

S M -120  
RIVER VIEW  
Oakley  
Private

early 18th century

One of the most interesting brick structures surviving from the early 18th century in St. Mary's County is this small, 1 1/2-story brick house. Among its many significant exterior features are brick window heads with double-ogee patterned bases and gable walls raised above the roof line, presenting an exaggerated parapet effect. The house is five bays in length at the principal facade and two rooms in depth. There is a single chimney enclosed within each end wall. At the east end stands an early 19th century frame wing with random-width flush board siding and batten door.

To the east of the house are several frame dependencies, including a circa 1800 kitchen joined to the house by a circa 1900 addition, and a smokehouse, shed and log quarter, all dating from circa 1800.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, United States Department of the Interior.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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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

River View

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

off Md. Rt. 470 (Oakley Road) at Canoe Neck Creek  
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oakley vicinity

— VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

St. Mary's

CODE

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Col. Colin F. Burch, Jr., USAF Ret.

STREET & NUMBER

6807 Hampshire Road

CITY, TOWN

McLean

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

22101

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Leonardtown Court Square

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

20650

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust/St. Mary's City Comm., HABS of Tidewater, Maryland

DATE

1974-1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 

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River View is located off Md. Rt. 470 (Oakley Road) at Canoe Neck Creek, about 4 1/2 miles from Clements, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

It is a one-and-one-half story, Flemish bond brick house that is one of the best preserved examples of its type in Lower Southern Maryland.

The river facade faces south onto Canoe Neck Creek and is five bays in width. The centered entrance frames a paneled door with overlight. Flanking the door, two on each side, are four evenly spaced sash windows. The rear elevation has a similarly located door but only one window to each side. The window heads on both elevations are decorated with double-ogee based arches of rubbed, gauged brick.<sup>1</sup> Only two other examples of the latter detail have been recorded in Southern Maryland. These are at Marshall Hall (Phase I), Charles County, and Holly Hill (Phase III), Anne Arundel County. Both of these similar examples are dateable to circa 1725. A second St. Mary's County house, Mill Point Farm, possessed this same feature but the house was demolished about thirty years ago.

One of the most striking architectural features of River View is the manner in which the ends of the brick gables rise above the roof line to form low, corbeled parapets, a detail that gives the ends of the house a decidedly Jacobean appearance.<sup>2</sup> There are no

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<sup>1</sup>Although the front window heads were completely covered by the porch roof and thus inaccessible it would seem unlikely that they were not fashioned in the same decorative fashion. River View is the only house recorded to date that has both front and rear window heads embellished in this manner. On Marshall Hall and Holly Hill the rear windows have segmentally arched heads.

<sup>2</sup>At the south front of the house the "parapets" had been removed, perhaps when the present porch was built.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMRiver View  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

other known examples of similar parapets on buildings of this date in Southern Maryland. At each end of the roof is a single chimney with corbeled cap. On both the front and rear roof slopes are three pedimented dormers of six over six sash each.<sup>3</sup> The roof is wood shingled.<sup>4</sup>

Across the south facade is a screened, full-length, circa 1930-40 porch. A smaller, pedimented porch is located over the rear entrance. The full cellar beneath the house is lighted by small, flat arched, wood barred windows aligned with the windows of the front and rear facades. The exterior cellar entrance is toward the south corner of the west end and is a smaller flat headed version of a once larger and arched entry.

At the present time, the first floor room configuration consists of a center hall flanked by two rooms on each side. This is, however, an alteration of the original and more regionally characteristic eighteenth century plan of four rooms with a short rear stair hall. Initially the south front entrance opened directly into the larger of the two front rooms. The centered door of the rear elevation opened into the stair hall, as it does today. In about 1800 a partition wall was constructed at the east end of the southwest room which created the existing passage. To date there have been several dozen examples of the earlier plan recorded in the Charles--St. Mary's County region. The most notable of these in Charles County are: Marshall Hall (Phase I, ca. 1725); Greenwood (ca. 1740); Mt. Tirzah (1774); and, with a slight variation, Waverley (Phase I, ca. 1790). Similar examples in St. Mary's County include: St. Richard's Manor (early eighteenth century); The Plains (mid-eighteenth century); Woodlawn (late eighteenth century); and, Bard's Field (early nineteenth century). At River View the fireplaces are catercornered in three of the rooms but in the southwest room the fireplace is centrally positioned on the outside end wall. An example of similar chimney placement in the same room plan is seen at St. Richard's Manor.

