

SM-14

ST. INIGOES MANOR (ruin)

St. Inigoes

1705 and 1872

The original brick manor house, built in 1705, was destroyed by fire in 1872. Portions of the brick walls were salvaged and used in the construction of the late 19th century structure, which was a two-story, L-shaped building with late Victorian embellishments. The house deteriorated, and in January, 1978 it was dismantled, leaving only the parts of the brick walls that date from the 18th century. These remains, including the foundations and part of the walls of the original house, the hyphen and kitchen walls to the original, one-story roof line, and the cellar, are being stabilized and will be preserved. The house ruin presently sits on the grounds of the Naval Electronic Systems Test and Evaluation Detachment (NESTED).

St. Inigoes Manor was purchased by Father Thomas Copley, S.J., from Thomas Gerrard in 1637. The manor and other Jesuit landholdings in St. Mary's became the first Roman Catholic mission established in the English colonies.

Also see archeological listing for SM-212.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

MARYLAND	
COUNTY:	
ST. MARY'S	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Priest House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Saint Inigoes, Manor House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Naval Electronic Systems Test And Evaluation Facility

CITY OR TOWN: Saint Inigoes

STATE: Maryland 20684 CODE: 24 COUNTY: St. Mary's CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both USN	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) NOT used

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: United States Navy - government owned.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: St. Mary's courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trusts

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The building in question is believed to have been built in 1705 after the Governor of Maryland closed the church in Saint Mary's City (five miles northeast up the St. Mary's River). This Manor House provided the local people a chapel in which to worship. It was only unlawful to worship in a church. In 1872, the old building burned. The present structure was built of the remains of the 1705 structure during the latter 1870's.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1705

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A copy of enclosure (1).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NAVAL ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TEST AND EVALUATION FACILITY
Saint Inigoes, Maryland 20684

30 Jul 1971

HISTORICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING
THE OLD MANOR HOUSE
AT SAINT INIGOES, MARYLAND

The following paragraphs, taken from a book authored by Edwin Warfield Beitzell entitled "The Jesuit Missions of Saint Mary's County Maryland", are provided to give the reader some considerable insight into the history of the Saint Inigoes Manor and in particular, the Manor House of Saint Inigoes.

"St. Inigoes, with the district depending on it in religious matters, was with St. Mary's City, the first Catholic Mission established in British North America. It is the oldest Catholic foundation with permanent existence and activities within the limits of the original thirteen States; it is the most ancient Jesuit establishment in the United States, and probably the oldest in the world that has remained in continuous possession of the Society of Jesus. St. Inigoes was not a gift from Lord Baltimore, having been purchased from Mr. Gerard, nor was it, as has been asserted, necessarily devoted to the support of religion, although the revenues derived from it have been always applied to that purpose. The name St. Inigoes under this form is the old possessive case (like St. Maries), of Inigo, Spanish Inigo, and was named for Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus. (78)

"Father Copley did not accompany the first expedition to Maryland since he was busy in London representing the Jesuit contingent of the first settlers. Arriving in 1637, he assigned St. Inigoes Manor to Father Ferdinand Poulton, the Superior of the Mission. After Father Poulton's death, Father Copley obtained a second warrant for St. Inigoes, as previously noted, which he assigned to Cuthbert Fenwick, for whom a certificate was returned and patent issued, July 27, 1641. This action was necessary after Lord Baltimore had issued a proclamation that no religious body could take possession of any land

ENCLOSURE (1)

without his special warrant. Thereafter the Jesuit lands were held in confidential trust either by some layman or by one of the Fathers. There was no trust expressed in any of the deeds, and legally the confidential trustee could have sold the property and pocketed the proceeds. Happily, this never took place. Fenwick conveyed the property to Father Henry Warren, S.J. in 1663. This and other property were conveyed by testamentary devise through a succession of individuals until 1792 when the Corporation of 'Roman Catholic Clergy of Maryland' was chartered by the Maryland Legislature to hold all the lands which belonged to the Society prior to 1775.

"The Manor has the general shape of a triangle. The apex, called Kitts Point, divides the St. Mary's from Smith's Creek at their entrance into the Potomac River. One leg goes up Smith's Creek for about two and a quarter miles, the other runs up the St. Mary's for about three and a half miles to Priests' Point, and then follows St. Inigoes Creek for nearly another mile to the northeast and stops at Church Creek, which is southeast. At Priests' Point, the St. Mary's River turns due north, while St. Inigoes Creek turns to the northeast, the land lying between them being St. Mary's Neck.

"The Fathers found good soil which produced fine crops of tobacco, wheat, corn, oats, barley and a variety of vegetables. Wild raspberries, huckleberries, mulberries, blackberries and grapes were plentiful. They found also chestnuts, walnuts, hickory nuts, persimmons, wild honey and plenty of acorns which made excellent hog feed. The whole area was covered by growths of virgin timber including poplar, hickory, chestnut, walnut, pine, gum, maple and a variety of oaks. Game was plentiful and included deer, rabbits, foxes, opossums, muskrats, raccoons, squirrels, wild turkey, quail, pheasants, doves, snipe, geese, swans and ducks of every description. The birds included redbirds or cardinals, larks, bluebirds, blue-jays, mockingbirds, swallows, blackbirds, hawks, orioles and the lowly turkey buzzards.

