FHR-8-300 (11-78)

CE-132

**United States Department of the Interior**
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Elk Landing

and/or common Elk Landing

## 2. Location

street & number Landing Lane n/a not for publication

city, town Elkton X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Cecil code 015

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | ___ occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| X building(s) | X private | X unoccupied | ___ commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | ___ 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 | X other: vacant |

## 4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet No. 1

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Courthouse

street & number East 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 1983 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

CE-132

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ excellent | ___ deteriorated | ___ unaltered | _X_ original site |
| ___ good | ___ ruins | _X_ altered | ___ moved date n/a |
| _X_ 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:

The house at Elk Landing is of stone construction, 2½ stories high above a full basement, three bays wide by two bays deep, with a gable roof, located on the east side of Little Elk Creek near Elkton in Cecil County, Maryland. Sloping topography allows the basement story to be fully exposed on the west elevation, facing the creek; evidence suggests that the building's original orientation was west, toward the water. Both east and west elevations are fenestrated similarly, with an entrance in the central bay (this opening is filled with later stonework on the west) at ground-floor level, with windows in the flanking bays and a window in each bay of the second story. The facades are not rigidly symmetrical, as the central bay is offset slightly to the north. A former basement entrance on the west side has been closed with rubble infill. Surviving original window sash is 6/9 on the ground floor and 6/6 above. A doorway in the east bay of the north gable end formerly led into a log kitchen wing; presumably an earlier independent structure which local tradition identifies as the original residence and trading post of John Hanson Steelman, this log structure was demolished ca. 1905. The interior of the house is arranged in a center-hall plan. Three of the first-floor rooms are heated by corner fireplaces with diagonal hearths; the fireplaces in the two south rooms share a common chimney stack which exits at the ridge of the roof, while that in the northwest room is located in an exterior corner and vented at the eaves. These fireplaces retain paneled overmantels; two interior doors, and chair rail moldings in most of the rooms, may also be original to the house.

For General Description, see Contuation Sheet No. 1

OWNERS:

John M. Young
9312 Memorial Way
Tampa Florida 33615
Phone: 813-884-9784

Carleton M. Young
902 West Bay Avenue
Lewes, Delaware 19958

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The stone house at Elk Landing is located in the fork of Big and Little Elk Creeks. It is the last house on Landing Lane, the thoroughfare leading southward from U. S. 40 and serving the Hollingsworth Manor subdivision.

The House is rectangular, two stories in height with an unpartitioned full basement and an unpartitioned full garret. Both finished stories exhibit a central-hall plan, three unequal bays wide and two equal bays deep. The exterior fabric is fieldstone, very roughly quoined but not consistently coursed. The north gable end is covered in stucco of apparent nineteenth century vintage. The gabled roof is supported by massive hewn rafters that are free-standing from plate to ridge.

Badly decayed wooden porches obscure most of the ground floor on the east facade, and on the north end. A doorway in the east bay of the north wall, formerly wider than it is now, led into a separate log structure which was demolished ca. 1905. This structure reputedly was the original dwelling of John Hanson Steelman and later the kitchen for the stone house (which has no cooking hearth built in). Besides the reduction in the size of this doorway, the same wall has another door cut onto the porch from the west bay, probably in this century. The doorway in the center of the east facade may be original, but it is likely that the stairway was on that wall; it is clearly not in its original position. All window locations, and most of their frames, appear to be original, except that the present small window in the center bay of the west wall has been patched into what was originally the lintel of the door fronting on the creek. That doorway has been almost completely filled with later stonework, as has a wide original doorway into the basement in the south bay of the same (west) wall. This feature very probably relates to the lading process, providing direct access into the basement from the creek.

The west wall of the basement has also seen substantial rebuilding in its north bay. The masonry inside the basement at this point does appear to be original; it supports the northwest corner fireplace, and is identical in design with that supporting both ground floor fireplaces in the south wall.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The most unusual feature that is externally visible is the chimney over the northwest corner near the eaves. Its masonry above the ceiling of the second story, apparently a modern repair, consists of a small, nearly square brick flue, offset several inches to the east before it pierces the roof line. This does not match the stone masonry of the other, larger chimney (and of the rest of the structure).

The structure is devoid of external ornamentation intended as such.

A central hall cuts the floor plan from west to east. Doors open off this hall into two north and two south rooms. Stairs at the northwest corner of the hall turn across what was obviously the original front door.

The northwest room on the ground floor has the most formal paneling over its mantel and was perhaps the "parlor." The two corner fireplaces in the south wall also have paneled overmantels. The only fireplace opening on the second floor is in the southwest corner of the southeast room; it has no woodwork (though the chair rail halts as if it once did) and appears to have been modified slightly to accommodate an iron coal grate (now missing) during the late nineteenth century.

Most of the rooms have chair rails, none of which can with confidence be called original. The extant doors are in the main much later than the structure, although two (from the hall into the southwest and northwest rooms on the second floor) may be original. Their hardware, however, is of the late nineteenth century. The flooring, of inidentified wood, also appears old but not original. Pit-sawn joists are visible through the damaged ceiling of the second story; they are supported by a hewn beam running the length of the house (north and south) and resting on the hall walls.

The interior walls are slightly more than six inches thick, plastered throughout, and appear to be frame construction and original. Exceptions are the west or front wall of the modern bath (at the east end of the upstairs hall); the built-in closet in the southeast corner of the southwest room upstairs; and the present framework of the stairway, which includes a closet under the return course.

The house was occupied by tenants and renters until late in the 1960s, and has had minor alterations for forced-air heating, kitchen and bathroom plumbing, and electrical wiring, none of which was done with either great finesse or savage disregard for the past. During the years since it was vacated, the building's condition has deteriorated.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The fieldstone fabric is in fair to good condition, needing pointing and restoration but not reconstruction. The roof is virtually nonexistent in a wide patch on the west side, and leaky elsewhere; water damage inside is extensive to all of the plaster and lath, and some of the timbering.

