

S-474
John Henry Brittingham House
Crisfield vicinity
Private

c. 1888

Standing near the intersection of Main Street Extended and “Freedomtown” Road is this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling erected in 1888 by John Henry Brittingham, who purchased this lot in April of that year for \$175.00 John Henry Brittingham operated a store at the intersection as well as conducting a barber shop. Although the store has long disappeared, his two-story, single-pile frame house remains in a good state of preservation and helps define the historic black community formerly known as Freemantown. The name of the road was corrupted to “Freedomtown” when the county instituted the 911 emergency medical service system. The house and lot remain in Brittingham family hands.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-474

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
- 2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Survey No. S-474

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3491 Freedomtown Road not for publication

city, town Crisfield vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Annie M. Brittingham % Agatha Jones

street & number 3491 Freedomtown Road telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code MD 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 70

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 438

city, town Princess state Anne 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-474

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John Henry Brittingham house stands at 3491 Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, east of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1888, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame dwelling is supported by a low masonry foundation covered with sheet metal. The exterior of the house is sheathed with asphalt shingles over plain weatherboards, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with a layer of asphalt shingles as well. Attached to the back of the main block is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation with a center entrance and flanking six-over-one sash windows. The front door is partially glazed, and the doorway is topped by a single-pane transom. A series of three evenly spaced six-over-one sash windows light the second floor. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. Rising through the roof is an interior, stuccoed brick chimney stack.

The north and south gable ends are largely alike with single six-over-one sash windows on each floor, and a small squarish window pierces the gable end. The eave is extended with short returns at the base of the roof.

Attached to the back side of the main block is a story-and-a-half kitchen wing covered with asphalt shingles and a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Six-over-one sash windows light the first floor, and small six-pane windows illuminate the half story above. The kitchen is extended on the north and south sides by shed roofed additions.

A full interior inspection was not possible, although it was evident that a center enclosed stair rises between the two front rooms. Plain board surrounds frame the interior door openings.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-474

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

Specific dates 1888 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing near the intersection of Main Street Extended and "Freedomtown" Road is this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling erected in 1888 by John Henry Brittingham, who purchased this lot in April of that year for \$175.00 (Somerset County Land Record, HFL 6/75) John Henry Brittingham operated a store at the intersection as well as conducting a barber shop. Although the store has long ago disappeared the his two-story, single-pile frame house remains in a good state of preservation and helps define the historic black community formerly known as Freemantown. The name of the road was corrupted to "Freedomtown" when the county instituted the 911 emergency medical service system. The house and lot remain in Brittingham family hands.

S-474
JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE
3491 Freedomtown Road
Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland
Chain of title