"On September 11, 1704, Father Robert Brooke and Father William Hunter were summoned before

the Maryland Council for 'dedicating a Popish Chapel and for saying mass.' Father Hunter came out to the Maryland Mission about 1692 and Father Brooke, the first native born Priest and Jesuit, had returned to Maryland about 1696. The record of this hearing is as follows:

'Post Meridiem the Council Sate Present His
Excy the Governor

The	Col John Addison	Lt. Col. Wm. Holland
Honbles	Thomas Brook Esq	James Sanders Esqr
	Robert Smith Esq	Kenelm Cheseldyne Esqr
	Col John Mammond	Col Thomas Ennals
	Col Francis Jenkins	Wm. Coursey Esq

His Excy being informed that two Popish Priests to wit William Hunter & Robert Brooke pursuant to the summons from this Board attend to the Complaint against them made and that Mr. Charles Carrol a Lawyer accompanied them, asks the board if the said Priests ought to have their Council with them who unanimously agree and say that they should not

His Exy Queries whether upon the Pretence of any Custom of Toleration from the first Settlement of this Province the Actions of these Priests can pretend any justification who say not

The said Mr. William Hunter and Mr. Robert Brooke appeared and are told on what occasion they were called before his Excy Mr. William Hunter gives his Excy many thanks for the opportunity of appearing before his Excy and says he is very sorry for any annoyance in his Conduct as to his consecrating the Chappell he did not Consecrate it for that is an Episcopal Function and that no body was present but himself in his common Priests vestments and that neither under his Excys Eye nor in his presence but if any such thing was done it was above fourteen months ago, and long before his Excys arrival Mr. Brook says he did say mass in the Court Time at the Chappell of St. Maries but found that others formerly done so

Advised that this being the first Complaint the said Mr Hunter & Mr Brooke be severly reprimanded and told that they must not Expect any Favor but the utmost Severity of the Law upon any misdeameanour by them committed and being called in his Excy was please to give them the following Reprimand.'

"Gentlemen: It is the unhappy temper of you and all your tribe to grow insolent upon civility and never know how to use it, and yet of all people, you have the least reason for considering that if the necessary laws that are made were let loose they are sufficient to crush you and which (if your arrogant principles have not blinded you) you must need to dread. You might methinks be content to live quietly as you may, and let the exercise of your superstitious vanities be confined to yourselves without proclaiming them at publick times and in public places unless you expect by your gaudy shows and serpentine policy to amuse the multitude and beguile the unthinking weakest part of them, an act of deceit well known to be amongst you. But Gentlemen be not deceived for though the clemency of her Majesty's Government and of her gracious inclination, leads her to make all her subjects easy that know how to be so, yet her Majesty is not without means to curb insolence, but more specially in your fraternity, who are more eminently than others abounding with it; and I assure you the next occasion you give me, you shall find the truth of what I say, which you should now do but that I am willing upon the earnest solicitations of some Gentlemen to make one trial (and it shall be but this one) of your temper. In plain and few words, Gentlemen, if you intend to live here let me have no more of these things, for if I do, and they are made against you, be assured I'll chastize you; and lest you should flatter yourselves that the severities of the laws will be a means to move the pity of your judges, I assure you I do not intend to deal with you, so I'll remove the evil by sending you where you will be dealt with as you deserve. Therefore as I told you I'll make this one trial and advise you to be civil and modest for there is no other way for you to live quietly here. You are the first that have given any disturbance to my Government, and if it were not for the hopes of your better demeanor, you should now be the first that should feel the effects of so doing. Pray take notice that I am an English Protestant Gentlemen, and can never Equivocate.' (53)

"After this tirade of abuse by this gross English bully, the Fathers were discharged. This tirade

was in the face of the fact that the Fathers were denied counsel and had broken no law. The law was not yet on the statute books. And what short and convenient memories had these Councilmen concerning toleration in Maryland.

"Governor Seymour's reprimand so pleased the members of the Lower House that they sent him the following communication:

"By a paper read in this House we perceive what your Excellency was pleased to say to the two Popish Priests on the occasion there mentioned. And as all your actions, so this in particular gives us great satisfaction for find you generously resolved to protect her Majesty's Protestant subjects here against the insolence and growth of Popery and we are cheerfully thankful to you for it.... The members of this Board taking under their consideration that such use of the, Popish Chapel of the City of St. Maries, in St. Maries County, where there is a Protestant Church, and the said County Court is kept, is scandalous and offensive to the Government, do advise and desire his Excellency the Governor do give immediate orders for the shutting up the said Popish chapel and that no person presume to make use thereof under any pretense whatsoever. Whereupon it was ordered by His Excellency, the Governor, that the Sheriff of St. Maries County lock up the said chapel and keep the key thereof.'

(54)

"In 1705 a new Manor House was built at St. Inigoes. Father James Ashby, S.J., is generally credited with the erection of this house. However, this is an error because Father Ashby was not even born in 1705 and did not come to Maryland until 1742. However, on the testimony of Mr. Wiley Smith of St. Inigoes who was born prior to 1800, there seems little doubt that the Manor House was built at that time.

"The builder was probably Father Peter Atwood, S.J., whose last name is often confused with Ashby. Father Atwood was stationed in the lower part of the County, probably at St. Inigoes, for on July 22, 1725 the Rev. Giles Rainsford, an Anglican clergyman, in a letter from 'Patuxent'

to the Lord Bishop of London, writes 'I am continually pressed to disputations by these Papists & tho I shamefully foiled Peter Atwood, of the Jesuits & their best disputant, yet the rest of them are plying daily for another attack.' (62) The writer then asks for pamphlet material to assist him in the next encounter. It would be interesting to have Father Atwood's version of the outcome of this debate.

"Father Fidele de Grivel, S.J., also credits Father Ashby with building the Manor House, 'having moved it from the old chapel field'. (63) This statement would seem to clear up the mystery. Apparently Father Atwood built a Manor House in the old Chapel field in 1705 and attached the Chapel (built prior to 1669 and closed in 1704 by the authorities) to the Manor House. It was then permissible to use the Chapel again, since it was a part of the residence. With some relaxation in the enforcement of the laws directed against Catholics around 1750, Father Ashby 'moved it (the House) from the old chapel field' and left the Chapel to stand alone. He undoubtedly rebuilt the house in the new location. Mr. J. Edwin Coad has written concerning the Manor House as follows:

"St. Inigoes Manor was originally surveyed for two thousand acres, but of late it has been found to contain only something over eighteen hundred acres. The trend of the St. Mary's River is north and south and the old Manor house was situated on the north west corner of the estate upon a point that juts well out into the river and its chief front was towards the mouth of the river, so that one in a boat above the point could see the mouth of the river through the two main doors when they were thrown open during pleasant weather.'

"The mansion was of English birth, the walls being very thick and massive. The ground floor had five rooms. Entering the south front you came to a hall which led to the pastors room on the left and to the assistants room on the right. On crossing it you were in the grand parlor or reception room, and in front the north entrance door was before you. A door leading from the left

of the large room was the Bishops apartment, and from the right there was another leading into the ordinary dining room.