# 8. Significance

CE-132

| 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** c. 1750–1775 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: A, C
Applicable Exception: n/a
Level of Significance: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The stone house at Elk Landing is significant for its architecture, embodying several features characteristic of 18th century vernacular dwellings in northeastern Maryland and adjacent Pennsylvania. The building's fieldstone construction, approximately symmetrical massing, center-hall plan, and interior detailing are typical of the vernacular architecture of the region in the third quarter of the 19th century. The house incorporates an unusual feature in its northeast corner fireplace, which is located in an exterior corner of the room and vented at the eaves. While corner fireplaces are not uncommon in the vernacular dwellings of the period in northeastern Maryland, they typically take the form of those in the south rooms of this house, which are located back-to-back in interior corners of the rooms they serve and share a common chimney stack that exits at the ridge of the roof. This latter type is fairly common in Quaker-settled areas of Maryland, and has clear antecedents in English building tradition; exterior-corner fireplaces, however, are rare in the state. The property on which the house is located was part of an early settlement of Swedish and Finnish immigrants; local tradition associates the house with John Hanson Steelman, a Swedish-American trader who occupied the site between 1693 and 1710. Although architectural evidence points to a construction date somewhat later than Steelman's occupancy, the tradition that the former log wing (demolished ca.1905) was Steelman's original trading post may have some validity. In any event, the site of Elk Landing is significant for its association with early Scandinavian settlement in Maryland. In addition, as trade between the Scandinavian settlers and the Susquehanna Indians was carried on at the site from 1654 until the local aboriginal population disappeared (about 1720), archeological investigations might yield significant information about the cultural contact period.

For History and Supporting Documentation see Continuation Sheet No. 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Although architectural features of the building strongly suggest a date of construction in the third quarter of the 18th century, local tradition holds that the house was the residence of John Hanson Steelman (1655-1749), a prosperous Indian Trader who lived at this site between 1693 and 1710. As "Interpreter in Chief for the Northern Parts of this Province," he hosted major treaty talks in 1698 and 1700 between Maryland commissioners and Indians living near the head of Chesapeake Bay. Steelman provided through loans and gifts about one-half the total cash required for the construction of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church at Wilmington, Delaware during 1698-1699.

Steelman was born in 1655 at the Aronameck plantation on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, part of the colony known as New Sweden which had been established by Swedish immigrants in 1638.

Sometime between 1687 and 1693, John Hanson Steelman moved with his family to the Swedish and Finnish community in the fork of the Elk River in Cecil County, Maryland, known as "Sahakitko" to the Swedes and Finns. He and his son John were naturalized by Maryland in 1695. At Elk Landing, on the southeast 200 acres of a 500-acre tract known as "Successor" facing Little Elk Creek, he established a trading post to trade with the Susquehanna Indians. It is believed that the log structure, razed in 1905, which formerly abutted the stone house, may have been Steelman's original trading post.

After 1700 Steelman acquired other lands in Cecil County. On 18 October 1704, he acquired "Mount Ararat" (150 acres) on the east side of the Susquehanna River between Port Deposit and Perryville; on 13 February 1705, "Barnes Forest" (400 acres) at Octoraro Creek; on 12 September 1705, "Walnut Thicket" (200 acres) east of Conowingo Creek; by 1707 "Long Point" (100 acres) on the northwest side of Elk River; and on 14 April 1711, he obtained a patent for "Steelman's Delight" (200 acres), extending from Principio Creek westward. He established a second trading post at Octoraro Creek, closer to the principal Indian settlements, and by 1710 apparently resided at "Mount Ararat." At the time of his death in 1749, Captain Steelman (then in his 93rd year) was a resident of Lancaster (now Adams) County, Pennsylvania.

The site of Elk Landing at the head of the Elk River is significant for its association with early Swedish and Finnish settlement in Maryland.

Recorded history of this site dates back to 1655 when the Minquas (Susquehanna) Indians presented Governor Rising of New Sweden with "Chakakitque" on the Elk River and other lands in exchange for the promise that the Swedes would establish a

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

trading post there. This Indian place-name became etymologized to "Sahakitko" (meaning literally "squeaky saw" in Finnish) among the Swedes and Finns and to "Successor" among the English. Contemporary maps show a Susquehanna Indian settlement at this location in the middle third of the 17th century.

Whether any Swedes or Finns settled at this location as early as 1655 has not been verified. The Swedes issued no patents to their settlers. Later that year, New Sweden was conquered by the Dutch who never laid claim to the lands given the Swedes by the Minquas. The Province of Maryland moved into the vacuum. On 12 August 1672 a patent was issued to William Price for "Price's Venture" on the north side of Elk River with rather uncertain boundaries. On February 8, 1678/9, a patent was issued to John Browning and Richard Nash for a 500-acre tract called "Successor", defined as follows:

> "Successor, lying in a fork of Elk River in Cecil County beginning at a marked red oak standing on the southernmost point of said fork and from thence bounded on the Southeast with the main northeast branch of the river by a line drawn East by North one hundred and fifty perches to a marked oak standing on the river's side and from thence bounded on the northeast by a line drawn northwest six hundred and forty perches and from the end of the northwest line by a line drawn west by south one hundred and fifty perches til it intersects his Lopps (Lordship's) manor and from thence to the first bounded red oak, laid out for five hundred acres more or less."

Finally, on 21 April 1681, a further patent was issued to Nicholas Painter for a 1400-acre tract called "Friendship" on the west side of the Northeast branch of the Elk River, adjoining "Successor" at a place called "Ye Sweeds Towne."

Whether any of these patentees ever lived in the Elkton area is uncertain. The first evidence of residence is entirely Swedish and Finnish. Painter conveyed his tract "Friendship" to George Talbot who, in December 1683, agreed with three squatters on the land - Simon Johnson, Benjamin Paulson and Peter Olofson (Slubey) - to give each of them 50 acres if they built a mill on other land Talbot owned, which apparently they did. When George Talbot, in 1687, sold part of "Friendship" to Philip Lynes, the deed contained a covenant that nothing in the transfer should deprive Simon Johnson, Benjamin Paulson or Peter Olofson (son of Olof Slubey) of their respective 50 acres.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Meanwhile, prior to 1700, the 500-acre tract "Successor" fronting on Little Elk Creek had passed to four other Swedes and Finns. The northernmost 100 acres was owned by Simon Johnson Jr.; the next 100-acre tract by Mathias Mathiason alias Freeman; the next 100-acre tract by Clement Clementson and the sourthernmost tract of 200 acres by John Hanson Steelman. All except Steelman were Finns or of Finnish extraction. Simon Johnson, Sr. had arrived in New Sweden in the 1650's, as had Olof (William) Slubey. The others, like John Hanson Steelman, were sons of original settlers of New Sweden.

Deeds are wanting as to when and how these Finns and Swedes acquired their lands in the fork of the Elk. Subsequent deeds, however, contain scattered references that fill in some gaps. Thus, a 1715 deed reports the fact that the 100 acres owned by Mathias Mathiason alias Freeman at the time of his death in 1702 had been purchased from Andrew Paulson (also a Finn) on 7 July 1690.

With the influx of English settlers after 1700, the Swedish and Finnish residents gradually sold out or otherwise lost their lands. Most of the settlement called "Sahakitko" by the Swedes and Fims was absorbed into the Elk Landing plantation started by Henry Hollingsworth in 1711 and expanded by his son Zebulon Hollingsworth in 1727 and 1735.

