

Capsule Summary

~~SM-625~~ SM-215

Lower Notley Hall

Maddox Vicinity

Private

c. 1896

(Page 1)

Lower Notley Hall is a two story, five bay, center passage, double-pile plan frame dwelling that rests prominently on the shores of Wicomico Bay near present day Maddox, Maryland. The present house is the fourth recorded main residence on the plantation which was originally subdivided and surveyed for Henry Wharton in 1708. In 1798, the heirs of Henry's descendant Jesse Wharton owned

...One Mansion 21 ft by 26 ft, one story, three windows 2-1/2 ft by 5-1/2, two dormant windows 1-1/2 ft by 3-1/2. One House adjoining, ready to fall. One Kitchen 18 ft by 16. Meathouse 12 ft sq. One Cowhouse 80 ft by 16. One old stable 30 ft by 18. One new stable 18 ft sq, all built of wood, pleasantly situated on Wicomicoe river in Upper St. Clements Hundred...¹

This dwelling was most likely replaced by future Maryland Governor James Thomas soon after he purchased the tract in 1817. By 1854 both Governor Thomas and his wife Eliza Courtes had died in testate leaving the property to his heirs Henry W. and James Richard Thomas and Anne Maria Waring. In order to provide for an equitable division of the property, the heirs brought a case before the St. Mary's County Circuit Court. A survey depicting the house as well as surrounding outbuildings was made and entered into evidence. Interestingly, the plat depicts a number of buildings on the property including a large two story, five bay dwelling with a cupola on its roof and gable end chimneys. Other buildings drawn include a possible cow barn, slave quarters, tenant house, and tobacco house.

Once the question of ownership and equitable division of the property was resolved, prosperity to the plantation returned when Billingsley Garner purchased acquired it in 1879.

¹ 1798 Federal Direct Tax, St. Mary's County, List A-2, No. 52, Hrs of Jessee Wharton residing in Montgomerie Cty.

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Lower Notley Hall

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(Page 2)

c. 1896

According to his descendant Robert Pogue, Garner erected a new house when he bought the property, probably demolishing the dwelling depicted in the survey.² In 1896, however, this building burned to the ground and the presently standing dwelling was erected soon after.³

This new dwelling, still extant, represents the fourth main house known to have been built on the property. The elaborate two story, five bay, center passage, double-pile frame dwelling rests prominently on the banks of the Wicomico River. Approached via a long narrow lane lined with cedars, the house is embellished with delicately scroll sawn porch brackets as well as a projecting pavilion or tower. The interior retains much of its integrity through the house plan as well as in the survival of interior architectural detailing. These details include an elaborate open string stair with turned balusters and newel, panelled partitions and doors, ornate mantles, and molded trim -- all consistent with a 1896 construction date. While originally the residence of Billingsley Garner, the house has remained under the ownership of his descendants which include members of the Pogue and Holmes families. Notably, the house was the boyhood home of noted author and historian Robert E. T. Pogue whose works Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County and Old Maryland Landmarks represent important chronicles of St. Mary's County history and culture.

2 Robert E. T. Pogue, Yesterday in St. Mary's County (Bushwood, Md: n.p., 1973), 17.

3 Pogue, 17.

SM-215, Lower Notley Hall
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

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

7. Description

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

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

Contributing Resource Count: 2

Overlooking the Wicomico River near Maddox, Maryland, Lower Notley Hall is located 0.1 miles west of the intersection of Manor Road and Notley Hall Road. Running perpendicular to the dwelling, Manor Road is a 0.1 mile long narrow lane which is lined with cedar trees. At the end of the lane, the house is oriented on an east/west axis and remains intimately tied to its surrounding agricultural and water oriented landscape. Just to the north of the house lies the old water landing, to the west is the Wicomico River, to the south is another residence, and to the east are a series of fields. The topography is relatively flat with a steep, but eroding, bank leading down to the water. A number of outbuildings lie just to the south of the kitchen wing. The most notable is a dairy.