The central or main room was an elegant one and must have been twenty four feet square with high ceiling. From the north front there was a superb view of the upper St. Mary's, historic Rose Croft, Porto Bello and old St. Mary's City, where Leonard Calver made his first settlement, and where the first genuine seed of religious freedom was planted in the New World, and from thence in post-revolutionary times was transplanted in every portion of the United States. May it be propagated in every soil and clime, until every citizen of the world shall be able to lie down in its shade, and thank God for this great manifestation of His mercy to mankind.'

"The roof of the old house was quadrilateral and very much peaked, with four tall chimneys piercing it, standing like four grim sentinels in their helmets square, ever on duty "semper idem" in calm or in the midst of tempest or storm. Its tout ensemble was unique and very striking in appearance, and no pilgrim to the mecca of religious freedom two or three miles higher up the river, or travellers on business or pleasure, could ever pass it by without wishing to learn something of its history. Very close to the right of the north door there was a square place in the wall of modern brick, about the size of an ordinary sheet of letter paper. The history of it as told to me by old people sixty years and more ago, was that during the revolutionary war (Dunmore's War as the old darkeys called it) an English ship was at anchor off Rose Croft and a cannon was fired from her, presumably at the priests house, and the ball went through the house about four feet from the ground. Tradition stated that the priest in charge had risen from his bed and was in the act of dressing when the crash came, and would unquestionably have been killed had he been still upon his bed. How much truth there was in the tradition I am unable to say, but there is no doubt about the patch in the wall for I have seen and had my hand upon it.'

"I have read somewhere in my college days, I think in Tacitus, the aphorism "proprium humani ingenii est, odisse quem laeseris" and as England had done much injury to the Jesuits, that was good cause to hate them.'

"While I was a resident of Baltimore city over a quarter of a century ago one of the saddest announcements of my life was the following from a friend in St. Mary's County "PS - As I write the priests house is burning down - 9 PM January 25th 1872". The old manorial house of St. Inigoes burned down; about the first distant object my youthful eyes ever rested upon - where I had spent so many pleasant hours and upon which I had hoped to gaze as long as sight should be vouchsafed to me on earth. Its cracked and charred walls alone remained, a sarcastic reminder of its pristine grandeur and mourning memory all unaided was thrown upon its own powers to recall the scenes of youth, early manhood and mature age.'

"A sickening sight the old blackened walls presented to those who loved the old place, entwined around which were many pleasant memories - the lodging place of religion, education, refined and profuse hospitality. And it is sad to think of the many rich traditions, unsaid and unwritten that have been buried with their custodians in the humble graveyard not far from the site of the extinct mansion.'

"My eyes were spared the doleful sight of the ruins, through every sashless window or other aperture of which the gentle south wind drifted with mournful sound, as if to express its sympathy with those who looked on and could not suppress a sigh, mayhap a tear over the devastation the relentless element of fire had wrought. In a few short weeks the massive old walls that had stood the shock of many thousands of storms all unmoved and unshaken yielded to the potent blows of pick and crowbar and upon their hallowed foundation arose an humble structure which, in the shadow of the old mansion, if still existing could not fail to remind one of a cottage and a castle.'"

"The Jesuit Missions of Saint Mary's County Maryland"
by Edwin Warfield Beitzell.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
LTJG Richard C. Bennett and Mr. Ken Knox

ORGANIZATION: Naval Electronic Systems Test and Evaluation Facility

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. Inigoes

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date April 28 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

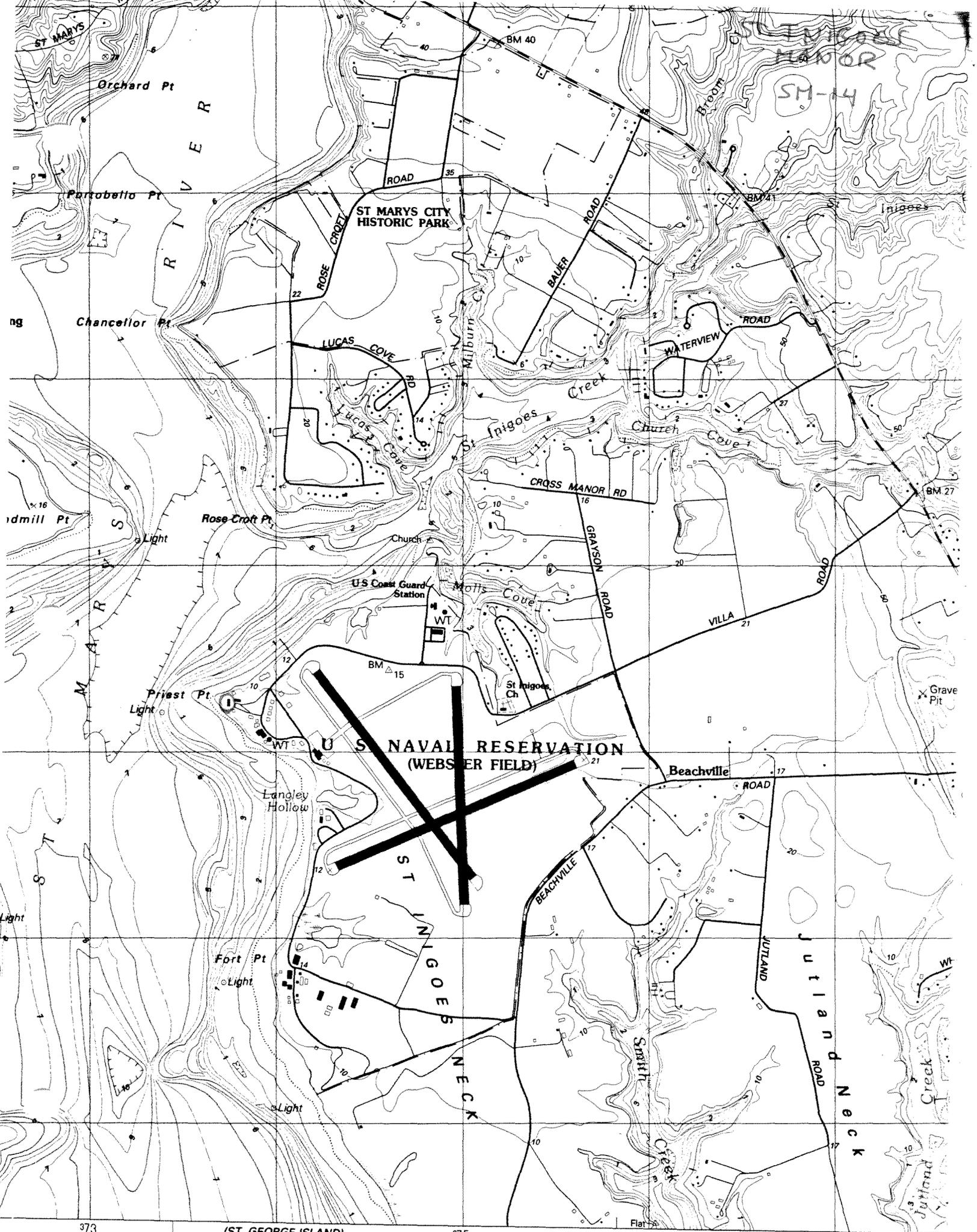
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ST. INIGOES MANOR RUINS SM- 14
Location Map