Finally, as the site was a trading point from 1654 until the local aboriginal population disappeared (about 1720), archeological investigations might yield significant information about the cultural contact period.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Archives of Maryland, vols. 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 38.

Cecil County Deed Books 2, 3, 5.

Cecil County Rent Roll (1707), Calvert Papers, Maryland Historical Society.

Elk Landing collection, Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton, MD.

Hollingsworth Papers, Maryland Historical Society.

Maryland Patents, Liber 21, folios 88-89; Liber 17, folios 327-328.

Cooper, Patricia Irvin, "A Quaker-Plan House in Georgia," Pioneer America, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1978, pp. 15-34.

Craig, Peter S. and Henry W. Yocum, "The Yocums of Aronameck in Philadelphia, 1648-1702," publication pending in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, March 1984.

Johnson, George. History of Cecil County, Maryland (Elkton 1881).

Jordan, Terry G., "A reappraisal of Fenno-Scandian Antecedents for Midland American Log Construction," Geographical Review, Vol. 73, No. 1, January 1983, pp. 58-94.

Miller, Alice E. Cecil County, Maryland, A Study in Local History (Elkton 1947).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

CE-132

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

# 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** 0.75 acre

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

**UMT References**

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 18 | 427900 | 4383040 | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Boundaries are depicted on the attached sketch map; the nominated property includes the stone house within its immediate setting.

**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** Richard H. Hulan, PhD, and Peter Craig

**organization** Delaware Valley Finnish Americans **date** July 1983

**street & number** 4711 North 24th Street **telephone** (703) 525-6537

**city or town** Arlington **state** Virginia 22207

# 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.**

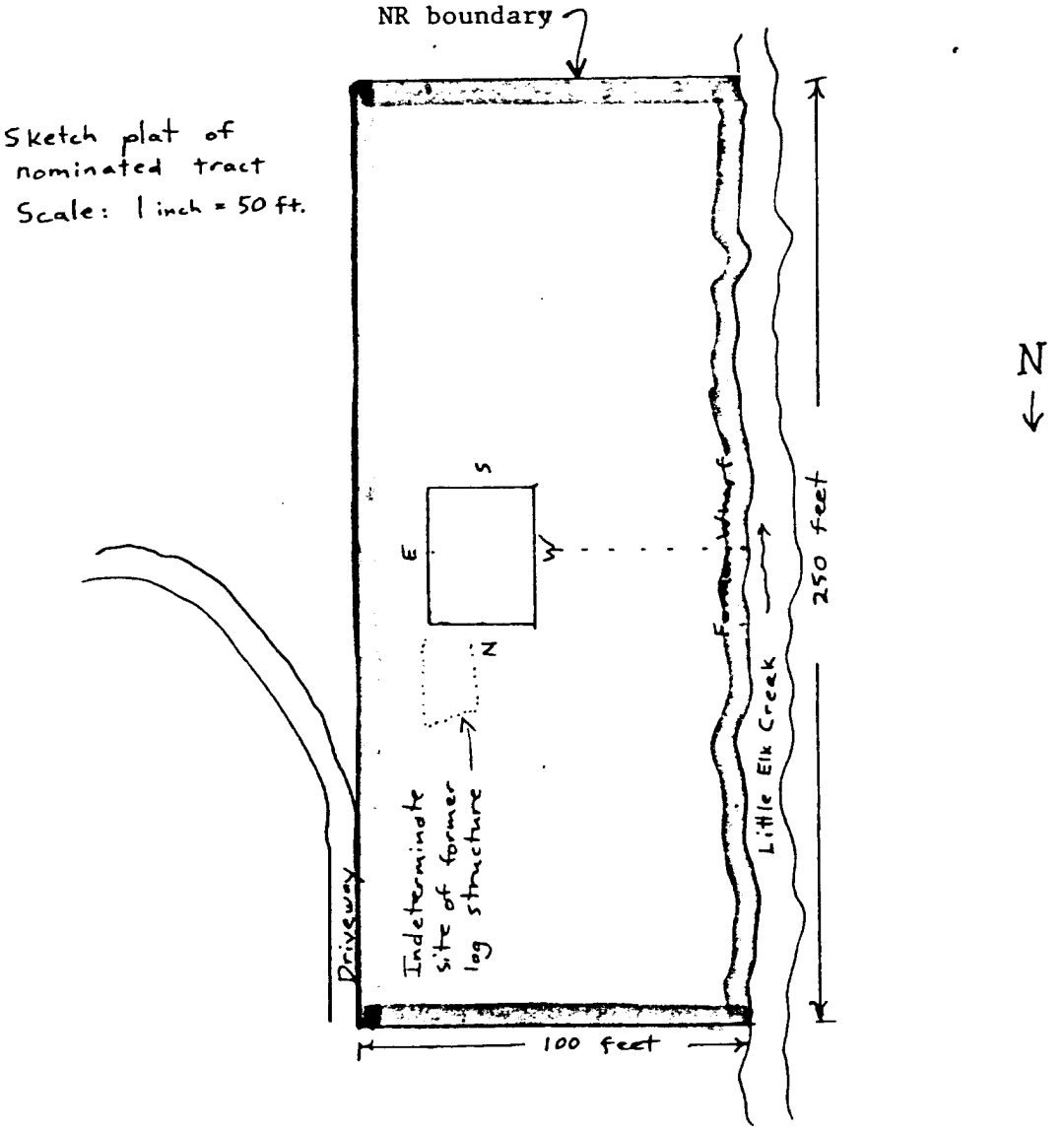
**State Historic Preservation Officer signature** [signature] 7-23-84

**title** STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER **date**

[redacted]

