

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Cross Manor  
other names/site number Cross Manor SM-3

### 2. Location

street & number Cross Manor Road  not for publication  
city, town St. Inigoes  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county St. Mary's code 037 zip code 20684

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>          </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>          </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> objects
		<u>8</u>	<u>          </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*[Signature]* 8-19-88  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. 6 October 1988  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingDomestic/single dwellingDomestic/secondary structureDomestic Secondary StructureAgriculture/animal facilityAgriculture/animal facilityAgriculture/agricultural outbuildingAgriculture/agricultural outbuilding**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revivalfoundation brickFederalwalls brickroof asphaltother wood/weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

## DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Cross Manor is a two and a half story brick house with a side-hall double parlor plan and Greek Revival and Federal influenced woodwork. The house was constructed in three main stages. The original house was built prior to 1798 and was three bays wide, two rooms deep and 1½ stories high with a gambrel roof. A pair of brick chimneys flanked a pent closet on the south gable end. The second period of construction probably occurred circa 1828-1840 and consisted of the addition of a frame 1½ story wing to the south gable of the main house. The last period of construction made about the 1840s or 1850s represents a radical reordering of the house and yard. The main house was gutted except for the paneled room and pent closet and the front was switched from water side to land side. The interior plan was changed to the present side passage, double parlor and the shell was enlarged to a full 2½ stories with a pitched gable roof. Interior decoration includes an exceptional fully paneled room of the Federal period, extensive Greek Revival and Federal trim and mantels, and Greek Revival molded plaster cornice and ceiling medallions. Also on the property are a rare example of a root cellar in the service wing, a circa 1815 or earlier frame carriage house, a mid-nineteenth century brick dairy, the ruins of a second quarter nineteenth century slave quarter, and twentieth century outbuildings.

See continuation sheet for  
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The house known as Cross Manor is sited on part of a tract of land which can be traced back to the first decade of settlement in St. Mary's County. Earlier in this century it was widely assumed that this was the house constructed in the early 1640s by Thomas Cornwaleys, one of the most influential men in the colony at the time. More recently, the age and significance have been evaluated more closely and its 18th and 19th century vintage recognized. Within the past year the house has changed ownership and is now undergoing exhaustive documentation as part of a full restoration program which will include dendrochronology to establish accurate dates for two of the three major periods of construction. The results of the dendro study are not yet available, so the following comments are based upon current research.

Cross Manor was constructed in three principal stages. The original house was built prior to 1798, when it appeared on the Federal Direct Tax assessment, but probably no earlier than the 1760s. This early brick house was three bays wide, two rooms deep and 1 1/2 stories high with a gambrel roof. A pair of brick chimneys flank a pent closet on the south gable end. The interior consisted of an asymmetrical four-room plan with the best room at front right, facing St. Inigoes Creek, and the stair to left rear. The best room is fully paneled with Federal period woodwork that was probably added in the early 19th century. The second major period of construction probably occurred circa 1828-40, and consisted of the addition of a frame 1 1/2 story wing to the south gable of the main house. This wing presumably replaced an earlier detached kitchen, and includes a somewhat unusual plan that evidently included a stair passage, kitchen and pantry on the first story and plastered chambers above with unusually low ceilings.

The third period of construction is thought to have occurred in the 1840s or early 1850s, and represents a radical reordering of the house and yard. The main house was gutted except for the paneled room and pent closet, the plan was changed to a side passage, double-parlor, and the gambrel roof was removed. The story-and-a-half shell was then enlarged to a full 2 1/2 stories with a pitched gable roof. Of equal significance, the orientation of the house and yard was reversed from the water facade to the landward approach. The old front door was shifted in location to allow the stair to be moved to the water side of the house and the landward parlor was enlarged. Service activities were also evidently reorganized. The old cellar entrance in the north gable was blocked and a new one cut in at the west end of the south gable, allowing direct access between the cellar and a new service yard with dependencies on the water side of the kitchen wing. It was presumably at this same time that the kitchen wing was extended another six feet and a second chimney was added at the new gable end. The pantry was then eliminated, the kitchen was shifted to the south and the old kitchen became a less formal dining room.

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Cross Manor is the three-bay wide brick two-story plus cellar and finished attic three-bay wide dwelling. The first story's east and west walls and the two gable end walls contain hand made bricks laid in Flemish bond veneer over English bond interior course. Second story walls were also constructed of hand made bricks, laid in running bond. The west facade's bricks are painted and have been so since at least 1913. Other facades' brickwork has not been painted.

A weatherboarded 36' x 16' one-story plus loft kitchen has been attached to the main building's south side. Roofs on both the main house and the kitchen extension are gabled. The kitchen's framing system is mixed. Its sill beams rest on an eight course common bond brick wall laid with approximately four courses below grade and four courses above grade.

The brick dwelling has two wood porches. The major two-story porch spans the west facade and probably dates from mid-nineteenth century. Approximately one foot square by two and one-half foot high brick piers support the porch. A shallow pitched gable roof surmounts an unadorned pediment. Both first and second stories have simple slightly tapered round columns, some of which rest on terra cotta bases. All capitals are Doric. Except for the opening to permit access to the first story entry, wood balustrades with simple spindles stretch between columns.

Square brick piers also support the single story gable roofed porch which is attached to the entry, or north, bay on the east facade. Most of the material of this porch dates from the early twentieth century, but may succeed a similar older one. This porch also contains an unadorned pediment supported by slightly tapered round columns and simple wood balusters. Wood benches are attached to the balusters.

The roof of the kitchen wing has had a roof for the attached porch appended to the entire length of the wing's west facade. The porch rests on approximately one foot high square brick piers and has chamfered square wood columns. Wood panels of diagonal lath work fill the voids between the piers for all porches. This kitchen porch dates from the mid-nineteenth century and conceals one of the archeological features of the property, a brick walkway at grade.

A pedimented gable roofed stoop projects from the east facade of the enclosed passageway which connects the main building and the kitchen wing. The stoop's date is unknown. Its sides are lattice and date from the twentieth century. The lattice rests on concrete foundations which postdate the stoop's concrete step.

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Windows vary in size and configuration. All have fixed upper sashes, but their light numbers vary from twelve-over-twelve to six-over-six.

The exteriors of the dwelling and its kitchen addition are relatively simple in concept and have no high-style decorative elements such as sculptural relief, ornamental brackets, etc.

The brick dwelling now has a side hall plan with two primary rooms on each floor. On the second floor, a bathroom was installed during the 1950s in a small room known locally as the "children's bedroom" which is located above the first floor east entry hall. On the third or dormer story, a long narrow closet or storage space occupies the south four feet of the floor.

The house's main staircase dates from mid-nineteenth century. Rectangular paneling and sawn scroll work faces it as it rises between first and second story. Balusters are plain. Simulated paneling with wide battens covering seam lines of abutting boards, fluted column faces, decorative elliptical arch with simulated keystone, baseboards, and parquet flooring in the first floor hall date from the early twentieth century. Deep plaster crown molding and a large circular center medallion ornament the hall ceiling east of the archway probably date from a mid-nineteenth century rehabilitation. Narrow machine milled boards cover the second story hall floor and are consistent with the early twentieth century alterations on the first story.

The east parlor on the first floor also has narrow machine milled board flooring. Its plaster crown molding and medallion are identical to those in the entry hall. A previous owner removed wall plaster in several places and revealed a nailing board for a chair rail.

Much, if not all, of the west parlor's floor to ceiling paneling was installed in the nineteenth to early twentieth century and alludes stylistically to that which faces the staircase. This room's ceiling is unornamented plaster and is covered by wallpaper which has been painted.

Door styles vary throughout the main house and range from utilitarian vertical board to hand-crafted cross and bible and four-panel configurations. Windows are fixed upper sash over movable lower sash and range from 12-lights-over-nine-lights to six-lights-over-six-lights. Dormer windows contain foliated upper sashes. Door and window trim vary from floor to floor. Trim also varies from aperture to aperture within a floor. Recessed paneling survives on all first floor windows, for example, but the paneling of the east parlor does not match that in the west. Window trim in the second floor rooms is consistent. It dates from the mid-nineteenth century and alludes to the details on the two second floor mantels.

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Nineteenth century owners raised the gambrel roof and changed its profile to a gable end. The floor plan also became a side hall plan on all floors, including the finished attic. Evidence of the earlier plan persists in second floor bedrooms's flooring as well as in other areas. The west wall's front door was shifted south to allow the door to open without interference from the side hall staircase which intruded into the original aperture. The kitchen wing was attached to the house, a connecting passageway created with doorways opening into it at both first and second floor levels of the main house. Porches were added to the kitchen wing's west facade and both the east and west facades of the main dwelling.

Six domestic and agricultural outbuildings stand at Cross Manor. The oldest extant one is the 16' x 12' (with 4' roof extension over open side) carriage house which stands north of the main house. Its twentieth century use has been as vehicular shelter. Its footprint, however, and its construction technique indicate that it has a high likelihood of being the dairy house that was cited in the 1798 Federal tax assessment. It is one story, with a pyramidal roof. A wooden stylized flame projects from its central roof block. Twentieth century pressed tin siding in dilapidated condition covers its vertical weatherboards and composition roofing covers its roof shingles. A twentieth century concrete slab occupies the interior floor space.

A one-story gable end mid-nineteenth century brick domestic outbuilding stands adjacent to the kitchen wing on the west, or water side. It measures 10' x 12'3". This building is virtually unadorned. It has two continuous courses of corbelling at eave line on each long side. Each gable end contains small rectangular frames fitted with stationary louvers and a vertical board door provides access to the facade nearest the kitchen. Several twentieth century repairs include the installation of an iron I-beam in lieu of a wood or brick door mantel, standing seam tin roofing, and a concrete floor. The interior walls are plastered and the void below the roof contains drying poles. Most of the bricks show the effect of weathering, improper brick cleaning efforts, and the fact that long limber-caned shrubbery has surrounded the building on three sides for much of its existence.

The 20'4" x 15' corn crib also appears to be a mid- to late-nineteenth century building. It stands north of the carriage house and adjacent to the site of the Civil War I naval depot's sutler's store. Published reminiscences point to a high probability that at least some of its materials were recycled from one of the abandoned naval depots buildings, if in fact it is a modification of the actual sutler's store itself. Standing seam tin covers its gable end roof and the buildings sits on piers constructed of assorted materials. This building is the most badly weathered of all the buildings on the farm.

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One turn-of-the-twentieth century tobacco barn survives on the property. This barn is the building located closest to Grason's Road and has high public visibility. It measures 32' x 48' and has the typical configuration of its type. Corrugated tin covers its gable end roof as well as the raised and gabled vent that runs the length of the roof ridge. Vertical poplar siding covers the exterior and large utilitarian wagon-width doors penetrate each face of the building. The building is in good to excellent condition.

The two story cattle barn is the "Hillrose" model offered by Sears, Roebuck & Co. from 1917 - 1920. Oral tradition dates its arrival on site as ca. 1920, a date consistent with its availability. The barn has all the earmarks of a mass-produced structure that did not originate on the local economy. The most visible difference from a distance derives from its graceful bell sided gambrel roof. Its framing techniques, especially the slender curved rafters and precisely sawn posts, also differentiate the barn from locally crafted models. The barn's total footprint measures 40'3" x 40'5". Its gambreled ends are 30' wide and a 14'3" wide one-story shed runs the length of the barn's south, or creek side, foot print. Several of the roof's rafters' knees have cracked or broken and the roof has bowed inward at those points. The resulting stress has shifted a few of the support posts, but all of the damage is repairable. The barn's original cupola is missing, apparently from a major storm which swept over the property about 15 years ago. This barn also has high visibility from the public road.

The sheep shed's age is perhaps the most difficult to determine of all the outbuildings. The 57' x 20' building's fabric indicates that it has been repaired numerous times, primarily due to insect infestation. Its lapped siding, windowed ends, and proportions suggest that it also may be a Sears, Roebuck & Co. building. As sheep have been raised on the farm since well before the Civil War, the owners may have altered an earlier structures to resemble a catalogue sheep shed when they purchased the cattle barn. The sheep shed has been treated for infestation, its corrugated tin roof has been repaired, and any irreparable fabric has been replaced with line for line replication of the original.

The road which leads into the property is known as Cross Manor Road. The name encompasses both the public road and the private road that leads from the public road to the main house, passes the main house, between the carriage house and corn crib, and descends down a sharp rise to the point where the Civil War military facility as well as one or more commercial wharves stood.

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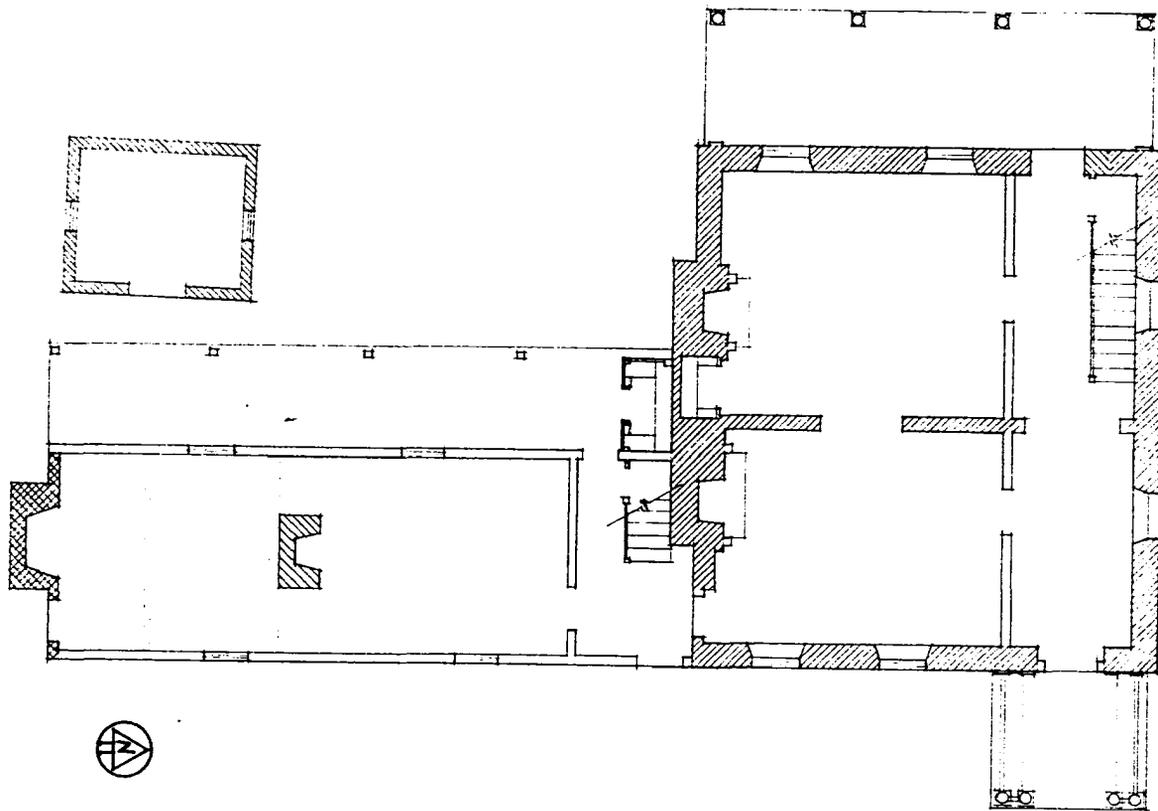
Historic landscape features are clearly discernible, but show the effect of a long period of neglect. Remnants of the orchards survive, including a few apple and pecan trees; agricultural fields are clearly delineated; roads and roadbeds are distinct and for the most part still in use; the creek and marsh are intact. Major boxwood hedges and groupings, a magnificent magnolia tree, and other ornamental trees and shrubs stand in the yard of the main dwelling. Most of them can be documented to at least 1913. Many are much earlier.

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first floor plan  
1988

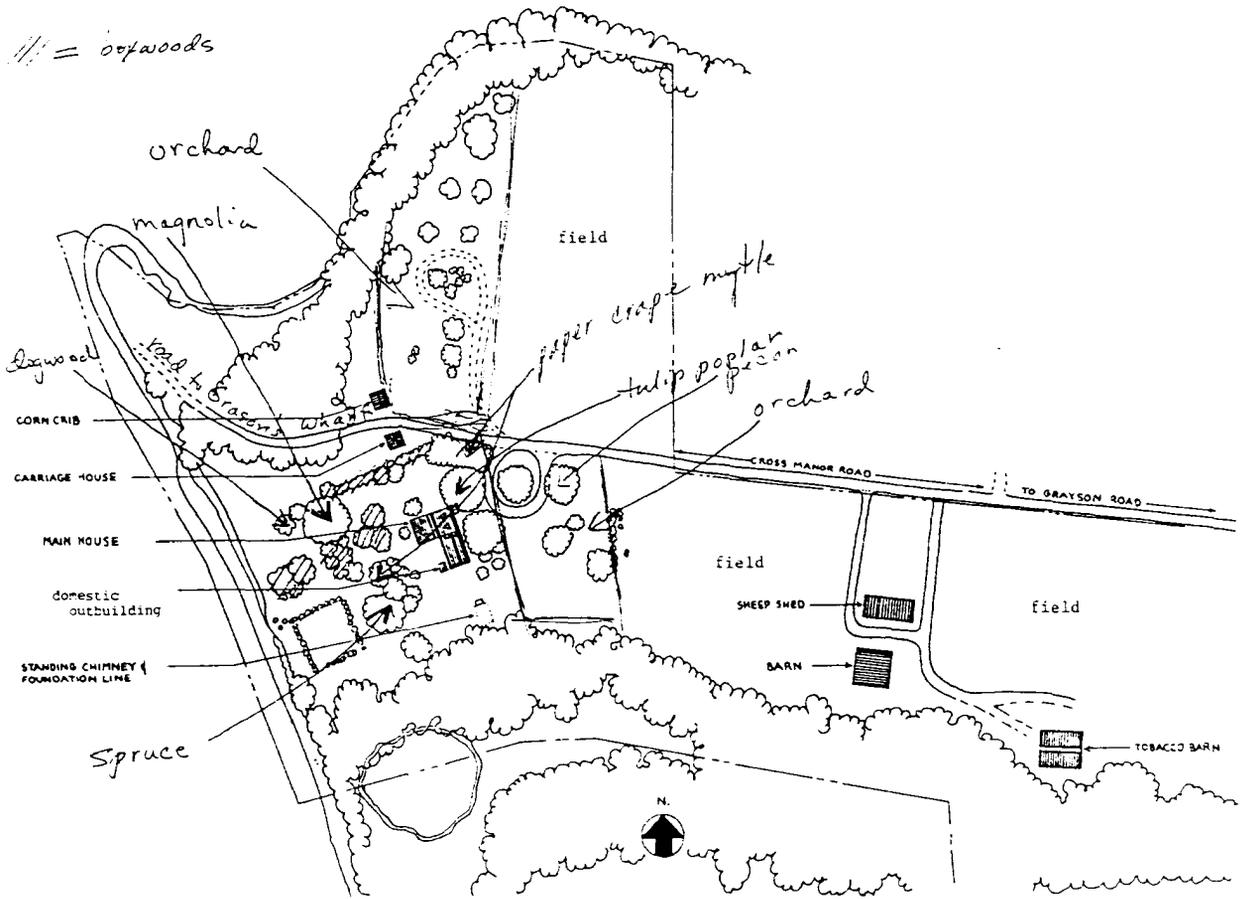
See Continuation Sheet No. 7.8

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sketch plan

1988

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1789-1878

N/A

architecture

military

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Jones, Caleb M.

