Upper Deale.[21]

In November, 1819, Warfield agreed to assign the mortgage to Peregrine Wilmer at a price of $2,954.00.[22] In April 1822, Tobias Bourke deeded the three tracts, comprising 330 acres, to Pere Wilmer,

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 12

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

who renamed the combined property "Lansdowne."[23] In 1826 he purchased 20 acres of an adjoining tract known as "Hazard" and incorporated it into Lansdowne.[24]

In the meantime, he had undertaken the construction of a grand new house adjoining the old house known as Upper Deale. The new house was underway by 1823, as attested by the datestone in the west parapet, and was probably completed in late 1824 or 1825, as one of the front door columns bears the date November 1824.

Pere Wilmer was a prominent figure in Queen Anne's County throughout the first half of the 19th century. He owned property in Centreville and throughout the central part of the county, as well as a house in Baltimore and unspecified lands in Kent County.[25]

In addition to his activities in real estate, he served in numerous public capacities, being appointed to a delegation sent to Annapolis in 1825 to welcome General Lafayette,[26] and in 1829 serving as a Commissioner for the town of Centreville.[27] In 1834 he was appointed to a building committee for the construction of a new church to replace old Chester Church, and in 1843 he was elected to the vestry.[28] In 1835 and 1836 he is listed among the Commissioners of the Eastern Shore Rail Road,[29] and in 1837, 1838, and 1840 he was a Democratic candidate for the state legislature.[30] Evidently he ran successfully at least once, for in 1840 he was among the opponents of a bill revoking subsidies to the Eastern Shore Rail Road.[31]

In 1835 Wilmer sold "Ruthsburg" to the county for use as an almshouse and evidently served on the board of trustees for a time, for in 1856 he was appointed secretary and treasurer, and in 1865 was fined "one basket of champagne (the best)" for failing to attend a trustees meeting.[22] His participation in public life continued up until the last days of his life, as he served as the chairman of the Democratic County Convention in 1860,[33] was a Peace Party candidate for County Commissioner in 1861,[34] and in 1864 was elected delegate to a statewide convention to determine whether a new state constitution was necessary to implement emancipation. All three Queen Anne's County delegates were elected on the States Rights ticket and adamantly opposed forced emancipation, signing a minority address to the people of Maryland urging rejection of the constitution.[35] Two years later, on March 31, 1866, Pere Wilmer died.[36]

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 13

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

After his death, the majority of Wilmer's estate, including Lansdowne, went to his nephew, also named Pere Wilmer.[37] But despite the vast landholdings, or perhaps because of them, the younger Pere Wilmer was forced into insolvency, and in 1878 the majority of his property was put up for public sale. Included among the lots for sale was Lansdowne:

> Lot No. 10 consists of that remaining portion of the Lansdowne Tract, whereon the Mansion House stands, the present residence of Pere Wilmer, Esq. The property is so well known to the residents of Queen Anne's and adjoining counties as not to require a further description than is herein given above, it being one of the old "landmarks" among the homesteads of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This portion of the tract contains about 200 acres, more or less, about 122 acres of which is Arable land and about 80 acres in wood, the woodland being detached.

Lot number 10 was purchased by John Daily for slightly more than $9,000.00. The actual acreage, according to court papers, was 190 acres, while the deed from the trustees to Daily specifies 123 acres.[39]

The property remained in the possession of the Daily family until 1939, when it was sold to Thomas and Ida Binebrink.[40]

In 1951 they deeded Lansdowne to their children, Thomas and Anna Binebrink,[41] and in 1962 the property was divided into two parcels, the first containing 123 acres and the second 57 acres.[42] In 1968 the Binebrinks sold both parcels to Jesse and Jean Crook.[43] The farm has since been divided with Jean Crook taking possession of the house and 20 acres.

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[1]See Peregrine Wilmer's will, Liber STH#1, folio 336. Probated May 8, 1866.

[2]Patents, Liber 19, folio 465.

[3]Talbot County Deeds, Liber HH#4, folio 115. June 20, 1682.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 14

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

[4]Talbot County Wills, Box 2, folder 8. Also recorded in Liber EM#1, folio 84. Last will and testament of Lewis Blangy. Executed November 12, 1684. Probated May 1, 1685.

[5]Queen Anne's County Wills, Liber SC#1, folio 138. Last will and testament of Jacob Blangy of Kent Island. Executed March 1, 1715. Probated June 1, 1719.

[6]Wills, Liber 19, folio 648. Last will and testament of Jacob Blangey. Probated April 24, 1729.

[7]Deeds, Liber RT#F, folio 263. June 4, 1762.

[8]No marriage records can be found to prove these unions, but they can be inferred from a number of documents, including the Administration Accounts of John Evans and the Orphans Court records involving Sarah's three orphaned daughters: Mary and Elizabeth Evans and Ann Price. See Administration Accounts #757 with particular reference to the Administration Bond dated November 27, 1741 and to the accounts submitted November 8, 1745. Also refer to the valuation of Scillin and Upper Deale referred to below.

[9]Deeds, Liber RT#C, folio 272. July 14, 1747. Valuation of Upper Deale for Mary and Elizabeth Evans. Also see Deeds, Liber RT#C, folio 275. October 27, 1747. Valuation of Upper Deale for Ann Price, "co-heiress with Mary and Elizabeth Evans".

[10]Deeds, Liber RT#D, folio 21. April 27, 1751. Valuations of Upper Deale for Mary and Elizabeth Evans and Ann Price. See also Deeds, Liber RT#D, folio 76. December 18, 1751. Valuation of Upper Deale for Elizabeth Evans

[11]Deeds, Liber RT#C, folio 272. July 14, 1747.

[12]Deeds, Liber RT#F, folio 263. June 4, 1762.

[13]1783 Tax Assessment, Queen Anne's County: Corsica District, p.61.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 15

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

[14]Wills, Box 14, folder 34, Hall of Records. Last will and testament of Basil Warfield. Probated August 10, 1785.

[15]Wills, Liber SC#7, folio 150. Last will and testament of Mary Warfield, widow. Executed June 3, 1788. Probated July 19, 1788.