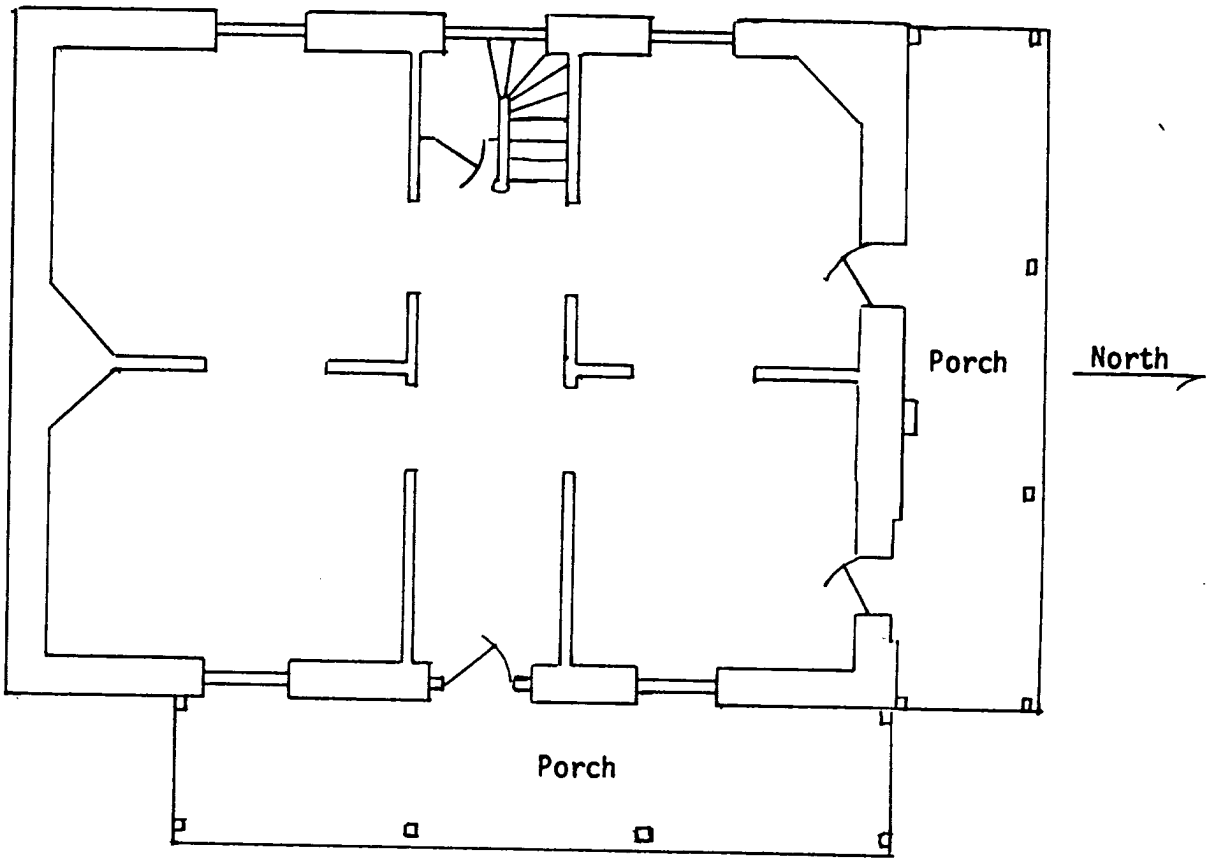
CE-132
Elk Landing
Cecil County, Maryland
June, 1984

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY MAP



JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland

1st floor plan

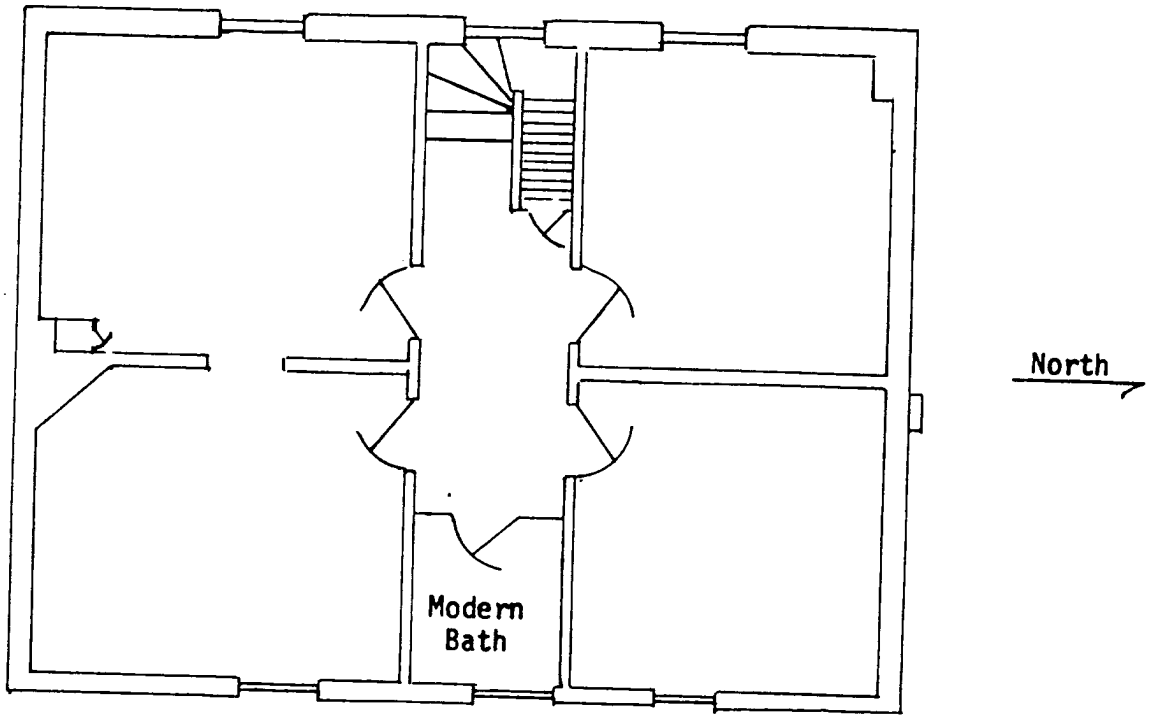



Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing.
Outside dimensions of the structure excluding porches are 28'x36'.