70/438 Sabra Brittingham

to

4/20/1916 Annie Brittingham
\$462.96

WJS 67/68 Elwood Sterling, Sheriff

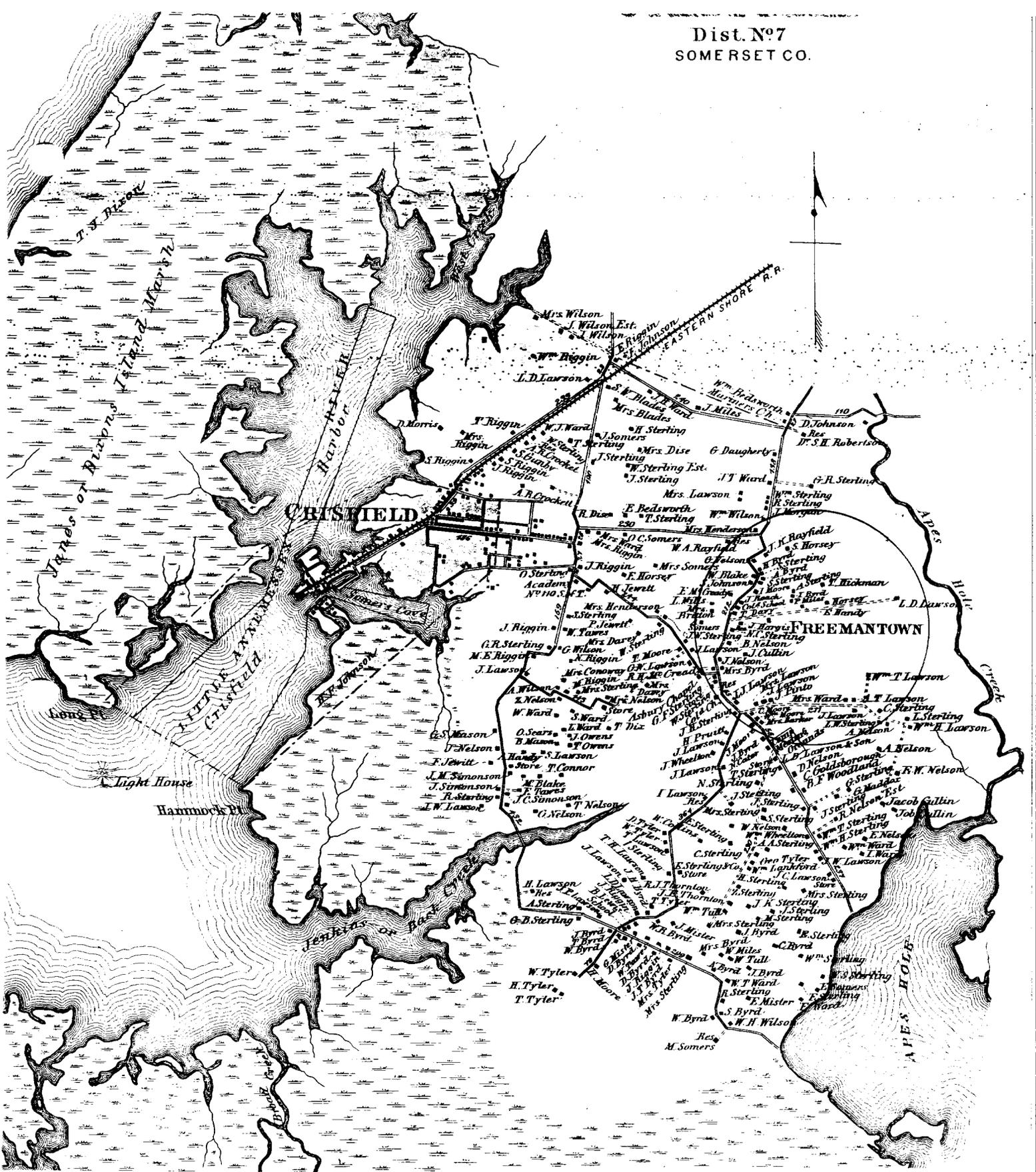
to

4/20/1914 Sabra Brittingham

HFL 6/75 Noah C. Sterling
Mary Sterling

to

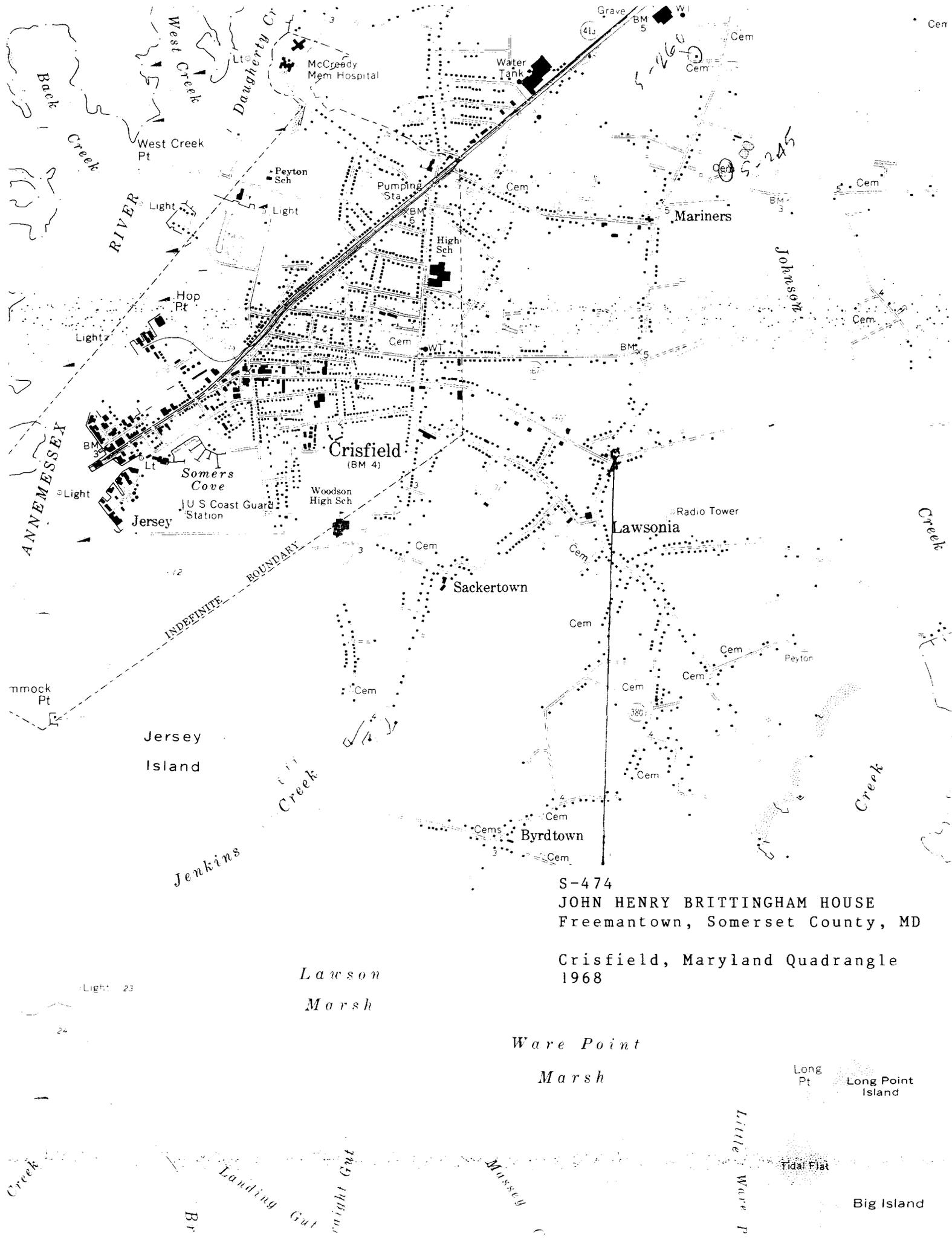
4/20/1888 John Henry Britman (Brittingham)
\$175.00 Southwest corner of a lot of ground
belonging to Somerset County for
colored school
3/4 acre



S-474

JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



S-474
 JOHN HENRY BRITTINGHAM HOUSE
 Freemantown, Somerset County, MD

Crisfield, Maryland Quadrangle
 1968

Lawson
 Marsh

Ware Point
 Marsh

Long Pt
 Long Point Island

Big Island

Creek
 Landing Gut
 Straight Gut
 Mosey
 Br

Little Ware P

Tidal Flat



S. 474

JOHN H. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

FREEMANTOWN, CRISFIELD VICINITY,
SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

6/95, PAUL THOMAS, PHOTODUPLICATION
NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL TRUST

1/2



S-474

John H BRITTINGHAM House

FREEMANTON, CRISFIELD VICINITY,

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOUART, PITTHERBORO

NEE. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

2/2