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The significance of Cross Manor in St. Mary's County is derived from the architectural merit of the complex and from association with Caleb Jones who was instrumental in shaping Cross Manor to its present appearance. Constructed in three major stages, the house is an exceptional illustration of a major change in the Chesapeake cultural landscape in Maryland in the nineteenth century. The third period of construction, thought to have occurred between 1850 and 1852, represents a radical reordering of the house and yard. The orientation of the house and yard was revised from the water side to the landward approach. The interior of the house was gutted except for a federal paneled room and pent closet, the plan changed from an unusual four-room plan to a more common nineteenth century side-passage-double parlor arrangement, and the one and a half story gambrel roof configuration changed to two and a half stories. Although not the only known example of this relatively common reorientation away from the water in the nineteenth century of existing houses, Cross Manor represents the best documented and one of the most extensive examples in Maryland. In a more local context, the period I house is an excellent though altered example of an unusual four-room plan. Cross Manor is also among the few surviving examples, again though altered, of double pile gambrel roof houses in Southern Maryland. This house form was once relatively common. Caleb Jones, a successful and influential physician and planter in St. Mary's County, achieved particular historic significance during the Civil War. Although sentiment in the county was strongly pro-Southern, Jones was an ardent supporter of the Union cause and leased a site at Cross Manor to the U. S. Navy for construction of a coal refueling station. This action by Jones aided in further securing the defense of Washington, D. C. Jones resided at Cross Manor from 1829 until his death in 1878.

Historic Significance, see page 8.2

Architectural Significance, see page 8.29

See continuation sheet for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
military  
commerce

Period of Significance

1739-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Jones, Caleb M.  
Grason, Charles S.

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The significance of Cross Manor in St. Mary's County is derived from the architectural merit of the complex and from association with Caleb Jones who was instrumental in shaping Cross Manor to its present appearance and Charles S. Grason, a prominent local businessman and politician. Constructed in three major stages, the house is an exceptional illustration of a major change in the Chesapeake cultural landscape in Maryland in the nineteenth century. The third period of construction, thought to have occurred between 1850 and 1852, represents a radical reordering of the house and yard. The orientation of the house and yard was revised from the water side to the landward approach. The interior of the house was gutted except for a federal paneled room and pent closet, the plan changed from an unusual four-room plan to a more common nineteenth century side-passage-double parlor arrangement, and the one and a half story gambrel roof configuration changed to two and a half stories. Although not the only known example of this relatively common reorientation away from the water in the nineteenth century of existing houses, Cross Manor represents the best documented and one of the most extensive examples in Maryland. In a more local context, the period I house is an excellent though altered example of an unusual four-room plan. Cross Manor is also among the few surviving examples, again though altered, of double pile gambrel roof houses in Southern Maryland. This house form was once relatively common. Caleb Jones, a successful and influential physician and planter in St. Mary's County, achieved particular historic significance during the Civil War. Although sentiment in the county was strongly pro-Southern, Jones was an ardent supporter of the Union cause and leased a site at Cross Manor to the U.S. Navy for construction of a coal refueling station. This action by Jones aided in further securing the defense of Washington, D.C. Jones resided at Cross Manor from 1829 until his death in 1878. Grason had a sizable wharfing business which was prominent in the area and reflects an important continued importance of waterways in the economy of this rural region well into the twentieth century.

Historical Significance, see page 8/2

Architectural Significance, see page 8/29

See continuation sheet for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Historic/Prehistoric Theme(s):

architecture  
agriculture  
social

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Rural Agrarian Intensification AD 1680-1815  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition AD 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance AD 1870-1930

Resource Type:

Domestic/single dwelling  
Domestic/secondary structure  
Agriculture/animal facility  
Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

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## HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:

This property represents a tightly integrated multi-cultural resource site whose period of significance spans Maryland's historic era and also has the high likelihood of containing prehistoric archeological artifacts. Its above grade architectural evidence represents the period from the mid-1700s through 1939. All of this evidence reflects agrarian lifestyles consistent with southern Maryland's moderately wealthy landowners. The site's land use and architectural development correlate closely to southern Maryland's traditional inheritance patterns as well as to its economic cycles of agrarian affluence and decline precipitated in part by the introduction of staple crops, the impact of two wars, and the emancipation of slavery. The use of the site for a Civil War military establishment was a direct result of the southern Maryland political environment in general and of the political preference of the property owner in particular. The farm's statistics of land and improvement valuations, slave holdings, variety of crops and farm animals, and owners with non-agrarian professional training consistently place Cross Manor among St. Marys County's wealthier environments, a status confirmed by its architecture.

Landscape elements reflect the rationale for the initial choice of the site for habitation and to the site's extended agricultural use by the wealthy to moderately wealthy rather than as a middle-class or subsistence farm. They also relate to archeological sites significant to commerical activities on the river front.

Archeological evidence encompasses the commercial wharves along the river front, a Civil War coal refueling station for the Potomac Fleet of the U.S. Navy, other domestic and agricultural buildings and features. Although the archeological testing accomplished to date has not revealed any pre-historic artifactual evidence, the site's natural environment indicates a high likelihood of the prehistoric Woodlands occupation so prevalent along the river fronts in this portion of Maryland.

Cross Manor, and its variation -- Manor of Cornwaleys' Cross, is one of the oldest place names in Maryland. It dates to 1639 when Thomas Cornwaleys, gentleman and military leader, received a patent of 2,000 acres from Lord Baltimore. Through the centuries, Cross Manor's original 2,000 acres have been subdivided and resubdivided. Only one portion has carried the name almost without interruption and it has dwindled to 33+ acres which front on to St. Inigoes Creek. The precise location of the

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Cornwaleys' original manor house remains a mystery despite numerous efforts by historians and archaeologists to identify it.

James Biscoe's Ownership, 1785 - c. 1798

On January 26, 1785 James Biscoe "of Basil" entered into a contract to sell 200 acres more or less of Cross Manor to James Biscoe and Austin Milburn. Biscoe of Basil, however, was to continue as owner of the property until the purchasers had paid him \$2,000. Biscoe of Basil died intestate between 1785 and 1790 and left a wife and young daughter, both of whom were named Mary. Biscoe and Milburn had not completed their payments before Biscoe of Basil died, a fact that left a cloud on the title of Cross Manor which was not cleared for almost 20 years.

Initially Samuel Bond served as guardian of the Biscoes' daughter. Biscoe of Basil's wife Mary had married John Bond and she apparently also died before 1790. By 1795 her widower John Bond replaced Samuel Bond as administrator of James Biscoe of Basil's estate on behalf of Mary Bond Biscoe, the only daughter of James and Mary Biscoe. Mary Bond Biscoe was born about 1785. Guardian records provide sketchy details of the young girl's estate. For example, she inherited slaves as well as real estate. In 1791, a year's hire of her slaves earned her £38.15, but renting out her house earned her 6,000 pounds of tobacco which were sold for £60. Samuel Bond paid John Bond £4 for unspecified repair and maintenance of the estate. This expenditure is the only one recorded on behalf of repair and maintenance during a seven year period and was only £1 more than Mary Bond Biscoe's tuition for three months of French lessons 3 years later. Therefore, even if slave labor were used to make the repairs, the sum was inadequate to achieve significant alterations to the main dwelling.<sup>1</sup>

Court records reveal that in 1795, James Biscoe was "in possession" of the portion of Cross Manor that he had agreed to purchase from Biscoe of Basil. He and Austin Milburn brought a suit in chancery court against John Bond, his ward Mary Bond Biscoe, and a woman named Mary Harrison. Mary Harrison, the remarried mother of Biscoe of Basil, had a right of dower to the Cross Manor acreage and the plaintiffs were suing to bar that right. The court decided that Bond would transfer Cross Manor to Biscoe and Milburn when and if they paid a total of \$4,000.<sup>2</sup> A payment to John Bond of £139.3.10.1/2 precipitated the signing and filing of a deed which transferred all that "parcel of land

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lying in the Cross Manor in St. Inigoes Hundred ... 200 acres more or less" to James Biscoe.<sup>3</sup>

James Biscoe was "in possession" of more than the 200 acre parcel. A U.S. tax assessor listed him as the owner of 590 acres of Cross Manor on St. Inigoes Creek in 1798. At that time Biscoe and three tenant farmers occupied the property. Biscoe also owned 19 slaves, all of whom were between 12 and 50 years old. The assessment stated that in addition to the three tenants' dwellings, the property contained one brick hip roofed dwelling and five outbuildings. **Dimensions of the dwelling were 34' x 30', a dimension that remains valid in 1988. The house had a total of 14 windows. Six of them measured 6' x 3', six were 4' x 2 1/2', and two were 2 1/2' x 2 1/4'.** Outbuildings consisted of a 32' x 16' kitchen, a 16' square smoke house, **a 16' square dairy which is now known as the carriage house,** a 24' x 16' corn house with two sheds, and a 40' x 20' barn with two sheds.<sup>4</sup>

The tax assessment provides no clue about any provisions made for housing the slaves.<sup>5</sup> Explanations for this omission are strictly hypothetical, but there are several possibilities. Slave children below 12 to 14 years of age generally were not expected to perform agricultural work. All of Biscoe's slaves were 12 or older, an indication that he may have owned individual working-age slaves only rather than family units. This would have limited his expected return from the "natural increase" of his slaves, but would have eliminated a substantial amount of upkeep for children and child-bearing women. Of the 19 slaves that Biscoe did own, some probably lived in lofts above the kitchen or above the main house. There is a high probability that some may have been "hired out" and thus lived away from Cross Manor. Runaway slave advertisements in the Maryland Gazette, May, 1780, document that slaves from the St. Inigoes area were used to make salt at the lower end of the county in addition to being hired out for agricultural and craft purposes such as carpentry.<sup>6</sup>

The 1798 assessment of Cross Manor places it clearly in the ranks of the wealthy, well ahead of the holdings of the 179 non-wealthy landowners of St. Marys County. Cross Manor's main dwelling house contained almost double the square footage of the average 536 square feet of the homes of the non-wealthy landowners. At the same time, in square footage it ranked slightly below the average of those owned by the county's 56 wealthy families. The homes of the wealthy contained an average of 1,160 square feet per first floor while Cross Manor's measured 1,020 square feet.

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Cross Manor's brick construction, however, ranked it in the upper 38 per cent of the wealthy homes and its five dependencies were right on target with the wealthy average.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the number of windows attributed to the main house implies strongly that the building had finished second story living space rather than merely a crude unfinished loft under the roof.

The James Biscoe who was "in possession" of Cross Manor in 1798 went into bankruptcy before he completed the payment required for full ownership. His bankruptcy forced the sale of Cross Manor. Evidently Cross Manor had a ready local purchaser as no advertisement of Cross Manor's availability appeared in the state's leading newspaper, The Maryland Gazette, for the two years prior to its sale.<sup>8</sup>

Mordecai Jones' Ownership, 1810 - c. 1829

In 1810 Mordecai Jones, a resident of St. Marys County, purchased Biscoe's 200 acre parcel with its eighteenth century house. Jones paid \$4,300 for the parcel, a mere \$300 above the price set in 1795. This sum coupled with the fact that the property was not widely advertised strongly suggests that James Biscoe made no significant improvements during his "possession" of Cross Manor.

Jones appears in various records as "gentleman," "farmer," and "planter." He was well established in the county by at least 1790 when he voted in the federal election. He cast his vote as a member of the Federalist party, the party affiliation consistent with his wealth. Jones also shouldered the civic responsibilities consistent with his position. During the 1790s he served three terms as a justice of the peace and two terms on the levy court.<sup>9</sup>

Jones' inclusion in the book Catholic Families of Southern Maryland: Records of Catholic Residents of St. Marys County in the Eighteenth Century implies that he was a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The only time Father James Walton, S.J. mentions Jones' name in his list of baptisms in St. Marys County, however, is when Jones had an unnamed negro baptized in 1792. The list spans the birthdates of at least two of Jones' sons, neither of whom were included. That omission plus the fact that one of them was buried in an Episcopal cemetery may indicate that Mordecai Jones' wife did not share his religion.<sup>10</sup>

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According to the Federal Census of 1800, Jones owned 24 slaves. Although he by no means owned the largest number of slaves in the county, Jones far exceeded the average of seven to eight slaves per slaveholder.11 Jones' economic base was the significant acreage which he owned in nearby St. Michaels Hundred in St. Marys County. He owned other portions of the original Cross Manor plantation before he acquired Biscoe's 200 acres. Mordecai Jones thus purchased Biscoe's parcel to increase his own holdings and to provide larger inheritances for his three sons, a practice typically used by the wealthy to insure a sound economic base for the next generation. In 1813 Jones' taxable assets, which included all of his real estate, was 1,962, a sum that is slightly more than ten per cent of the total of all of St. Inigoes Hundred's valuation for the assessment period.12

We do not know the exact date a member of the Jones family moved to Cross Manor, but the son who ultimately inherited it celebrated his twenty-first birthday in 1810, the year his father bought Biscoe's property. Tax returns reveal that Caleb Jones lived in St. Inigoes, and therefore presumably at Cross Manor, in 1813. Although he owned no real estate, he owned two slaves under eight years old and three males ages 14 - 45. The slaves constituted young Caleb's sole taxable assets and were valued at 404.13

Caleb M. Jones' Ownership, 1829 - 1878

The War of 1812 disrupted life throughout St. Marys County. During the war, two men named Caleb Jones lived in the county. One was Mordecai Jones' brother, or perhaps his nephew, who suffered such significant loss of personal property during the war that he moved out of the county. The other was Mordecai's son Caleb Morris Jones. Caleb M., the inheritor of the 200 acre parcel of Cross Manor, served as an Ensign in the Maryland Militia's Twelfth (Fenwick's) Regiment. Jones' detachment served in the county, on its coastal waters, and offshore in nearby Charles County during his period of service from April 10, 1813 through October 6, 1814.14

Caleb M. Jones married Rebecca Davis of St. Marys County in 1815. Randolph, the only one of their sons to survive to full adulthood, was born ca. 1817. The couple had at least two other sons. Family tradition states that they died as young adults while attending medical school. Caleb and Rebecca's two daughters, Emily and Elvira, outlived both parents.15

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Although his war records state that Caleb M. Jones was an ensign, other sources, including Jones' application for a pension, list Jones' position as that of surgeon's mate or assistant. As soon after the war as December 15, 1814, "Doctor" preceded Caleb Jones' name. No records have been located to indicate how or when Jones acquired his medical training, but he did practice his profession at least through the Civil War. As standard histories of Maryland's medical profession do not mention Caleb Jones, the impact of his career must have been limited to a local practice. For example, from 1815 through the 1850s, he served as the physician for both the priests and slaves at St. Inigoes Manor.<sup>16</sup> Despite the recollections of Jones' grandson John M. Ellicott to the contrary, the extensive collection of alumni records for the School of Medicine of the University of Maryland do not identify Caleb Jones as a graduate of the school.

Nineteen physicians lived in St. Marys County in 1820. Members of the profession residing in the county totaled 37 between 1830 and 1840, then dropped back to 18 in 1850. Jones fits the profile of those physicians who were also planters during this era. He, as was true for many of the county's professionals, came from a wealthy family. From the 1820s through 1841 Caleb Jones's property values exceeded the average value of those of other physicians in the county. The number of slaves he owned, however, matched the average. As a group these men tended to be born into wealthy families, to marry wealth, and to amass wealth on their own. Three of Jones' sons, for example, also attended medical school. Two are alleged to have died while in school; the third returned to the county to practice. In addition, Marks notes that slavery played a role in physician persistence in the county. Jones not only owned a significant number of slaves himself, but treated slaves owned by others as part of his regular practice. Thus, two generations of Joneses illustrate the fact that the county's farmer/professionals were tied to the county by kinship, by their own prospects for adding to inherited wealth, and by the social patterns attendant to the dominantly rural lifestyle of the county. The fact that the courts appointed Caleb Jones to act as guardian of minor children who apparently were unrelated to him further confirms the status of the physician/farmer.<sup>17</sup>

In 1827 Mordecai Jones sold 3 3/4 acres of his 200 acre parcel of Cross Manor to Thomas Smith. Dr. Caleb M. Jones became the sole owner of the remaining 196 1/4 acres of Cross Manor by inheritance in 1829. Mordecai Jones' will states conclusively

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that Caleb's share of his father's estate consisted of the former Biscoe property "... whereon he [Caleb] now lives." Other records indicate that Caleb's portion of Cross Manor contained the windmill, valued at \$80, on which his father had paid taxes during the period 1821-1826. Caleb's inheritance had a lower value than the inheritances of Mordecai's two other sons. Nonetheless, it included portions of two of his father's other plantations as well as two slaves, 22 year old Nace who was valued at \$128 and 16 year old Bill who was valued at \$125.18

The 1840 U.S. census provides additional statistics for Caleb and his family. Fourteen of the 22 persons living on Cross Manor were engaged in agriculture and three of its inhabitants were enumerated as members "of the learned professions and engineers." The eight family members included one 15 to 20 year old male, two males in the 20 to 30 year bracket, one who was between 40 and 50. White females consisted of one five to ten year old, one ten to 15 year old, and two who were 40 to 50. Fourteen slaves now resided at Cross Manor. Males enumerated were: one under ten, four between ten and 24, one who was between 24 and 36, and three ages 36 to 55. The youngest male and the ages of the females indicate that under Jones' ownership, unlike that of Biscoe, the slaves in all likelihood maintained at least some kinship contact. The female slave population consisted of two who were ten or younger, one between ten and 24, one between 24 and 36, and one between 36 and 50.19

Little evidence exists about social life at Cross Manor. Infrequent references to family members appear in scattered documents. For example, estate sales were popular events in St. Marys County during the first half of the nineteenth century. While Caleb's brother attended them regularly and made frequent purchases, Caleb made only one purchase. In 1831 he bought a new cotton yarn counterpane at one of the Biscoes' estate sales.20 Father Lilley, the Roman Catholic priest in charge of nearby St. Inigoes Plantation noted in May, 1853, that Rebecca and Caleb's daughter Elvira was one of the witnesses for a marriage he performed in his domestic chapel.21

The scant information available about Cross Manor's women reflects the times in which they lived. The entire household evidently held liberal views on the issue of women's education. Caleb Jones served as one of the commissioners for the nearby St. Mary's Female Seminary and Elvira attended the Patapsco Female Institute in Ellicott City. Rebecca Davis Jones died and Elvira

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married during the 1850s. The funeral service was celebrated in the Joneses' parish church, Trinity Church, Episcopal. The site of Elvira's marriage to James Fox Ellicott may have been Ellicott City as she presumably met him while attending the Patapsco Female Institute.22

Pre-Civil War Prosperity

Under Jones' leadership, Cross Manor apparently prospered. In 1845 Caleb Jones' tax valuation was the seventh highest in the first district of St. Marys County. Still, Caleb's valuation of \$12,139 represents a small amount of the district total \$622,747.23