CE-132

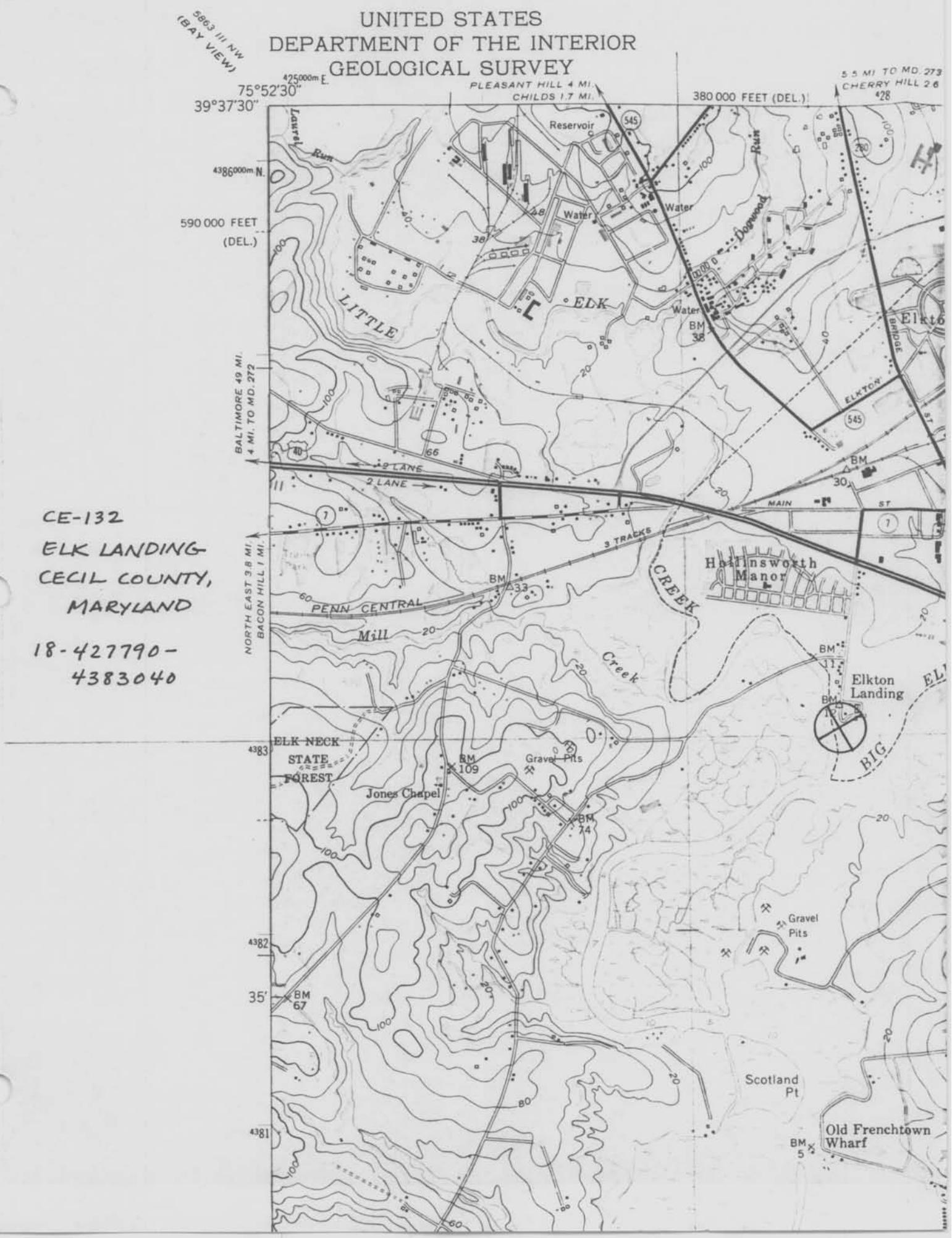
JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland

2nd floor plan




Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing. This floor not measured; windows spaced as in photographs.

CE-132

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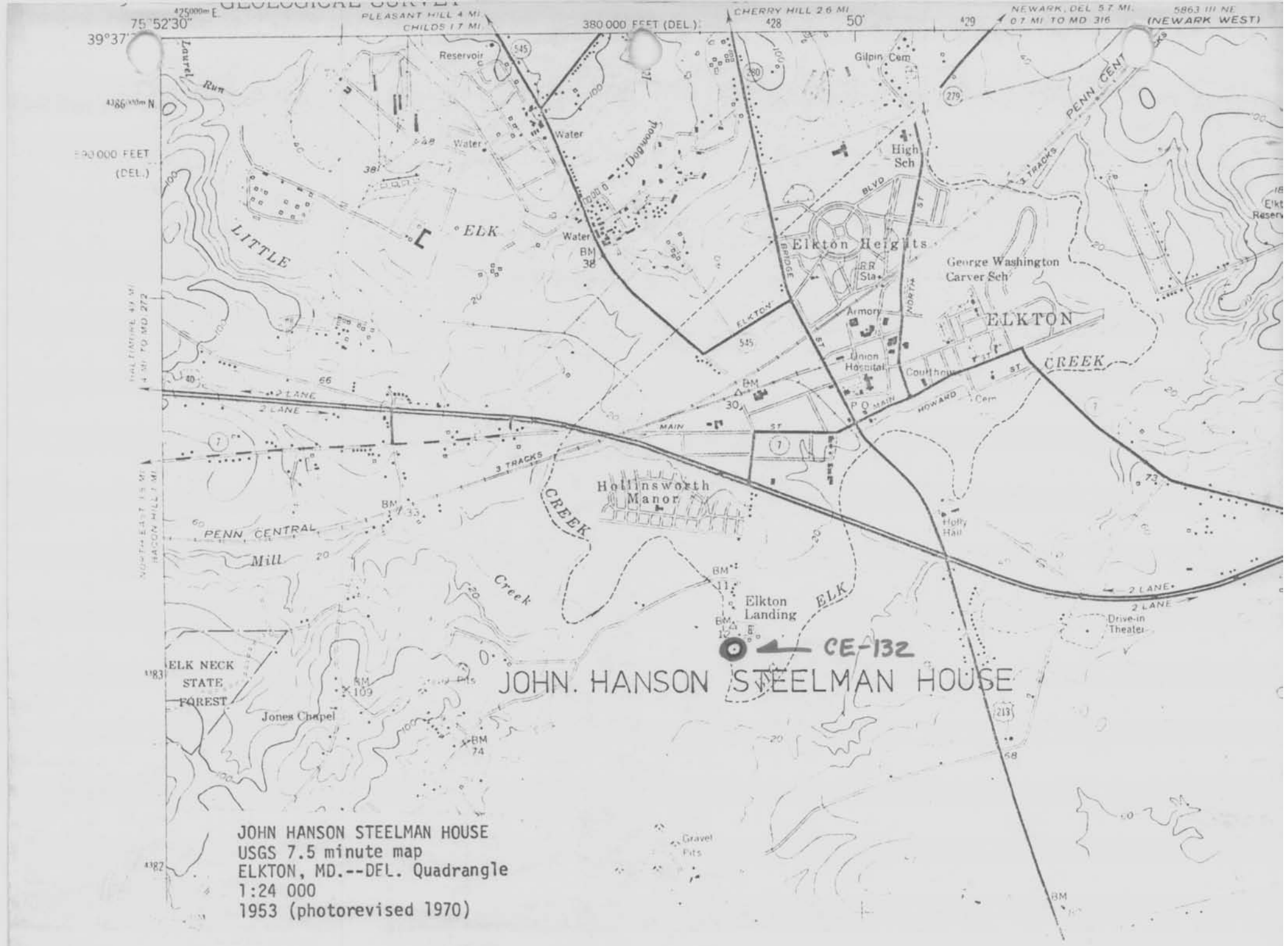
ELK LANDING
CECIL COUNTY,
MARYLAND

18-427790-
4383040




JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
USGS 7.5 minute map
ELKTON, MD.--DEL. Quadrangle
1:24 000
1953 (photorevised 1970)