[16]Wills, Liber RW#1, folio 133. Last will and testament of Alexander Warfield. Executed February 12, 1795. Probated March 21, 1795. Alexander had inherited the surveying instruments from his father in 1785.

[17]1798 Federal Direct Tax, Queen Anne's County, Island Hundred.

[18]Refer to valuation of Upper Deale in 1747 and 1751, cited above.

[19]Vestry Book, St. Paul's Parish, p. 25. Appointed Inspector of Tobacco on April 22, 1766, and reappointed September 1, 1767. These references were pointed out by Mr. Osborne O. Heard, a descendant of the Warfields, in a letter dated September 9, 1978.

[20]Emory, p. 130.

[21]Deeds, Liber TM#1, folio 273. December 6, 1816.

[22]Deeds, Liber TM#2, folio 155. November 18, 1819.

[23]Deeds, Liber TM#2, folio 490. April 15, 1822.

[24]Deeds, Liber TM#4, folio 225. December 18, 1826.

[25]See Pere Wilmer's Last will and testament, Wills Liber STH#1,folio 336. Probated May 8, 1866. The deed books record dozens and dozens of transactions in which Pere Wilmer bought and sold property and mortgages.

[26]Emory, p. 450. Based on a report published in the Easton Star on January 11, 1825.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 16

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

[27]Ibid, p. 347.

[28]Ibid, p. 188-189.

[29]Ibid, p. 549.

[30]Ibid, p. 465, 469-470.

[31]Ibid, p. 551.

[32]Ibid. p.265-266.

[33]Ibid, p. 490.

[34]Ibid, p. 499-502.

[35]Ibid, p. 513. Wilmer was a slaveholder, and enumerated nearly 50 slaves among his bequests. The will was written in 1860, but by the time of his death in 1866, the Civil War had ended, and Emancipation was an accepted fact.

[36]Ibid, p. 266.

[37]Wills, Liber STH#1, folio 336. Last will and testament of Pereg Wilmer. Executed August 16, 1860, with a codicil dated January 5, 1864. Probated May 8, 1866.

[38]See Chancery Case # 588. The property was to be sold at public sale November 12, 1878. The property was first conveyed to the Trustees in a deed dated October 9, 1878. See Deeds, Liber JW#8, folio 431.

[39]Deeds, Liber SCD#4, folio 190. February 5, 1884.

[40]Deeds, Liber ASG, Jr. #1, folio 238. April 18, 1939.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET No. 17

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

[41]Deeds, Liber TSP#4, folio 467, August 22, 1951.

[42]Deeds, Liber TSP#64, folio 398-400. January 30, 1962.

[43]Deeds, Liber CWC#35, folio 561. June 28, 1968.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is described by a circle with a radius of 150', centering on the southwest corner of the house.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property, approximately 1.6 acre, encompasses the house within its immediate landscaped setting. Beyond the boundaries lie cultivated fields to the south and west, open pasture to the north and east, and a group of agricultural outbuildings to the east which do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

9. Major Bibliographical References

QA-87

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1950.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 1.6 acre

Quadrangle name Price, Maryland **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	414 217 10	413 212 214 10
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

For Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification, see Continuation Sheet No. 17

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	Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Coordinator		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	9/29/78; revised 3/84
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

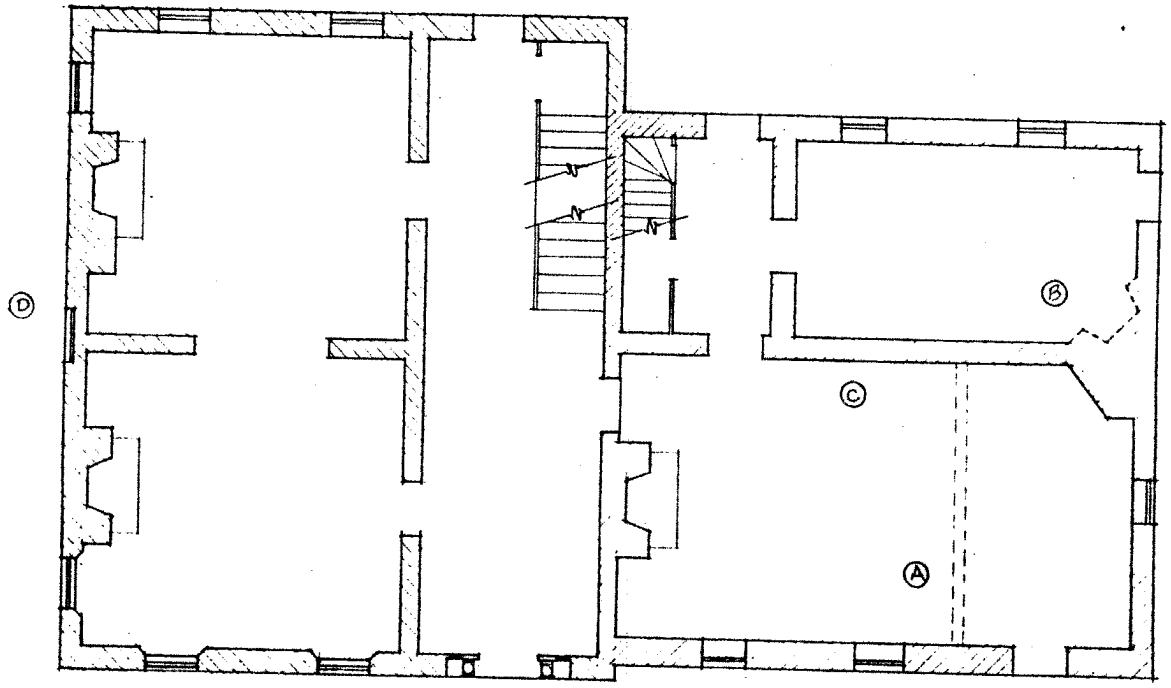
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [signature] 5-3-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

[redacted]

A PROBABLE LOCATION OF ORIGINAL PARTITION
B ORIGINAL CORNER CHIMNEY LOCATION
C APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF ORIGINAL DOOR
D FALSE WINDOW.