The 1850 census yields the names, ages, and place of birth of Caleb Jones and the members of his personal residence that year. All members of the family were born in St. Marys County. Caleb was 61, his wife Rebecca was 56, their son Randolph was 33 and their daughter Elvira was 18. Despite their training as physicians both Caleb and Randolph's occupations are listed as "farmer" and another daughter, 20 year old Emily, apparently lived away from home. In addition to the unnamed slaves residing on Cross Manor the census names one 45 year old free black male laborer, Kit Dorsey, who was a native of St. Marys County.24

Father Thomas Lilley took over as head of St. Inigoes Farm in August, 1849. The Roman Catholic priest's regular entries in his journal provide our most intimate glimpses of the parish, including Lilley's neighbors at Cross Manor. After he delivered his first sermon as superior of mission, he wrote, "--don't like the people much because of their too great propensity for talking scandal -- May they correct the vile habit." He first mentioned Caleb Jones in March, 1852, when he stated, ". . . went to see a sick woman at the Great Mills, having recd word accidentally thro: Dr. Jones yesterday . . . ." Lilley's notation on May 11, 1853, discloses that Caleb Jones continued to be the physician of choice for St. Inigoes Manor, "Dr Jones came this morning -- I paid him medical Bill (\$16.50) in full to date." Jones treated Lilley frequently, but unsuccessfully, for ague and fever throughout the next year. Finally, in 1854, Lilley went to Saratoga to "take the springs" and within two weeks pronounced himself cured.25

Jones in turn patronized the Jesuits' lumber mill. In 1855, for example, he paid \$20 for an unspecified order of lumber from the

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mill. Jones' twenty dollars outlay probably paid for a substantial amount of wood, or if Jones furnished his own timber, an even more substantial amount of milling expense. For comparison, about six months later Father Lilley paid Jones \$10 for 145 pounds of beef, a rate of \$ .06 per pound. Lilley also documented another source of income for Jones when he noted that he had paid his neighbor \$7.50 for cutting wood. As Jones owned a significant number of acres of timber land, it is unclear whether Lilley's money bought timber, hired laborers who cut timber at Cross Manor or elsewhere, or both.26

Tax records show that Cross Manor's valuation increased significantly between 1850 and 1852. This increase is the sole documentary clue thus far identified to the probable date of significant alterations to the main house. Artifactual evidence of joists, studs, and nails indicates that the house underwent a major rehabilitation and enlargement during a period when machine sawn lumber and machine made nails were available. Marks identified 1841 as the date that a steam powered saw mill arrived in St. Marys County and one of Jones' descendants recalled that the house had a two story porch on its river facade by 1864. During that 23 year period, the tax assessment for Cross Manor jumped significantly only once -- between 1850 and 1852. Assessments of several other properties which were examined for the same time span did not experience a corresponding increase during the two year period of Cross Manor's major increase. Therefore, the rise in Cross Manor's valuation cannot be traced to a newly implemented valuation rate or method that affected all similar properties in the area to a similar degree.27

At a minimum, alterations during this era removed the gambrel roof, raised the east and west facades to two full stories, and installed a dormered gable roof above a finished attic story. The doorway connecting the second story to the loft area above ~~the kitchen and the staircase to the kitchen below also appears~~ to date from this rehabilitation. No evidence has emerged about the people who worked on the project, but the county had sufficient carpenters and bricklayers to undertake a building project of this size without the importation of laborers and craftsmen. In addition, the foliated windows of the dormers and the finely proportioned details of the second story mantels and woodwork suggest that a master builder or an architect played a role in the project. At least one individual of this caliber lived in St. Marys County during this era.28

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**Agricultural Statistics for Cross Manor**

<u>Category</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>
Improved acres	250	230	500	30
Unimproved acres	50	70	500	400
Value, farm	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$6,000
Value, implements and machinery	\$ 300	\$ 600	\$ 2,000	\$ 25
Value, livestock	\$ 698	\$ 1,400	\$ 780	\$ 300
Value, animals slaughtered	\$ 233	\$ 400	\$ 180	*
Horses	4	7	2	4
Mules	1	1		
Milch Cows	5	5	4	2
Neat Cattle**	10	8	7	2
Oxen	4	6	2	2
Swine	36	100	20	11
Sheep	42	27	40	
Chickens			23****	
Fleeces, number			32	
Wool, pounds of	125	127	117	112
Wheat grown, bush.	400	800	345	59
Tobacco grown, pounds of	1,600	8,000	0	0
Indian corn, bush.	1,437	1,000	300	550
Oats grown, bush.	600	300	500	0
Irish potatoes, bush.	10	20	200	0
Sweet potatoes, bush.	10	10	0	0
Butter, pounds of	350	200	100	***
Orchard products, value of	\$ 20	\$ 100	\$ 25	***
Fertilizer used				0****

\*Category discontinued.

\*\*"Other cattle" was category in 1850.

\*\*\*Census taker did not enter a figure in this category for Cross Manor or its near neighbors, although he did enter the number "0" in such categories as potatoes.

\*\*\*\*First year information available.

Statistics compiled from agricultural censi which are archived at the Maryland Hall of Records.

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The Farm

In 1850, Caleb M. Jones reported to federal census takers that his farm was valued at \$8,000 and contained 250 acres of improved land, plus 50 unimproved acres. He also estimated the value of his farm implements and machinery at \$300 and his livestock at \$698. Livestock included horses, a mule, milch cows, oxen, 36 swine and 42 sheep. The preceding year the farm produced 400 bushels of wheat, 1,437 bushels of Indian corn, 600 bushels of oats, 1,600 pounds of tobacco, ten bushels each of Irish and sweet potatoes, \$20 worth of orchard products, 350 pounds of butter, and 125 pounds of wool. The value of animals slaughtered was \$233. The census provides no information about the amount of products that were consumed on the farm vs. the amount that Jones marketed.29

Although the census taker enumerated both Caleb M. Jones and his son Randolph as farmers in 1850 and listed both of them as living at Cross Manor in 1860, Randolph's name does not appear in the 1860 agricultural listing. Between 1850 and 1860 Caleb Jones apparently let one 20 acre field go fallow because he listed 230 improved acres and 70 unimproved ones as the amount of land he was farming. In 1860, just prior to the Civil War, Jones' was one of several farms served by the St. Inigoes Post Office that were valued at \$10,000. Only two ranked higher, with Dr. Brome's \$50,000 valuation being the top.30

The Civil War and Cross Manor

Statistics for June, 1860 indicate that Cross Manor was the seat of a typically southern rural plantation. The census enumeration reveals a population of six whites, one free black, and 19 slaves. Caleb shared his house with his bachelor son Randolph, his spinster daughter Emily, his married daughter Elivra, her husband James F. Ellicott, and their 1 1/2 year old son John. The enumerator listed Christopher (Kit) Dorsey as a resident of the household as well. He also stated that there were two houses to accommodate the 19 slaves.31

Even though they led a thoroughly plantation-like lives Caleb Jones and his family supported the Union more vocally and visibly than any of their neighboring St. Mary's county planters. In fact, their pro-Union stance brought the wrath of the community down on them. Pro-South sentiments ran so high that St. Marys County became a major staging area for supplies which

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would be sent further south to aid the Confederacy. In June, 1861, for example, Acting Master William Budd of the U.S. Steamer Resolute wrote that vessels were being loaded in Baltimore and dispatched to St. Marys County and Brettons Bay without clearances or manifests. When Navy personnel boarded them, the response was that the cargo was for Maryland shore farmers. Budd wrote, "There has been more provisions landed in St. Mary's within the last month than the inhabitants in that vicinity would require for three years." The following day the U.S.S. Reliance was sent to blockade the Virginia shore between the St. Mary's and Wicimico Rivers. From then until the war's end, the Navy's Potomac Flotilla remained a highly visible Union force in the waters off St. Marys County's shoreline.<sup>32</sup>

On October 11, 1861 the acting master of the U.S. Schooner Dana reported that he had been told by a local man that, "you can not find a Union man from Brittain's (Brettons?) bay to Point Lookout except Dr. Jones and the inhabitants of St. George's island." Despite the blockade, Jones' neighbors T. W. Gaugh (variously spelled), the Mattingleys (variously spelled), and the Hansons routinely delivered goods across the Potomac to Confederate troops in Virginia. They rowed across, using oars they kept hidden in the woods, and rowlocks muffled with sheepskins.<sup>33</sup> As both Caleb Jones and his son Randolph were physicians, it is unclear to which of them "Dr. Jones" refers. Other documentation such as service in the Union Army by Randolph Jones and Navy correspondence that states that Caleb Jones had always been a union man renders pointless any arguments which the lack of a given name might raise.

Potomac Flotilla correspondence indicates that the coal refueling station the Navy established at Piney Point early in the war proved unsatisfactory. Continuing complaints, including that the amount of coal being dispensed seemed excessive for the number of ships being refueled, led to the station's relocation. On March 1, 1864 Commander Foxhall A. Parker and Dr. Caleb M. Jones signed a contract for the use of approximately three-quarters of an acre of "Jones' Point on Cross Manor Farm, St. Inigo's Creek" as a U.S. Naval Depot for coaling and refitting ships. The Navy agreed to pay Jones \$25 per month and stipulated that when the government had no further use "for the wharf which it designs building at Jones' Point," Dr. Jones would have the privilege of purchasing it at fair valuation. By April 1, 1864 the depot was in operation. Because pro-Southern sympathies still ran high in the county, Commander

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Parker requested that U.S. Marines be assigned to the depot to guard it. His request apparently did not get filled, but a full scale depot was installed. On April 14 the Secretary of the Navy authorized the construction of a carpenter and blacksmith shop. The complex grew to include the following: wharf and derrick, a separate boat landing, a pier for the commander's ship, sutler's store, telegraph office, storehouses, stable, magazine, latrines, and coalbins. Parker's report of August 25 pointed to the wisdom of moving the station to Jones' Point. The saving on demessuage of coal-steamers totaled \$966.54 in the first three months of operation.34

The depot's arrival in 1864 made both immediate and long-term differences at Cross Manor. Because of their pro-Union stand, the Joneses had lived in virtual isolation since the beginning of the war. Dr. Caleb Jones was elderly; Randolph Jones had left the county in May, 1863 to serve as a captain in the Union Army; and James Fox Ellicott was a non-combatant by religious affiliation, as well as being lame. Caleb Jones' two daughters and two small grandchildren completed the family. To add to the Joneses' stress from social isolation, in 1863 five of their adult slaves and one infant had left the farm.35

The Jones family evidently welcomed the depot's personnel with open arms. Still they must have felt as if they were going from famine to gluttony when Lt. Commander Thomas H. Eastman's family moved into their home and shared it for the duration. In addition to the nominal rent the Navy paid for the depot site, the depot's staff probably produced other income for the farm. Presumably Dr. Jones acted in lieu of a military physician and for a short while the sutler's store sold bottles labeled "Hostetter's Stomach Bitters," bottles which in reality were filled with whiskey drawn from the barrels the Joneses kept in their cellar. In that era before typewriters and duplicating machines, all records and copies of records were hand written. Mrs. Eastman and Elvira Jones Ellicott produced handwritten copies of such documents as the Potomac Flotilla's Commander's fleet tactics. In all likelihood, the feeling of being at the center of events and among pro-Union people was welcomed at Cross Manor as much, if not more than the money the depot brought to the farm.36

In August, Randolph Jones returned to St. Marys County. While charging breastworks in front of Petersburg, Virginia a soldier behind Jones accidentally fell and struck the officer across his

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loins with the barrel of his musket. The pain and numbness in Jones' left leg turned to partial paralysis after he contracted diarrhea, the most prevalent disease throughout the war. Jones was sent to a military hospital and subsequently to St. Marys County to recuperate. When Jones' condition did not improve sufficiently for him to return to service, Dr. Caleb Jones signed a certificate of disability to accompany the captain's request for a medical discharge. A local justice of the peace certified that there was no military physician available. The last entry in Captain Jones' military record is a letter written in October that states that the paralysis had affected his "locomotive system," that he was unfit to travel, and that his recovery was "remote and uncertain." His discharge for physical disability was dated September 12, 1864.<sup>37</sup>

The Civil War altered the ante-bellum lifestyles prevalent among the wealthy planter group of St. Marys County, but failed to change the philosophy behind that lifestyle. A local historian summed up the persistence of the pro-South attitude in the county when he wrote that in 1954, ". . . no one seems to remember any white resident of the County who fought for the North, although, undoubtedly, there were some. On the other hand, practically every family in the County had members in the Confederate service."<sup>38</sup> Small wonder that almost 70 years later Caleb's grandson John remembered the early Civil War era of his childhood as a time when the family lived in virtual isolation until the coaling station arrived.

After the Civil War ended, Commander Parker negotiated on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy for the disposal of the improvements that the Navy had constructed on Jones' Point. Dr. Jones told Parker he could not pay more than \$400 for them as they were not worth more than that to him. Parker relayed Jones' offer to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and said, "I think it would be to the interest of the govt to accept of his offer as he has always been a union man." On July 28, 1865 Jones paid the \$400 and on July 31 Commander Parker wrote a general order for the Potomac Flotilla to leave the site.<sup>39</sup>

Jones' grandson John Ellicott later recalled that his grandfather left the wharf in place for subsequent use, but moved the buildings to other parts of the farm. The Navy left behind another welcome resource. For seven years Jones and his family relied on the anthracite coal they dredged from the end of the wharf to furnish the household's fuel supply. In addition, they

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dug up boats that had sunk offshore, repaired them, sold some, and used others.40

On May 28, 1867 Caleb M. Jones appeared before Maryland state commissioners to file the list of slaves owned by him on November 10, 1864. Dr. Randolph Jones and James Reesh(?), "disinterested witnesses," accompanied him. Dr. Jones stated that the slaves had been slaves "for life." Except for the two oldest, Jones reported that all of them had been in good physical condition at the time they left or became free. Jones received no recompense for his former slaves, although the state did pay several owners during this process.41

Economic conditions in the county deteriorated significantly following the Civil War.42 Caleb Jones acquired enough additional acreage between 1860 and 1870 to make him the largest land owner of the 26 farms enumerated in the St. Inigoes Post Office area in 1870. Half of his 1,000 acres, however, was woodlands and therefore could not be counted on for income producing crops. Unlike those of many of his neighbors, Jones' slaves did not return to his farm after they acquired their freedom. With the loss of his slaves and apparently without the means to replace his lost laborers, Jones could not convert the woodlands to arable land or grow a significant amount of labor-intensive crops. In all likelihood a year between the healthy slaves' departures in 1863-1864 and 1869, the earliest year post-emancipation data is available for Cross Manor, marked the first year since the 1640s that an owner of this portion of Cross Manor had not grown tobacco. The farm's statistics for 1869 reveal the magnitude of the crop's economic impact. Farmers, regardless of how many fewer acres they farmed than Jones, easily exceeded Jones' total crop value if they grew any tobacco at all.43

Jones filed a schedule of his property with the county board of commissioners in 1876. It confirms that although Jones still owned a significant amount of land; the "home place" on Cross Manor, a tract in Elizabeths Manor, and four smaller tracts; his financial situation was far from affluent. He owned no stocks, bonds, or other securities. Under the category of "Ships or Vessels" he listed one canoe valued at \$20 and under "Live stock" he cited a 23 year old horse, 14 cattle and two calves, 46 sheep and two lambs, 41 pigs and hogs, household furniture valued at \$100, one buggy, and \$40 worth of farming implements.44

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Slaves owned by Caleb M. Jones on 10 November 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date left</u>	<u>State of Health</u>
Susan Langley	F	50	military*	10/19/63	good
George H. Langley	M	20	"	10/19/63	good
Ann Langley	F	18	"	10/19/63	good
Sylveste' Langley	M	9 mo.	"	10/19/63	good
Izack Taylor	M	17	enlisted	8/15/63	good
Andrew Taylor	M	16	military	6/1/64	good
Eliza Taylor	F	11	emanci- pated by state	11/1/64	good
Henry Taylor	M	10	"	11/1/64	good
Ben Taylor	M	34	enlisted	3/16/64	good
Ignatius Butler	M	40	emanci- pated by state	11/1/64	good
William Medley	M	45	"	11/1/64	good
Ann Taylor	F	33	military	7/1/64	good
Frank Taylor	M	16	"	6/1/64	good
Alexsius Taylor	M	14	"	8/15/63	good
Columbus Taylor	M	3	"	7/1/64	good
Robert Taylor	M	2	"	7/1/64	good
Mary Dorey (sic?)	F	55	emanci- pated by state	11/1/64	medium
Joseph Jarboe	M	60	"	11/1/64	indifferent

\*The word "military" indicates that the person left with or was taken by Union military forces.

Slave Statistics, St. Marys County, p. 269, Maryland Hall of Records.

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This economic downturn in part may have prompted Caleb Jones to apply for a pension as a participant in the War of 1812. Despite Jones' efforts and the efforts of several St. Mary's Countians, including one who also fought in the War of 1812, as well as a Washington attorney who acted on his behalf Caleb Jones never received his pension. He made his last effort when he was 82, but the Pension Office could not locate evidence of his service.45

Ownership under Caleb Jones' Heirs

By the 1880 census, Cross Manor's population had dropped to three persons: Emily Jones, Elvira Jones Ellicott, and James and Elvira Ellicott's daughter Rose.46 Caleb, the patriarch of the clan, died in 1878 at the age of 89. James Fox Ellicott left the farm sometime between 1870 and 1878. The last record that connects him to Cross Manor is the codicil to Jones's will. Jones wrote the codicil less than a month before he died, stating, "For good and sufficient reasons which I believe will conduce more fully to the happiness of all my heirs -- I revoke the appointment of James F. Ellicott as my executor." The fact that Ellicott moved to Baltimore prior to 1879 reinforces the codicil's implication that he had become estranged from other members of the family.

Caleb's "beloved daughters" Emily R. Jones and Elvira A. Ellicott inherited the farm, it being "a part of Cross Manor called Strawberry Bank." Although the will does not describe Cross Manor at all, it does provide a clue to a ready source of building materials. It refers to a property known as "Wood Yard" which the family was to use to get the chestnut and other timber for repairing and building houses.