Lower Notley Hall, erected c. 1890s, is a two-and-a-half story, five bay, center-passage, double-pile, frame dwelling with a two story kitchen wing. Resting on a common-bond brick foundation, the house is covered with wood clapboard siding ending at cornerboards. A boxed cornice with a modest frieze and projecting eave highlights the juncture of the exterior walls and asphalt shingle sheathed roof. The gable roof is pierced by two sets of two, interior end chimneys that exhibit corbelled tops and unplastered necking.

Due to its location, Lower Notley Hall features two primary elevations -- the east and west sides. The main block on east or landside elevation is pierced on the first floor by five bays. The centrally located door consists of a pair of four panel French doors. This ceremonial entrance is accompanied by two pane sidelights as well as a three pane transom. The doorway is flanked on either side by two, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. All of these bays are shaded by a Tuscan column lined porch that is embellished with a central closed bed pediment with a clapboard covered tympanum. A historic photograph reveals that this porch, like the west porch, once featured turned porch posts and whimsical and yet delicate scroll sawn brackets.¹ The second story is pierced by five two-over-two windows. The central bay, however, lies within a projecting pavilion that suggests a tower. This pavilion is actually cantilevered over the first floor porch. The only opening on the half story, a six-over-six window, lies within the pavilion. Echoing the porch, a closed-bed pediment with a pendant lies just above the window at the peak. The roof of the pavilion runs perpendicular to the roof of the main block. The kitchen wing's first floor is pierced on the first floor by a six-over-six window as well as a three sided bay. Each of the sides exhibit a two-over-two window. The second floor is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. The hipped roof is pierced by an interior end chimney flue. To the south of the wing is a modern one story addition which is pierced by an eight-over-eight window. It too features a hipped roof and interior end chimney flue.

The north elevation consists of the main block's gable end. The first and second floors are pierced by two, two-over-two windows. Just above these windows lie cornice returns. The attic story is lit by a six-over-six window.

¹ Robert Pogue, Old Maryland Landmarks (n.p.: Bushwood, Maryland, 1972), 33.

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St. Mary's County

7.1 Description

The west elevation is nearly identical to the east. The first floor is pierced by a centrally located set of four panel French doors with sidelights and transom. To either side lie two, two-over-two windows. Unlike the east side, the porch details have been retained. Six turned porch posts with scroll sawn brackets support a porch that also exhibits a closed bed pediment. The second floor is pierced by five, two-over-two windows with the central bay extending out over the porch in a pavilion. The attic story is lit by a six-over-six window. A closed bed pediment lies just above the opening. The kitchen wing's first floor features a one bay porch extension which is pierced by a six-over-six window. The small porch features a decorated post that exhibits scroll sawn brackets. This porch shades doors that permit entry into the kitchen as well as one bay extension. Just to the south of the door is a six-over-six window. The wing's second floor is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. The one story addition is pierced by an eight-over-eight window.

The south elevation features the gable ends of the main block, kitchen wing, and one story addition. The main block is pierced on the first and second floors by a two-over-two window with the attic story featuring a six-over-six window. The second story of the kitchen wing exhibits two, six-over-six windows. The one story wing does not feature any openings.

Due to the brevity of the visit, a full analysis of the interior could not be completed. The plan, however, is easily discernable. It consists of a central passage that permits entry into every space of the main block. The passage features an elaborate stair embellished with turned balusters and a large newel. The passage is flanked on either side by double parlors, with the individual spaces separated by a pair of panelled doors. The architectural integrity of all of the rooms is high as each feature elaborate, unpainted mantles and molded trim. The kitchen wing and second floor was not accessible at the time of the visit.

The dairy, located on the west side of the house near the kitchen wing features a poured concrete base, clapboard exterior with latticework just below the eaves and a pyramidal roof emphasized through a pendant at its peak. The building only features one entrance.