ST MARYS CITY
SH-4

ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION
(WEBSTER FIELD)

(ST. GEORGE ISLAND)
5760 III SW

ST MARYS CITY QUADRANGLE

973

975

976

1770000E

Leonardtown. This style has a large first floor area with only the central part rising in a second floor. The inset porch has columns which support the second floor wall on the approach side. Some insist that this kind of porch shows Spanish or Italian influence, but it is unlikely. "St. Inigoe's Manor" was another dwelling of this type, but it did not have the inset porch.

The fifth is the Chinese Chippendale type, exemplified at SOTTERLEY and BUSHWOOD¹² in their stairways and shell alcoves, carved, it is said, by a convict. The stairs are of the Chippendale period and of Chinese or Oriental designs. The curious balustrades may well surprise modernists who believe they have begun a new style of art. The shell alcoves of SOTTERLEY and BUSHWOOD are reminiscent of the Italian Renaissance, the first period during which the shell motif is used in any large degree.

It is interesting to note that the plans of the OLD HOUSE ON WEST ST. MARY'S MANOR and of the main building at MULBERRY FIELDS, except for the placing of the chimneys, are similar, and that each house has a shouldered arch across the Hall, and each has a newel post with a rail channelled on its

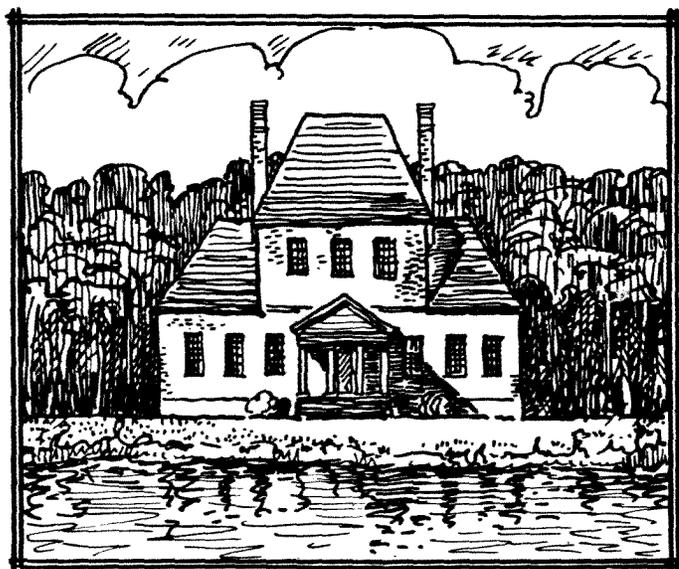
¹² "Bushwood" was destroyed by fire on January 3, 1934 and the bricks are being used in the restoration of the "State House" at St. Mary's City.

upper surface, and a scrolled newel head. The influence of the plan of CARTHAGENA may be seen at the OLD HOUSE ON WEST ST. MARY'S MANOR.

One of the old Colonial brick stables of Maryland is near PRIEST MANOR and has large doors in the middle of the long sides, with a double tier of loop holes pierced in the walls for defense. This stable is reminiscent of the "Abbott's Barn" at Glastonbury, England.

A good way to obtain the atmosphere of old St. Mary's County is to descend the steep winders of CALVERT'S REST,¹³ built soon after 1661, and then walk the mile long avenue to the river at MULBERRY FIELDS. It was a far cry from the simple Seventeenth Century spirit of CALVERT'S REST to the grand manner of the Renaissance as developed at MULBERRY FIELDS, built one hundred years later.