<sup>3</sup>The existing dormer windows date from the nineteenth century. As the existing small gable windows are also later it would seem likely that dormer windows similar to those there now were part of the original plan.

<sup>4</sup>The roof framing system employs principal rafters and purlins. The upper sets of common rafters are morticed and tenoned into the tops of the purlins. The rafters, in turn, are braced by two sets of collars. It is the lower set of collars that define the ceiling level of the attic chambers.

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River View  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Throughout the house, the moldings, mantels and doors have profiles consistent with those normally associated with the first half of the nineteenth century. It is apparent that at about this time (ca. 1790-1840) the whole of the house was renovated, from the first floor to the attic chambers. There was, however, only one change to the arrangement of the rooms, this being the introduction of the first floor partition wall discussed above.

The only seemingly original woodwork in the house is that found on the stair. The stair rises in an area off the hall in the northeast corner. The paneled wall of the closet beneath rises above the winding treads and the turned balusters of the rail are footed on top of this wall rather than into the ends of the steps. This detail is not unlike the treatment of the main stair of Holly Hill (Phase III, ca. 1725). The stair paneling at River View is unusual in that it is composed of vertical boards with large molding strips applied directly over them in a diagonal position and irregularly spaced.

At the east end of the house stands a formerly detached circa 1800 frame kitchen which was joined to the house by a two part circa 1900 addition. The latter houses a bathroom with walls and ceilings covered in pressed tin, one of the earliest such facilities now recorded in Southern Maryland. On the exposed east end of the kitchen is a brick chimney with stepped weatherings. In close proximity to the east and southeast side of the house stand several circa 1800 dependencies, most of them in poor condition. These include a smokehouse, shed, and log quarter.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

River View was built by the Gardiner family in the early eighteenth century. The house was willed in 1744 to Anne Neale, sister of Wilfred Gardiner. About the time of the American Revolution, River View was purchased by Ignatius Fenwick. Fenwick was a prominent military figure in Maryland's Revolutionary navy. He commanded the "Lydia" at the Battle of Piney Point in the Lower Potomac River in 1776. Later he commanded the privateer "Sally" which raided British shipping during the Revolution.

The next owner of River View was Jeremiah Alvey who purchased the property in 1824. His daughter, Mary Amanda Burch, inherited the home in 1841. River View has remained in the Burch family to this day.

Despite its interesting history of ownership, the principal significance of River View is its architecture. Particularly noteworthy are the raised gables forming low parapets and the double-ogee based window heads of the front and rear elevations. The original floor plan of four rooms and rear stair hall, although characteristic of eighteenth century Southern Maryland house plans is, with Marshall Hall, Charles County, the earliest such plan recorded to date. Unlike many houses of the early eighteenth century River View, at least on the exterior, has remained basically unaltered. Also of significance is the number of early domestic dependencies which comprise the largest single collection of such buildings in St. Mary's County. For these reasons River View is one of the most important sites in Southern Maryland, invaluable to the study of that region's domestic architecture.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SM-120

Historic American Buildings Survey.

Records of the St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland.

The Chronicles of St. Mary's, July 1972, August 1972, September 1973, October 1973.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 85.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,4,8,9,8,0	4,2,3,6,3,9,0	B	1,8	3,4,8,8,6,0	4,2,3,6,0,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3,4,8,2,7,0	4,2,3,5,6,7,0	D	1,8	3,4,8,4,2,0	4,2,3,6,6,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Historian

St. Mary's County Committee / J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural/  
ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust

March 1975

sao

STREET & NUMBER

109 Lakeland Drive / 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

373-5251 / 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Hollywood / Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1901202104

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME

COMMON: River View  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Burch Road  
CITY OR TOWN: Oakley  
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: St. Mary's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Colin F. Burch  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
St. Mary's County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington Street and Courthouse Drive  
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtwn STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

River View is a <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> 2 1/2-story brick house. Exterior details include curvilinear window heads of curved brick on the land front; unglazed cellar windows with square bars set diagonally in frames; corbeled parapets at the eaves on the land side; splayed eaves on the river side with corbeled brick underneath them; and a watercourse of one row of curved bricks. The gable<sup>end</sup> contains three small windows.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