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
USGS 7.5 minute map
ELKTON, MD.--DEL. Quadrangle
1:24 000
1953 (photorevised 1970)

CE-132

CE-132

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
April 17, 1983
Negative at MHT
South gable wall and east front; photographer faced
northwest from the edge of a cornfield
#2 of 9

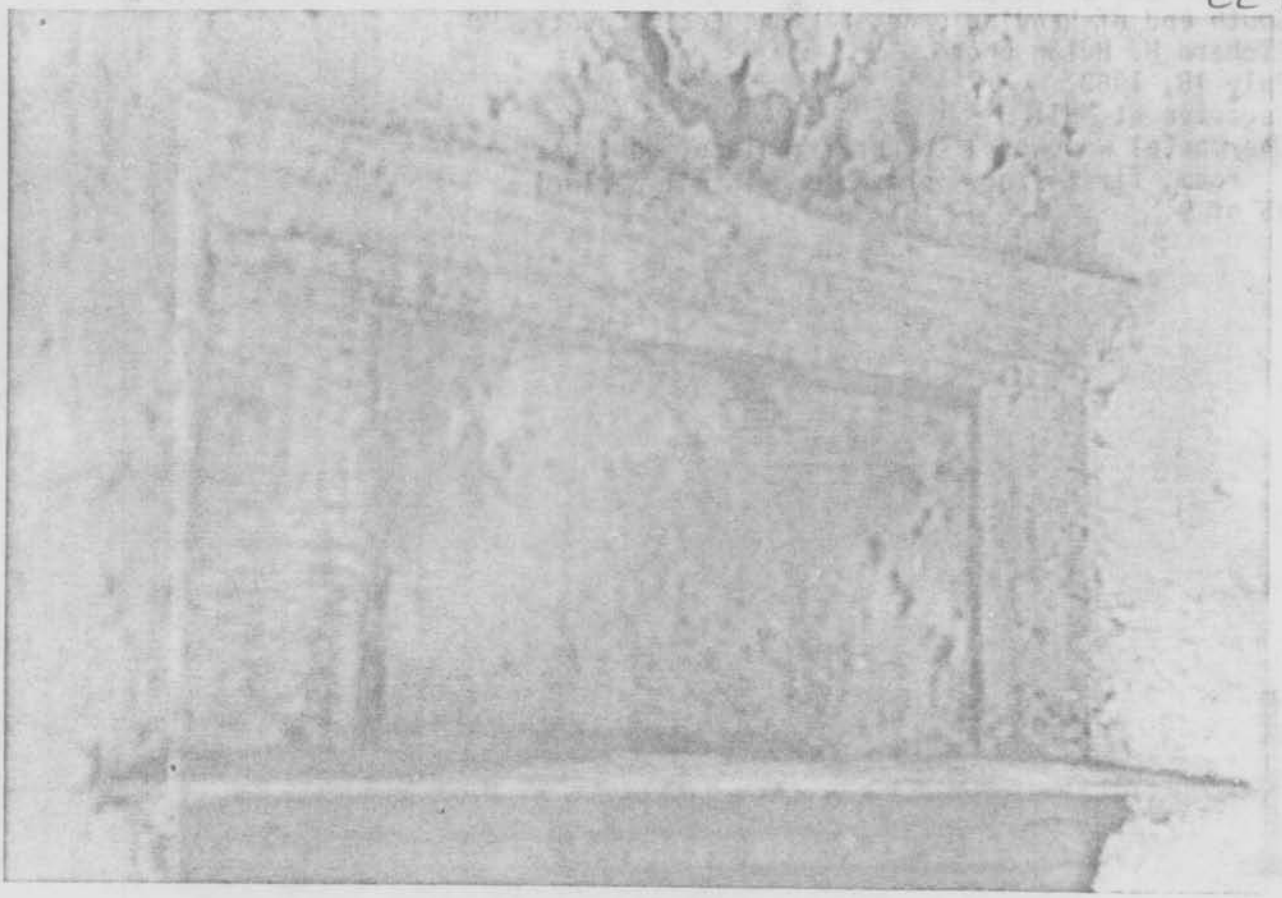
JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
West front (originally the front of the house, facing
the creek); photographer faced east by southeast
from near the edge of the creek
#4 of 9

CE-132

CE-132

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
April 17, 1983
Negative at MHT
View of the site and structure; photographer facing south by southwest; original orientation of the house was toward Little Elk Creek, which is tidal (and was navigable) to this point; a barge manufactory was operated about 150 yards north of the house until 1919
#1 of 9

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
North gable wall and west front; photographer faced southeast
#3 of 9



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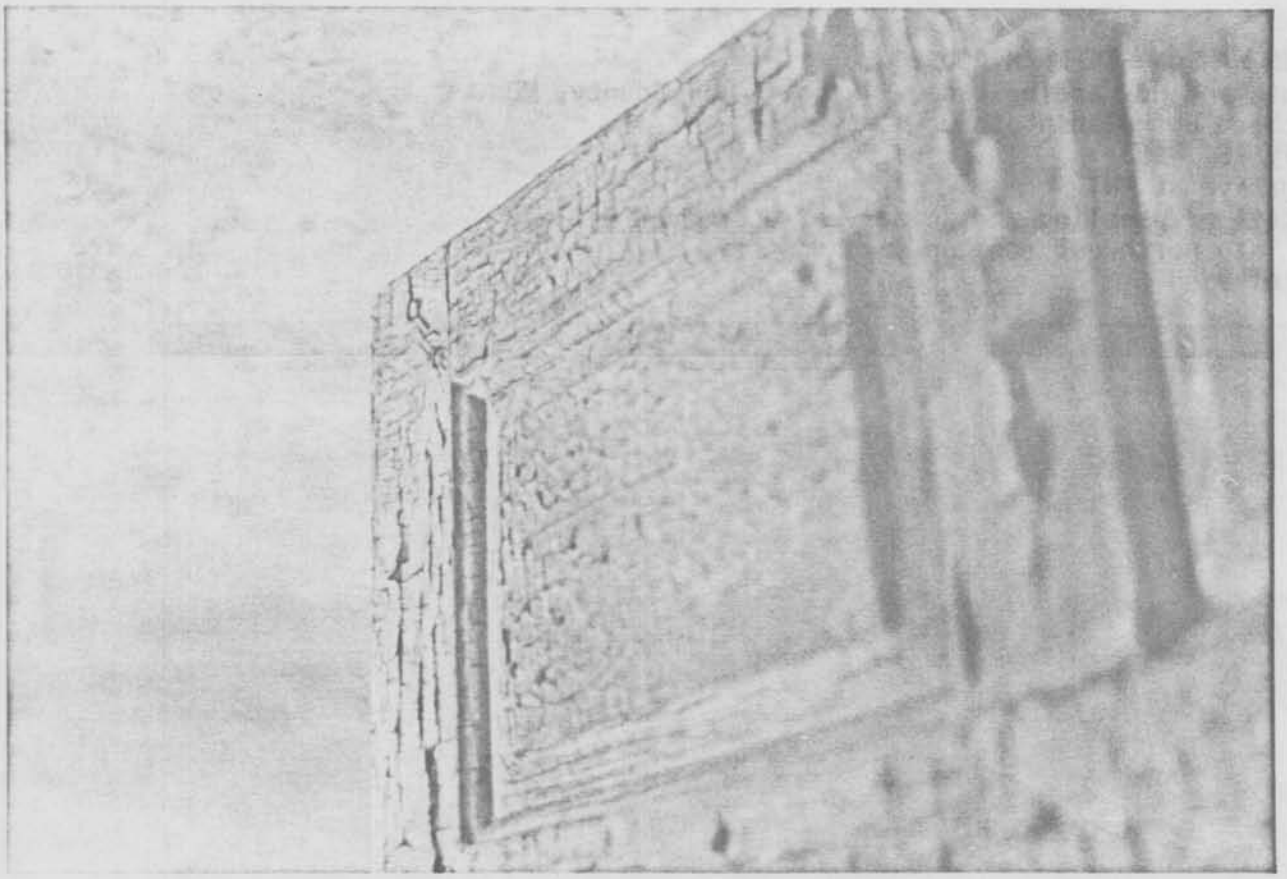
CE-132