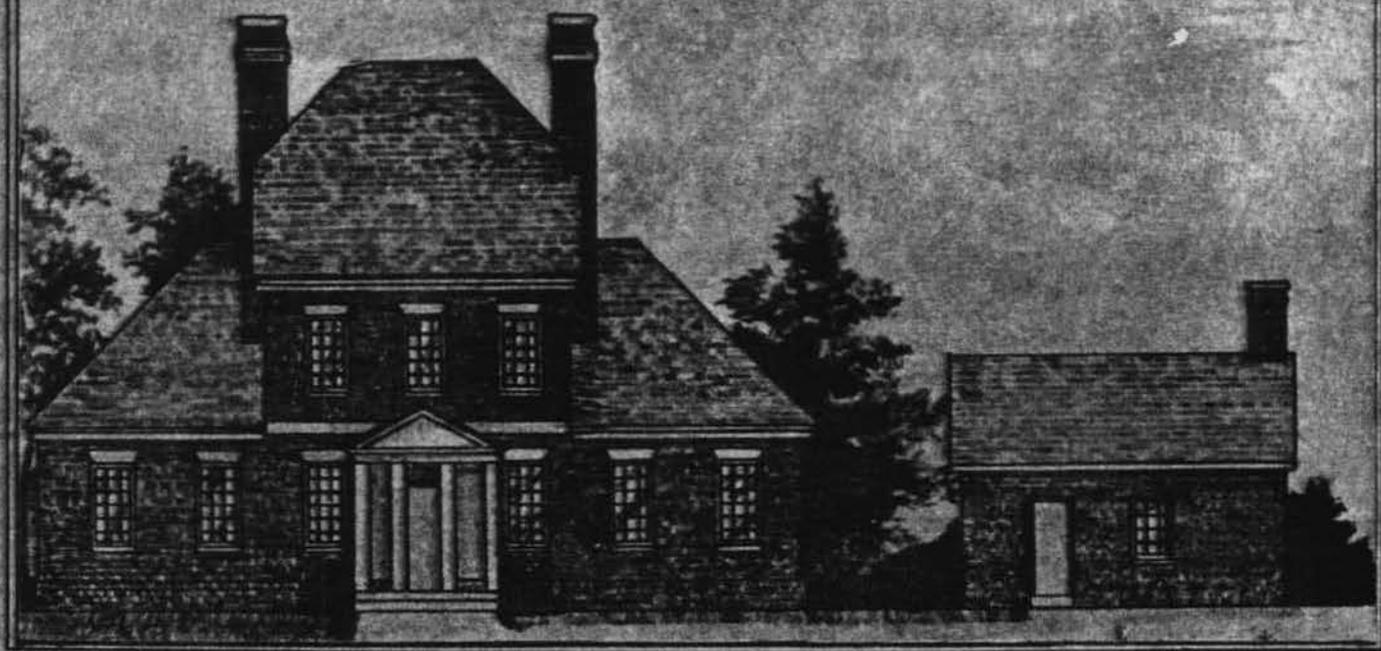
¹³ Another house belonging to the Calverts in this neighborhood was "Mattapany" next to "Susquehanna" on the Patuxent River. The present "Mattapany" is a brick mansion built in the Nineteenth Century, although the kitchen dates back to the Eighteenth. The property was granted to Henry Sewall, Secretary of Charles Calvert, third Lord Baltimore. It was this same Sewall who owned "My Lady Sewall's Manor" in Dorchester County. Upon Sewall's death Charles Calvert married Sewall's widow, Jane, and built the "Calvert House" about 1666 near the site of the present "Mattapany". "Calvert House" in 1773 was reported as going to ruin; today it has vanished. According to Thomas, it was sixty feet long by thirty feet wide, and had a capacious wing.



ST. INIGOE'S MANOR, now destroyed, was built on 2000 acres of land surveyed in 1641 for Cuthbert Fenwick, and later patented to Mr. Thomas Copley, a Jesuit. The manor-house was erected about 1705 under the auspices of Father Ashby, who built it of bricks taken from the old Chapel at St. Mary's City. The British attacked the house in 1778, and again in 1814.

SM-14
ST-92

**ARCHEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATIONS
AT ST. INIGOES
MANOR HOUSE
18 ST 87
ST. MARY'S COUNTY,
MARYLAND**



Local tradition names Father James Ashby, S.J., as the builder of the Priest's Point Manor House. A letter by Father Fidele de Grivel in 1835 praises St. Inigoes Manor as "...a good brick house, 100 years old...with about twelve rooms..." and that Father Ashby had "...moved it from the 'old chapel field' (Maryland Provincial Archives 4W.Z; Beitzell 1976:54). This would not have been possible if the Manor House had been built in 1705 since Ashby wasn't born until 1714 (Beitzell 1976:34). Historic records indicate that Father Ashby was stationed at St. Inigoes Manor from 1749-1754 and 1761-1766 (Beitzell 1976:67, 246). Proof of Ashby's presence at the St. Inigoes plantation can be seen in the 1749-1754 account books that are in his handwriting (Zwinge 1912). Also an indenture (tenancy) lease dated June 11, 1752, names James Ashby as an agent of "St. Inigo's Mannour in St. Marie's County" in letting a farm to a Francis Herbert (Maryland Provincial Archives 99W1). Zwinge (1912) characterizes Father Ashby as an active man "...projecting plans, getting bids from the county masons and carpenters, considering costs and expenses, and fussing with workmen..." This is substantiated by the fact that after his second stay at St. Inigoes Father Ashby went back to Newtown Manor and built a church there in 1766 (Beitzell 1976:101).



FIGURE 3. PAINTING ATTRIBUTED TO CECILIA COAD, 1847 or 1849

The appearance of the Manor House at Priest's Point is known from a sketch or painting by Cecilia Coad in 1847 or 1849 (Figure 3). The house was drawn/painted looking at the south facade and shows a two-story central portion with four chimneys and flanked by one-story wings. While reminiscing in 1899, Edwin J. Coad described the Manor House as "...of English birth, the walls being very thick and massive... The roof of the old house was quadrilateral and very much peaked, with four tall chimneys piercing it, standing like four grim sentinels in their helmets square... Its *tout* ensemble was unique and very striking in appearance..."

Coad (1899) also described the interior of the Manor House:

"The ground floor had five rooms. Entering the south front you came to a hall which led to the pastor's room on the left and to the assistant's room on the right. On crossing it you were in the grand parlor or reception room, and in front the north entrance door was before you. A door leading from the left of the large room was the Bishop's apartment, and from the right there was another leading into the ordinary dining room."

"The central or main room was an elegant one and must have been twenty four feet square with high ceiling. From the north front there was a superb view of the upper St. Mary's..."

The northeast chamber, later to be used as a dining room, was utilized as a chapel during the War of 1812 (Beitzell 1976; Smolek et al 1983). In 1806 plans had been made to raise the one-story wings up a second story in order to accommodate a proposed Novitiate, but the location was changed to Georgetown and the planned renovations were never undertaken (Zwinge 1915:6,7). The second story of the central portion consisted of a large open room utilized as sleeping quarters. Fifteen novitiates lived there for six months just prior to the British raid on the Manor House in the War of 1812 (Agonito 1977:85; Beitzell 1976:157, 158).

The St. Inigoes Manor House continued as the focus of this important religious center until it burned on January 25, 1872. Within a few weeks of this disaster, a two-story structure was built onto the surviving east wing foundation (Figure 4). This building was known as the Priests' Residence until its purchase by the U.S. Navy in 1942. At that time the Navy bought 773 acres from the Jesuits, including Priest's Point, and established Webster Field, an auxiliary landing field for Patuxent River Naval Air Station (Smolek et al 1983:14). The former Priests' Residence was slightly renovated for a Bachelor Officers' quarters. This included installing a furnace in the cellar and building a chimney onto the building's west wall (Figure 5).

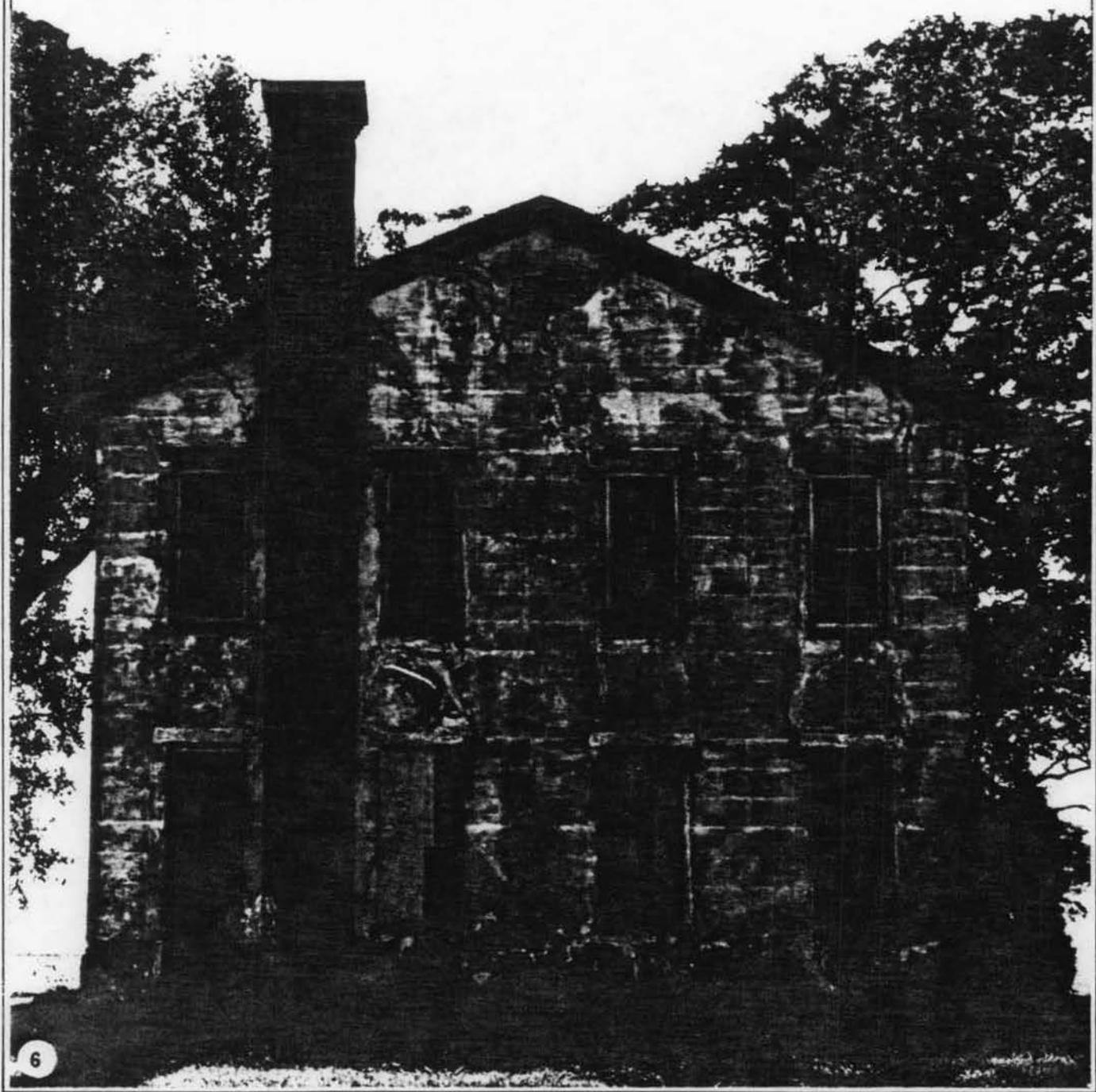
FIGURE 4. EARLY 20th CENTURY VIEW OF
PRIEST'S RESIDENCE WEST WALL





By the 1970's the former Priests' Residence was falling into a state of disrepair. After consultation with Cary Carson and Garry W. Stone of the St. Mary's City Commission, the Navy removed the crumbling 19th century walls and filled in the cellar hole. All that remains today of the 18th century Manor House is a portion of the original east wall and the east wing foundation up to the water table.

FIGURE 5. 1940s U.S. NAVY BACHELOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS WEST WALL





PROJECT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

In 1982 archeologists surveyed the eastern area of the St. Inigoes Manor House site (18 ST 87) in advance of the construction of a sewage treatment plant. Systematic shovel test pits and three excavation units found the remains of a 19th century weaver's house and thousands of domestic artifacts in the Manor House's side yard. These archeological findings enabled the planners to avoid any adverse effect on the historic site (Smolek et al 1983).

Documentary and archeological information collected in the above report generated an interest in the buried foundations west of the east wing ruins. Archeologists were contracted to investigate the St. Inigoes Manor House ruins in order to aid the development of a preservation program of stabilization, interpretation, and possible adaptive reuse of this historic site.

This report concerns the archeological excavations of the central portion and the west wing foundations undertaken in August 1983. Below are several of the objectives that this project hoped to address:

1. Placement of an excavation unit on the west side of the surviving foundation which was the dividing wall between the central portion of the house and the east wing. This unit will attempt to verify that the east wing and central portion are of contemporary construction and it may also determine if the central portion had a cellar beneath it.
2. Placement of an excavation unit at the conjectured dividing wall between the west wing and the central portion in an attempt to determine if the central portion and the west wing are of contemporary construction.
3. Placement of an excavation unit at the conjectured west end wall of the west wing to determine overall length, wall construction details, etc. This unit may also be able to determine if the west wing had a cellar beneath it, as the east wing did.
4. Placement of an excavation unit at the conjectured location of one or more of the conjectured chimney bases to ascertain their location, dimension, and configuration.
5. Placement of an excavation unit at one of the suspected porch locations to determine size and configuration and in an attempt to date the relative construction of the house and porches.

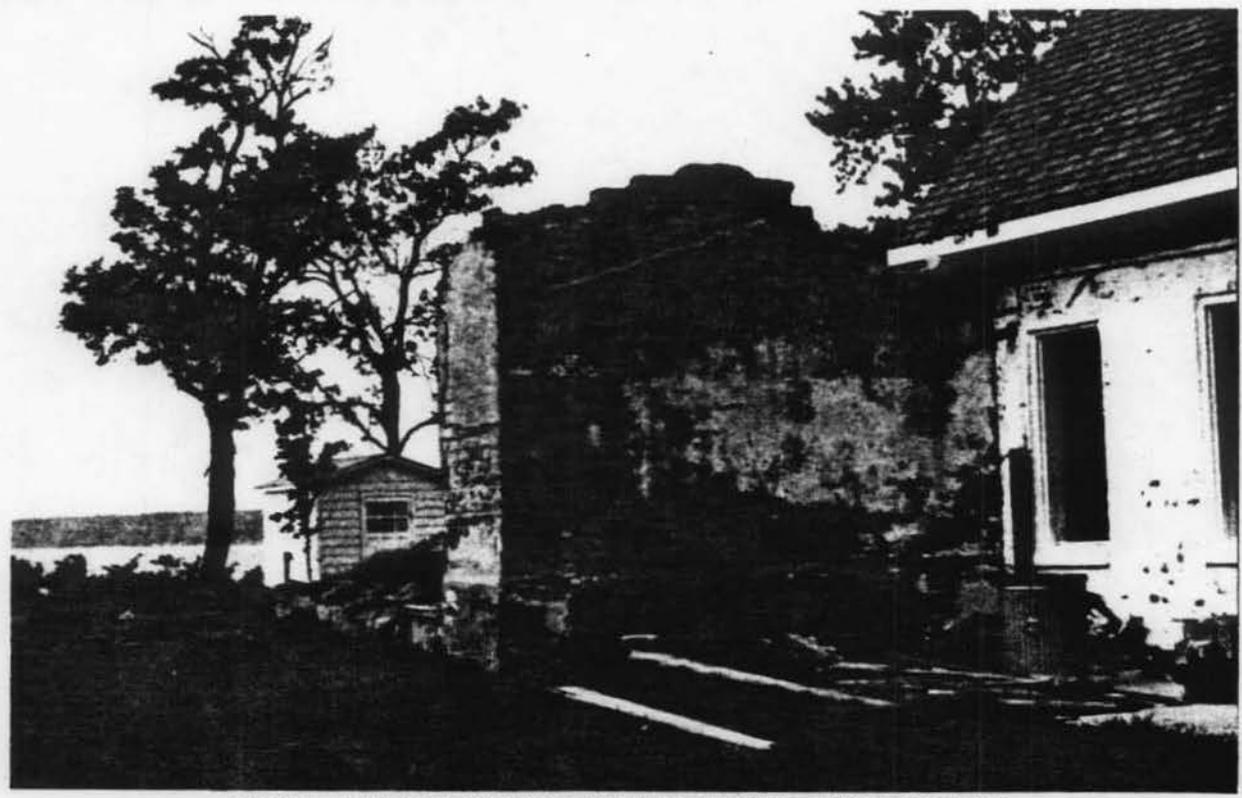


FIGURE 6. VIEW OF MANOR HOUSE SITE AND EAST WING RUIN LOOKING WEST

Probing and possible shovel testing were proposed in the scope of work in order to locate the buried foundations. Surface reconnaissance of the slightly mounded grass-covered area west of the east wing ruin indicated that probing was unnecessary. Due to local drought conditions an outline of what appeared to be the buried foundations was visible (Figure 7). A pattern of dry vegetation generally followed the conjectured floorplan proposed by Smolek (et al 1983:59). Excavation units 1 and 2 were placed along the vegetation line believed to be the north wall of the Manor House. When brick foundations were uncovered in both excavations, the locations of the remaining units were chosen by reference to the surface vegetation outline (Figure 8).



FIGURE 7. BURIED FOUNDATIONS OF MANOR HOUSE OUTLINED IN THE VEGETATION

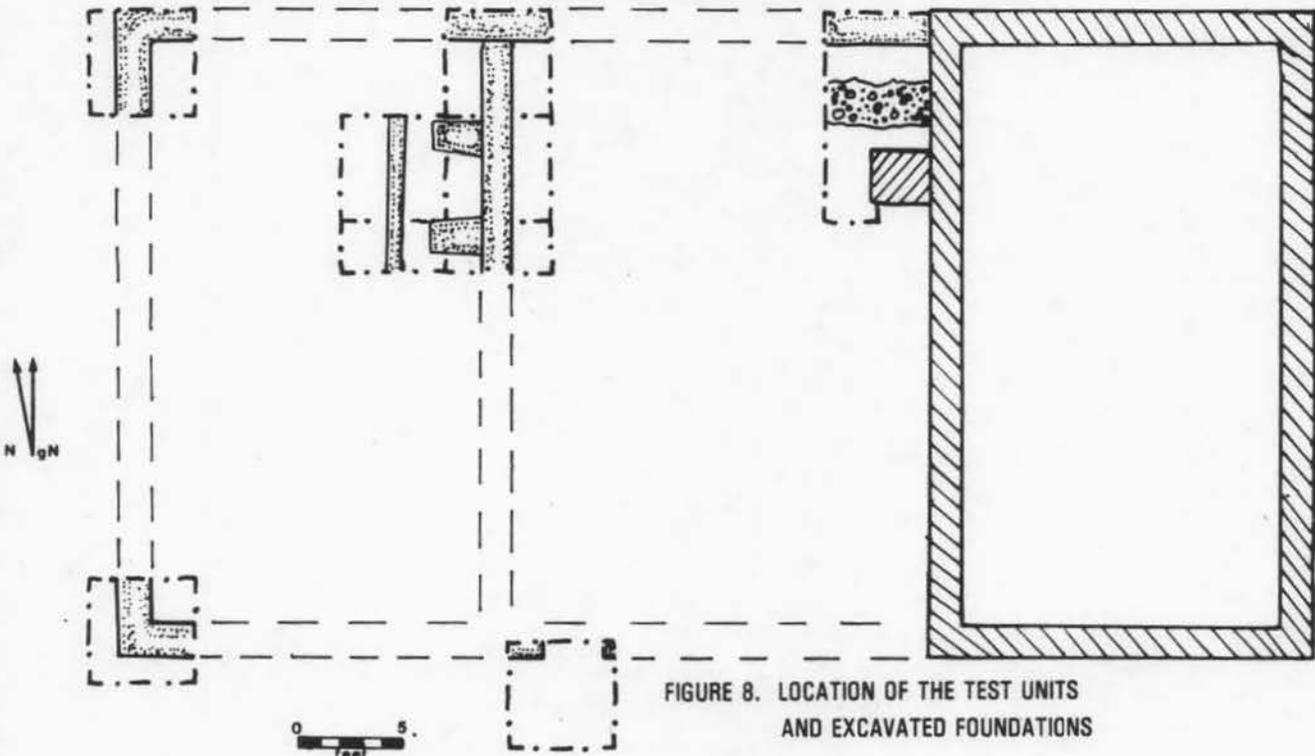
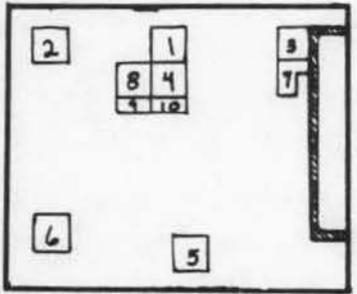
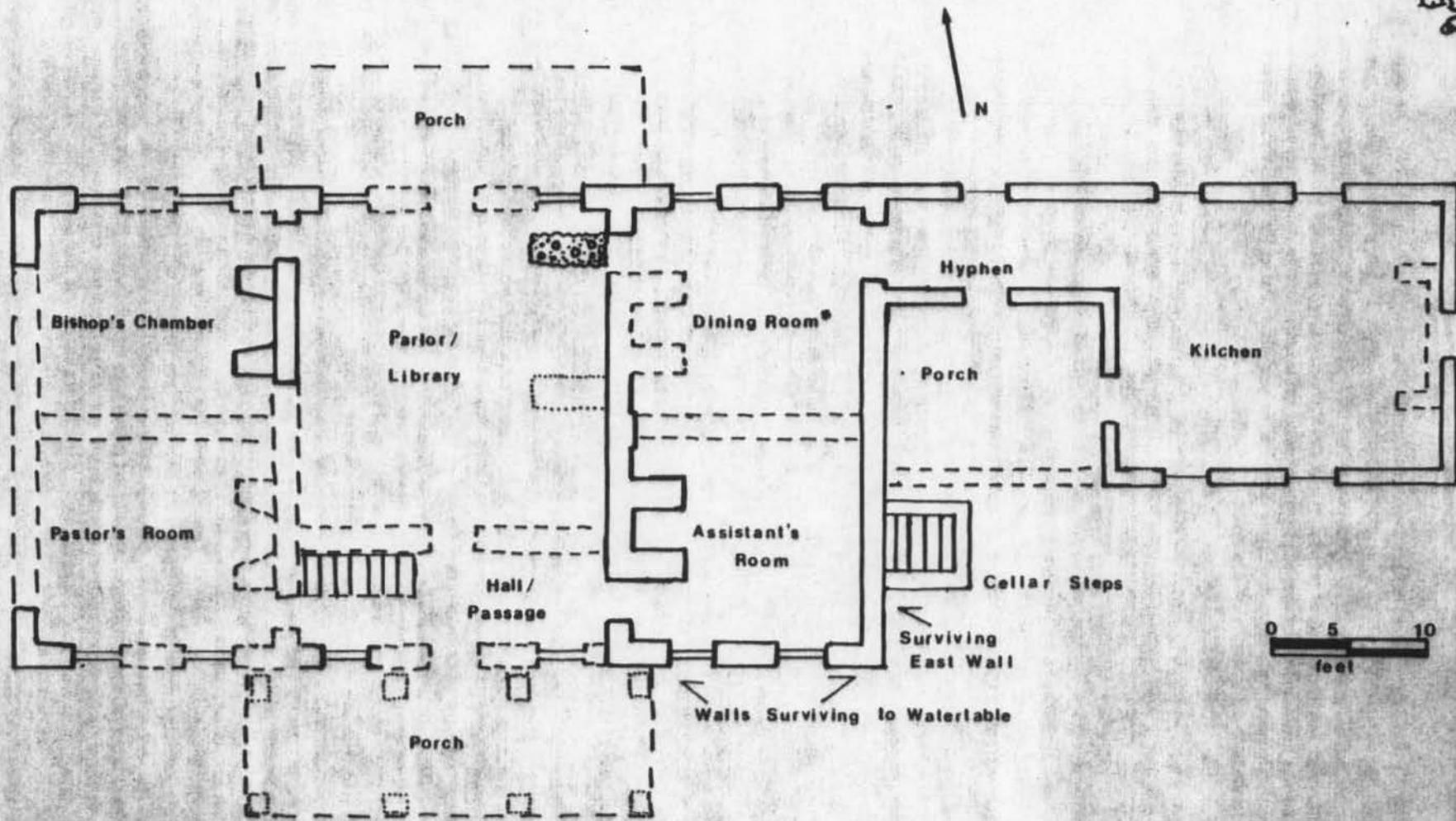


FIGURE 8. LOCATION OF THE TEST UNITS AND EXCAVATED FOUNDATIONS

A grid was laid out in line with the extant north wall of the east wing ruin. The top of the water table at the northwest corner of the east wing was assigned as an arbitrary datum of 10 feet above sea level. All elevations on the site were referenced to this point. Layers were excavated by natural stratigraphy and all soil was screened through 3/8-inch mesh. Large amounts of brick and mortar were quantified in the field and all other artifacts were retained for laboratory analysis and curation.



FIGURE 27. CONJECTURED FLOORPLAN OF ST. INGOES MANOR HOUSE AT PRIEST'S POINT IN 1872



*1814 Chapel

SM-14



S.M. - 14 St. Frigoes Manor

MHT



S.M. - 14 St. Trigoes Manor



SM-14 St. Frigoes Manor



SM-14 St. Inigoes Manor



SM-14 - St. Inigoes Manor



SM-14 St. Inigoes Manor