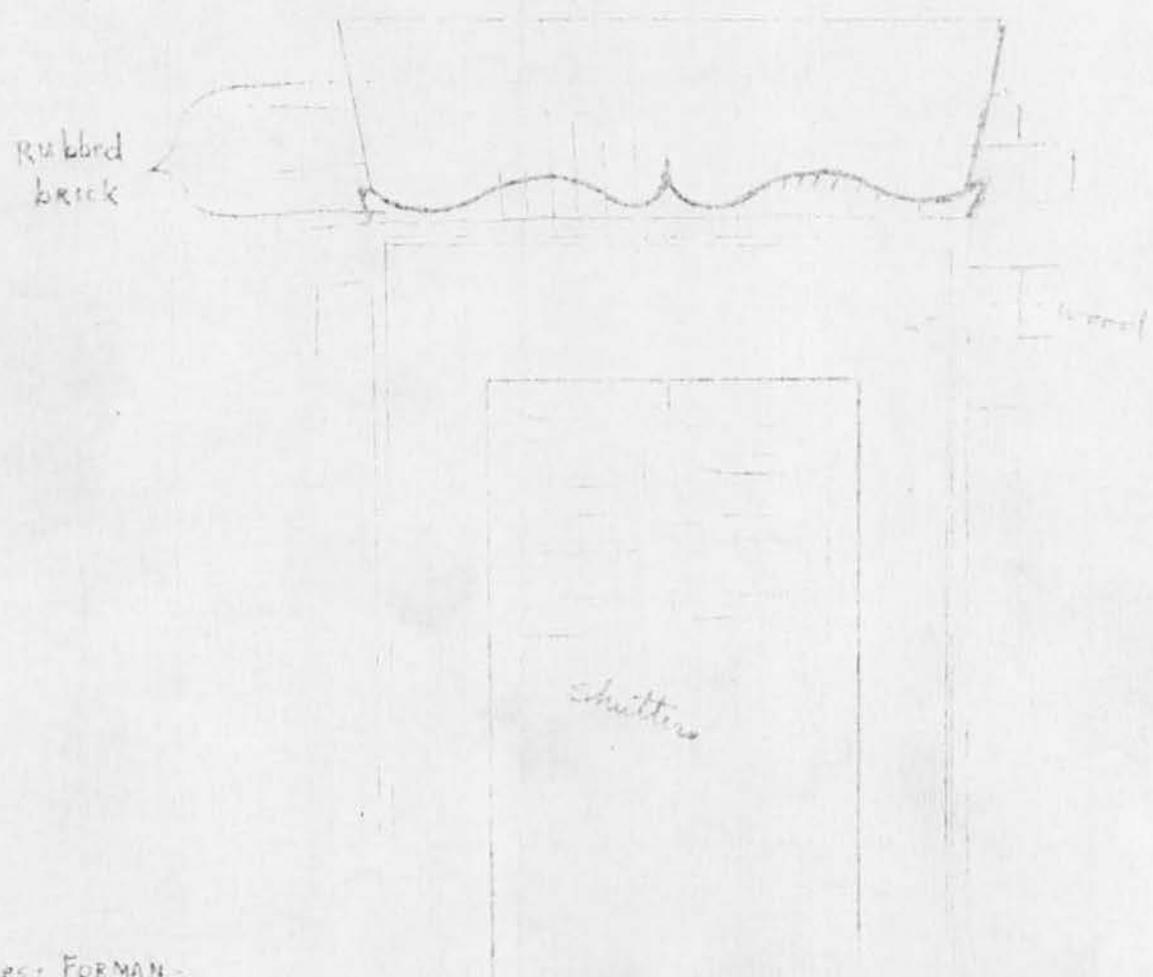




Old House on Oanoe Neck Creek, Mary's County, Md.

(called "River View") some exterior details:

curvilinear windows: heads of carved brick on land front  
(windows on river front appear to be the same but are covered by present porch roof.)



①  
(reference: FORMAN -  
The Architecture of the Old South)

This is similar to Holly Hill (#176 p.131) except that the curves do not touch the wood of the window frame, and are shallower. Also, the ends rise up and extend slightly beyond the rubbed brick. The depressions are about an inch deep and the same rubbed brick extends down to the woodwork. The flat woodwork is very wide around all the windows.