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Overmantel woodwork, corner fireplace, northwest
room, first story (probable original parlor)
#5 of 9

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Corner fireplace and overmantel paneling, southwest
room, first story; the mantel shelf and two
brackets are modern
#6 of 9

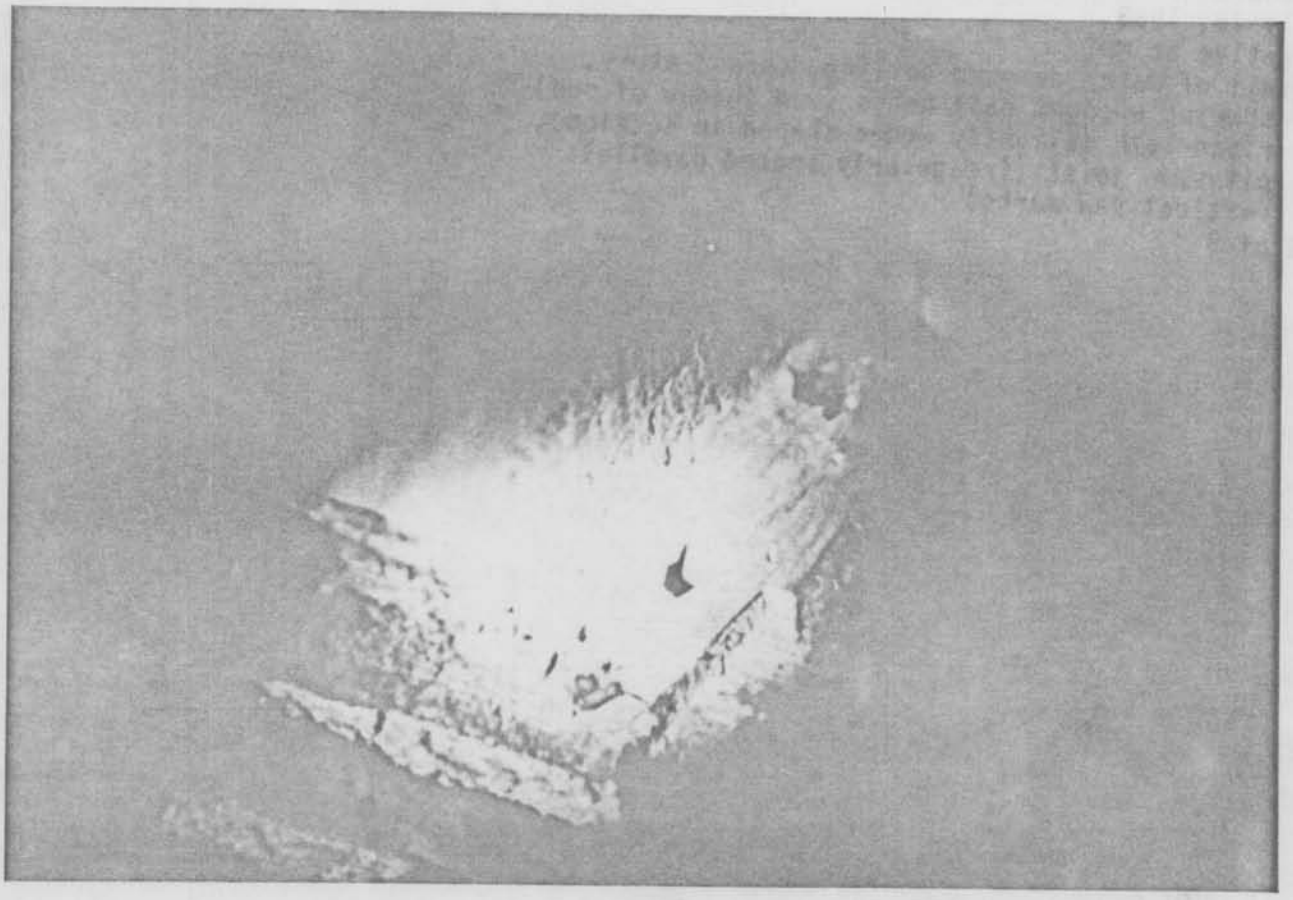
CE-132



CE-132

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Corner fireplace opening, southeast room, second story
#7 of 9

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Detail of paneling and joinery of door from hallway into northwest room on second story
#8 of 9