PERIOD I : c. 1760
PERIOD II : 1823

0 2 4 6 8 10
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-87

LANSDOWNE
HOPE, MARYLAND

JULY 9, 1978.

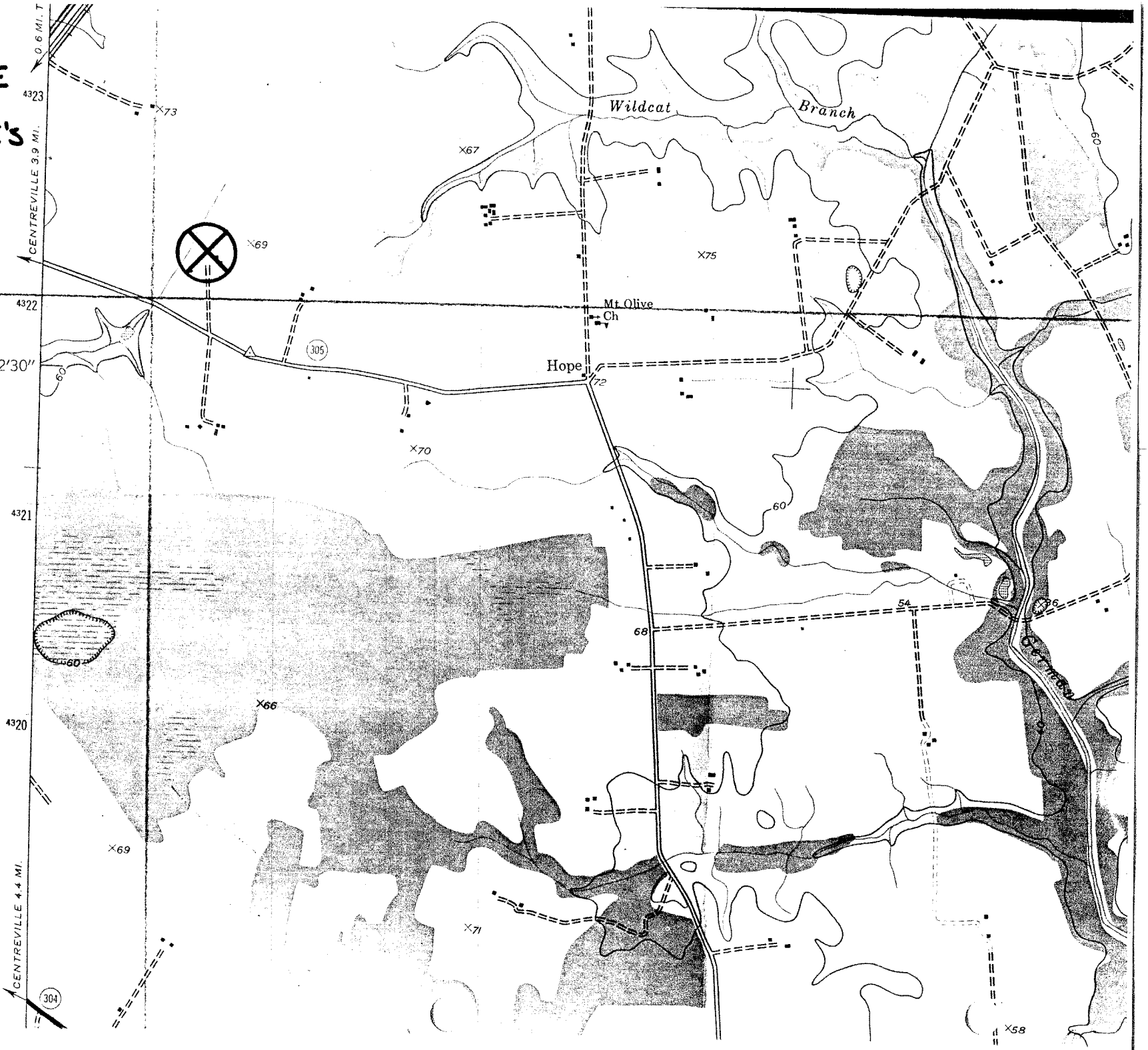
QA-87

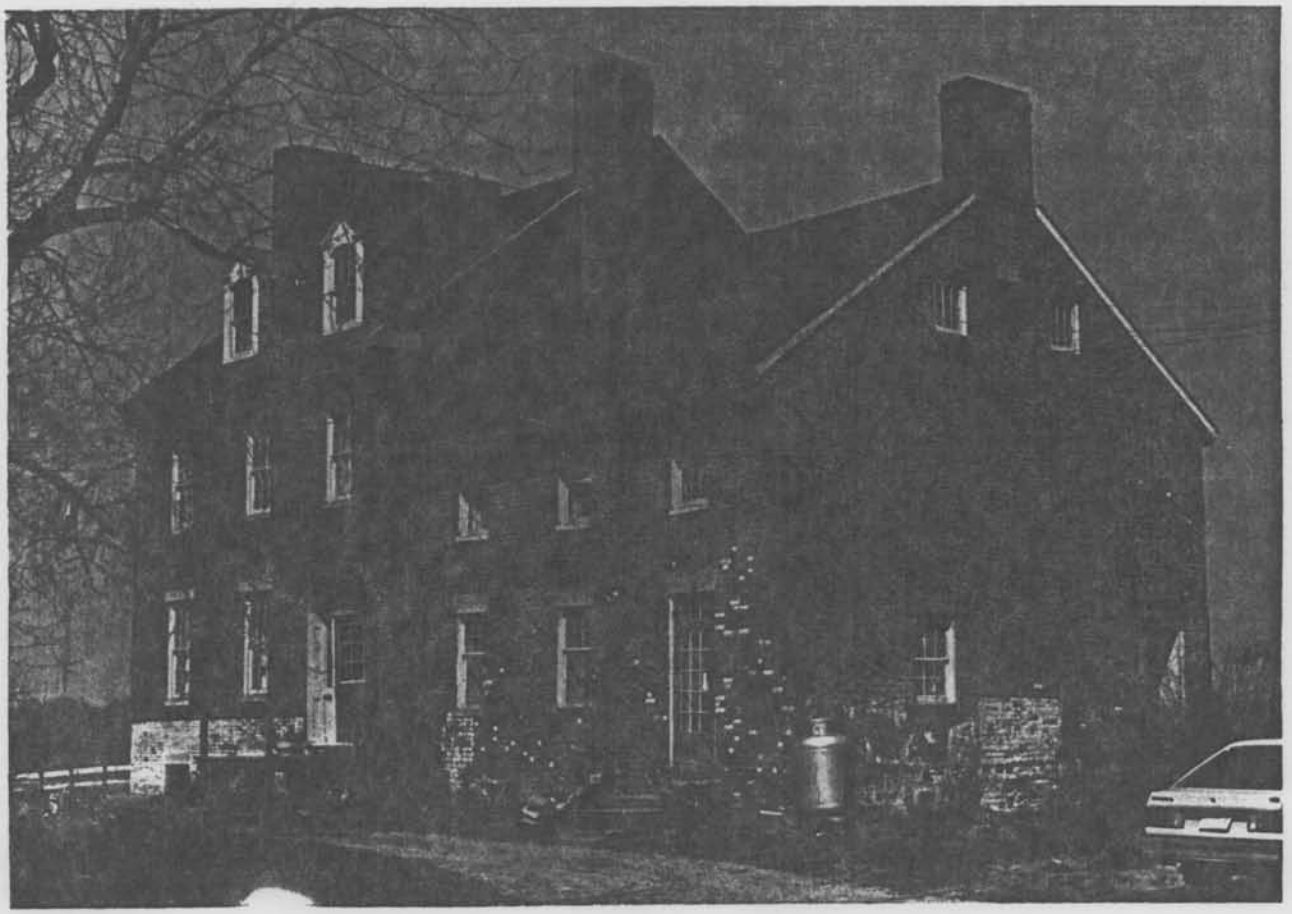
LANSDOWNE

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

18-414270-4322240

PRICE, MD QUAD





Lansdowne
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze, 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401
View from southwest