Feb. 1963

② - The glass in the double hung sash that can be seen is very bumpy and discolored.

3 unglazed cellar windows with square bars set diagonally in frames (#34 p.37)



One cellar window on each side is complete. At the bars are missing in places, the square diamond shaped holes can be seen.

corbeled parapets at the eaves on the land side  
(#51 p.45)



These projections are very striking from the side view. Somehow, the end board of the cornice sticks out and shows.

(4) The eaves on the RIVER side are splayed and the brick under them is corbeled.



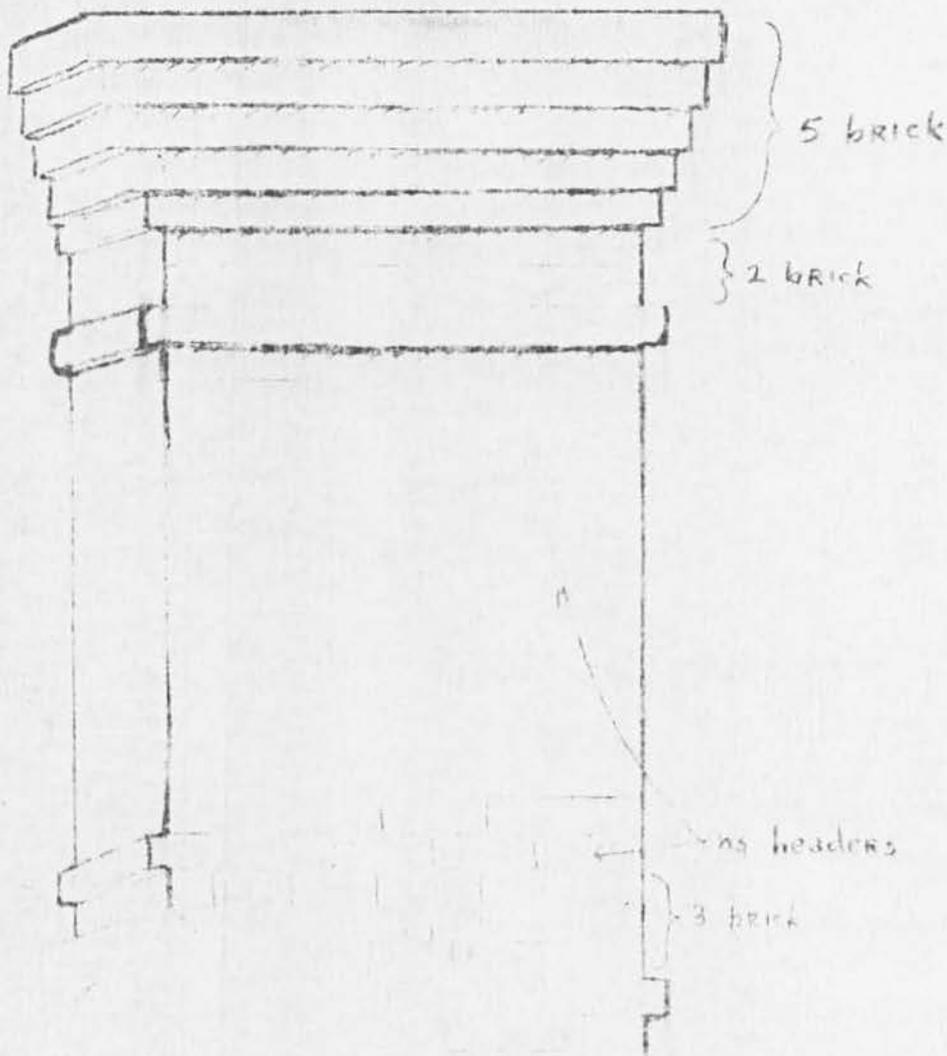
The missing brick under the splay suggests that arapets like those on the north were removed when the porch was added.

There is no similar deterioration (?) along the steeper parts of the gables.

The splay is a sort of bridge that makes the main roof continuous with the porch roof (I think the splay is larger than I have shown.)

5-

Chimneys (identical on each end).