Caleb's concern for his son Randolph had led him in 1870 to put Randolph's wife Matilda A. Jones in charge of a trust. Caleb wrote that the trust included "...for the use and benefit of my son M Randolph Jones, during his natural life," the 300 acre Rakes Lodge. Before his death, Caleb divested himself of several parcels of land. He sold 200 acres of Rakes Lodge and amended the trust to cover the remaining 100 acres where Matilda and Randolph were living as well as \$4,000 in cash.47 The one acre parcel that Jones transferred for use as a Methodist Episcopal Church or public school has remained the site of Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church.48

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More despair must have descended on Cross Manor five months after Caleb died. In October, 1878 the Express, a steamboat owned by the Potomac Transportation Line, capsized in a raging storm. Matilda Gross Jones, Randolph's wife, was one of those who died "at sea" and was subsequently buried on Adams Island. The widowed and childless Randolph continued living away from Cross Manor.49

By 1879 John M. Ellicott, James and Elvira's son, also had left Cross Manor. John's childhood fascination with the U.S. Navy lasted far longer than the duration of the coal depot and he became a member of the Class of 1883 at the U.S. Naval Academy. His application to enter the Academy mentions only his father's name. While it states that John had been born at "Cross Manor" it lists Baltimore as "place of residence" so the date of John's departure from Cross Manor is uncertain.50

The crises which led to Cross Manor's population shift during the 1870s left social scars that ultimately led to embittered court battles over the property in the 1980s. Its initial impact, however, shows up clearly by comparing state income tax records for 1873 and 1879. Assessed values for tax purposes plummeted from \$12,876 in 1873 to \$6,352 in 1879. The agricultural census of 1880, based on 1879 production figures confirms the bleak picture painted by the tax records. Emily Jones listed herself as owner of 470 acres of land, less than half the acreage her father had owned ten years earlier. She was farming only 30 acres and none of her other acres were listed as "old fields" to indicate that they were lying fallow to allow for crop rotation. Rather, the other 400 were listed as woodland and forest. The census taker noted that the farm, its land, fences, and buildings had a value of \$6,000. This represents an enormous drop from the \$20,000 reported the previous decade and reflects the continued impact of the loss of slaves, plus periods of post-Civil War inflation and depression. A remarkable attrition of farming equipment accompanied the decline in acreage and valuation. In 1870, farm machinery and equipment on the property had been valued at \$2,000. By 1880, the value of farm implements and machinery had plunged to a paltry \$25, no more than that of the area's smallest farms. Emily Jones evidently pared her expenditures to the bone as well. In contrast to the \$462 paid in wages in 1869, during the entire year of 1879 she paid a total of \$50 in wages for labor, including the value of the laborers' board. She hired laborers for a total of only 24 weeks. Jones

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sold 18 lambs living and raised only corn and wheat, crops which could be grown with a minimum labor force.51

The Twentieth Century: Grason Association

The women remained alone at Cross Manor until Rose married in 1894. Her husband was Charles Sterret Grason, an attorney who was a native of Towson, Maryland. The couple had two daughters in quick succession. Marie was born in 1895 and Dorothea (variously spelled) in 1897.52 The Grasons soon became the controlling forces at Cross Manor. In 1900 the U.S. census taker listed Grason as the property's owner despite the fact that Caleb's 80 year old daughter and heir Emily still lived there. Grason was 38 years old when he married 32 year old Rose. He took an oath in the county as an Attorney at Law in 1897, farmed Cross Manor, and became active in civic affairs. Within six years after his marriage he served as a justice of the peace for St. Marys County and in 1902 the county elected him to represent them in the state legislature.53 Most of the community's oldest inhabitants, however, remember him best for the sizeable wharfing and warehousing business he operated.

In 1900 Cross Manor's nearest neighbors were several households of black farm laborers, raising the possibility that they occupied tenant houses located some place on the 200 acres. None of the surnames of those black neighbors old enough to have been born in slavery appear on the list of slaves that Caleb Jones filed in 1867. One of Cross Manor's black neighbors in 1900, however, was Caleb Medley. Medely, born in 1853, was one of several members of the Medley family who appear on the list of Caleb Jones' brother's slaves.54

The census records for 1910 show a vastly different demographic picture. That year the Grasons were enumerated between two white farm families and the records clearly indicate that no blacks lived near the main house on Cross Manor. Charles S. Grason gave his occupation only as a general farmer who employed farm laborers. This census also reveals that Marie and Dorothea were the only children to whom Rose Grason had given birth.55

The 1910 census also sheds light on one of the on-going oral traditions about Cross Manor. Despite the fact that the chimney and foundation bricks post-date the Civil War and may be as late as the twentieth century, some St. Marys Countians refer to the

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free standing brick chimney located to the south of the main house as being the remains of a slave quarters house.

None of the censi open to the public for research identify any black family living in the building nor did the previous owners know who specifically had lived in it. The late George Samuel Carroll of Beachville provided the answer from his exceedingly sharp memory. He recalled that when he was a young boy, an elderly black man named Jeremiah Spicer lived there. The 1910 census shows that Jeremiah Spicer was a native of St. Marys County, but lived almost 200 households away from Cross Manor. Emancipation records document that Spicer had been born in slavery and that at the time of his emancipation, his owner was John Henry Creighton. Carroll first remembered Spicer about the time of World War I, so Spicer presumably moved to the farm between 1910 and 1915. Thus the building whose chimney still stands had been the home of a former slave, the kernel of truth that led to the title "The Quarters."56

Carroll also fleshed out documentary evidence of Grason's sizeable wharfing operation. Grason's wharf assumed enough importance that use of the old place name "Jones' Point" died out and was replaced by the name "Grason's Wharf." Throughout the first thirty years or so of the twentieth century, Grason's Wharf was a regular supply depot for area farmers and merchants. Steamboats routinely pulled into the wharf to unload goods ordered from Baltimore and Washington and to provide passenger service between those cities.57

In 1911 Annie Leakin Sioussat included the Grasons' home in Volume One of her series Old Manors in the Colony of Maryland. She cited it as "Cornwallis's Cross Manor House." Although Sioussat did not describe the house, she did include what is believed to be the earliest photograph published of it, a snapshot provided to her by Rose Ellicott Grason. The photograph shows a portion of the river view facade of the main house as well as a portion of the kitchen wing. Facade bricks of the main house were painted and the pediment of its two story porch had a full return across the bottom of the pediment. Chimneys terminated in a modest brick band of continuous corbelling, probably no more than two courses deep. The kitchen roof had already been extended over the attached porch.

Rose Grason continued to foster the belief that her home was Cornwaleys' original manor house and that Cross Manor's gardens

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were as old as the original house. The only description of the interior that has been located for this era was written about 1930. It states that the rooms, "generous in size, are filled with interesting old furniture, Hepplewhite chairs and tables, an old clock and a sideboard so dark it is difficult to tell whether it is made of ebony or mahogany. A Duncan Phyfe table and a Sheffield silver waiter find appropriate setting, too, in the old manor house." Rose Grason informed the author of Homes of the Cavaliers that her mother's family had owned Cross Manor for six generations and estimated that the family had acquired the property about 1780. As the same author reported that Randolph Jones was the person who acquired Cross Manor about 1780 when he was born in the 1817 and in fact never owned Cross Manor, there is reason to doubt the accuracy of six generations of ownership as well as the date 1780. John M. Ellicott addressed the issue of the garden when he wrote in the 1930s that the old trees that had been on the estate when he was a child (1860s) had died and that in the interim a substantial number of new trees had been planted.58

At the outbreak of World War II, Cross Manor resembled closely other farms of the once wealthy planter families in St. Marys County. Despite the Grasons' effort to update the interior of the house in the early 1900s, the property still had no electricity and no bathroom and the house's water supply reached it via a kerosene powered engine attached to a well. As was true of farm families throughout the U.S., Cross Manor's owners focused on making improvements which were related to agriculture. They kept the barns, chicken houses, and sheepshed in good to excellent condition. One of the barns represented not only a break from local tradition, but a sizable expenditure as well. About 1920 the Grasons purchased a "kit" barn, the Hillrose style barn which Sears, Roebuck & Co. offered in its 1917 - 1920 catalogues. In a subsequent effort to upgrade the property, the owners removed the 40' x 20' eighteenth century shedded barn whose ca. 1936 photograph appears in the Historic American Building Survey Cross Manor file.59

From 1953 to 1987 Cross Manor suffered significant attrition of acreage and lost a number of its outbuildings. It remains a major historic and archeological site, however. Its residual 33+ acres contain the eighteenth century dwelling and dairy house, the early nineteenth century attached kitchen, the brick smoke house, the road to Grason's Wharf (Jones' Point) and the early twentieth century tobacco barn, sheepshed, and Sears, Roebuck & Co. barn. Despite their neglect, substantial boxwood hedges and

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groupings have survived as well as magnificent specimen spruce, magnolia, tulip poplar, crape myrtle, and dogwood trees. Numerous flowering shrubs are located throughout the garden area.

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## ENDNOTES

1. Guardian Accounts for 1787 - 1797, pp. 96, 196, 197, 228, 229-01, 305, 348-50, Maryland Hall of Records.
2. Chancery Court 1795, B 33, p. 195 - 201, Maryland Hall of Records. The mixed use of pounds sterling and dollars persisted through the first two decades of the nineteenth century and makes accurate cost analysis difficult at best.
3. 83 Court of Appeals Land Record, Maryland Hall of Records. (Deed was filed in 1797.)
4. Copy of tax assessment contained in SM-3 file at St. Mary's Archeology Center.
5. Despite the fact that federal tax assessors did assess the value of slave "quarters" for other farms in Maryland in 1798, there is always the possibility that slave housing at Cross Manor was of such inferior quality as not to be taxable or that the assessor simply failed to include it.
6. The Maryland Gazette, issues of May, 1780; see also Lathan A. Windley, comp. Runaway Slave Advertisements: A Documentary History from the 1730s to 1790, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1983, Vol. 2.
7. Statistics used for comparison appear in Bayly Ellen Marks. Economics and Society in a Staple Plantation System: St. Marys County, Maryland 1790 - 1840, PhD. University of Maryland, 1979.
8. The Maryland Gazette, 1808 - 1810. Major newspapers generally carried advertisements of estates of this size which lacked such a prospective buyer, especially when the estate was in top condition.
9. Timothy J. O'Rourke, comp. Catholic Families of Southern Maryland: Records of Catholic Residents of St. Mary's County in the Eighteenth Century. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1985; "Notes," St. Mary's Chronicles, Vol. 9, pp. 425-6.
10. O'Rourke, ibid.; 63, The Diary of Father James Walton, S.J. A list of Baptisms in St. Mary's County, Maryland, from 1766 thru August, 1794, p. 70, Maryland Provincial Archives.

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11. Marks, Economics and Society in a Staple Plantation System: St. Marys County, Maryland 1790 - 1840, p. 88.
12. Assessors Return for 1804 - 21, St. Marys County, Maryland Hall of Records.
13. Ibid.
14. Military Records, War of 1812, Maryland item 375, National Archives.
15. U.S. Census, St. Marys County, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, National Archives; Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh. Maryland Records Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church from Original Sources. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1915. Vol. 1, p. 360; John M. Ellicott, "Cornwaley's Cross Manor," Chronicles of St. Mary's, July, 1965, p. 167.
16. St. Inigoes Accounts, 1804 - 1832, 170G; Box 10 Father Thomas Lilley's Journals, 5 volumes, various pages, Maryland Provincial Archives.
17. Marks, pp. 575 - 577; Ellicott, "Cornwaley's Cross Manor," p. 168.
18. Land Records, SH, p. 63; Commissioners of the Tax Assessment Papers, Folder 1830, #3; Tax Assessment Records, 1821 - 1826; Maryland Hall of Records. No federal census survives for St. Mary's County in 1830.
19. U.S. Census, St. Marys County, 1840, National Archives. The census taker's instructions to gather the name of the head of the household only and to enumerate the rest of the members, family or slave, by age range and gender severely limits our knowledge of Cross Manor's residents prior to 1850.
20. Assessment Papers, 1830, St. Marys County Commissioners of the Tax, Maryland Hall of Records.
21. Journal Vol 3rd, Maryland PProvincial Archives.
22. Trinity Church Episcopal, St. Marys County; Hammett, p. 304; Celia M. Holland. Ellicott City, Maryland: Mill Town, U.S.A. Chicago: Adams Press, 1970, p. 140.

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23. St. Mary's County, first district. State Tax book for 1845, Maryland Hall of Records.
24. U.S. census, St. Marys County, 1850, National Archives.
25. Journal Vol 4th dated August 31 1854 Ending Aug 31 1856, Maryland Provincial Archives.
26. Box 170, Day Cash Book of the St. Inigoes saw mill, 1821, 1854-58, pp. 82, 92, 99, Maryland Provincial Archives.
27. Income tax books, St. Marys County, 1842 - 1850, 1852, 1854 - 1860, 1862 - 1869, 1871 - 1873, 1879 - 1880, 1886 - 1887, (Books are missing for years not included in this endnote.), Maryland Hall of Records; Marks, p. 632; J[ohn] M. Ellicott. "A Child's Recollections of the Potomac Flotilla," Chronicles of St. Mary's, p. 294 - 298.
28. Regina Combs Hammett, History of St. Mary's County, pp. 114 - 115.
27. U.S. Census, Manuscript Agricultural Schedules, St. Marys County, 1850, Maryland Hall of Records.
30. U.S. Census. Manuscript Agricultural Schedule, 1860, Maryland Hall of Records.
31. U.S. Census and Manuscript Slave Census, St. Marys County, 1860, National Archives.
32. RG-M89, Reel 114, National Archives.
33. RG-M89, Reel 114, National Archives.
34. RG-M89, Reel 115, National Archives; Ellicott, "A Child's Recollections of the Potomac Flotilla," pp. 129-131.
35. Slave Statistics, St. Mary's County, p. 269, Maryland Hall of Records; Jones' only grandson later recalled that the family went months at a time without seeing anyone other than the family's slaves, so that the impact of the slaves' departures must have been especially severe. Ellicott, "A Child's Recollection of the Potomac Flotilla," p. 294.

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36. Ibid.

37. Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served in Organizations from Maryland, Roll 111, National Archives.

38. Chronicles of St. Mary's, March, 1954, pp. 13 - 14.

39. RG-M89. Letters Received from Squadrons, National Archives.

40. Jones, "A Child's Recollection of the Potomac Flotilla," p. 298.

41. Slave Statistics, St. Mary's County, p. 269, Maryland Hall of Records.

42. Marks, p. 47.

43. U.S. Census, Manuscript Agricultural Schedules, 1860 and 1870, Maryland Hall of Records.

44. St. Marys Board of County Commissioners Schedule of Property, 1876, Maryland Hall of Records.

45. War of 1812 pension files, National Archives.

46. U.S. Census, St. Marys County, 1880, National Archives.

47. J.T.M.R. Will No. 1, 453, Maryland Hall of Records; A search through the "Index of Lands -- Conveyances by Tract Names 1658 - 1815," also located at the Maryland Hall of Records, reveals no tracts named "Strawberry Banks." The name appears to have originated in the nineteenth century.

48. Patricia Griffith Biondi, "Research Findings on the Methodist Churches in St. Mary's County, Md.;" St. Mary's Chronicles, Vol. 9, p. 276.

49. U.S. Census, St. Marys County, National Archives; Regina Combs Hammett. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Published by the author, 1977, p. 219. Matilda Gross Jones was a native of Pennsylvania and married Randolph Jones between 1860 and 1870. It is likely that he met her through his participation in the Civil War, perhaps while a hospital patient following his wound at Petersburg.

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50. File of John Morris Ellicott, U.S. Naval Academy Archives.
51. U.S. Census, Manuscript Agricultural Schedule, St. Marys County, 1880; Income Tax Books, St. Mary's County, 1871 - 1873, 1879 -1880, Maryland Hall of Records.
52. U.S. Census, St. Marys County, 1900, National Archives. Emily Jones year of birth varies from census to census. The reported year of 1820 in this census appears to be the most accurate when compared to other facts, such as her parents' ages.
53. Hammett, History of St. Mary's County, pps. 323 and 336; Annie Leakin Sioussat. Old Manors in the Colony of Maryland, 1911, Volume One, p. 11.
54. Slaves Statistics, St. Mary's County, Maryland Hall of Records, p. 269 and various.
55. U.S. Census, St. Marys County, 1910, National Archives. Elvira Jones Ellicott died in the 1890s and Emily Jones died in 1903.
56. Slave Statistics, St. Mary's County, Maryland Hall of Records; U.S. Census, St. Marys County, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, National Archives; Tape interview of George Samuel Carroll, in private possession.
57. Interview of Carroll; see also Hammett, photo on p. 228.
58. Katherine Scarborough. Homes of the Cavaliers. Cambridge, MD: Tidewater Publishers, reprinted, 1969, pp. 7-8.; Ellicott, "Cornwaley's Cross," p. 168.
59. Marks, p. 47; Barbara Howe, et al. Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History. Nashville: The American Association for State and Local History, 1987, p. 140; Historic American Building Survey file, Library of Congress; Taped interviews of George Samuel Carroll and Howard Cooper, held privately.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.29

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## Architectural Significance:

Architecturally, Cross Manor is most significant as an exceptional example of the complexity of development of a better class of domestic building in Maryland. The house exhibits six to eight periods of activity. Because Cross Manor has been approached at a level of analysis and scientific evaluation it is an extremely important property for studying the region's architectural heritage and culture. As the road systems throughout the state rapidly developed in the nineteenth century, new residential complexes were oriented to the road which was now the main approach rather than water. Many older complexes were reoriented but often with just a new drive. Cross Manor represents a radical change with the extensive re-working of building fabric. This reorientation aspect of the State's heritage unfortunately has not been systematically studied. In a more local context, the period I house is an excellent though altered example of an unusual four-room plan with an especially unusual period II service wing. It is among the few surviving examples of double pile gambrel roof houses in Southern Maryland, and includes numerous significant details. These include an exceptional fully paneled room of the Federal period and extensive interior woodwork from both the Federal and Greek Revival periods. Other details include the Greek Revival molded plaster cornice and ceiling medallions in two first floor rooms, an elaborately molded arch in the passage, and a rare example of a root cellar in the service wing. Also noteworthy are the frame carriage house dating to circa 1815 or earlier, a brick dairy of mid-19th century vintage, and the ruins of a slave quarter believed to date to the second quarter of the 19th century.

Cross Manor is an excellent example of the better class housing in St. Mary's County in the mid nineteenth century. It is one of seven houses of this type identified in Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. These include the Brome-Howard House (SM-33) at St. Mary's City, a frame structure with a service wing built about 1840; Nuthalls Folly (SM-48) at Piney Point, a brick house also with a service wing; Locust Grove (SM-148) at Chaptico, another frame structure; Part Massom Eyrie (SM-176) at Hermansville; Innis Choice (SM-242) at St. Mary's City, a brick house built about the 1830s; and Clark's Rest (SM-247) near Leonardtown, a frame building with an earlier service wing. Each is a two and a half story structure with a side-passage-double-parlor plan and Greek Revival decorative detailing. Nuthalls Folly and Cross Manor, both of brick construction, are the most elaborate examples. The only other example of the original unique four room floor plan known in Southern Maryland. That is Retreat (CH-10) in Charles County. Retreat is listed in the National Register.

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Charles Sterret Grason (1856-1941)

Charles Sterret (spelling various) Grason was born in Towson, Maryland in 1856. Grason was the grandson of William Grason, the first governor of Maryland to be elected by popular vote and his mother was a member of the Ridgley (spelling various) family of St. Marys County.<sup>1</sup>

Grason, an attorney, married Rose Ellicott of Cross Manor in 1894 and took an oath in the county as an Attorney at Law in 1897. Grason's career resembled those of his wife's grandfather Caleb M. Jones and other moderately wealthy nineteenth century planters. He chose to combine his profession with farming, civic affairs, and entrepreneurship.

The couple and their two daughters, Marie and Dorothea (variously spelled), made Cross Manor their home throughout their lives.<sup>2</sup> Despite the fact that Rose's mother and aunt still lived at Cross Manor the Grasons soon became the controlling forces. In 1900 the U.S. census taker listed Charles Grason as the property's owner when in fact he never owned the property. Within six years after his marriage he served as a justice of the peace for St. Marys County and the county soon elected him to represent them in the state legislature.<sup>3</sup>

In his first try for public office Charles S. Grason won the both the Democratic nomination and the general election as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates for the January, 1902 term.<sup>4</sup> Grason was appointed almost immediately to serve on the Committee on Organization. The committee's responsibilities

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included the designation of officers and employees of the House for the session, among them such important patronage positions as the state printer.5

During World War I, Grason returned to the State House for two terms in the capacity of state Senator. In the 1918 session the 62-year old Senator from St. Marys County served on nine committees: agriculture and labor, amendments to the constitution, Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, elections, federal regulations, fish and games, inspections, militia, and railroads and canals. Bills that Grason sponsored included an act to regulate hunting and shooting wild fowl in Chaptico Bay, an amendment to the law that levied money annually to repair roads in St. Marys County and an amendment to the law which provided for compensation of the County Commissioners. The following, or 1920, session Grason served on seven committees. Again, he sought to regulate the hunting of water fowl. This time his bill sought to protect ducks in the waters of the Wicomico River and its tributaries.