~~SM-625~~, Lower Notley Hall
 St. Mary's County
 8.1 Significance

In 1817, the property was sold by Charles H. W. Wharton to General James Thomas, the governor of Maryland from 1833 to 1836.⁴ While it remains unclear if Governor Thomas lived on the estate, a circuit court case involving his heirs would shed light on how the plantation had changed. By 1854, both Thomas and his wife Eliza Courtes had died in testate (James and Eliza were both buried at Deep Falls (SM-71)).⁵ In order to resolve the case, the Circuit Court appointed William D. Merrick and Henry G. Garner to make an equitable division of the land among the Thomas heirs which included Henry W. and James Richard Thomas and Anne Maria Waring. A survey was subsequently made and entered into evidence for the case (See Significance 8. 4). Interestingly, the plat depicts a number of buildings on the property including a large two story, five bay dwelling with a cupola on its roof and gable end chimneys. Other buildings drawn include a possible cow barn, slave quarters, tenant house, and tobacco house.

Once the question of ownership and equitable division of the property was resolved, prosperity to the plantation returned when Billingsley Garner purchased lots #1 and #2 in 1879. According to his descendant Robert Pogue, Garner erected a new house when he bought the property, probably demolishing the dwelling depicted in the survey.⁶ In 1896, however, this building burned to the ground and a new dwelling was erected soon after.⁷

This new dwelling, still extant, represents the fourth main house known to have been built on the property. The elaborate two story, five bay, center passage, double-pile frame dwelling rests prominently on the banks of the Wicomico River. Approached via a long narrow lane lined with cedars, the house is embellished with delicately scroll sawn porch brackets as well as a projecting pavilion or tower. The interior retains much of its integrity through the house plan as well as in the survival of interior architectural detailing. These details include an elaborate open string stair with turned balusters and newel, panelled partitions and doors, ornate mantles, and molded trim -- all consistent with a 1896 construction date. While originally the residence of Billingsley Garner, the house has remained under the ownership of his descendants which include members of the Pogue and Holmes families. Notably, the house was the boyhood home of noted author and historian Robert E. T. Pogue whose works Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County and Old Maryland Landmarks represent important chronicles of St. Mary's County history and culture.

4 St. Mary's County Alienations and Transfers, 1786-1829, Folio 204, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Land Records.

5 St. Mary's County Decree Record, Liber JAC 2, Folio 494-507.

6 Robert E. T. Pogue, Yesterday in St. Mary's County (Bushwood, Md: n.p., 1973), 17.

7 Pogue, 17.

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St. Mary's County
8.2 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 287, Folio 52

Grantee: Dorothy Garner Holmes, Laura Wason Holmes, Francis Steele Holmes

Grantor: Laura Wason Holmes and Leonard Locke Holmes

Date: November, 1977

Notes: The deed notes that Laura and Leonard Holmes received the property from Dorothy Pogue Holmes who conveyed the property via her will (Will Records, Liber MRB 9, Folio 499). The property is listed as containing 1.288 acres.

Reference: Liber JMM 4, Folio 334

Grantee: Dorothy G. P. Holmes, Robert E. Pogue, Billingsley G. Pogue, Eleanor Y. Pogue

Grantor: Dorothy G. Pogue

Date: October 16, 1926

Notes: Here the farm, called Lower Notley Hall, contains 150 acres.

Reference: Will Records Liber PHD 1, Folio 156

Grantee: Dorothy G. Pogue

Grantor: Billingsley Garner

Date: Written December 7, 1899, Billingsley Garner died in 1903.

Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 180

Grantee: Billingsley Garner

Grantor: Oscar and Eleanora Garner (of Kansas)

Date: August 23, 1887

Notes: After Richard H. Miles died he apparently bequeathed more than a fair share to Oscar Miles. Oscar in turn conveyed his interest in the property to his sister's (Josephine Garner) son Billingsley Garner. Here the tract is called 166 acres.