RIVER side

land side

lemish bond

glazed headers

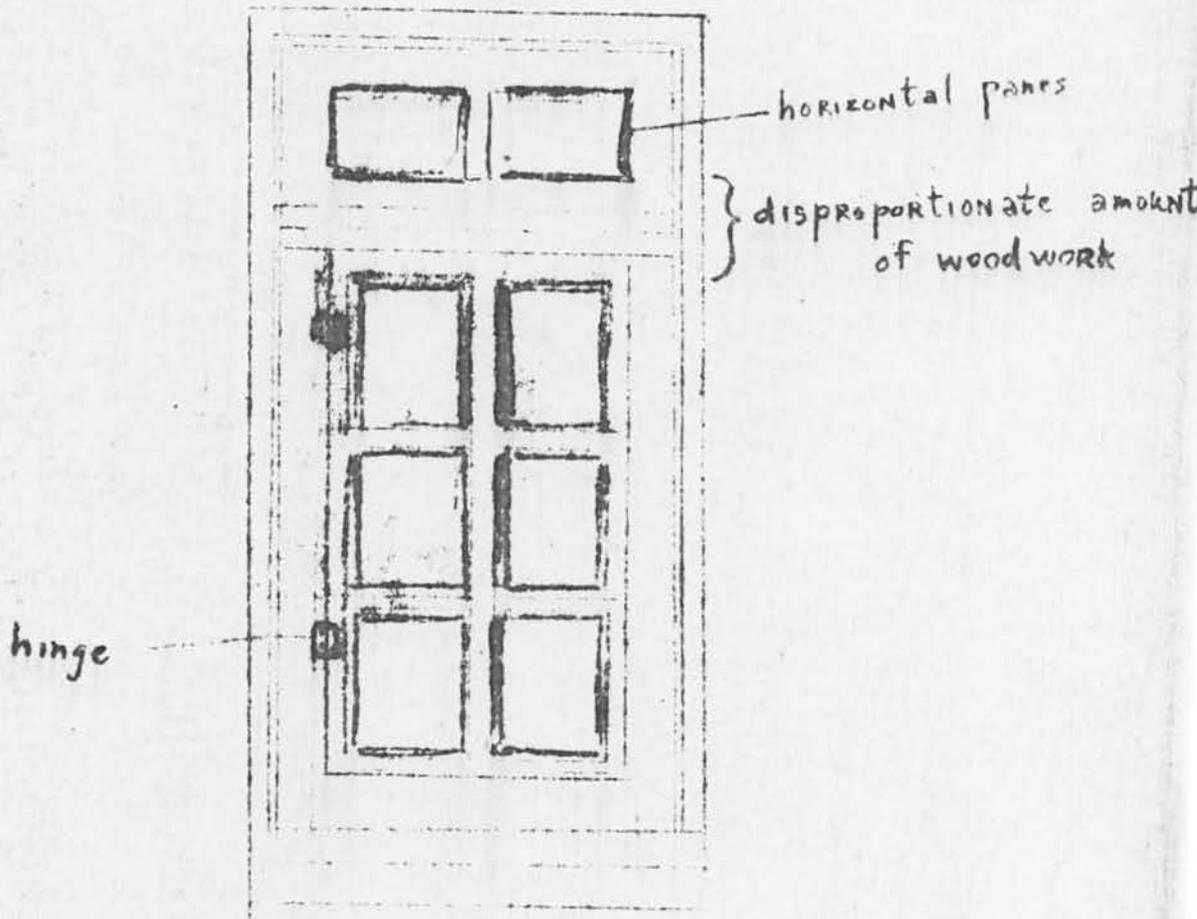
Feb 1963

Water course - 1 curved brick

about a quarter round (?)