Grason also introduced two bills that related to education in St. Marys County. In the first, the bill directed county commissioners to make a levy of \$800 to build a school for the black children in the county's 2nd Election District. The second bill sought permission for St. Mary's Female Seminary to sell some of its land and to use the proceeds from the sale for the needs of the seminary.6

Farm matters did not go unattended while Grason was in the

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legislature. Oral history and corroborative documents date Cross Manor's Sears Roebuck & Co. barn to the period from 1917-1921, the same time span as Grason's service in the Maryland Senate. Even if the matching time frame is mere coincidence rather than the expenditure of moneys earned as a senator or the result an idea garnered while he was at the State House, the barn stands as a symbol of this period of Grason's life and is, in fact, the most visible evidence of his association with Cross Manor.]

In addition to managing Cross Manor and rendering political service, Grason also participated in civic affairs, most notably as a member of Trinity Church and of the board of directors of St. Marys Female Seminary (now St. Marys College) and ultimately as the president of the board.

Most of the community's oldest inhabitants, however, remember Grason best for the sizeable wharving and warehousing business he operated. Grason's wharf assumed enough importance that local use of the old place name "Jones' Point" died out and was replaced by "Grason's Wharf."

Throughout the first thirty years or so of the twentieth century, Grason's Wharf was a regular supply depot for area farmers and merchants. Steamboats routinely pulled into the wharf to unload goods ordered from Baltimore and Washington and to provide passenger service between those cities. Although no information has been located about the condition of the wharf at the time Grason moved to Cross Manor, he directed the day to day activities of the wharf and usually met the steamboats at

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wharfside.8

Charles Sterret Grason was 85 when he died on March 29, 1941 at Cross Manor. He had outlived steamboat service to his wharf by three and a half years. Although he had upgraded and maintained historic Cross Manor, Grason still lived in a nineteenth century environment, one that did not have indoor plumbing or electricity.

His obituary stated that he was widely known in Maryland and cited his service in the state legislature as well as his presidency of the board of trustees of St. Marys Female Seminary.9 Rose Ellicott Grason and two daughters, Dorothy and Marie, survived Charles S. Grason.

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## Footnotes

1. Some familial information provided by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Rea, Lexington Park, Maryland.
2. The Grasons' daughter Marie married and lived away during several brief periods.
3. Regina Combs Hammett. History of St. Mary's County. Published by the author, pps. 323 and 336; Annie Leakin Sioussat. Old Manors in the Colony of Maryland, 1911, Volume One, p. 11.
4. Information supplied by Charles S. Grason to be certified as member of Maryland House of Delegates, 1903. Maryland State Archives.
5. Journal of Proceedings of the House of Delegates of Maryland, January Session, 1902. Annapolis: King Bros.; State Printers, 1902, pp. 14 and 34. The Journal has no index by individual delegates' names and does not contain a full list of committee appointments or the full text of bills, introduced or passed. This limits severely the determination of sphere of influence of an individual delegate.
6. Journal of Proceedings of the Senate of Maryland, January Session, 1918. Annapolis: Press of King Brothers, State Printers, 1918, pp. 405, 465, 652, 715, and 997.; Journal of Proceedings of the Senate of Maryland, January Session, 1920. Annapolis: George T. Melvin, State Printer, 1920, pp. 35, 170, 447, and 654. The journals are not indexed by individual senators' names. Only those bills that appeared in the St. Mary's County portion of the index and which Grason also introduced are covered in this report. Thus Grason may have been a more influential state senator than the subject matter of these bills indicate.
7. See National Register Nomination form for Cross Manor on file at the Maryland Historical Trust.
8. Interview of Carroll; see also Hammett, photo on p. 228; and Ruth Ann Overbeck, "Grason' Wharf," unpublished mss deposited with the Maryland Historical Trust as a supplement to the National Register Nomination for Cross Manor.
9. Evening Star, March 31, 1941.

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St. Mary's County, Maryland

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Grason's Wharf

Until the late 1930s residents of St. Marys County remained dependent on their waterways as a means of personal travel and of sending crops to market and receiving manufactured goods. Railroads connected the Eastern shore of Maryland to Baltimore, but did not penetrate to the tip of southern Maryland. Numerous roads remained unpaved and bridges unbuilt. Thus, the colonial and nineteenth century transportation model of local wharves or landings, located principally at a leading farm, and used by the local community persisted.<sup>1</sup>

The importance of water transportation to Maryland's major colonial era planters has been relatively well documented. In 1678 Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, noted that Marylanders were building their homes near the waters for the "convenience of trade," rather than near each other.<sup>2</sup> English hack-writer Edward Kimber visited Maryland in the mid-1700s. In his descriptions of the plantations in general terms, Kimber wrote that Maryland's planters had begun to diversify their farming by raising grain and live stock in addition to tobacco and were exporting these items in great quantities. He noted that the planters "... could deliver their commodities at their own back doors as the whole Colony is inter-flow'd by the most noble navigable Rivers in the World...."<sup>3</sup>

Documentation about rural landing sites and their importance to specific planters during specific time periods is scattered at best. Even the number of active sites on any given date is a

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matter of conjecture. An examination of maps held by the Library of Congress, for example, show that even early twentieth century nautical maps issued serially by the federal government contain inconsistent notations about wharves and landing sites.4

Cross Manor's wharf has been known by at least four names, Jones' Point, Jones' Wharf, Gra[y]son's Landing, and Grason's Wharf. The name "Jones" reflects the names of the nineteenth century owners of Cross Manor. Mordecai Jones acquired Cross Manor in 1810 and established a mill there. His son Caleb M. Jones lived on the plantation as early as 1813, but became its owner only at his father's death in 1829. Jones' descendants perpetuated their family name through the end of the nineteenth century. In 1894 Charles Sterret Grason, the grandson of Maryland governor William Grason, married Jones' granddaughter and moved to Cross Manor. By 1903 place name had been changed to "Grason's Landing."5

The first date that a wharf was constructed on the site is undocumented, but based on archeological reconnaissance conducted in June, 1988, under-water archeologist Donald G. Shomette reported that the wharf's remains represent a "direct evolutionary descendant, possibly little changed, from an 18th-century, or possibly even a 17th-century, design typology once present at Cross Manor."

Shomette defines the wharf as being of cobb-type construction. Its physical evidence, coupled with archival photographs, suggest that the wharf remains are "the survival of

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substantial components of a rare form of marine wharf design in the Maryland Tidewater," according to Shomette.

The cobb wharf type employs cobble and shell fill behind cribs or walls of timber, a type most commonly built during the colonial and pre-steam era. Physical evidence of such structures has been excavated at sites ranging from Connecticut to Yorktown, Virginia. All of them were seventeenth to mid-eighteenth century wharves and none of them survived to the age of steam. In addition, the Patuxent River Project, conducted in Maryland from 1977-1980, examined numerous steamboat wharves, colonial landings, harbors, and anchorages along a fifty-mile reach of the once-navigable Patuxent River. No cobb-type wharves were noted at any site during the project.

Shomette concluded that the site has significance as an historic wharf during the Civil War period of occupation, as a generic Maryland river front facility, but most importantly as a unique typological variant of eighteenth-century, and possibly seventeenth-century, wharf design, surviving into the nineteenth and early twentieth century.<sup>6</sup>

Written documentation about a specific wharf site at Cross Manor during the colonial era remains undiscovered. The size and wealth of the plantation, its ca. 1765 manor house location relative to the present wharf site on St. Inigoes Creek, and the fact that the plantation was one of earlier ones in the county to include wheat as a crop indicate that it almost certainly had an active landing site by the end of the eighteenth century.

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By 1828 steamboats from Baltimore operated on the Potomac River and during the 1850s they made scheduled runs to the St. Marys River.<sup>7</sup> Again, the agriculture and wealth patterns already established for Cross Manor indicate a high likelihood of wharving at the site.<sup>8</sup>

The earliest known site-specific reference to wharving at "Jones Point" appears in U.S. Navy correspondence from the Civil War. In 1864 the Navy purchased approximately three-quarters of an acre of "Jones' Point" to use as a coaling and refitting station for the Potomac Flotilla. The contract refers to the wharf which the "Navy will build" at the site, but given Shomette's archeological evidence the Navy probably strengthened or rebuilt the earlier structure.

Naval activities along the western shore of St. Marys County gave the United States a highly visible presence in a generally pro-Confederate environment. They also helped to stem the flood of food, commodities, and other goods which southern sympathizers were sending across the Potomac to the Confederate troops.

When the Potomac Flotilla weighed anchor and steamed away at war's end, the family at Cross Manor resumed its pastoral life. The wharf remained and it retained the name "Jones Wharf." John M. Ellicott, who lived at Cross Manor from 1860 to about 1875, wrote that the family dredged for coal at the end of the wharf and garnered enough to supply all their household needs for the next seven years. Coal continues to turn up in the vicinity of the wharf.<sup>9</sup>

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A steamboat disaster in 1878 indicates the continuing role of the wharf at Cross Manor. The Baltimore based steamer Express stopped regularly at Jones Wharf, presumably for freight purposes, but members of the family also used it on their trips to and from Baltimore. A raging storm capsized the Express while she was carrying Mrs. Randolph Jones home to Cross Manor and Mrs. Jones was among the passengers who lost their lives.<sup>10</sup>

No information has survived about the condition of the wharf at the time that Charles Sterret Grason married Caleb Jones' granddaughter. The Maryland Geological Survey map of 1903 carries the legend "Grason Wharf." It also shows Bromes and Bacons Wharves in St. Marys River and two wharves on nearby St. George Island.<sup>11</sup> By contrast, the gazetteer published in 1904 by the Department of the Interior lists "Jones Wharf" rather than the newer place name.<sup>12</sup> The fact that the state map was more up to date than the one issued by the federal government probably can be attributed to the fact that Grason was a member of the House of Delegates in 1902. More specifically, as a member of the committee that appointed the state printer for that year Grason easily could have affected a name change for Cross Manor's wharf.

Navigational charts issued by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey from 1903 through 1938 show a significant rate of change in the number of wharves along the western shore of St. Marys County. Names vanish, then reappear, only to vanish again from edition to edition. On the 1938 edition of the U. S. Coast and

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Geodetic Survey Map for the Potomac River and the entrance to Piney Point, Grason Landing appears correctly spelled. It is the only place with "landing" as part of its name.<sup>13</sup> Robert H. Burgess of the Mariners Museum created what is perhaps the most comprehensive map of steamboat landings along the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers and their tributaries. Although the map does not include dates of operation, Burgess pinpointed more than 30 wharf or landing sites, five of which were on the western shore of southern Maryland. Some of the sites evolved into major dock facilities to support the canneries and other industries which grew up around them. Most of them, however, were like Grason's and served the farm where it was located and the surrounding neighbors or small community.<sup>14</sup>

Physical evidence of the wharf's importance to Cross Manor's owners has surfaced during the on-going rehabilitation of the main house. The back side of the paneling in the first floor hall carried the date 1907 and the notation "Grason's Landing." Numerous present-day residents of Cross Manor's neighborhood have mentioned the importance of the old wharf, but shortly before his death Charles Samuel Carroll of Beachville recalled his frequent trips to the wharf to deliver crops and to pick up items that his family had ordered from Baltimore. Carroll noted that people whose packages were small enough to carry often walked to and from the wharf. He, for example, used a path along the cherry-tree lined creek bank, then cut across the yard by the main house to reach the road to the wharf. Carroll also noted that other

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residents of Beachville as well as members of the St. Inigoes community relied heavily on the steamboat service at Grason's wharf.15

On September 11, 1937 the freight and passenger steamboat Anne Arundel made her final voyage on the Chesapeake. Pending federal safety-at-sea legislation would require refitting the ship if she were to continue carrying passengers. The expense was more than the steamboat company could afford. The Anne Arundel had called regularly at Grason's Wharf and with her gone, the wharf was on its way into the history books as well.16

The larger commercial steamboat wharves such as Brome's and Miller's survived into the 1940s and '50s to be used almost exclusively by barges bringing fuel to the county and picking up pulpwood. Concurrently trucks using paved highways and modern bridges offered quick and relatively cheap freightage to communities such as St. Inigoes and Beachville. The old wharves which had been a center of community activity for so long became the province of the river and the weather.

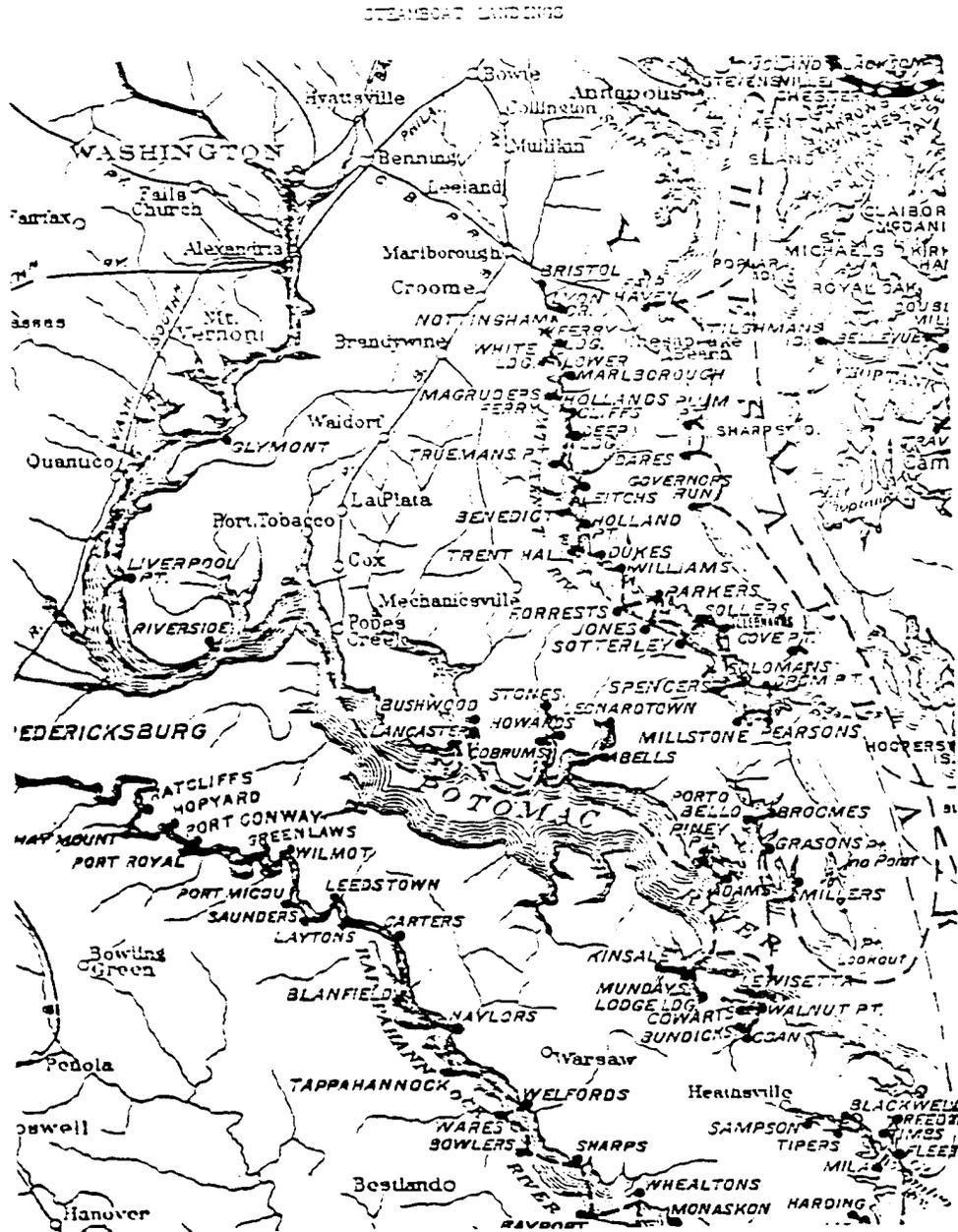
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(Courtesy of Robert H. Burgess - The Mariners Museum)

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Steamboats Out of Baltimore

M. D. & V.

## Potomac River Line

CORRECTED TO MAY 28TH, 1921

Steamer leaves Baltimore, Pier 3, Light St., weather and tide permitting, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 5.00 p. m., for Washington and intermediate landings, as follows:

WYNNE,	MUNDY'S POINT,
BROME'S,	PINEY POINT, 10 a. m.
PORTO BELLO,	LEONARDTOWN, 12 noon
GRASON'S,	ABELL'S,
COAN, 5 a. m.	COBRUMS,
BUNDICK'S,	BAY SIDE,
LAKE'S,	BUSHWOOD,
WALNUT POINT,	ROCK POINT, 4 p. m.
COWART'S,	COLONIAL BCH. 8 p. m.
LEWISSETTA,	# MORGANTOWN,
KINSALE, 9.00 a. m.	LIVERPOOL POINT,
LODGE LANDING,	GLYMONT,
	ALEXANDRIA,

Arriving at Washington Wednesday, Friday and Monday mornings.

#Weather and tide permitting.

Returning Steamer leaves 7th St. Wharf, Washington, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, weather and tide permitting, at 3 p. m., \*Leonardtwn, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 6.00 a. m.; Lodge Landing, 10 a. m.; Kinsale, 12 noon; Wynne, 4 p. m.; Porto Bello, 6 p. m.; arriving in Baltimore Wednesday, Friday and Monday mornings, stopping at all the above landings.

\*Except between June 15th, to August 15th, 1921, when steamer will leave Leonardtown and all points below ONE hour earlier.

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Footnotes

1. For a general discussion of the persistence of the importance of wharving as a nineteenth and twentieth transportation method see Robert H. Burgess and H. Graham Wood. Steamboats Out of Baltimore. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.

2. William Hand Browne, ed. Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1676-81. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1887, V, p. 266.

3. 'Eighteenth Century Maryland as Portrayed in the "Itinerant Observations" of Edward Kimber.' Maryland Historical Magazine. V. Baltimore, Dec. 1956, p. 325.

4. See the Library of Congress' collection of U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey maps issued for the "Potomac River, entrance to Piney Point" from 1903 to 1937.

5. Several authors have stated that the landing was named for Governor Grason, not his grandson. As they have provided no sources for the statement it is open to question. Certainly, the name change stems directly from Charles Sterret Grason's association with Cross Manor.

6. Donald G. Shomette. "Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Beach and Nearshore at Cross Manor, St. Mary's County Maryland." Report prepared June, 1988 and filed with the staff underwater archeologist, Maryland Historical Trust.

7. Burgess and Wood. Steamboats Out of Baltimore, p. 4.

8. See the documentation provided with the National Register Nomination form for Cross Manor, filed with the Maryland Historical Trust and approved at the April, 1988 meeting of the Review Board.