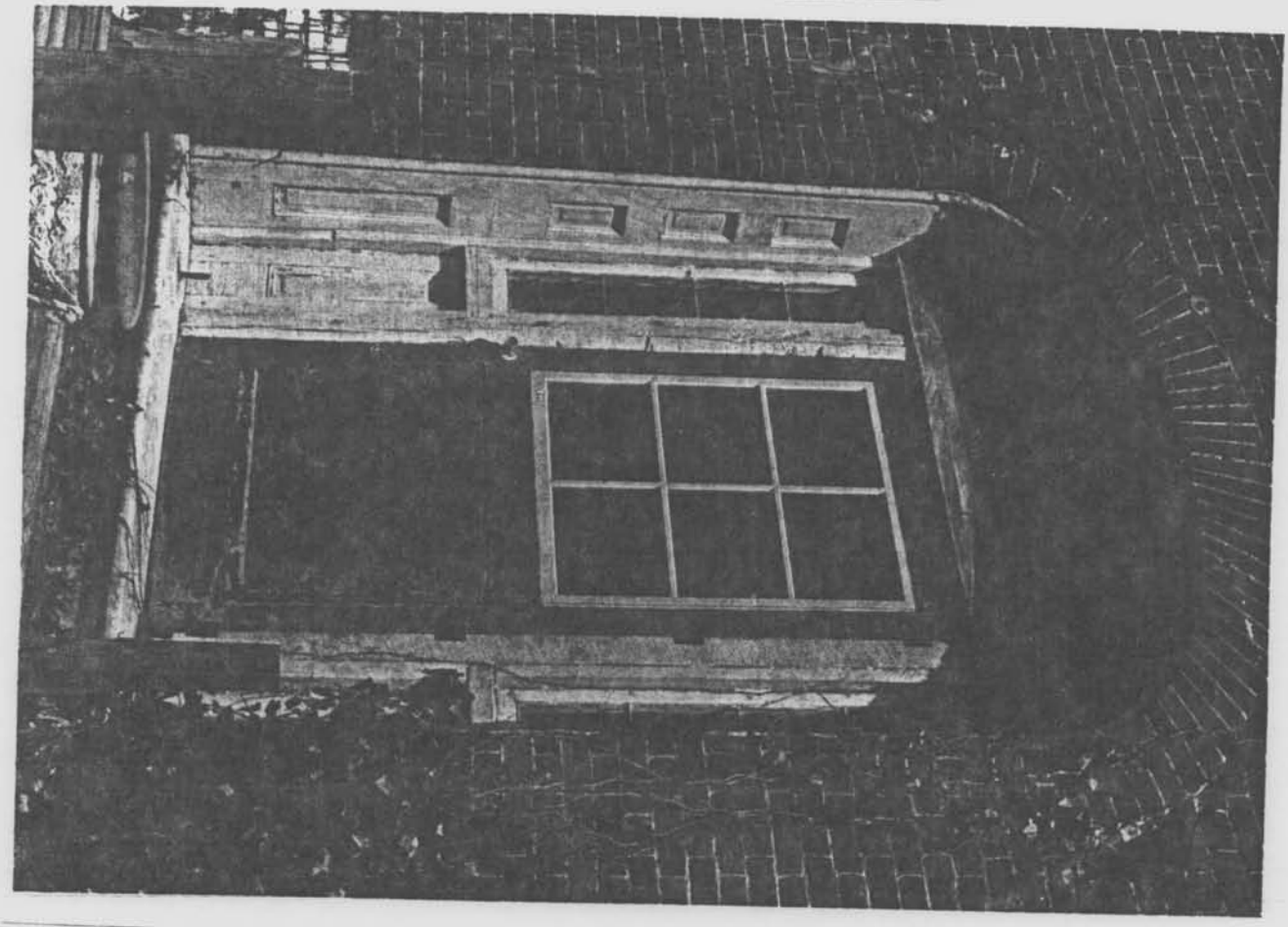
1/11

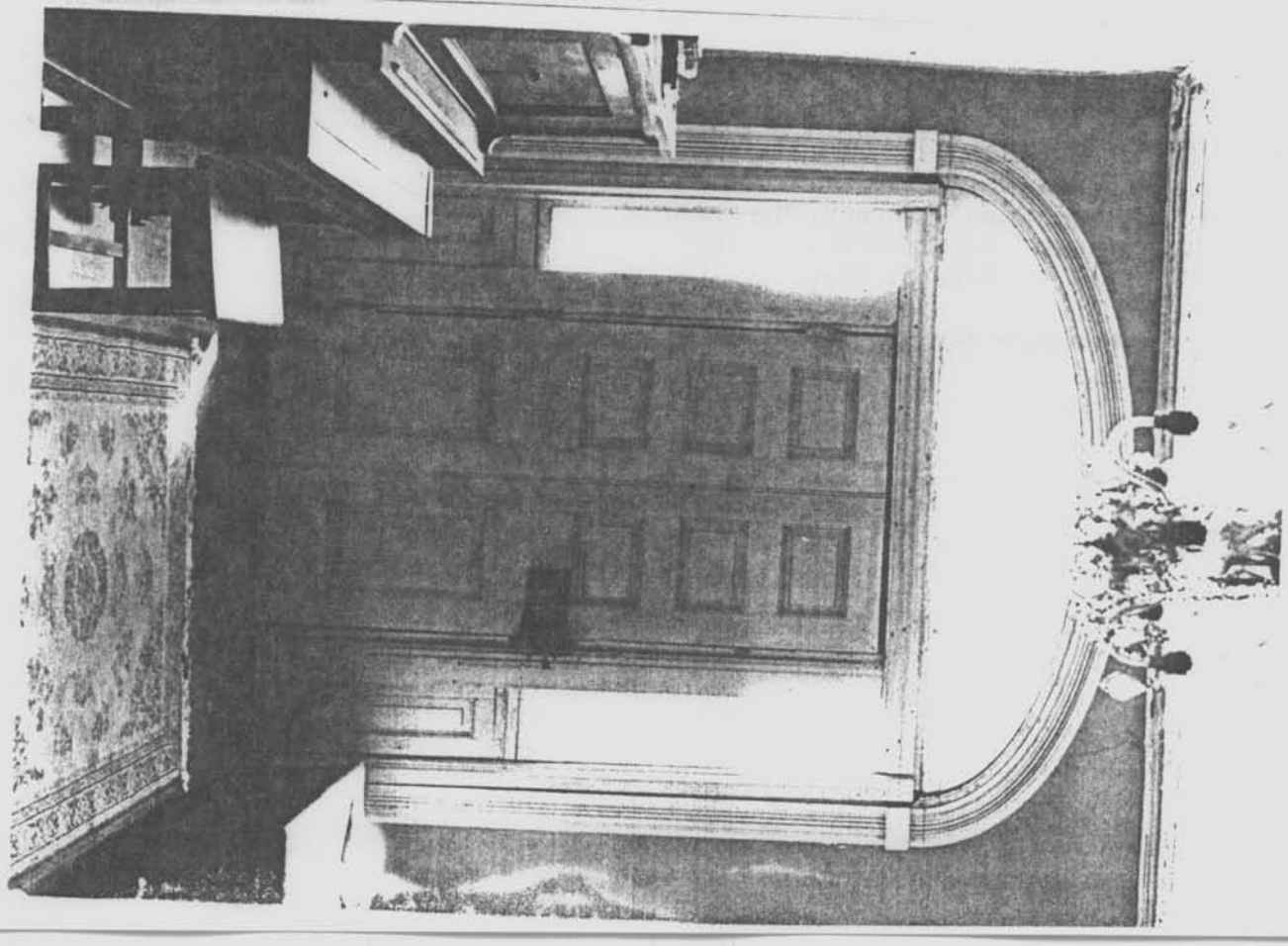
QA-87

Lansdowne
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze, 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401
View from southeast

2/11

QA-87





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Lansdowne
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze, 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Entrance detail