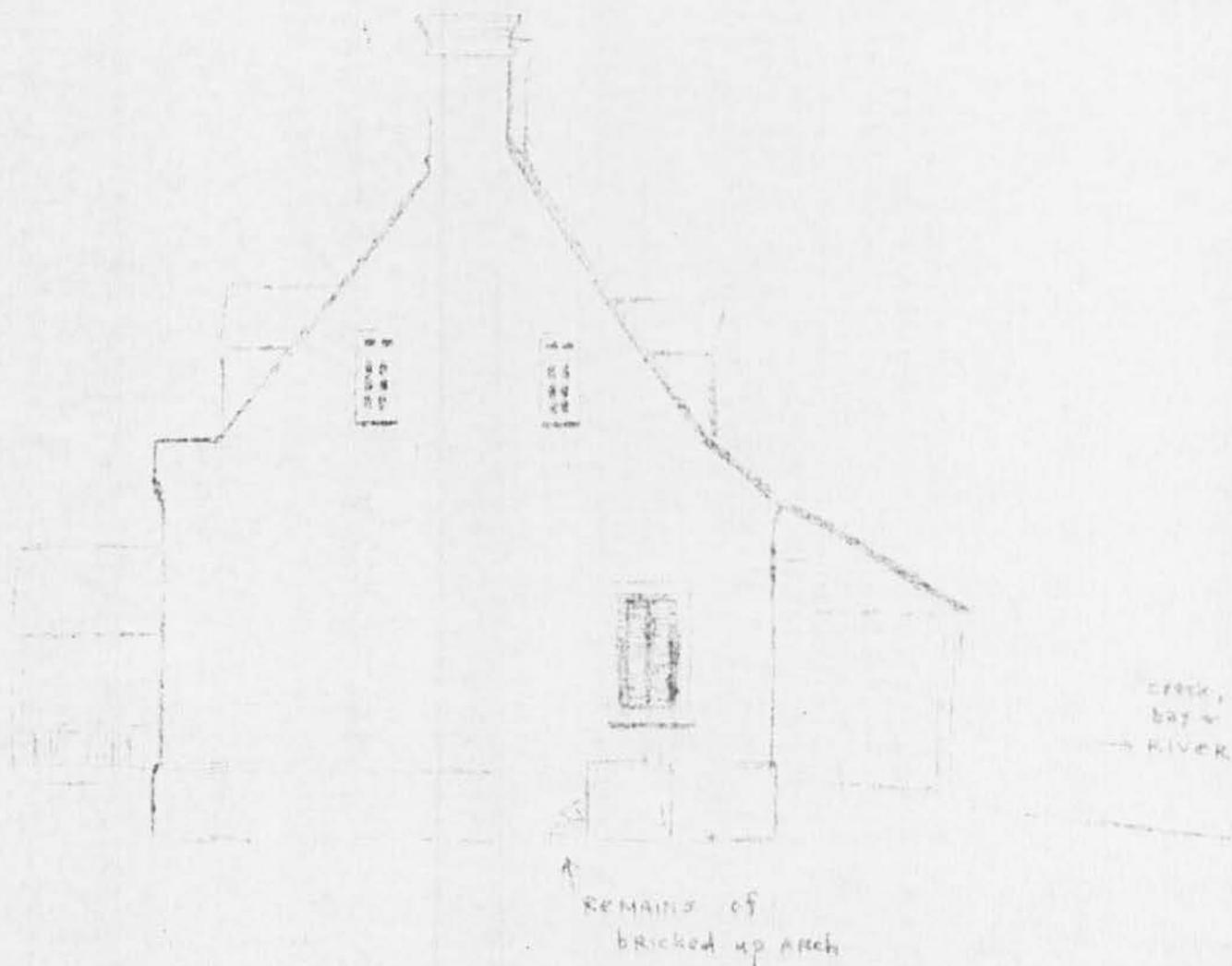


⑥  
 3 small gable windows (very rough sketch)



(The top part looked like a TRANSOM, but I couldn't tell if it is hinged. I couldn't make out the detail of the HINGES. The effect of these little windows is quite odd. They suggest a medieval window made over to sash.)