9. J[ohn] M. Ellicott. "A Child's Recollections of the Potomac Flotilla," Chronicles of St. Mary's, Vol. 10, No. 9, 1962, pp. 293 - 298. Also see the files of the Potomac Flotilla housed at the National Archives and Shomette's report, map and drawing between pp. 5 and 6.

10. Donald G. Shomette. Shipwrecks on the Chesapeake: Maritime Disasters on Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries, 1608 - 1978. Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1982, pp. 208-213.

11. Maryland Geological Survey. Map of St. Mary's County. Baltimore: Maryland Geological Survey, 1903.

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12. Henry Gannett. A Gazetteer of Maryland. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904, pp. 45 and 68. Gannett placed Jones Wharf on St. Marys River, but no other Jones Wharf has been identified along the river, so there is virtually no reason to believe that the wharf is not the one at Cross Manor.

As late as 1913, the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map still did not show a name or wharf symbol along Cross Manor's banks, nor did it show Bacons Wharf. Brome and Miller's wharves on St. Mary's River appeared as place names and two wharf symbols were located on St. George Island.

13. U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. U.S. -- East Coast, Maryland -- Virginia, Potomac River, Entrance to Piney Point. Washington: U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, variously published, 1903 - 1939.

14. Map appears in Regina Combs Hammett. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Published by the author, 1977, p. 225. The place names on the map were compared to those which appeared on nautical charts and in other sources over a 40 year period to determine persistence and changes in use patterns.

15. Charles Samuel Carroll, tape interview to Laura Henley and Ruth Ann Overbeck, privately held.

16. Burgess and Wood, pp. xv, 108.

See Continuation Sheet Nos. 9.1-9.3

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: preparer \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approx. 33 acres  
 USGS quad: St. Mary's City, MD

UTM References

A	1,8	37,574,0	4,224,38,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,8	37,497,0	4,224,47,0

B	1,8	37,560,0	4,224,10,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,8	37,503,0	4,224,78,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are delineated on Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet 10.1

11. Form Prepared By

name/title see Continuation Sheet No. 11.1

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date April 1988

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone 202-546-3395; 301-974-5000

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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Maryland Province Archives. Day Cash Book, Journals, etc. pertaining to St. Inigoes Manor. Special Collections, Georgetown University Library, Washington, D.C.

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Population Schedules, St. Marys County, Maryland, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910. National Archives.

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U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Records. Records pertaining to John M. Ellicott.  
U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

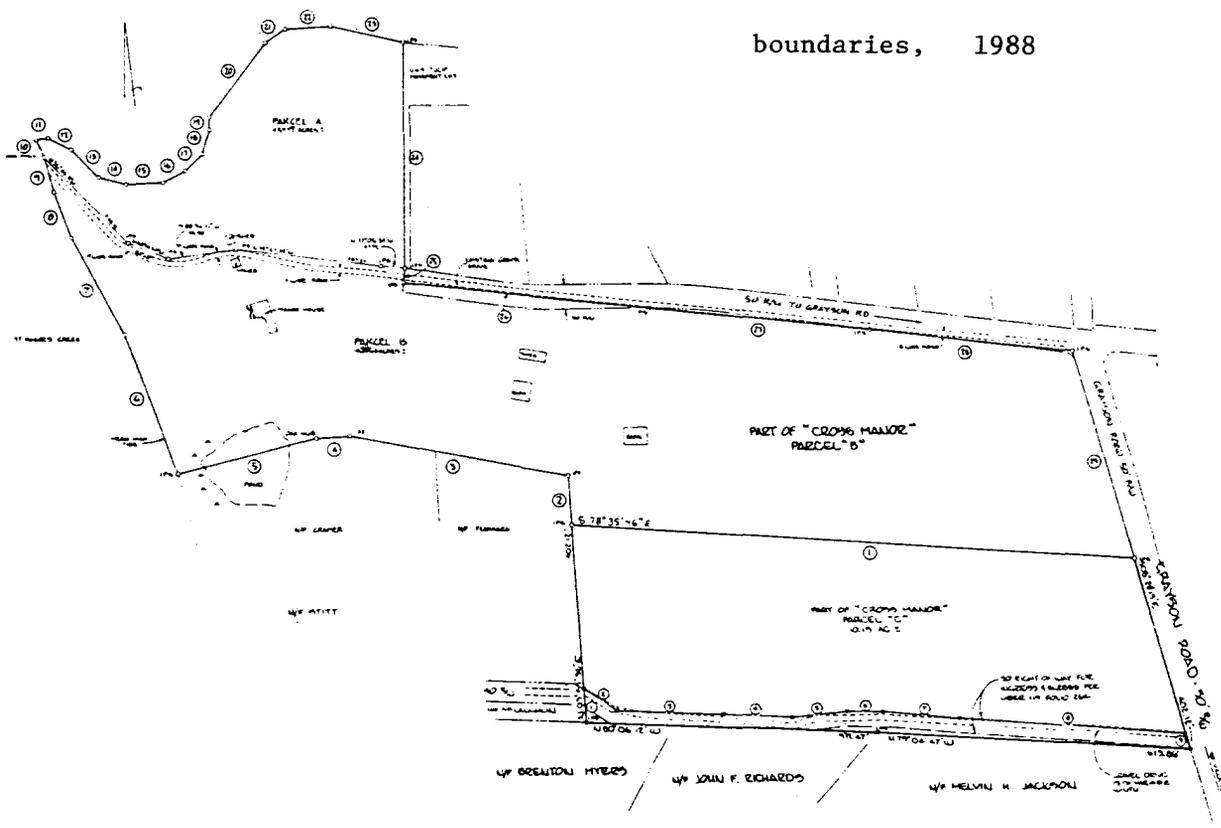
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: St. Mary's County  
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Cross Manor SM-3  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland

Section number 10 Page 1



boundaries, 1988

CODE	BEARING	DISTANCE			
1.	N 78-35-46 W	1101.61'	11.	S 89-10-06 E	23.92'
2.	N 03-55-36 E	100.00'	12.	S 56-04-54 E	51.76'
3.	N 72-31-24 W	439.00'	13.	S 37-26-35 E	77.20'
4.	N 86-34-24 W	66.00'	14.	S 68-35-52 E	54.63'
5.	S 83-05-42 W	281.85'	15.	S 85-32-36 E	72.01'
6.	N 12-54-32 W	296.05'	16.	N 69-19-24 E	50.46'
7.	N 20-22-05 W	224.02'	17.	N 51-56-45 E	46.98'
8.	N 13-59-23 W	97.63'	18.	N 23-49-34 E	50.91'
9.	N 08-14-30 W	71.99'	19.	N 09-19-57 E	25.77'
10.	N 18-40-00 W	37.05'	20.	N 43-44-54 E	185.79'
21.	N 62-13-06 E	47.43'	31.	N 72-16-37 W	146.07'
22.	S 86-08-07 E	89.50'	32.	N 18-29-32 W	260.00'
23.	S 70-49-53 E	147.19'	33.	N 29-42-10 W	119.70'
24.	S 07-04-19 W	453.50'	34.	N 70-55-08 E	19.68'
25.	S 12-54-26 W	29.15'	35.	N 46-54-22 E	20.45'
26.	S 76-19-03 E	491.18'	36.	S 18-29-32 E	378.53'
27.	S 76-08-08 E	433.89'	37.	S 72-16-37 E	133.89'
28.	S 75-30-41 E	397.25'			
29.	S 08-20-15 E	430.36'			
30.	S 00-45-30 W	15.68'			

RIGHT OF WAY COURSES & DISTANCES

NO.	BEARING	DISTANCE
1	N 03° 55' 36" E	69.00'
2	S 48° 34' 24" E	79.00'
3	S 80° 02' 24" E	309.00'
4	S 78° 34' 24" E	135.00'
5	S 88° 34' 24" E	107.50'
6	S 81° 34' 24" E	71.00'
7	S 77° 34' 24" E	153.00'
8	S 78° 07' 24" E	441.31'
9	S 08° 20' 15" E	31.69'

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11. form prepared by:

historic research and basic architectural description prepared by:

Ruth Ann Overbeck  
Washington Perspectives, Inc.  
148 12th Street, S. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20003  
(202) 546-3395

historical and architectural evaluation and summaries prepared by:

Ronald L. Andrews and Orlando Ridout V  
Maryland Historical Trust  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 974-5000

August 1988

SM-3  
CROSS MANOR  
St. Inigoes  
Private

last quarter 18th century (altered)

The initial stage of this 2 1/2-story brick house was a one-story, gambrel-roofed structure. In the early 19th century, the house was completely renovated: the roof was raised and the interior was mostly refinished with woodwork of that period. The existing floor plan consists of an end hall and flanking double parlor. The original floor plan also had two rooms and a side passage. A one-story frame and brick kitchen wing stands at one end.

Cross Manor was a 2,000-acre tract granted under the name of Cornwaleys Cross to Thomas Cornwaleys in 1639. In 1633 Cornwaleys, with Jerome Hawley, was appointed a commissioner under Governor Leonard Calvert.

Also see archeological listing.



**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

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

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

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

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

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Good</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Ruins</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed</span> </div>
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: x-small;"> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered</span> </div> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: x-small;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Moved</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site</span> </div> </div> </div>
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 40px;">Said to be a 17th Century house and reputed to be the oldest brick house in Maryland; both of these designations are inaccurate. If any part of the existing structure is of 17th century date it has been totally disfigured by numerous alterations.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 40px;">The original (?) gambrel roofed building contained an end hall with flanking double parlor. Of brick, the structure was three bays in length and two bays in width, and probably had a dormered roof and had a pair of exterior (?) end chimneys.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 40px;">In the late 18th century (?) the roof was raised, making the house two full stories with a dormered roof. Much of the interior is a mixture of 18th and 19th century paneling and mouldings and Federal trim. The staircase is 19th century.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 40px;">To the east end is a long, 1½ story brick wing with an exterior end chimney and brick gable.</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 40px;">An 18th century detached kitchen is now in ruins. Two outbuildings are also on the grounds.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

**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: 120

Acreage Justification:

[Empty space for Acreage Justification]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
J..Richard Rivoire, Field Surveyors

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: Feb. 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:

Rev. 8/74 by R. B. White, summer intern, Md. Historical Trust  
**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National       State       Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

SM-3 CROSS MANOR

15 September 1980

At the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Rea, Garry Stone and Dan Reed visited Cross Manor to observe structural information uncovered during repairs.

Brick House Attic

The roof trusses consist of "new" rafters of reciprocal mill sawn pine collared above the attic ceiling with collars cut from former oak rafters. The former oak rafters are pit sawn and notched and drilled for the collars of the roof of which they were once part. Presumably, these collars are the rafters removed when the house was raised.

The present attic has original plaster applied to riven lath attached with machine-cut, machine-headed lath nails.

Dining Room Frame Wing

An obvious 19th-c. addition. The exterior of the brick dwelling wall sealed beneath the addition is whitewashed and heavily weathered.

Under the porch, the addition has original beaded weatherboard. The weatherboard has two breaks. One break corresponds to a 19th-century extension. Initially, the wing seems to have consisted of a stair passage, dining room, and pantry (?). Shortly after the wing's construction (the former gable tie-beam shows little sign of weathering), the end wall was removed and the wing extended and a chimney added converted the pantry into a warming kitchen.

The other break in the weatherboard is less easily explained. Was the creek side of the stair passage once unenclosed? (A breezeway?) The framing on the opposite side is continuous.

The sills of the dining room were replaced in the late 19th or early 20th century. They are circular sawn from hewn baulk<sup>s</sup>. They appear to be narrower than the original sills, as they do not fully engage the tenons of the floor joists. But the floor joists themselves may be reused or

rearranged. (Very likely they would have been removed when the sills were replaced.) There appear to be two numbering sequences. (They have chiseled Roman numerals on the upper surfaces of their <sup>h</sup>tenons.)

The incomplete 1980 repairs consist of replacing a few rotten joists and studs (which has entailed taking up much of the flooring in the passage and kitchen and the exterior boards near the walls in the dining room) heavily treating the earth beneath the wing for insects, removing some plaster in the passage and dining room (all of the ceiling plaster), removing the early 20th-century vertical interior boarding in the warming kitchen (beneath which was, according to Mr. Rea, traces of plaster and riven lath), removing the partition by the center chimney, repointing the chimney brickwork, and replacing plaster with plasterboard.

Garry Wheeler Stone  
Southern Maryland Regional Preservation  
Center  
24 September 1980

cc: Mark Edwards, MHT ✓  
Cary Carson  
Eugene Rea

RECEIVED

SEP 26 1980

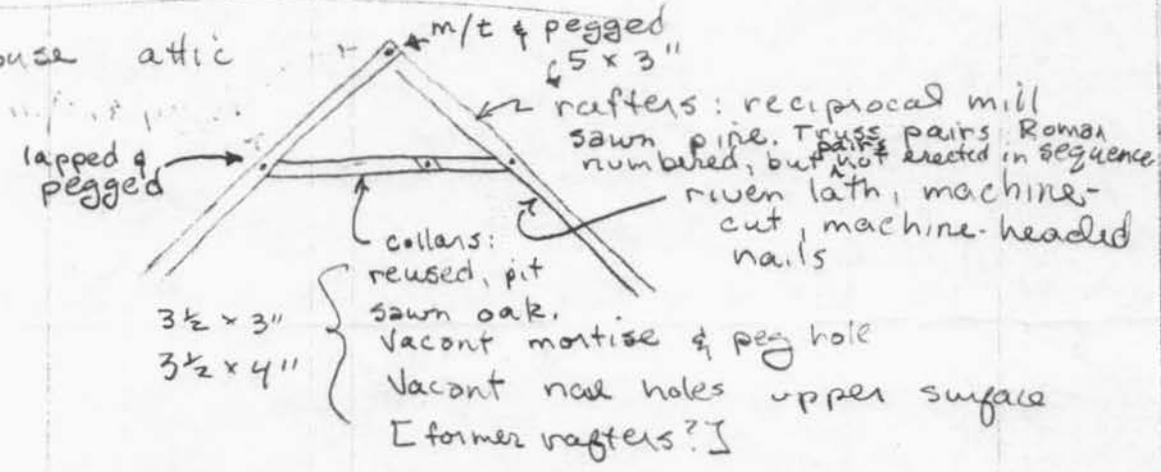
MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

SM-3

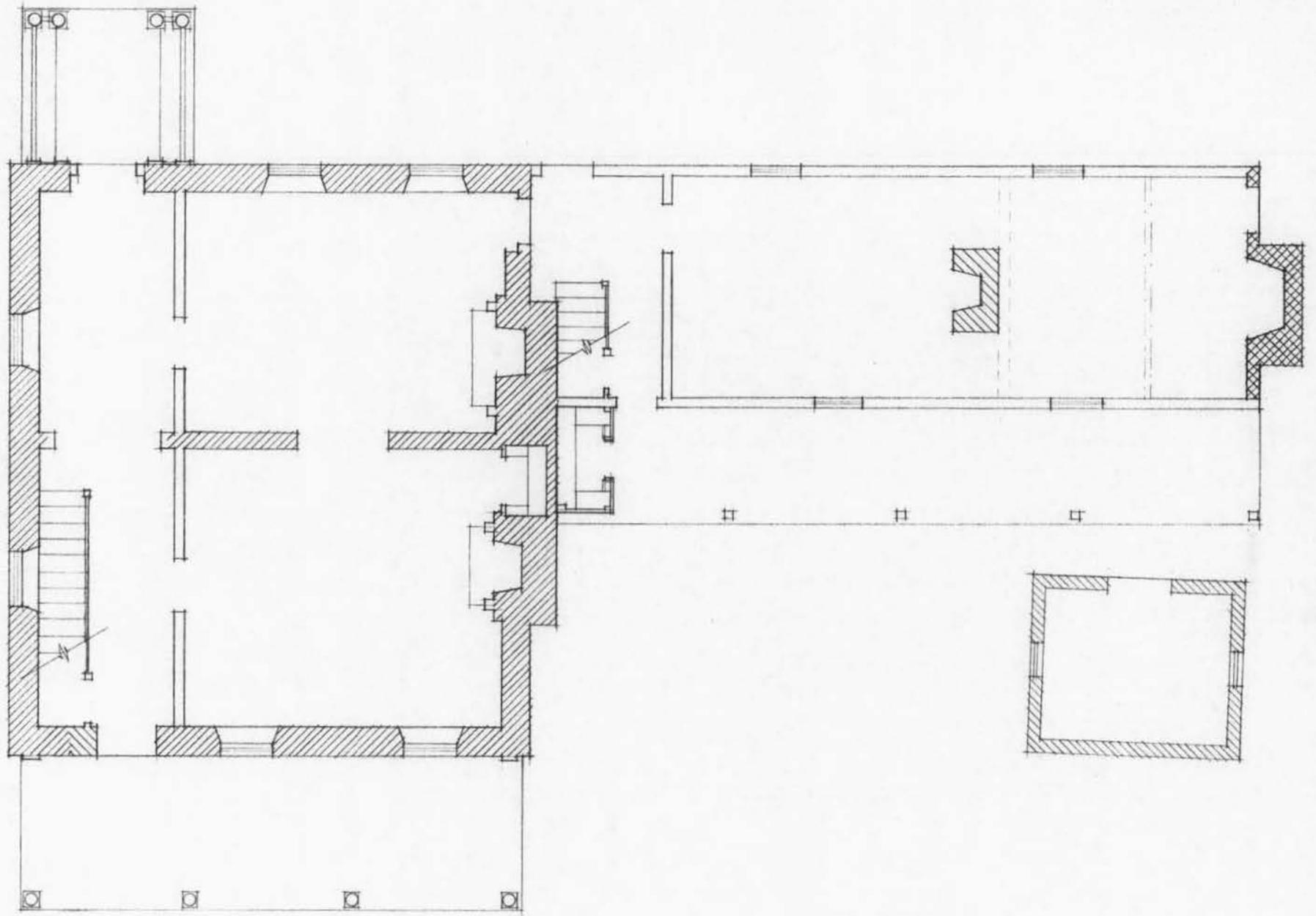
Cross Manal  
15 Sept 80

Bennetts mill - Beachville - saw & grist mill - early  
1800's

Brick house attic



studs in attic closet are reused material

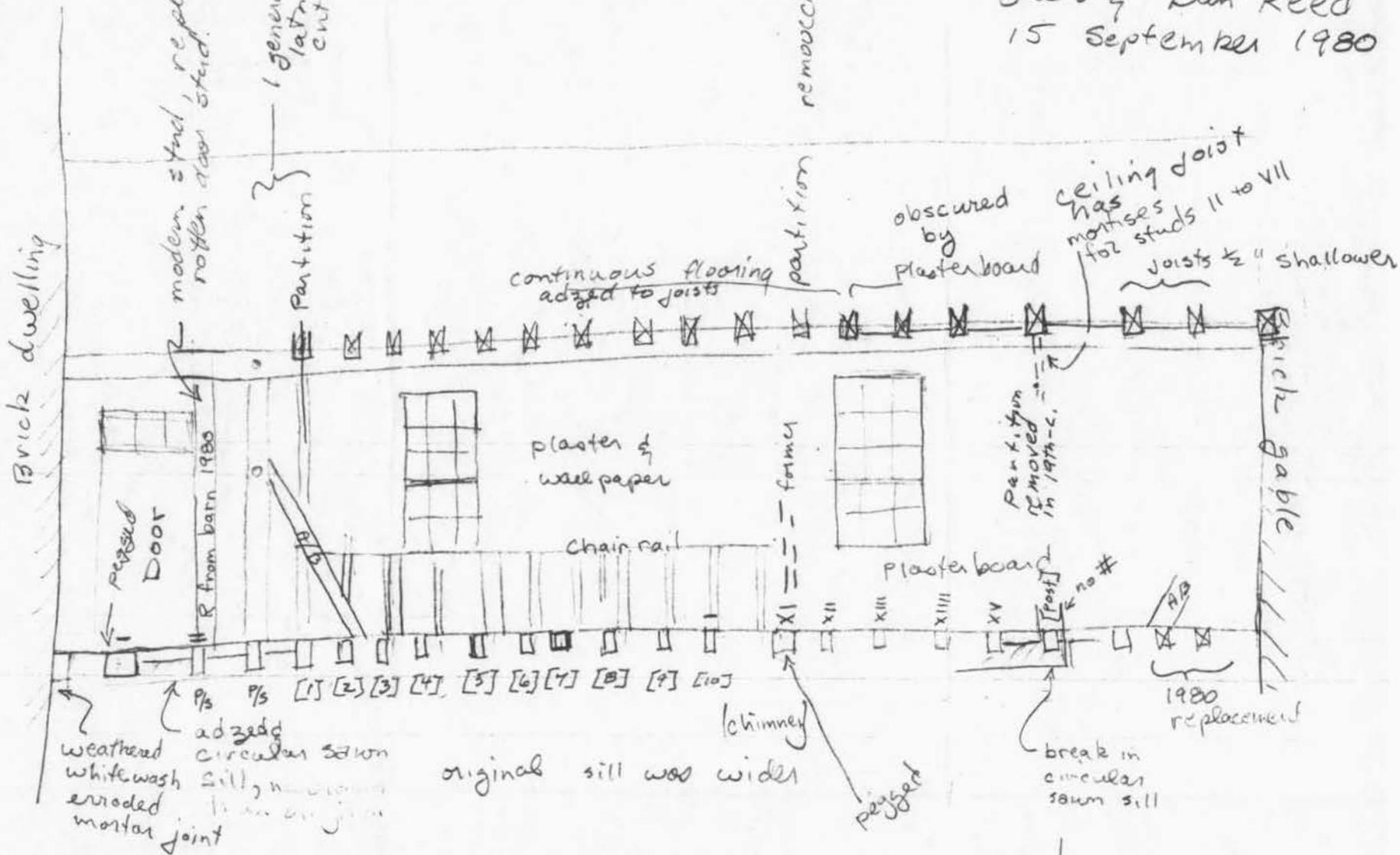


SM-3 CROSS MANOR  
ST. INIGOES, MARYLAND

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



SM-3  
 Cross manor  
 landside of "dining rm"  
 GWS & Dan Reed  
 15 September 1980



removed 1980

modern stud, replaces rotten door stud.