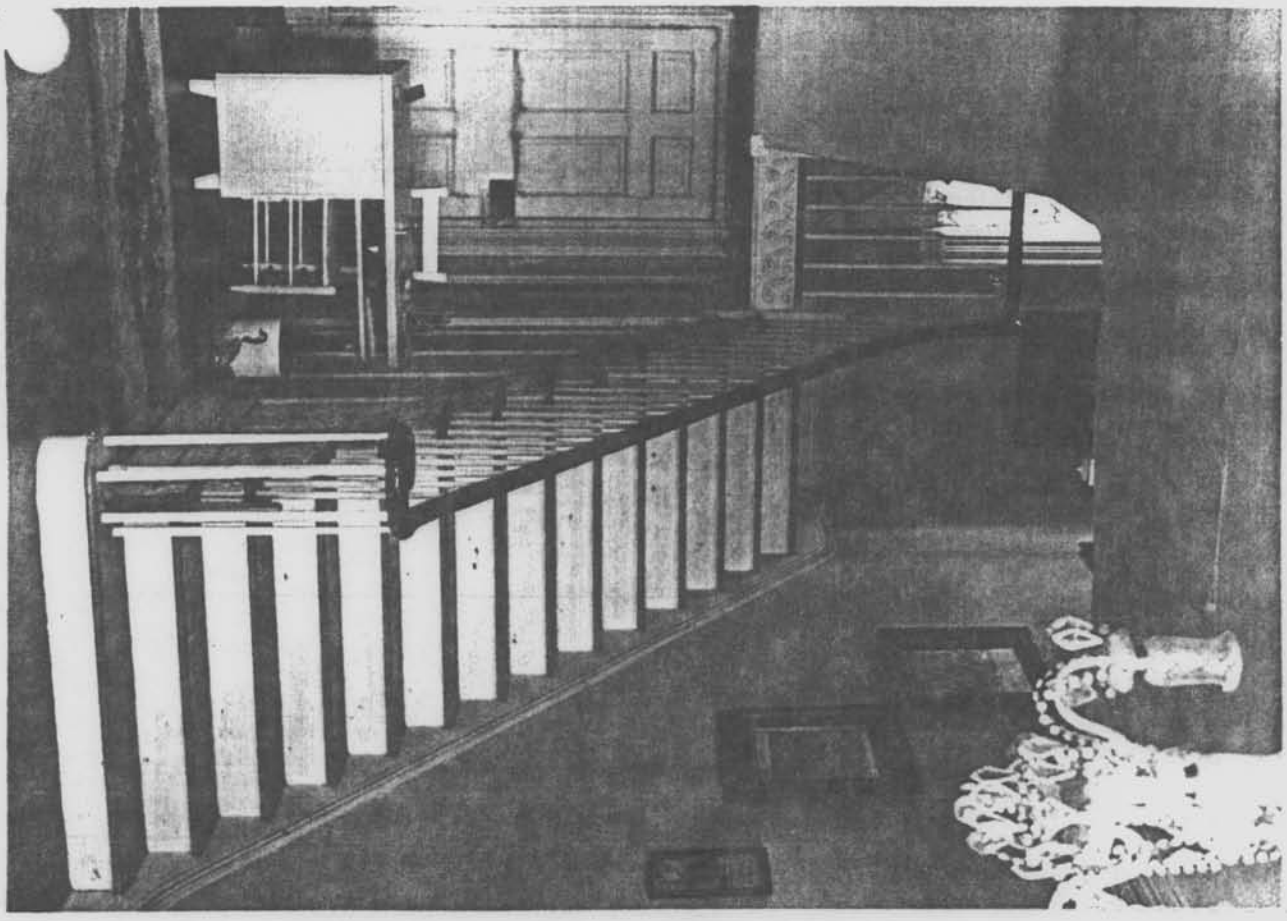
3/11

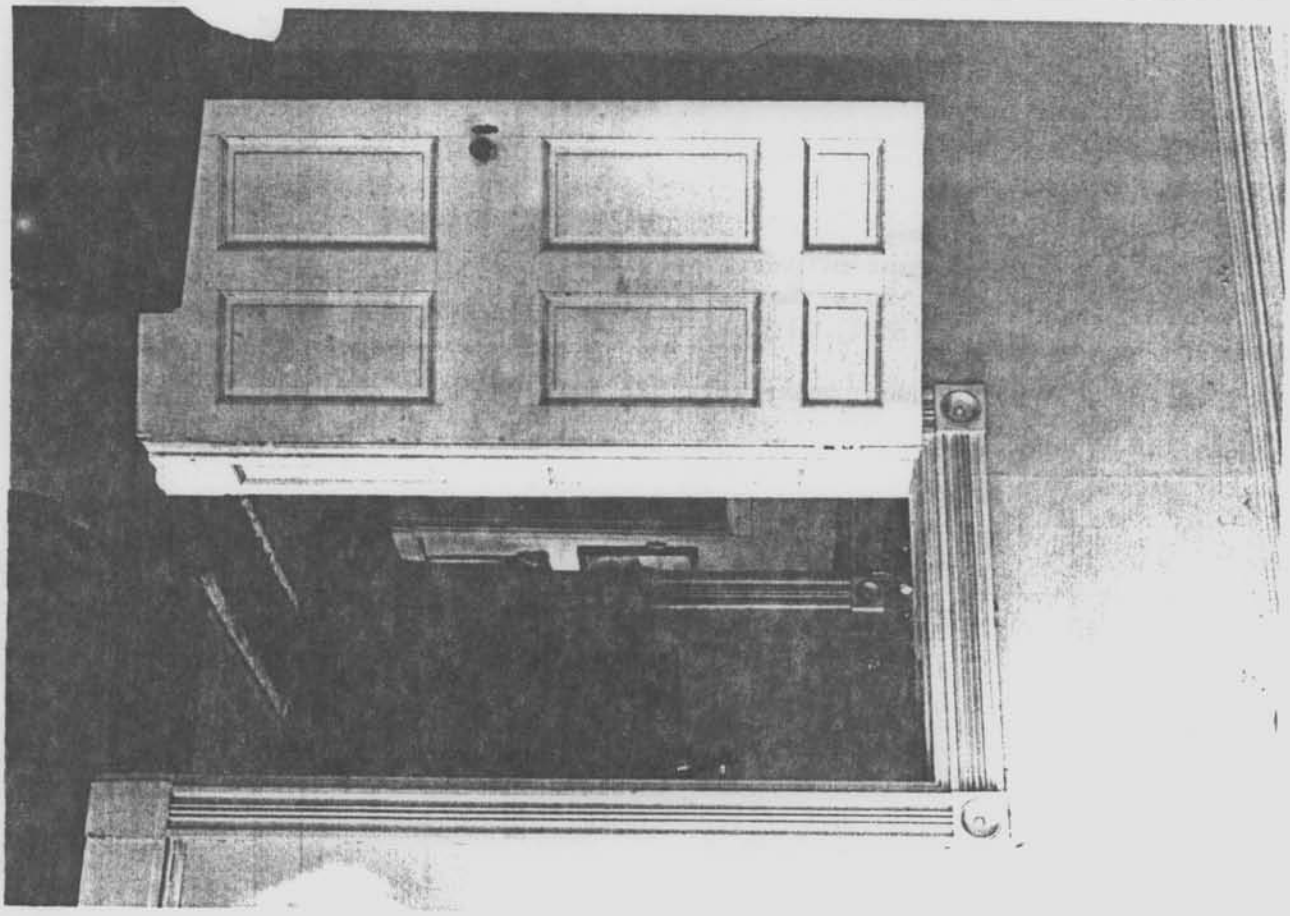
QA-87

Lansdowne
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze, 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Entrance detail (interior)