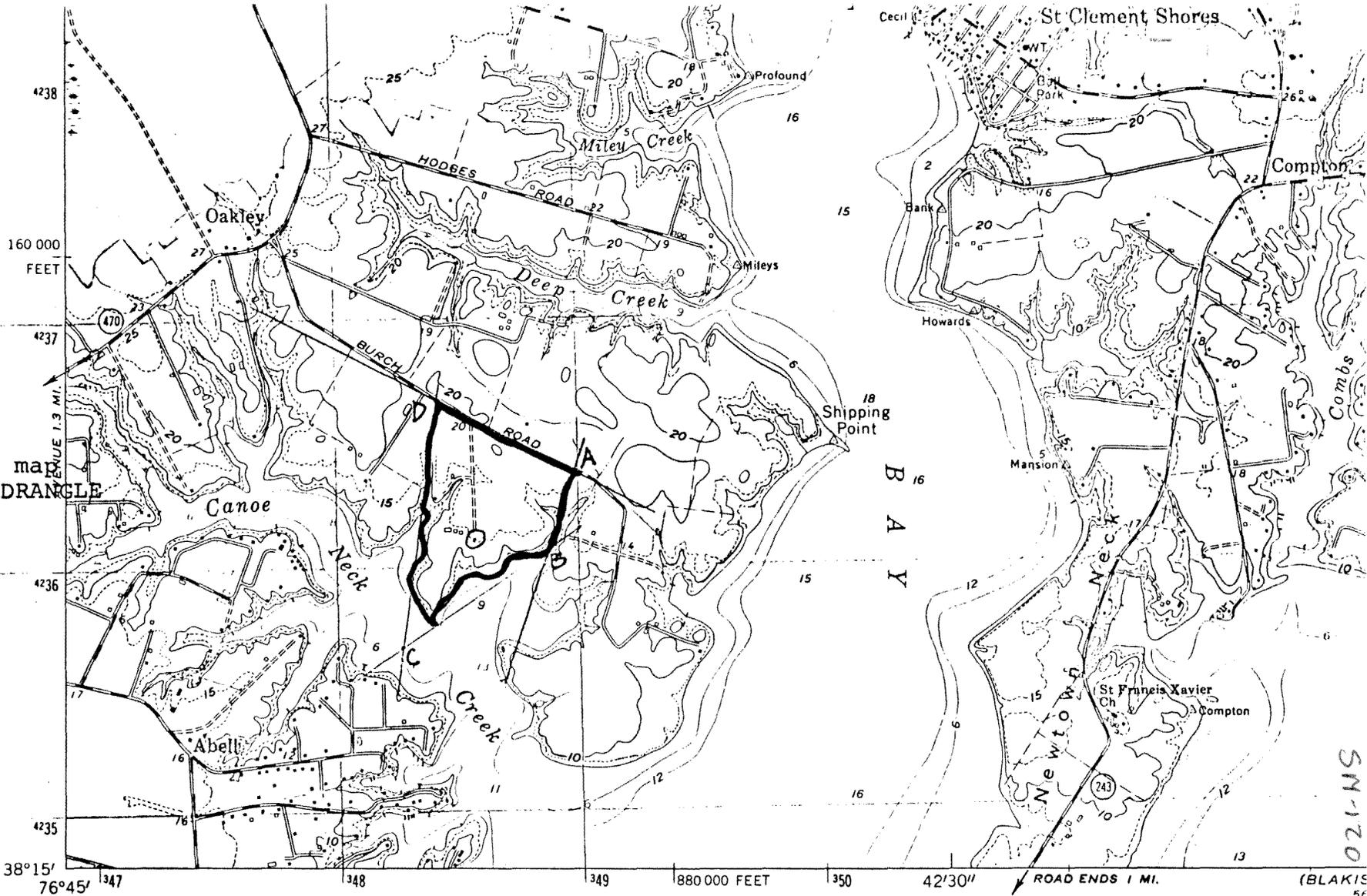
All windows seem to have wood sills.



Free sketch of Gable end

(ON the opposite GABLE end extend three attached, low, extremely narrow shutters of wood.

New shutters on the first floor window seen in this end seem to conceal the wide woodwork (?). Also, this window lacks the curvilinear rubbed brick head. Headers on this end do not seem to be glazed as on opposite end.



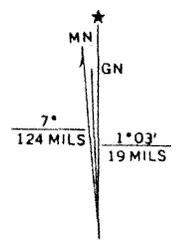
SM-120  
**RIVER VIEW**  
 USGS 7.5 minute map  
 LEONARDTOWN QUADRANGLE  
 scale 1:24000  
 1963

UTM GRID  
 A 181348480/4236390  
 B 181348860/4236060  
 C 181348270/4235670  
 D 181348420/4236670

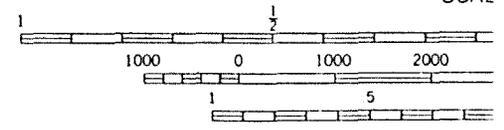
(STRATFORD)  
 5660 III NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 558 (1962). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1963 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL  
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT  
 DATUM ISLANDS  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS  
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

021-NS



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

LEONARDTOWN  
 QUAD







511-120



SM-120

River View



SM-120 & 58% P.139

SM-120

River View



P. 140

2m - 120 (d)

80%

SM-20

River View

50%



P140

SM 120 (d) 50%

2020

10/10

MHT