1 generation rivens latn, machine cut nails

continuous flooring adged to joists

obscured by plasterboard

ceiling joist has mortises for studs II to VII Joists 1/2" shallower

plaster & wall paper

Chain rail

Partition removed in 19th-c.

Revised Door

R from barn 1980

weathered whitewash eroded mortar joint

adged circular sawn sill, n. crown

original sill was wider

chimney pegged

Plasterboard

break in circular sawn sill

1980 replacement

P/S = pit sawn

break in weather board under perc (19th-c. partition removed in 19th-c.)

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

<b>Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation</b> <b>ST. MARY'S COUNTY</b> <b>Real Property Data Search</b>	<a href="#">Go Back</a> <a href="#">View Map</a> <a href="#">New Search</a>
--	---

STR

**Account Identifier:** District - 01 Account Number - 018396

**Owner Information**

<b>Owner Name:</b> KOPPEL, EDWARD J GRACE ANNE DORNEY KOPPEL  <b>Mailing Address:</b> 11910 GLEN MILL RD POTOMAC MD 20854-1919	<b>Use:</b> AGRICULTURAL  <b>Principal Residence:</b> NO  <b>Deed Reference:</b> 1) MRB/ 356/ 166 2)
--	---

**Location & Structure Information**

<b>Premises Address</b> 47733 CROSS MANOR RD	<b>Zoning</b> RPD  WATERFRONT	<b>Legal Description</b> 18.016 ACRES PARCEL B PART OF CROSS MANOR
---	--	---

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
67	2	763						82	Plat Ref:

<b>Special Tax Areas</b>	<b>Town Ad Valorem Tax Class</b>	FIRE DISTRICT 1
--------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1800	2,989 SF	18.01 AC	

<b>Stories</b>	<b>Basement</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Exterior</b>
2 1/2	NO	STANDARD UNIT	BRICK

**Value Information**

	Base Value	Value As Of	Phase-in Assessments		
		01/01/2003	As Of	As Of	
			07/01/2003	07/01/2004	PREFERENTIAL LAND VALUE INCLUDED IN LAND VALUE
<b>Land:</b>	347,560	357,560			
<b>Improvements:</b>	315,600	350,230			
<b>Total:</b>	663,160	707,790	678,036	692,912	
<b>Preferential Land:</b>	3,560	3,560	3,560	3,560	

**Transfer Information**

<b>Seller:</b> REA, EUGENE GUY & JEAN F	<b>Date:</b> 06/05/1987	<b>Price:</b> \$0
<b>Type:</b> NOT ARMS-LENGTH	<b>Deed1:</b> MRB/ 356/ 166	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b> REA, EUGENE & JEAN F	<b>Date:</b> 11/13/1978	<b>Price:</b> \$0
<b>Type:</b> UNKNOWN	<b>Deed1:</b> EQU/ 176/ 27	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b> REA, EUGENE & JEAN F	<b>Date:</b> 05/15/1978	<b>Price:</b> \$42,500
<b>Type:</b> IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH	<b>Deed1:</b> / / 233	<b>Deed2:</b>

**Exemption Information**

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

<b>Tax Exempt:</b> NO	<b>Special Tax Recapture:</b> AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX
<b>Exempt Class:</b>	



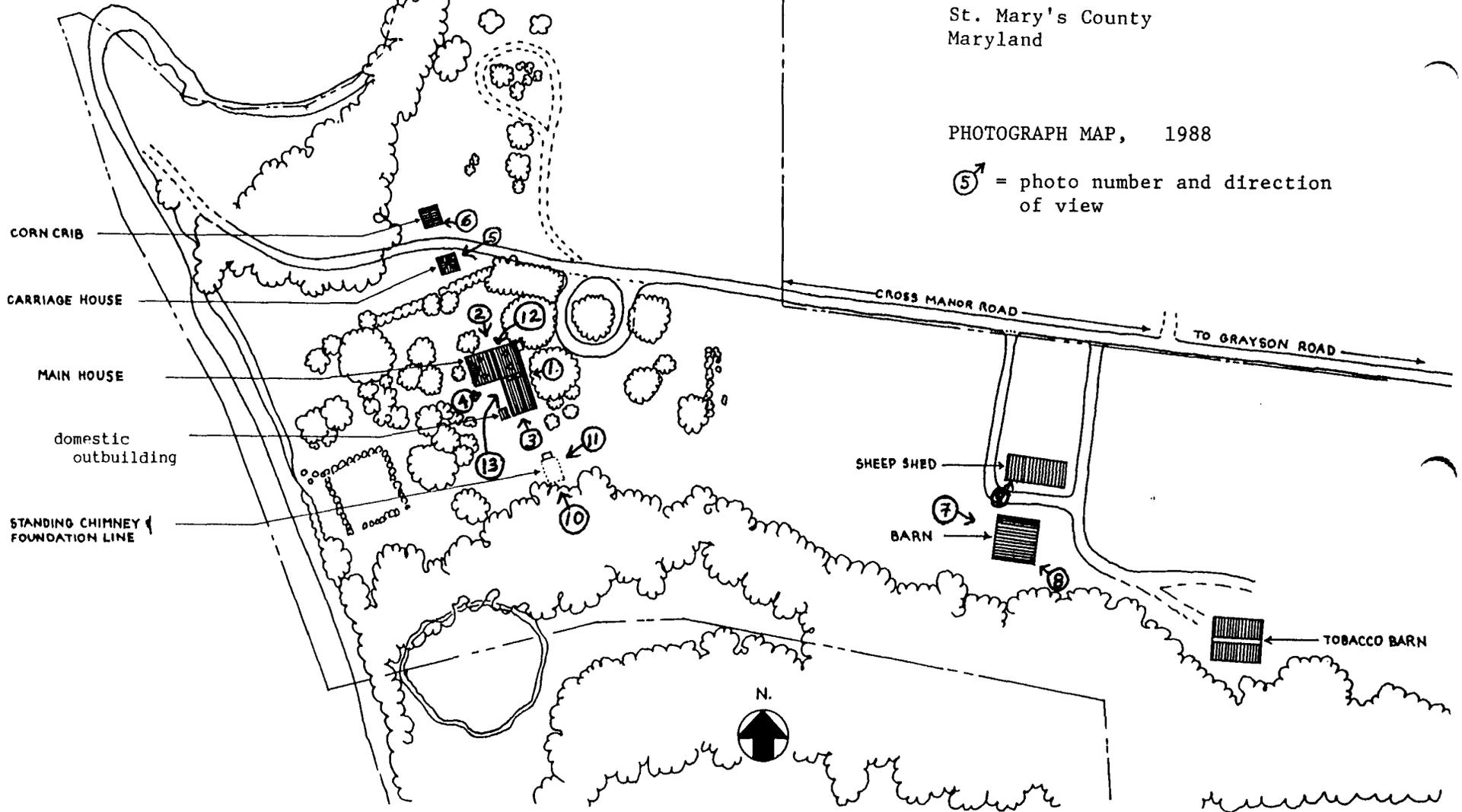
note: only exterior  
photos indicated  
on this map

CROSS MANOR SM-3

St. Mary's County  
Maryland

PHOTOGRAPH MAP, 1988

⑤ ↗ = photo number and direction  
of view



CORN CRIB

CARRIAGE HOUSE

MAIN HOUSE

domestic  
outbuilding

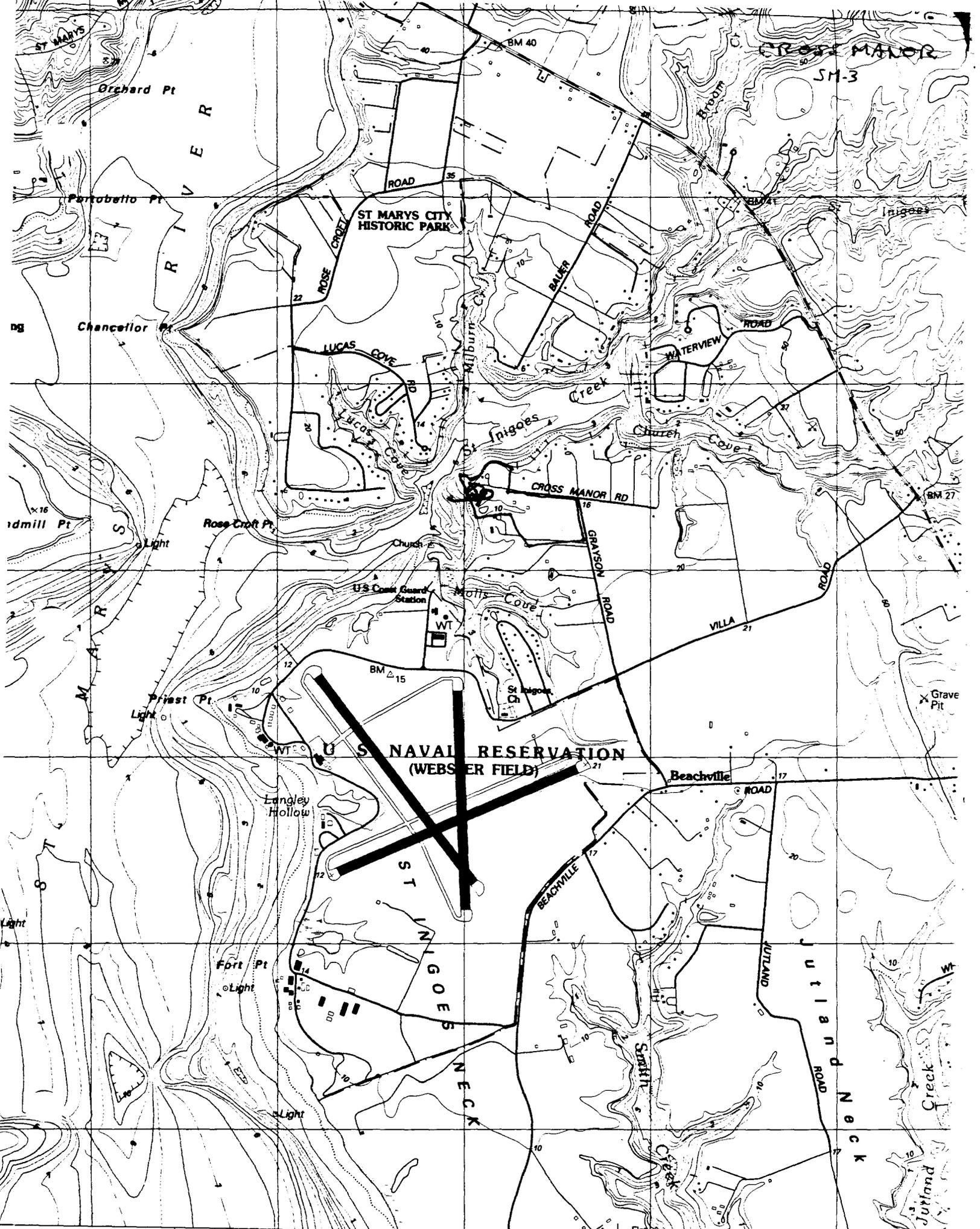
STANDING CHIMNEY  
FOUNDATION LINE

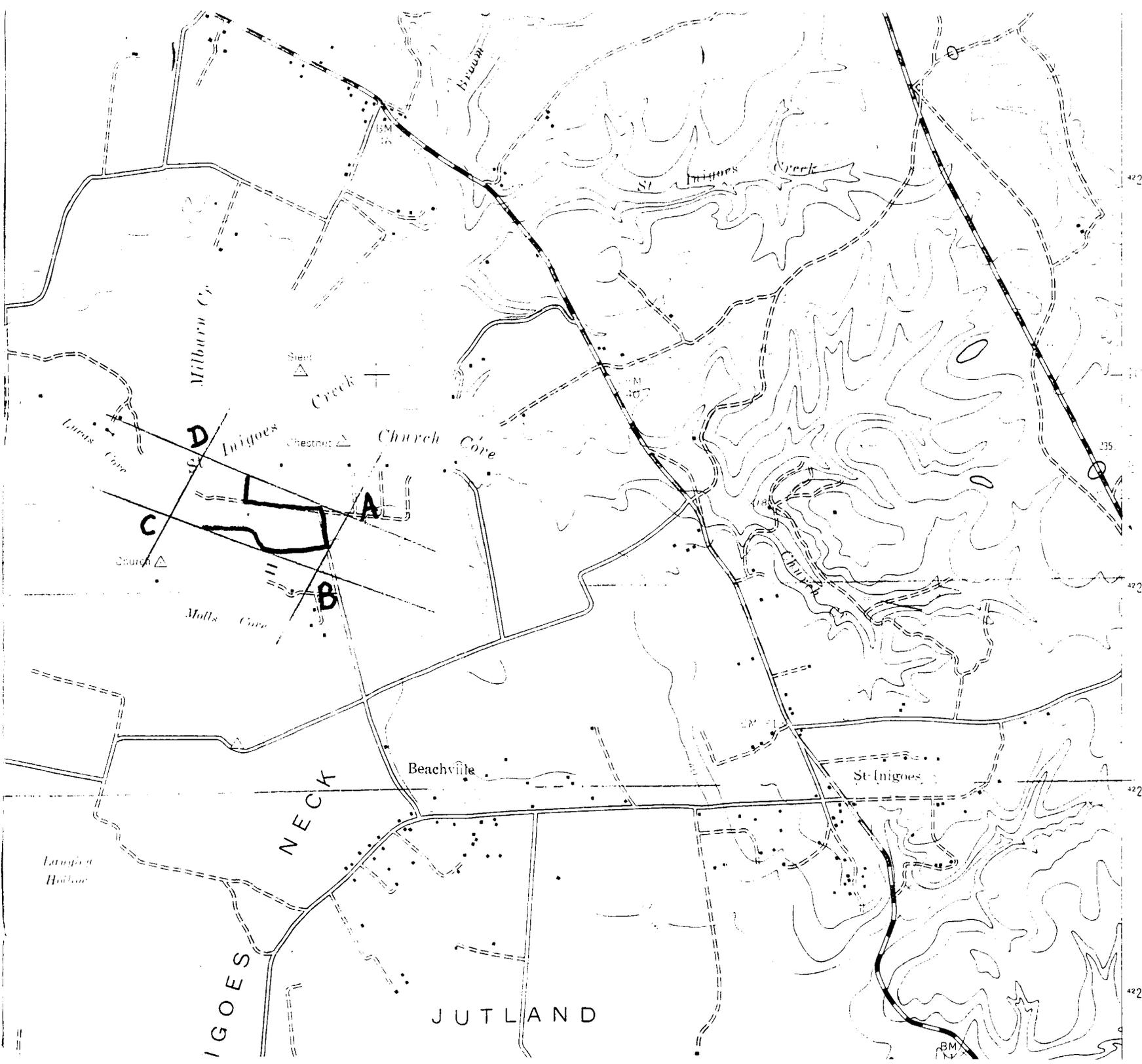
SHEEP SHED

BARN

TOBACCO BARN

N.