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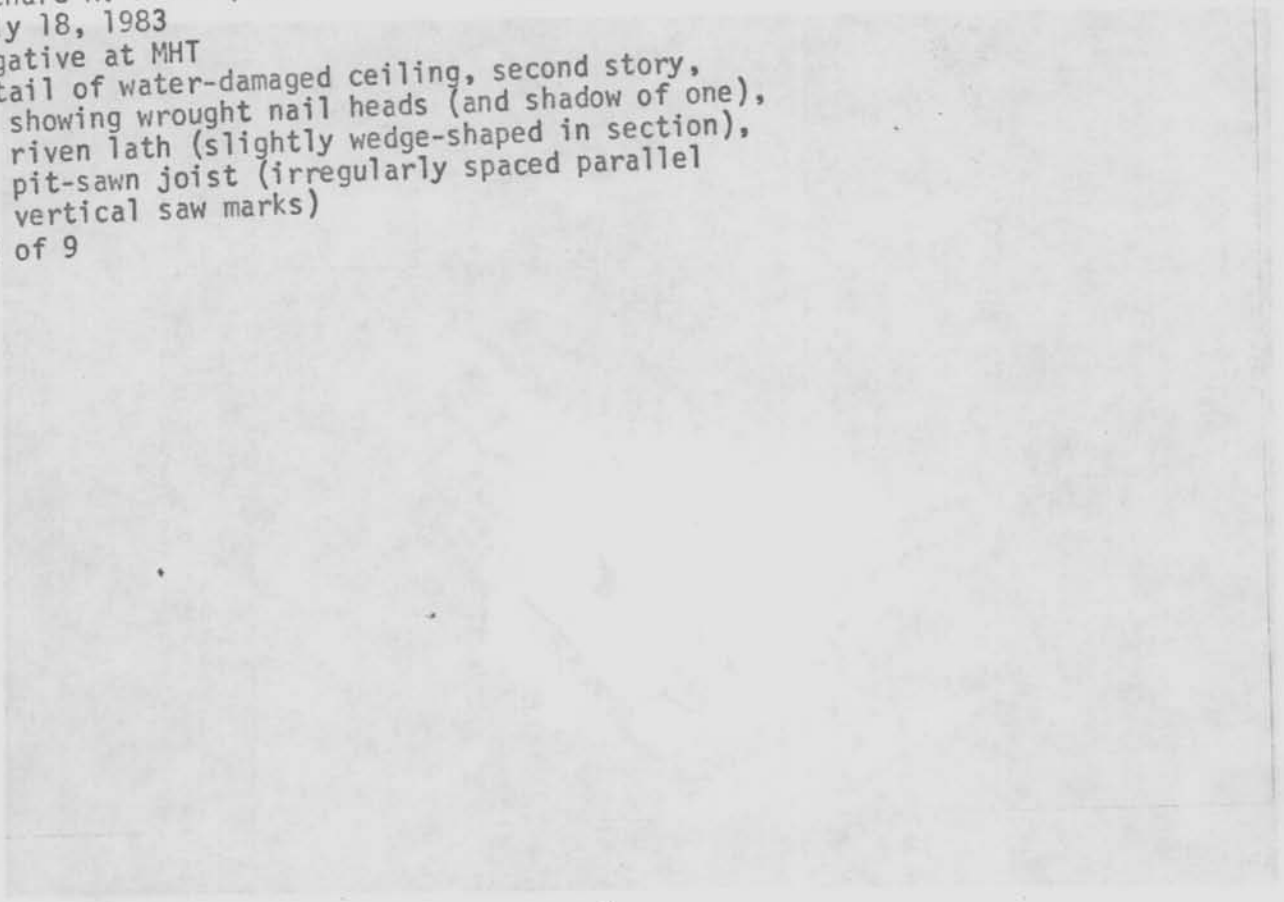
JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Detail of water-damaged ceiling, second story, showing wrought nail heads (and shadow of one), riven lath (slightly wedge-shaped in section), pit-sawn joist (irregularly spaced parallel vertical saw marks)
#9 of 9



CE-132 John Hanson Steelman Hse.

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS
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209757 HaBS MD 8-E2Kto 12-1 Stone Hse. at Elkton Landing, La.

CE-132
Elk Landing
Near Elkton
Paul Touart 4/79
Negatives at MHT
John Hanson Steelman Coll.

MAY 78



1

ELK LANDING
ELKTON, Md.

CE-132

EASTERN ELEVATION

3

PBT

5/78

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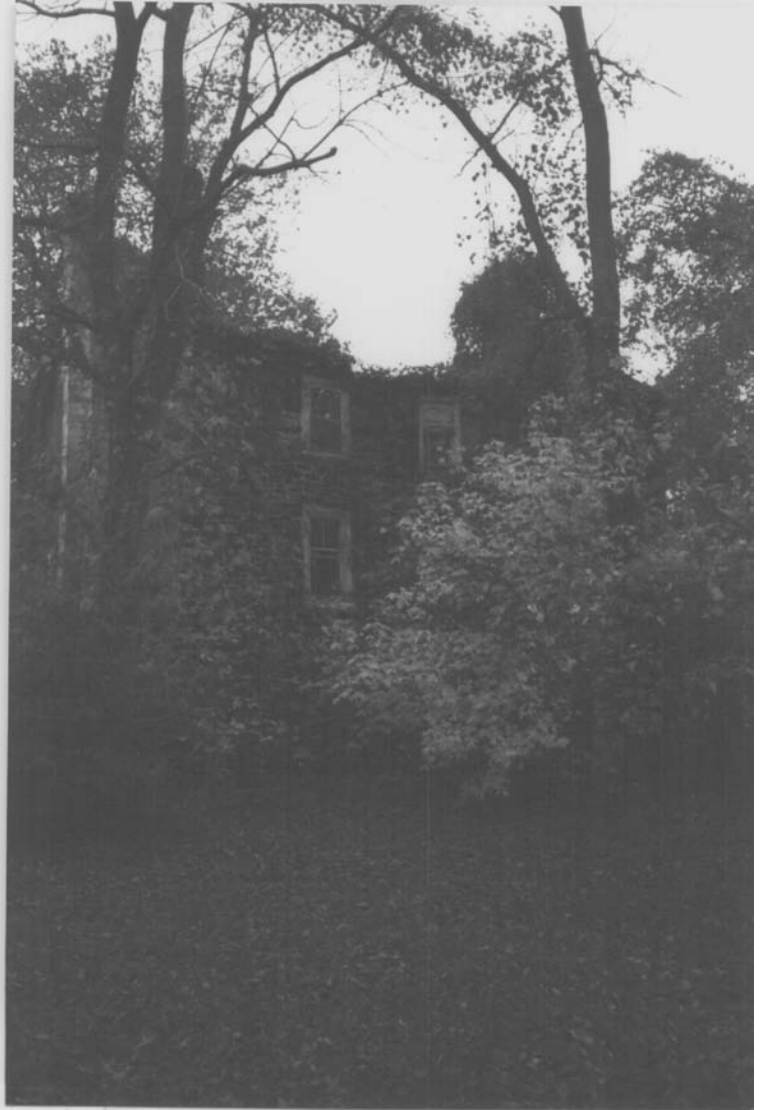
Elk Landing

CE-132
Elk Landing



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Elk Landing

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Elk Landing

PREMIUM Processing
OCT. 1999 FRK

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Elk Landing

PREMIUM
Processing
OCT. 1999 FRA