4/11





Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Stair

5/11

Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

parlor door and trim, 1823 section

6/11

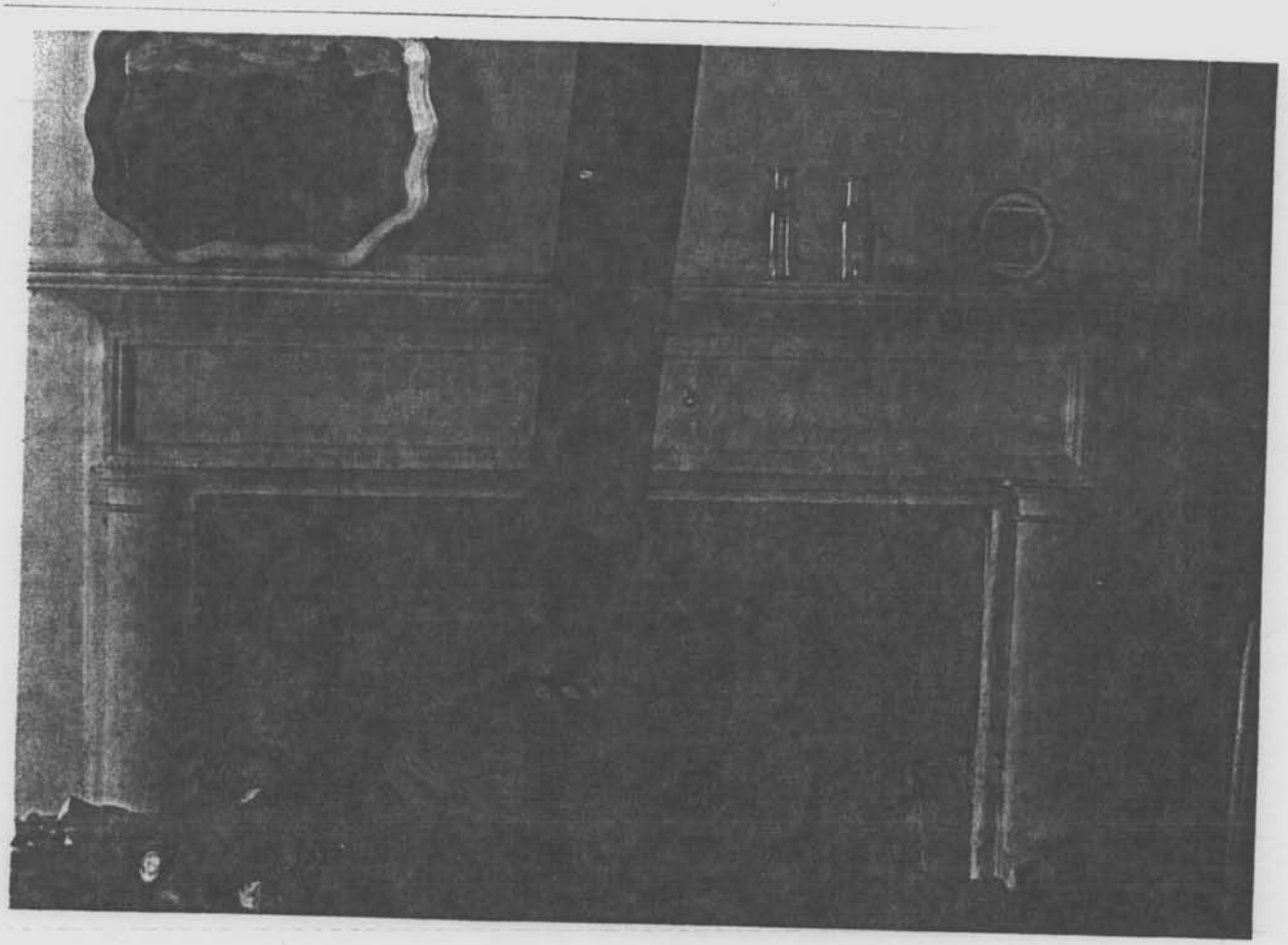
Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

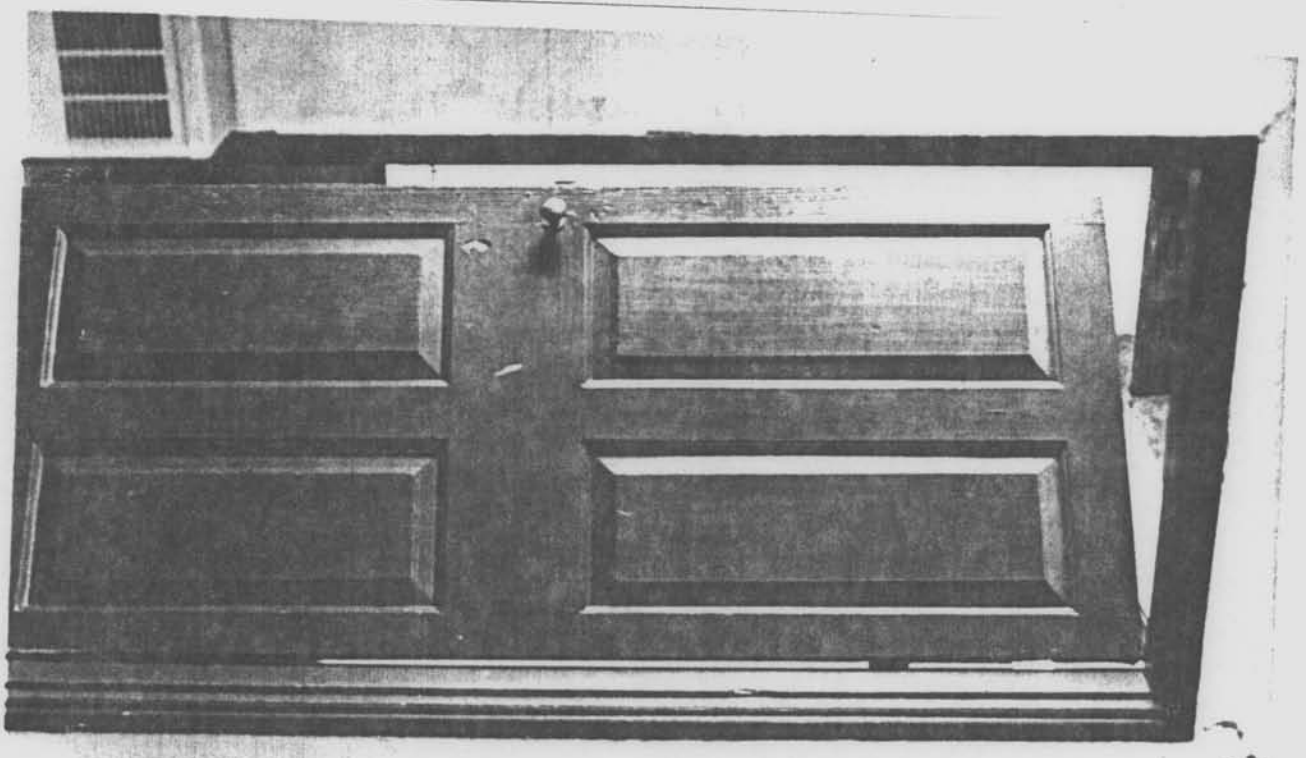
Parlor mantel, 1823 section

7/11

Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Second floor mantel, southwest chamber, 1823 section
8/11





Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze, 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Mantel (c. 1823) in kitchen, mid-18th century section
9/11

Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze, 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

typical door and trim, second floor, mid 18th C section
10/11

Lansdowne QA-87
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Photo: Peter Kurtze 3/84
Neg. at MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401
Typical second-floor mantel, southeast chamber, mid 18th C. section
11/11

QA-87
Lansdowne

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT

OA-87 Lansdowne

Centreville vic.

~~ORV 1978~~

Mark Edwards July 78 MHT

QA-87 Lansdowne (Upper Deale)
Centreville vic.
~~OBV~~ Mark Edwards July 78 MHT

QA - 87 Lansdowne
Centreville vic.
~~OR V.~~ Mark Edwards July 78 MHT

QA-87 Lansdowne
Centreville vic.
Marko Edwards July 78 MHT
Stair hall

DA-87 Lansdowne
Centreville vic.
Mark Edwards July 78 MHT

OA-87 Lansdowne

Centreville vic.

Mark Edwards July 78 MHS

QA-87 Harrsdowne

Centreville vic.

Mark Edwards July 78 MHT

QA-87 Lansdowne
Centreville vic.
~~[illegible]~~ Mark Edwards July 78 MHS

QA-87 Lansdowne
OR V 9/1978

QA-87 Lansdowne
OKV 9/1978

QA#87

Lansdowne

EBD, Jr.

QA#87

Lansdowne

EBD, Jr

QA#87

Lansdowne

EBD. Jr.

Q A#87

Lansdowne

EBD, Jr

BA.

87

Lansdowne

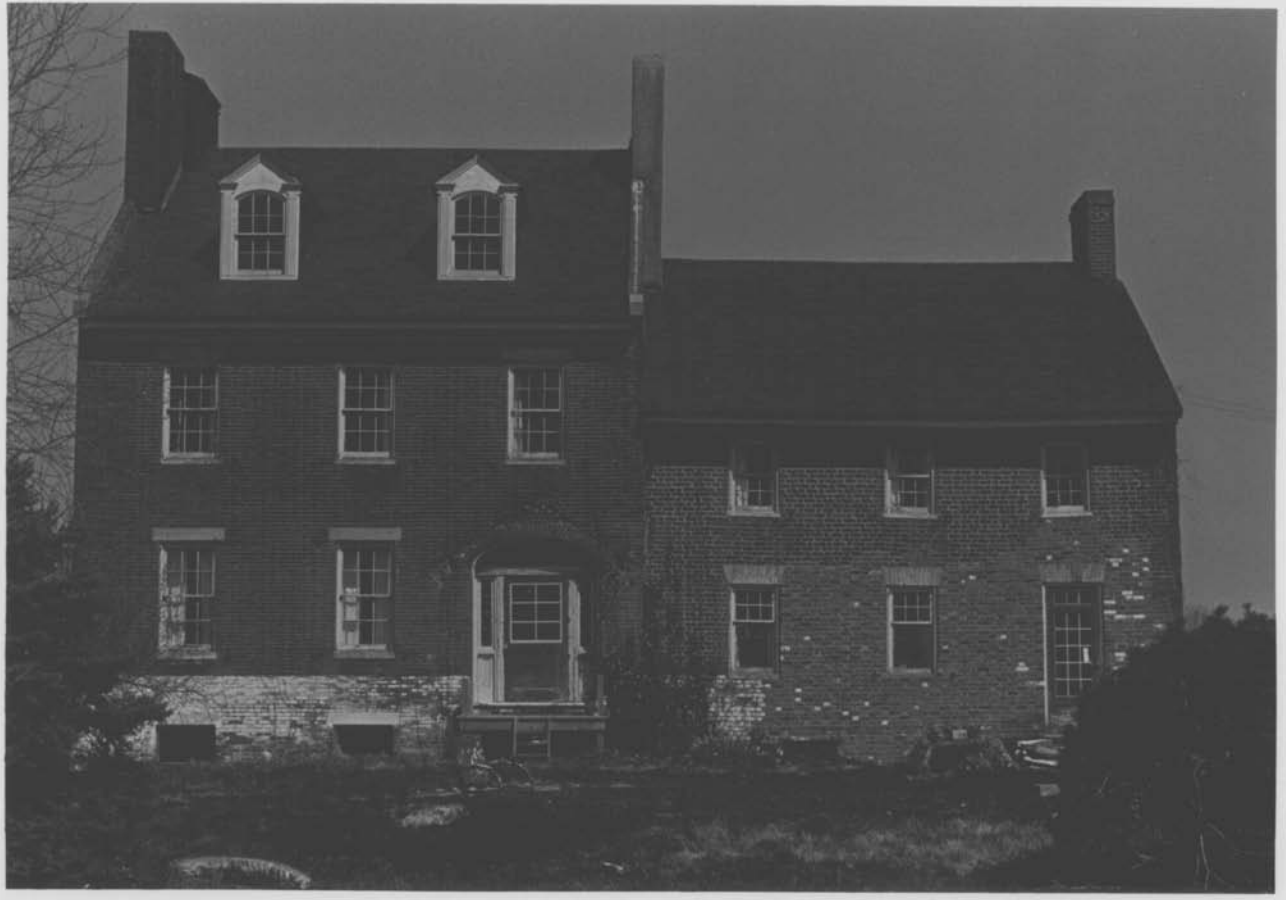
April 1974
JWV

QA

87

Lansdowne

April 1974
Jwc



QA-87
Lansdowne

SEP • 71

Q.A. 87

MoB 1972

"Lansdowne"
Queen Anne's Co.