Reference: Liber JFF 4, Folio 73

Grantee: Billingsley Garner

Grantor: Richard H. and Mary B. Miles

Date: November 18, 1879

Notes: Called "Part of Notley Hall," which included Lots #1 and Lots #2 of the Notley Hall estate, the property is conveyed to Billingsley Garner. The deed notes that Lot #1 contains 125 acres and that Lot #2 contains 131 acres. The lot designations were provided in a circuit court case brought in 1868 (see Decree Record Liber JAC 2, Folio 494).

Reference: Liber JAC 4, Folio 361

Grantee: Richard H. Miles

Grantor: Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs, trustees

Date: July 19, 1870

Notes: Combs and Downs are named trustees for the property after the circuit court ruled to sell the Notley Hall estate in the case Elizabeth Thomas v. Henry W. Thomas.

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~~SM-675~~, Lower Notley Hall
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

Reference: Decree Record Liber JAC 2, Folio 494

Grantee:

Grantor:

Date: December 3, 1868

Notes: After General James Thomas and his wife died in testate (prior to 1854), the property was left to their children Henry W. Thomas, James Richard Thomas, and Ann Maria Waring (wife of James Waring). The three children appointed William D. Merrick and Henry G. Garner to make an equitable division of the land. Upon doing so, Henry W. Thomas was to purchase the interests of his two siblings for \$6244. Henry W. Thomas had difficulty satisfying this debt and so his brother and sister brought the case before the circuit court in order to receive compensation.

Reference: Alienations and Transfers, 1786-1829, Folio 132

Grantee: James Thomas

Grantor: Charles H. W. Wharton

Date: March 6, 1817

Property name: Notley Hall and Neighborhood

Acreage: 548 acres

Reference: St. Mary's County Rent Rolls, 1758

Owner: Jesse Wharton

Reference: St. Mary's County Rent Rolls, 1639-1771

Notes: The entry notes that Notley Hall contained 400 acres and was surveyed July 1, 1708 for Henry Wharton. It described the property bounds as "...at the mouth of a creek commonly called Bramly Cr and on the north side by said Cr and by the side of Wiccocomoe River..."

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St. Mary's County
8.4 Significance

