

SM-329 Eldon Grove

Constructed  
Spring-Summer, 1850

Eldon Grove was a five bay, end chimney dwelling retaining the general plan and appearance of 18th-century hall and parlor dwellings. Eldon Grove was taller, however, being a story and a third in height. Upstairs it had three chambers and a passage. Downstairs were a living room and a dining room separated by a central passage and stair. In poor repair, Eldon Grove was razed in 1959, at which time the owners gave the reusable timber to Miss Hope Swan and Miss Elizabeth Hoff to use in restoring their home, Gravelly Hills. The timber was in storage in the Gravelly Hills barn at the time of sampling.

Dr. Thomas Slye Barber constructed Eldon Grove after the previous plantation dwelling was destroyed by arson. The date established by dendrochronology agrees with Barber family tradition.

Reference:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barber, information furnished Garry Stone, 29 February 1980. SM-329, Architectural Files, SMCC.

Eldon Grove (SM-329)

Information furnished by Mr. (born 1924) and Mrs. Paul Barber, Sr., 29  
February 1980

The general appearance and plan of the building are given in the accompanying drawings and the photograph. The drawings were done from approximate dimensions remembered by Mr. Barber. The photograph must date from shortly after 1900 as the person in it is Uncle George Barber, born in the early 1880s. (Aunt Hedy, the elderst, was born in 1880, while Mr. Barber's father, younger than Uncle George, was born in 1885.)

Eldon Grove was built in 1850. Mrs. Barber is quite confident of the date as she has been told that the house was built the same year that Grandmother Adams was born, and she died in 1944 age 94. Thus the house would have been built for Mr. Barber's great-grandfather, Dr. Thomas Slye Barber. The Barber's still have his apothecary mortar and pestal--a family heirloom passed to the branch of the family occupying living at Eldon Grove.

The "shed" kitchen wing had no fireplace. Its stove shared the flue of the dining room fireplace. (thus is the wing not original, or had its fireplace been removed previously?)

The c.1910 photograph shows that Eldon Grove was in poor repair at that time. It was subsequently restored (see Barber family photographs), but it was let run down again, and when Mr. and Mrs. Barber were married, it was too far gone to restore. (Among its problems was a termite colony.) In 1959 the house was razed and the Barbers' present dwelling built on the site. Mrs. Barber thinks it was a shame it had been let go as it could have been a beautiful old place. She recently had a friend paint a picture of the house to preserve its appearance.

After demolition of Eldon Grove, Miss Hoff and Miss Swan of Gravelly salvaged timber and brick from the house to use in restoring Gravelly Hills.

Eldon Grove replaced an earlier house on the same hill that was fired by a slave. Mrs. Barber has seen a tintype of the burned house. It looked remarkably like the 1850 dwelling with end chimneys and a central door. The house shown in the tintype, however, had a longer service wing (with a broken roof line), and Mrs. Barber thinks that she remembers a chimney at the east end of the service wing.

Garry Wheeler Stone  
St. