

Capsule Summary  
SM-190  
Salisbury Plains  
Park Hall Vicinity  
Private

c. 1790-1800

The 100 acre tract called Salisbury Plains, originally patented in 1680 for John Sanner, is located on the south side of Park Hall Road near Park Hall, Maryland. Sometime in the 1790s, Joseph Sanner, a descendent of John Sanner, erected a one-and-a-half story, three bay, brick and frame dwelling with a hall-parlor plan. While presently in a ruinous state, Salisbury Plains is significant for its association with the Sanner family during the early nineteenth century as well as its later use as a tenant house, and later as the farm of the Gasparovic family, one of several Slavic families who immigrated from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kansas, and Baltimore and purchased property in the St. Mary's City vicinity during the early to mid-twentieth century.

Joseph Sanner, a locally prominent tobacco farmer, is listed as owning 198 1/2 acres in 1793. Between 1796 and 1801 Sanner's fortunes grew considerably as he went from owning 169 1/2 acres to 286 acres of property and he saw the total value of his personal and real property rise from £ 105 to £ 214. It was most likely between these two dates that the dwelling often referred to as Salisbury Plains was erected. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax appears to confirm this as it notes that on Joseph Sanner's "Saulsberry Plains" was a "Fram'd Dwell'g House 32 by 16 ft unfinished 2 windows 2 ft sq old cellar & roof 16 by 12 ft." The ruins of Salisbury Plains measure approximately 32 by 17 feet confirming the size of the dwelling.

By 1852, Salisbury Plains passed out of the Sanner family ownership. It appears that even before this transaction the dwelling had become a tenant house. From the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries the dwelling remained a tenant dwelling. In 1913, the house entered another phase of occupation for it was in this year that Martin and John Gasparovic of Baltimore,

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Maryland purchased the tract. The Gasparovics were just one of over 50 Slavic families who moved to the St. Mary's City area in the early-twentieth century. While the Gasparovics purchased the land themselves, most of their Slavic neighbors obtained mortgages through The National Slavonic Society--an organization that purchased the 2,813 acres around St. Mary's City and advertised the St. Mary's County property to Slavic immigrants all over America.

— Under the Gasparovic ownership the house was updated in an interesting way. According to Rick Riviere's 1970s field notes, the walls featured "nogging of large unbaked brick laid with a loosely mixed mud and straw mortar (this latter is a 20th century feature installed by the owner)." Judging from this description, the Gasparovics installed brick nogging, a feature usually seen in seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth century dwellings, in the early twentieth century. This suggests that the Gasparovics chose a culturally conservative way of insulating the building--perhaps recalling Eastern European building methods.

SM-190, Salisbury Plains  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Rural  
Historic Function and Use: Residence  
Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-190

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Salisbury Plains

and/or common

## 2. Location

S side of Park Hall Road (Rt. 489), approx. .6 miles E of intersection of Park Hall Rd. & Route 5  
street & number  not for publication

city, town Park Hall  vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-59, B-8 & 9, P-237

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: ruin

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

name Gary L. and Candace Anita Gasparovic Allen

street & number 14720 Cactus Hill Road telephone no.: 301-283-0121

city, town Accokeek state and zip code Maryland, 20607-9693

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 244

street & number folio 239

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Salisbury Plains

date January 1, 1971  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-190

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Salisbury Plains is situated on the south side of Maryland Route 489 (Park Hall Road) near Park Hall, Maryland. Due to significant logging activity on the property, the dirt road leading to the dwelling is no longer evident. Aerial photographs of the property before the logging activity reveal that the road ran 0.2 miles in a south direction from Maryland Route 489 to the house. Salisbury Plains is presently located in a wooded section of the 129 acre property. The surrounding landscape is relatively flat and surrounding parcels are either woodland or pasture.

Salisbury Plains is a now ruinous, one-and-a-half story, brick end and frame, three bay dwelling with a hall-parlor plan, two brick chimneys, and a gable roof. Constructed c. 1790s, the building features an English Bond foundation that supports an eight by eight inch sill, but due to significant deterioration, the original wall and roof framing methods, wall and roof sheathing, and interior furnishing cannot be determined. According to the 1971 field notes of Rick Rivoire, the walls were sheathed with random width beaded weatherboard and fastened with wrought nails and the spaces between the wall studs were filled with c. 1940s unbaked brick laid with a mixed mud and straw mortar. In addition to T-head wrought nails, several hand clenched nails and cut nails were found on wall studs and plates. The gable ends were constructed of unevenly fired brick laid in the Flemish bond. The building measures approximately seventeen feet by thirty two feet and a brick foundation for a brick partition wall is situated approximately twelve feet from the south side of the building effectively bisecting the interior. While Rick Rivoire noted in 1971 that this could indicate two periods, different periods of construction could not be distinguished at the time of the site visit due to significant deterioration.

The fenestration on the primary or west elevation cannot be determined from the remains but according to Rivoire field notes and historic photographs it featured a centrally located, four panel door flanked on either side by a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. These openings were then shaded by an overhanging frame porch. While the porch, windows, and doors no longer remain, the remnants of a bulkhead entrance to a brick lined cellar is located on the north side of this elevation. Several sections of hewn floor joists are visible in the basement.

The north elevation features a ruinous interior end chimney. Historic photographs and notes made by Rivoire reveal that the wall was constructed in the Flemish brick bond with queen closers and featured two small windows that once lit the half story.

Rivoire's field notes reveal that the east elevation was also pierced by a centrally located door flanked on either side by a six-over-six window. These openings were shaded by an overhanging shed roof porch. A historic photograph also shows a shed roof addition that projected to the west.

The south elevation features the remains of a Flemish bond wall and exterior end fireplace constructed in the same bond pattern with one set of shoulders. A wooden nailer located to the west of the chimney reveals the location of a door to the exterior. Rivoire's notes and historic photographs show that a six-over-six window was once located to the east side of the chimney.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-190

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The 100 acre tract called Salisbury Plains, originally patented in 1680 for John Sanner, is located on the south side of Park Hall Road near Park Hall, Maryland. Sometime in the 1790s, Joseph Sanner, a descendent of John Sanner, erected a one-and-a-half story, three bay, brick and frame dwelling with a gable roof and a hall-parlor plan. While presently in a ruinous state, Salisbury Plains is significant for its association with the Sanner family during the early nineteenth century as well as its later use as a tenant house, and later as a farm of the Gasparovic family, one of several Slavic families who purchased property in the St. Mary's City vicinity during the early to mid-twentieth century.

Joseph Sanner, a locally prominent tobacco farmer, is listed as owning 198 1/2 acres in 1793. Between 1796 and 1801 Sanner's fortunes grew considerably as he went from owning 1/2 acres to 286 acres of property and he saw the total value of his personal and real property rise from £ 105 to £ 214. It was most likely between these two dates that the dwelling often referred to as Salisbury Plains was erected. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax appears to confirm this as it notes that on Joseph Sanner's "Saulsberry Plains" was a "Fram'd Dwell'g House 32 by 16 ft unfinished 2 windows 2 ft sq old cellar & roof 16 by 12 ft." Whether the term "unfinished" meant that the building remained under construction or the interior was not decorated is not clear from the description.

Joseph Sanner continued to increase his wealth by acquiring several tracts of land. By 1826 tax lists show him as owning 619 acres, three slaves, and a total estate value of \$ 1,167. In 1832, however, Sanner died leaving a minor son to receive the bulk of his property and assets. In February of 1836, William L. Biscoe and Captain Charles Railey assessed the "home farm" for minor, Samuel Adams Sanner. They noted that it included "a dwelling house about twenty four feet long and sixteen wide, a frame kitchen, cider house and sellar, log smoke house, all of which may be considered as wanting some repairs and also a carriage house in good condition and that there is thereon two good apple orchards, that said land is under a tolerable good fence..." The discrepancy between the 1798 and 1836 assessments of the property, in terms of the house size cannot be explained. Architectural evidence, reviewed during a July 1997 site visit to the house, suggests that the house measured approximately 32 feet by 17 feet—closer to the 1798 description. According to the field notes of Rick Rivoire, the dwelling featured two rooms separated by a brick partition wall as well as one interior and one exterior end brick chimney on the two Flemish brick bond gable ends. Nails, found in various framing members and clapboard, ranged from wrought T-head nails to early-hand hit cut nails and brads. This architectural evidence suggests a 1790-1820 construction date. It could not be determined whether the building was constructed all at one

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-190

See attachment 9.1.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name St. Mary's City

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date November, 1997

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**DHCP/DHCD**  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514-7600

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St. Mary's County  
Description 7.1

While the dwelling clearly featured a hall-parlor plan, the original decoration is no longer evident. The north room appears to have been the largest room measuring eighteen by sixteen feet on the interior. Rivoire notes show that the room featured opposing door entries and windows as well as a stair in the northeast corner. The south and smaller room measured approximately eleven by sixteen feet. This room was entered either through an interior door that pierced the brick partition wall separating the two sections or through an exterior door on the south elevation.

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time or during two periods.

It appears that Samuel A. Sanner did not stay at Salisbury Plains for by 1848 he was living at 231 Hanover Street in Baltimore and working as a ship's pilot. In 1852 Sanner sold the property to Richard H. Bennett (Sanner died only two years later in 1854). Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, the dwelling served as a tenant house for the surrounding farm as most of the property owners did not live on the property. Insight into the life of a tenant farmer on the property during the 1880s is provided by a Circuit Court of Equity case involving William J. and Avie E. Vannort vs. David F. and Mary Anne Mills. In 1879, William J. Vannort, a land speculator from Kent County, purchased Salisbury Plains, Part of Strip, and Part of Courtneys Fancy from James M. Magill for \$775. Upon purchasing the property, Vannort apparently made \$2,000 worth of improvements. In 1887, David F. Mills agreed to purchase the property for \$3,000 to be paid over a period of several years. Mills, a tenant farmer who had lost an arm to farm machinery, had extensive experience as a farmer in New Jersey as well as in Kent and Queen Anne counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and lived, presumably, at Salisbury Plains with his daughter Mary Anne. William Mills, however, could not fulfill his end of the deal and by the end of 1888 it became clear that he would have to give up the property. Mills and Vannort tried to solve their differences. The court case notes that Vannort and Mills had dinner at Salisbury Plains and then tried to work out an alternate deal after walking in a nearby field. Mills again failed to make his payments and the case was remanded to the Circuit Court. During the proceedings, Vannort accused Mills of devaluing the property by killing the peach orchard, not using fertilizers, not rebuilding a damaged barn, and failing to keep the house and outbuildings in adequate repair. Mills retorted that the property was not all that Vannort had led him to believe stating that the cattle had been allowed to graze on the orchard part of the farm, the soil was poorly fertilized, and the outbuildings already out of repair. The three judge panel consisting of John P. Briscoe, John B. Brooke, and J. Parran Crane ultimately decided in favor of Vannort and ordered the sale of the property in 1893. Curiously the property was sold in 1894 to William H. Tippet for only \$650--far less than Vannort probably hoped.

The case of Vannort vs. Mills and how it involves Salisbury Plains highlights several important trends in St. Mary's County in the aftermath of the Civil War. First, it reveals the tenuous and unpredictable nature of agricultural tenancy and absentee landownership. With the loss of estates and property after the Civil War, St. Mary's County was besieged by land speculators who bought land cheaply and sold it for a profit. While William J. Vannort failed to regain his alleged costs of improving the property, his case epitomizes the impact of absentee landownership and tenancy. Perhaps the most dramatic impact was on the brick and frame dwelling at Salisbury Plains for as a result of Mills' occupancy the dwelling fell into disrepair. Lastly, the case provides a detailed understanding about the everyday use of a historic landscape such as how and where informal real estate deals were conducted and how tilling and fertilizing of orchards was performed.

From 1894-1913 Salisbury Plains and its associated properties Part of Strip and Part of Courtneys Fancy remained in the Tippet family ownership. In 1913, however, the property was purchased by Martin and John Gasparovic of Baltimore, Maryland. The Gasparovics were just one of over 50 Slavic families who moved to the St. Mary's City area in the early-twentieth century. While the Gasparovics purchased the land themselves, most of their Slavic neighbors purchased their property from The National Slavonic Society--an organization that purchased the 2,813 acres around St. Mary's City and advertised the St. Mary's County property to Slavic

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communities in the Pennsylvania and Kansas coal fields as well as to their homeland. Those that settled in St. Mary's City soon formed The Slavic Farmers Association in order to promote a series of objectives that would promote farming and manufacturing enterprises. Unfortunately, the Slavic colony fell far short of its intended scope as the National Slavic Society withdrew much of its support in the late 1910s and 1920s.

The Gasparovics did not appear to be affected by this withdrawal. Under the Gasparovic ownership the house was updated in an interesting way. According to Rick Riviere's 1970s field notes, the walls featured "nogging of large unbaked brick laid with a loosely mixed mud and straw mortar (this latter is a 20th century feature installed by the owner)." Judging from this description, the Gasparovics installed brick nogging, a feature usually seen in seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth century dwellings, in the early twentieth century. This suggests that the Gasparovics chose a culturally conservative way of insulating the building--perhaps recalling Eastern European building methods. It appears that other members of Slavic community made more obvious expressions of their cultural origins as well. Alice Drury, a Sanner descendant, could remember a dwelling on the north side of Park Hall Road that had a stable/barn connected to it--a way of organizing domestic functions not normally seen in St. Mary's County and that stood out to Alice as being "different." Descendants of the Gasparovic family still own the property.

Overall, Salisbury Plains derives its importance architecturally as an important example of a c. 1790-1820s brick and frame, hall-parlor dwelling but also draws importance from its association with the Sanner and Gasparovic families, agricultural tenancy, and the Slavic relocation.

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Tax Assessment Records from 1793-1826 for Joseph Sanner (builder of Salisbury Plains)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tracts and Acreage</u>	<u>Land Value</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1793	Saulsberry Plains, 100 Part of the Handkerchief, 14 Part of Basets Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Ivy Hills, 29 <u>Total acreage= 198 1/2</u>	£ 74.8.9		£ 115
1794	Saulsberry Plains, 100 Part of the Handkerchief, 14 Part of Basets Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Ivy Hills, 29 <u>Total acreage= 198 1/2</u>	£ 74.8.9		
1796	Saulsberry Plains, 100 Part of the Handkerchief, 14 Part of Basets Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 <u>Total acreage= 169 1/2</u>	£ 63.11.3		£ 105
1798	Federal Direct Tax Saulsberry Plains, 100 Handkerchief, 14 Popets Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 pearce's Chance & part of the ridge, 50 Richardson Fancy, 38 Joseph's Lott, 27 acres <u>Total acreage= 284 1/2</u>	\$238.50		\$ 313.50
1801	Saulsberry Plains, 100 Part of Handkerchief, 14 Poppits Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Pierce's Chance & Pt of Ridge, 50 Richardson's Fancy, 38 Joseph's Lot, 27 <u>Total acreage= 284 1/2</u>	£ 106.13.4	1	£ 214

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 Significance 8.4

(tax cont.)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tracts and Acreage</u>	<u>Land Value</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1806	Saulsberry Plains, 100 Part of Handkerchief, 14 Poppits Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Pierce's Chance & Pt of Ridge, 50 Richardson's Fancy, 38 Joseph's Lot, 27 Part of Courtney's Fancy, 50 <u>Total Acreage</u> = 334 1/2	£125.8.9	3	£ 320
1812	Saulsberry Plains, 100 Part of Handkerchief, 14 Poppits Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Pierce's Chance & Pt of Ridge, 50 Richardson's Fancy, 38 Joseph's Lot, 27 Part of Courtney's Fancy, 50 (1/2 of water mill) <u>Total Acreage</u> = 334 1/2	£150.8.9		
1821	Saulsberry Plains Part of Handkerchief, 14 Poppits Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Pierce's Chance & Pt of Ridge, 50 Richardson's Fancy, 38 Joseph's Lot, 27 Part of Courtney's Fancy, 50 Part of Friends by Chance & Part Ridge, 125 Strife, 109 1/2 Courtneys Fancy, 50 (Watermill Lot, 133 1/3) <u>Total Acreage</u> = 619	\$ 752	3	\$ 1,167

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(tax cont.)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tracts and Acreage</u>	<u>Land Value</u>	<u>Slaves</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1826	Saulsberry Plains Part of Handkerchief, 14 Poppits Plains, 12 1/2 Squabble, 43 Pierce's Chance & Pt of Ridge, 50 Richardson's Fancy, 38 Joseph's Lot, 27 Part of Courtney's Fancy, 50 Part of Friends by Chance & Part Ridge, 125 Strife, 109 1/2 Courtneys Fancy, 50 (Watermill Lot, 133 1/3) <u>Total Acreage= 619</u>	\$ 752	3	\$ 1,167

SM-190, Salisbury Plains  
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Significance 8.6

Descriptions of Dwellings on Salisbury Plains

I. Re-survey of Salisbury Plains for Joseph Sanner, June 7, 1774

"Improvements are one old Clapboard Dwelling House 20 by 16 feet, an old Ditto 16 by 12, one old Loged Ditto 15 by 16, Twenty Pannels of Old Fencing."

II. Federal Direct Tax, Thomas Sanner, List No. 6-B, October 1, 1798

"Saulsberry Plains Fram'd Dwell'g House 32 by 16 ft unfinished 2 windows 2ft sq old cellar & roof 16 by 12 ft"

--the tax also describes Sanner's tenant property as being in the custody of Ann Watson. The description of the house is as follows

"Tenants House of wood 20 by 16 ft..."

III. St. Mary's Orphans Court, Valuations and Assessments, 1821-1846, Valuation for Samuel Adams Sanner, minor, by assessors William L. Biscoe and Captain Charles Railey (italics section most likely refers to Salisbury Plains,

*"...the farm usually denominated the home farm is worth thirty five dollars pr. annum, that there is a dwelling house about twenty four feet long and sixteen wide, a frame kitchen, cider house and sellar, log smoke house, all of which may be considered as wanting some repairs and also a carriage house in good condition and that there is thereon two good apple orchards, that said land is under a tolerable good fence, that from one fourth, to one third of said land is in wood mostly pine, that a few acres between the house and road may be cleared to advantage the farm and secondly that tenement No. 2 now occupied by a free man of colour by the name of Mr. Mason is worth twelve dollars per annum, that there is thereon an old house out of repair, and a small orchard known by the name of Fosters Hill. Thirdly, that tenement No. 3 is worth twenty five dollars pr. year rent, that there is thereon one old dwelling and kitchen and old smoke house very much out of repairs, one small barn in tolerable good repair, one third of said land is good pine wood, that a certain part, next James Jarboes line might be cleared with advantage to said tenement known by the name of Milburn's Chance, tenement No 4 worth forty dollars pr. year under lease to Joseph Forrest for seven years, the acts of Joseph Sanner, dec.d, three years of said lease expired January 1st 1834..."*



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Map showing the property of the National Slavonic Society as of October 1910. Salisbury Plains is located approximately 1 1/2 miles to the north of the main settlement. From Regina Combs Hammett, History of St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1634-1990 (Ridge, Md: N.p., 1991), p 441.



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8.10 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 244, Folio 239

Grantee: Gary Lee Allen and Candace Anita Gasparovic Allen

Grantor: Thelma A. Gasparovic, Paul J. and Bobbie Gasparovic

Date: December 15, 1985

Notes: The deed notes that the property is south of the road from Park Hall to Fairfields. It is referred to as Saulsbury Plains, Part of Strip, Part of Courtney's Fancy.

Reference: Liber 120, Folio 3

Grantee: Thelma A. and Walter S. Gasparovic and Paul J. and Bobbie Gasparovic

Grantor: Mary Fowler

Date: May 25, 1965

Reference: Liber 120, Folio 1

Grantee: Mary Fowler

Grantor: Walter S. and Thelma Gasparovic and Paul J. and Bobbie Gasparovic

Date: May 25, 1965

Reference: Liber EBA 16, Folio 498

Grantee: John and Frances Gasparovic

Grantor: Martin and Annie Gasparovic

Date: December 20, 1917

Notes: The deed references a survey by J. Spence Howard. According to the survey the property contains 130.7 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 12, Folio 73

Grantee: Martin and Annie Gasparovic, Baltimore City

Grantor: William H. and Addie R. Tippett

Date: September 26, 1913

Reference: Liber EBA 4, Folio 366

Grantee: William H. and Addie R. Tippett

Grantor: Susan A. Tippett (widow of William H. Tippett)

Date: April 4, 1905

Notes: The deed notes that the property contains 166 acres.

Reference: Liber JJG 2, Folio 83

Grantee: William H. Tippett

Grantor: L. Allison Wilmer, trustee

Date: January 13, 1894

Notes: According to a Circuit Court case (No. 750 NE, Decree Record JJG 1, Folio 169) the property was sold at public auction to settle the case between William J. and Avie Vannort vs. David F. and Mary Anne Mills. David F. Mills was a tenant farmer who failed to pay the balance on his mortgage in time. A court case ensued. Mills, however, claimed the farm was not as good as Mr. Vannort exclaimed and that when he got there the orchard and property was in disrepair. Mills, however, failed to prove that Mr. Vannort had misrepresented the property.

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Reference: Liber JFF 3, Folio 495

Grantee: William J. Vannort

Grantor: Thomas J. and Mollie P. Yates, John D. Peak, Susan C. Peak, Ellen A. Peak, Thomas F. Magill, C.S.A. Magill

Date: September 1879

Notes: According to this deed, the 175 acre property is sold for \$775.

Reference: Liber JTB 2, Folio 254

Grantee: Benedict Magill

Grantor: Lewis B. and Mary S. Peak

Date: December 1, 1855

Notes: The 160 acre property is sold for \$1500.

Reference: Liber JTB 1, Folio 157

Grantee: Lewis B. Peak

Grantor: Richard H. Bennett

Date: June 5, 1852

Notes: The property is listed as containing 200 acres

Reference: Liber JTB 1, Folio 140

Grantee: Richard H. Bennett

Grantor: Samuel A. Sanner (willed by Joseph Sanner)

Date: June 5, 1852

Notes: Here the 200 acre property, listed as the home farm of Joseph Sanner, is sold for \$800.

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Bibliography 9.1

Drury, Alice. Interview and Telephone Conversations, July, 1997.

St. Mary's County Tax Assessments, 1793-1826. Microfilm copies available at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis.

Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Lists E & B, Lower St. Mary's Hundred. Microfilm copies available at the Maryland Hall of Records and the St. Mary's County Historical Society. A transcribed copy will soon be available at the Historical Society.

St. Mary's County Land Records, Circuit Court Decree Record, Liber JJG 1, Folio 169-205. Decree Record books located in the St. Mary's County Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland.

St. Mary's County, Registry of Wills, Annual Valuation of Real Estate & Personal Property Liber EJM 1, 1826-1841. Located in Leonardtown at the St. Mary's County Courthouse.

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Maryland: N.p., 1991.

Sanner, William M. Sanner Family in the United States of America Baltimore, Md: W.M. Sanner Company, Inc., 1968. Copy available at the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

S M -190 SALISBURY PLAINS  
Park Hall  
Private

1798/circa 1830

Salisbury Plains is a one-story frame house with a gable roof and Flemish bond brick ends. The floor plan *consists of a* hall and parlor with a single partition wall of plastered brick. Interesting features include the exterior chimneys with tiled weatherings, the flush beaded board sheathing of the side walls, and the nogging of large unbaked brick laid with a loosely mixed mud and straw mortar (this latter is a 20th century feature installed by the owner).

Listed on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment for St. Mary's County as "unfinished," the house *may have* stood in this state until the 1830's *and been* completed *at that time.*

SM-190 Salisbury Plains  
Miss Gasporovic  
St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686

(as of 11/1980)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Salisbury Plains

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Maryland Route 489

CITY OR TOWN:  
Park Hall

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: St. Mary's CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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: Leonardtown STATE: Maryland CODE:

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As of ~~JAN. 1st 1971~~ Salisbury Plains  
stood as <sup>is</sup> little more than a shell,  
consisting of the frame and roof.

Of hall and parlor plan it is  
one story in height. Of frame construction,  
it also displays the St. Marys County  
feature of brick ends - each with a  
well constructed external chimney.  
Three bays in length, this house has  
random width beaded weatherboarding  
secured with wrought nails. Nails  
used throughout the interior of the  
house are 19<sup>th</sup> c. cut. It is believed  
that this house began as a single  
cell (room) structure as the partition  
wall between the 1st floor rooms is of  
solid brick, the same thickness as  
the exposed end wall. An interesting  
feature of this house is the nogging  
of the front and rear walls. This  
nogging is composed of large unbalanced  
brick, with a mud and straw mortar.

Russell  
1/1/71

3

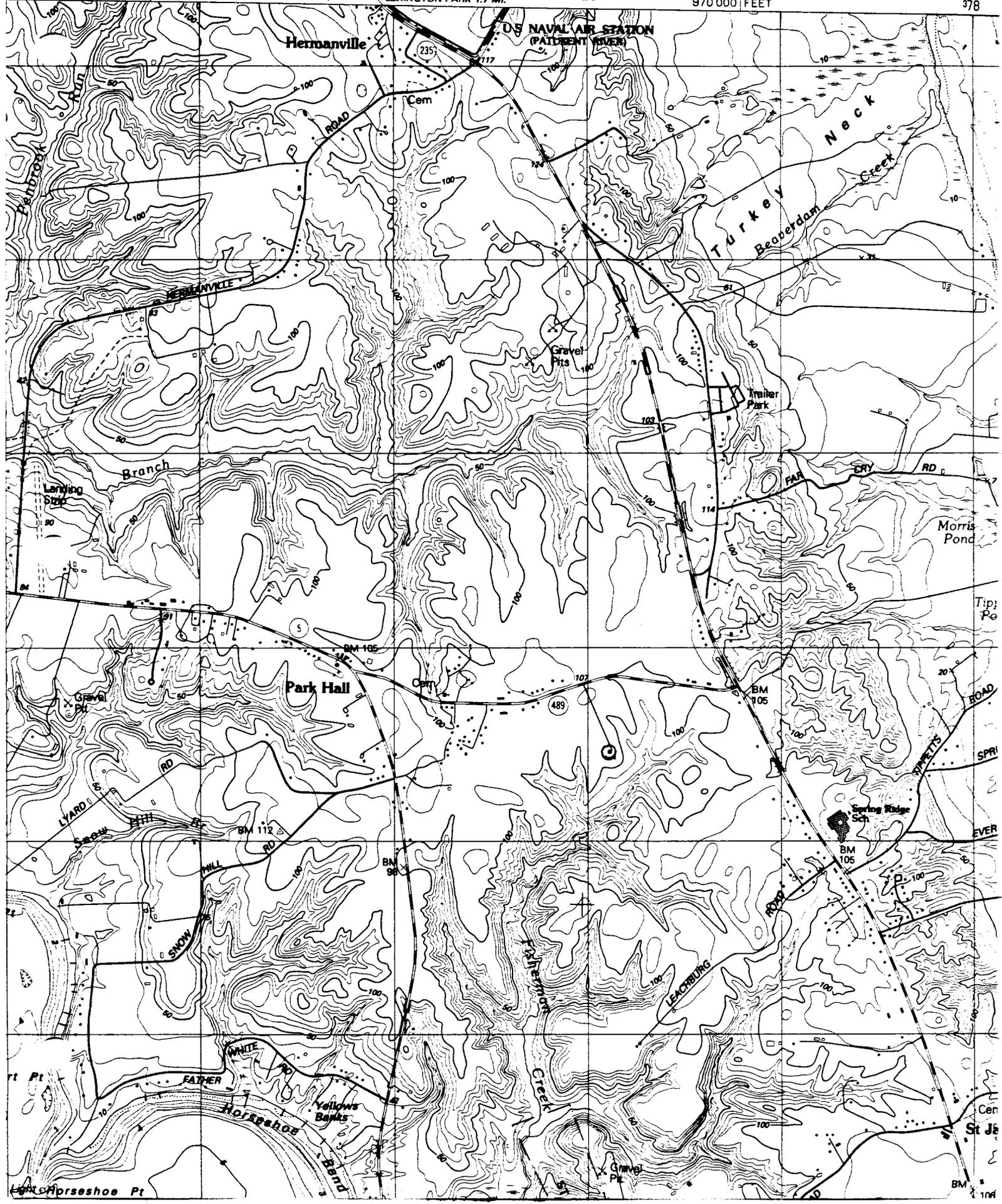
5780 IV SW  
374 (SOLOMONS ISLAND)

WALFORD 35 MI.  
LEXINGTON PARK 1.7 MI.

25'

970 000 FEET

378





SM-190  
 Salisbury Plains  
 Park Hall Vic.  
 St. Mary's County  
 St. Mary's City Quad