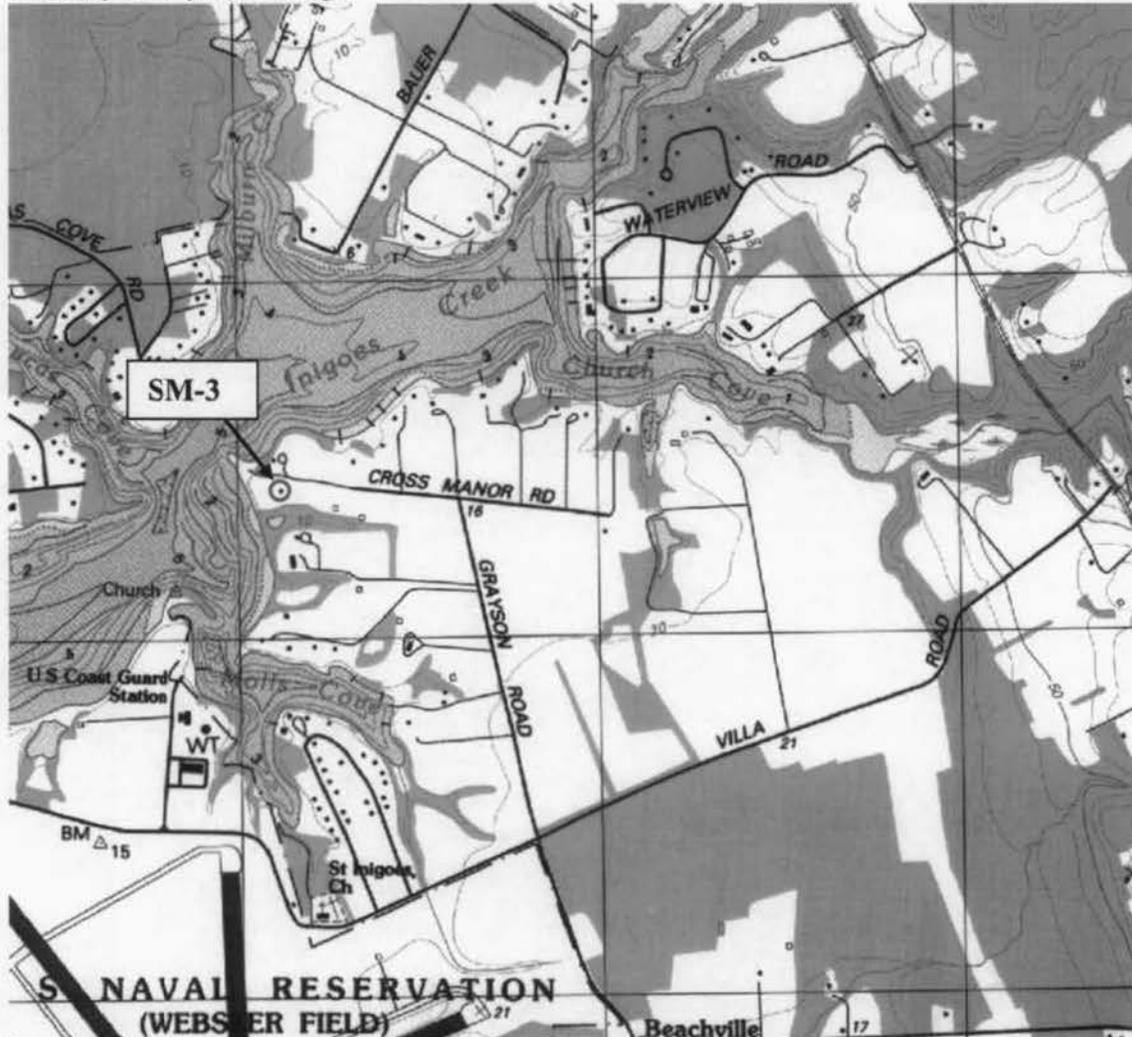




Cross Manor  
 SM-3  
 St. Mary's Co.  
 Maryland

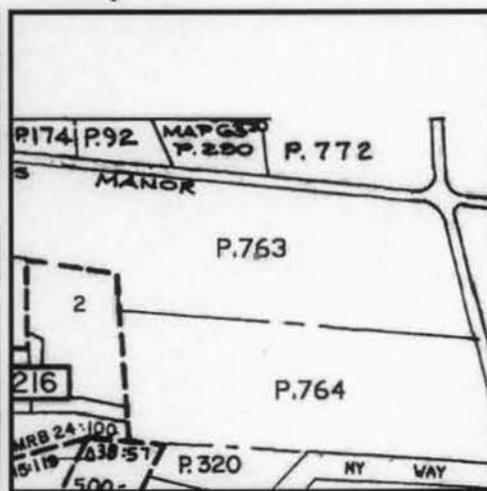
- A 18/375740/4224380
- B 18/375600/4224100
- C 18/374970/4224470
- D 18/375030/4224780

SM-3  
 Cross Manor  
 47733 Cross Manor Road  
 St. Mary's City Quadrangle



1993 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 67





## CROSS MANOR

(Or "Manor of Cornwaleys' Cross")

About 1643\*

"Cross Manor" is one of the oldest houses in Maryland. It was built on 2000 acres granted to Capt. Thomas Cornwallis in 1639. He was a soldier, a statesman, and a founder of the Colony.

The chimneys have an outside penthouse. The old gambrel roof may be traced on the gable-end walls. The old kitchen, built of frame, is ninety feet from the main house. The Living Room has panelling on all sides to the ceiling.

"Cross Manor" illustrates in its size and refinements the degree of culture possessed by some of the early founders of Maryland.



Views: From North and from South.

Dimensions:

Overall, 34-0 by 30-0.

Grade to floor, 34.

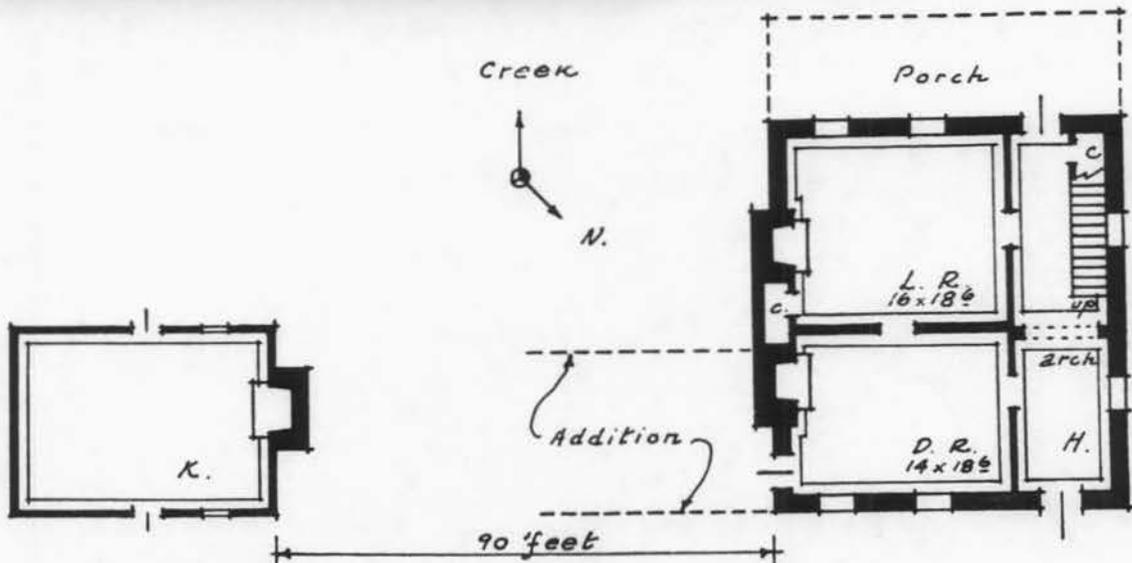
Ceiling, 9-11.

Sill, 32.

Panes, 8 by 10.

Wall, 19, including panelling.

\* See Corrections Sheet, 2.





SM-3

CROSS MANOR - MAIN HOUSE

George W. Wood

1916



Cross Manor

W elev

SM-3

#1

Cross Manor, SM-3

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St, SE, Wash, DC 20003

View from west

4 of 23



*Cross Manor*

*N elev*

*SM-3*

SM-3

#2

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

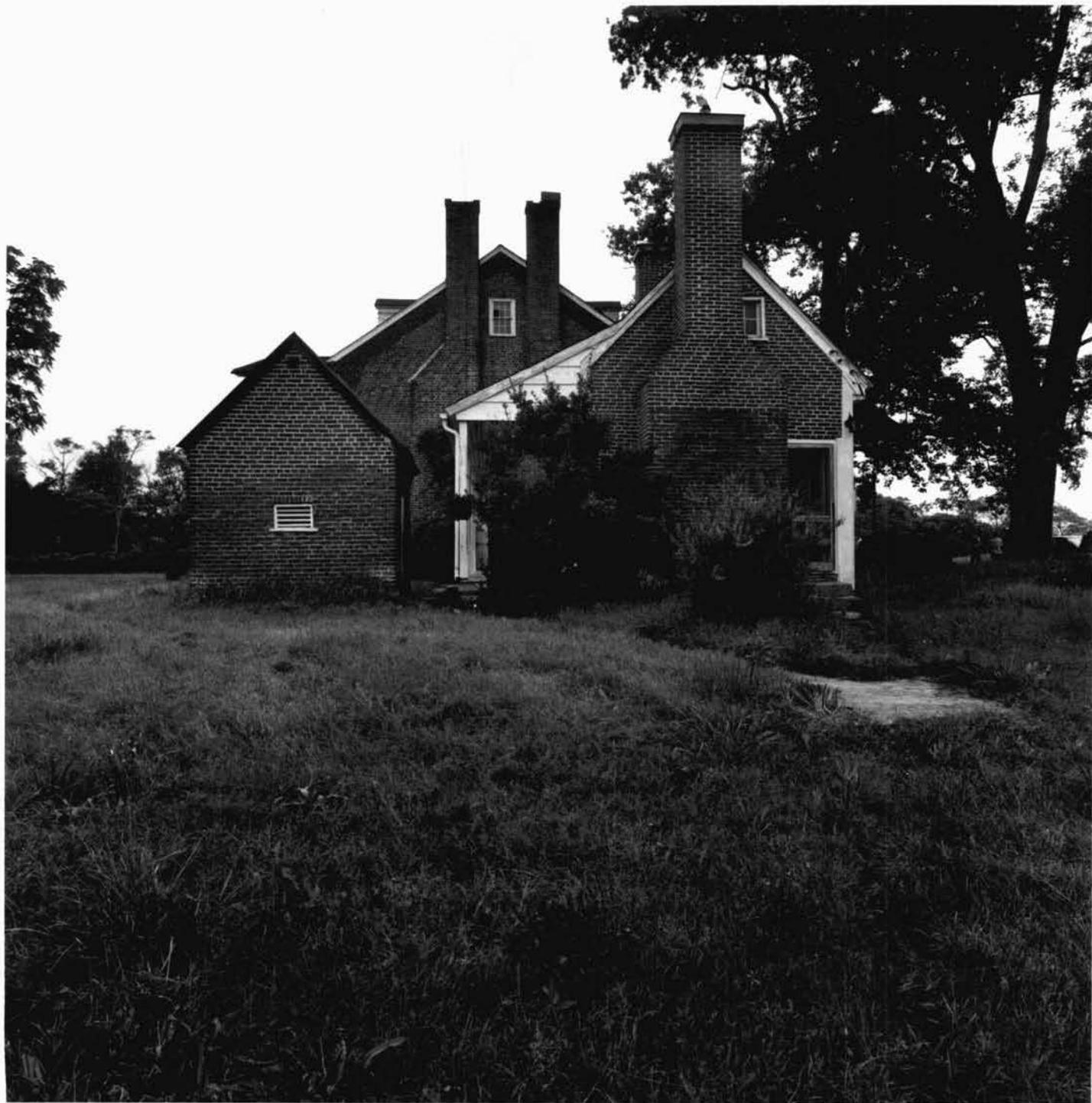
Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St., SE, Wash., DC 20003

View from north

2 of 23



Cross Manor

S elev

SM-3

#3

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

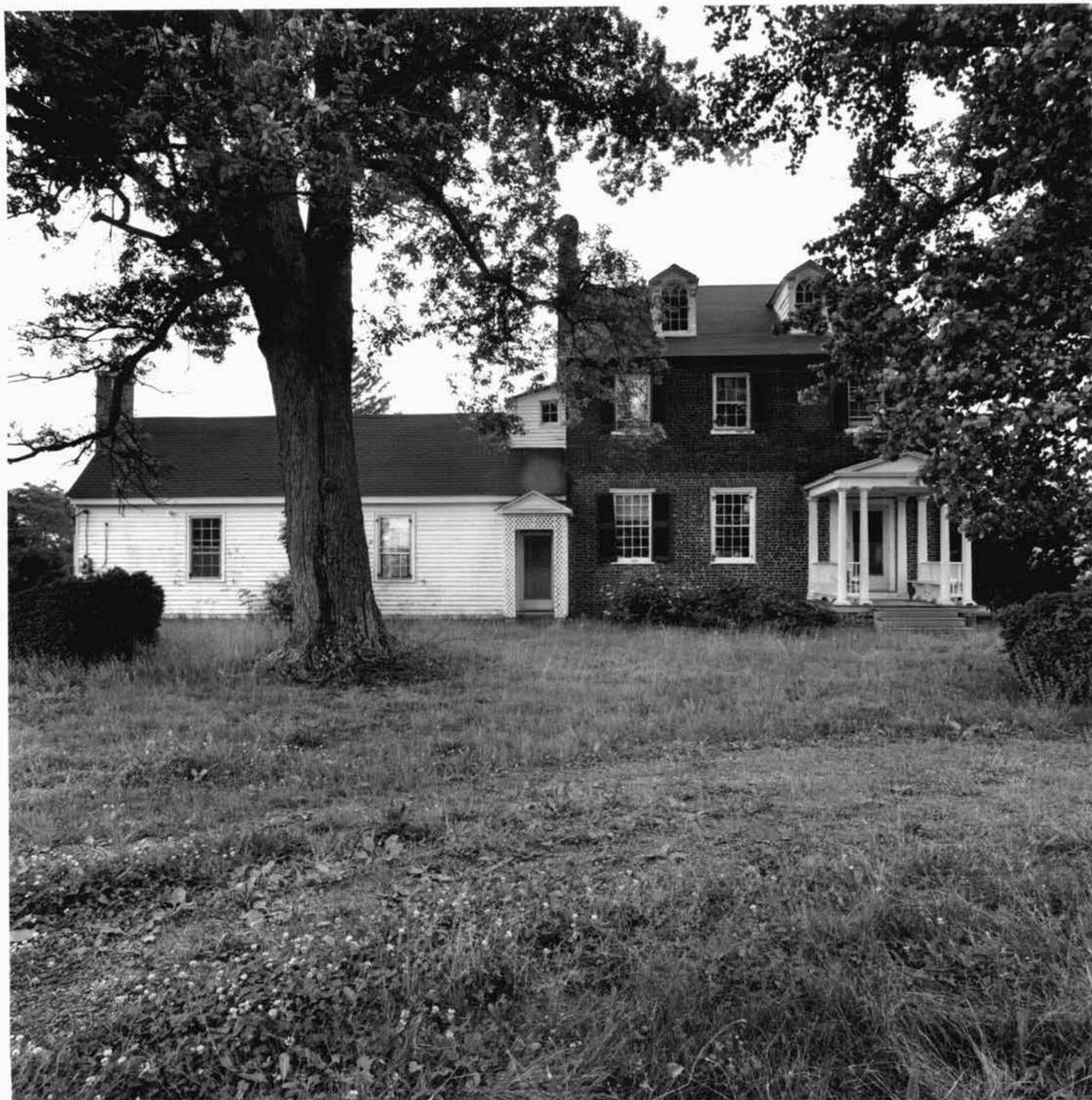
Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St., SE, Wash., DC 20003

View From south

3 of 23



*Cross Manor*

*E elev*

SM-3

Sp 3

#4

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St, SE, Wash., DC 20003

View from east

1 of 23

148



SP: 3

#5

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

April, 1987

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St, SE, Wash., DC 20003

Carriage House, east side

5 of 23

15



SM-3

#6

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

February, 1988

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St, SE, Wash, DC 20003

Corn Crib

6 of 23



SM-3

#7

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

February, 1988

Negative: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St., SE, Wash., DC 20003

Barn, west end

7 of 23



SM-3

SM.3

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

April, 1987

Neg: Robert J. Hughes, 148 17th St., SE, Wash, DC 20003

First Floor hallway, east to west

19 of 23



511-3

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

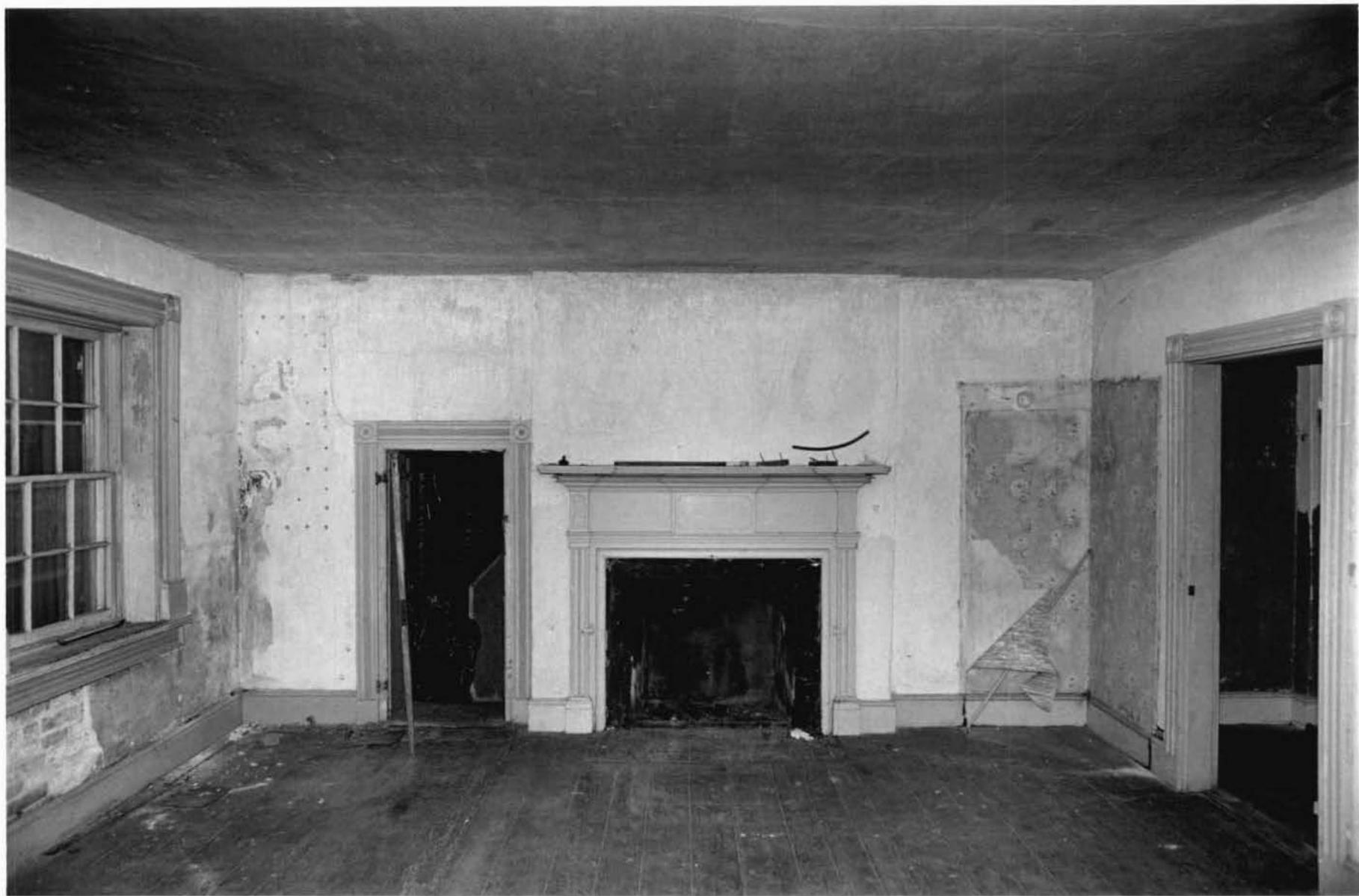
Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Neg: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St., SE, Wash., DC 20003

First Floor, west parlor

20 of 23



5/17/87

Cross Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Neg: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St., SE, Wash., DC 20003

2nd Floor, east room

21 of 23



SM-3

Cross. Manor

St. Mary's County, Md.

Photographer: Robert J. Hughes

June, 1987

Neg: Robert J. Hughes, 148 12th St, SE, Wash., DC 20003

2nd Floor, west room, mantel

22 of 23