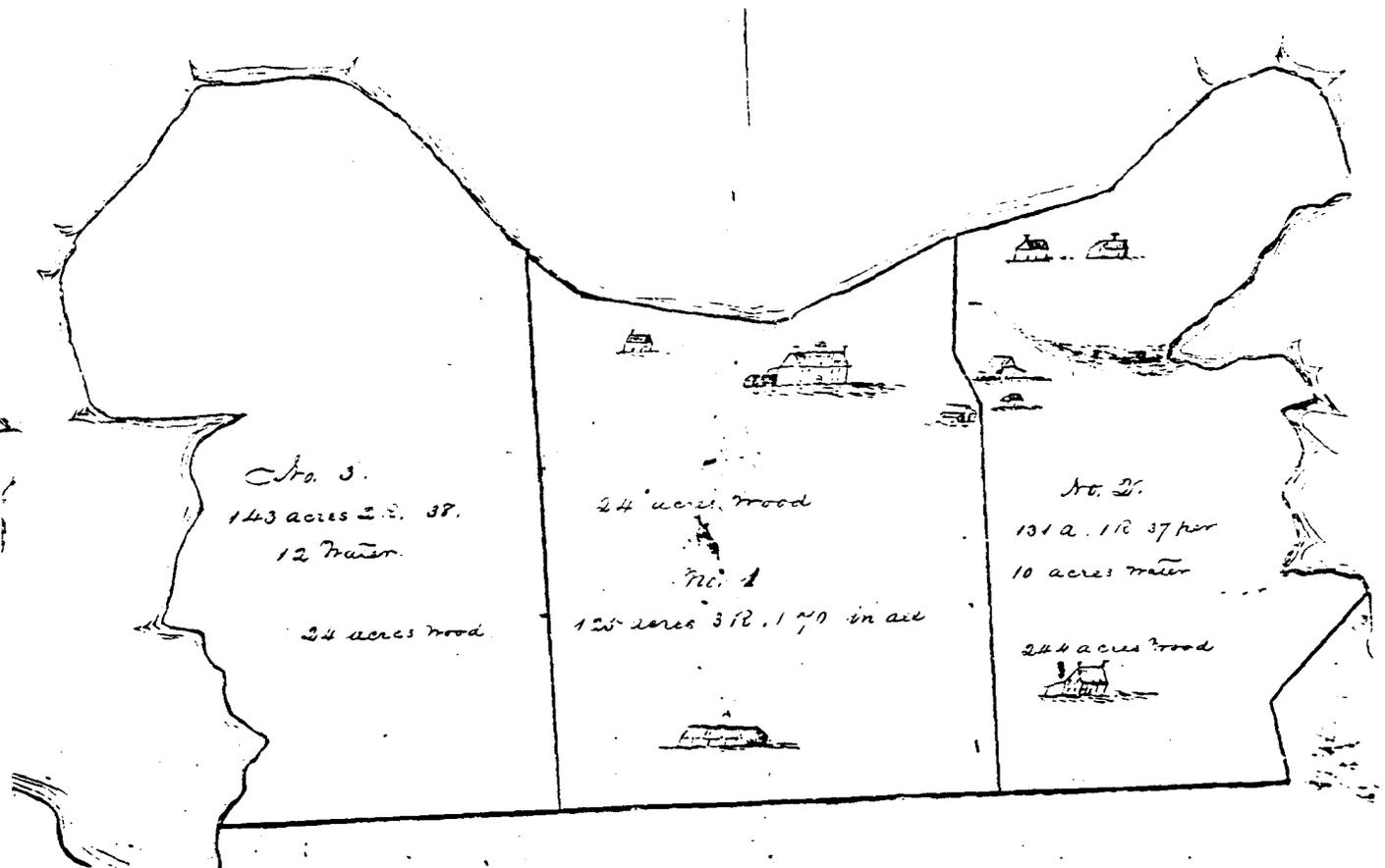


Figure 1. Map of the divided Notley Hall Estate. William D Merrick and Henry G. Garner were appointed to divide the property equally among the Thomas siblings. The large house located on lot # 1 is approximately where the present dwelling is. The surveyor is unknown. See St. Mary's County Decree Records, Liber JAC 2, Folio 507, St. Mary's County Land Records, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland.

SM-215
LOWER NOTLEY HALL
Bushwood
Private

circa 1880-90

The principal facade of this large, Victorian frame house is five bays long with the central bay contained in a three-story pedimented tower. At each end of the gable roof are two enclosed chimneys. At one end of the main block is a lower, two-story wing with a small, three-sided bay window on the first floor. The full-length, one-story porch with turned posts and elaborately sawn brackets across the front of the main block shelters a generous double door with over and side lights.

197915139

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 LOWER NOTLEY HALL
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bushwood CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 VICINITY OF
 STATE Maryland COUNTY St. Mary's

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 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
 VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:
 Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880-1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

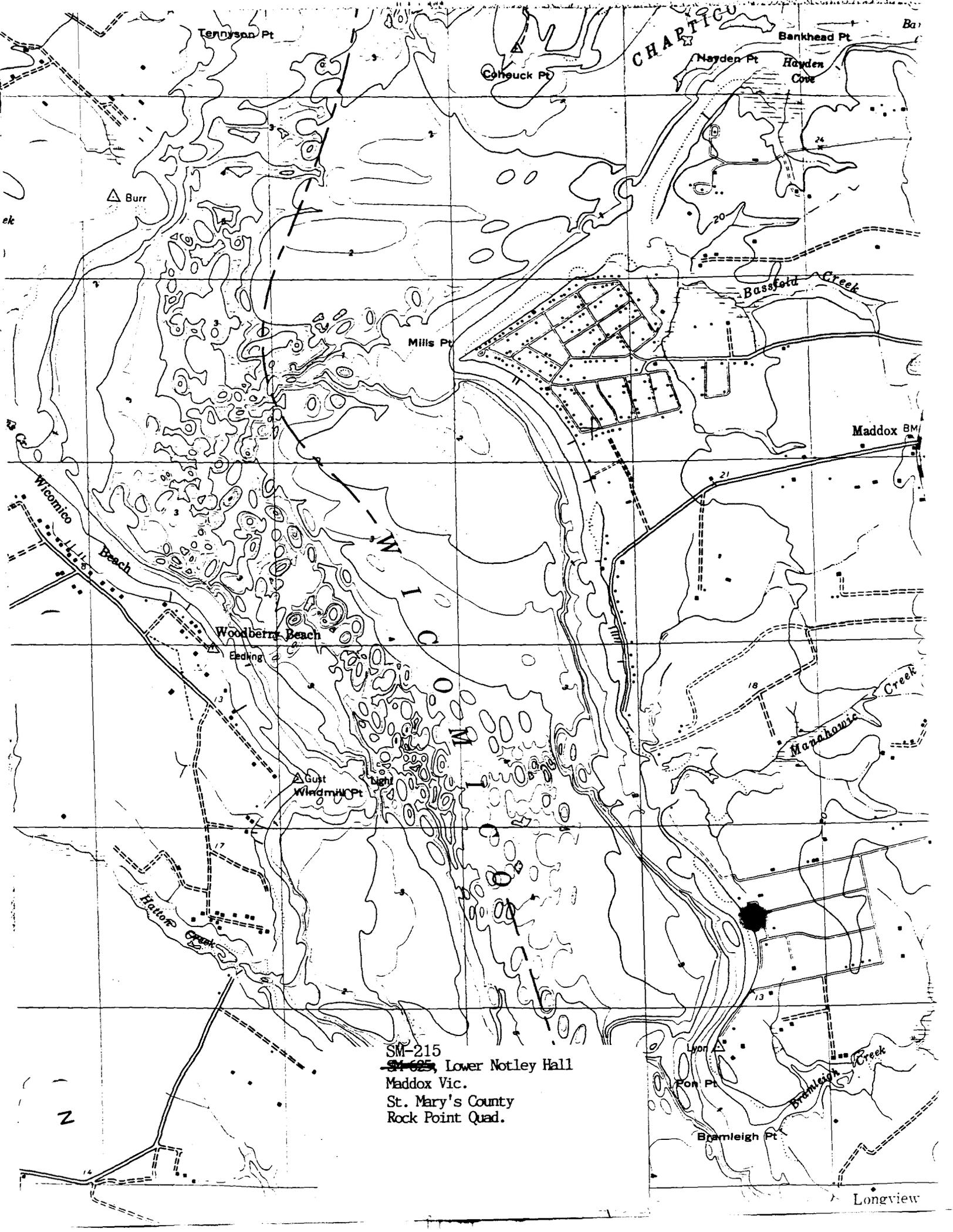
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



CHARTICU

Tennison Pt

Bankhead Pt

Cokeuck Pt

Hayden Pt

Hayden Cove

Burr

Mills Pt

Bassford Creek

Maddox BM

Wicomico Beach

Woodberry Beach

Eedking

Gulf Windmill Pt

Manahanna Creek

Hutton Creek

SM-215
~~SM-625~~ Lower Notley Hall
Maddox Vic.
St. Mary's County
Rock Point Quad.

Lyon

Pon Pt

Barnleigh Pt

Barnleigh Creek

Longview

2



SM - 215

Lower Notley Hall

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancette

April/98

Mid SHPO

E + N elevation

1 of 2



SM-215

Lower Notky Hall

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

April/98

Mid SHPO

W+N elevations

2 of 2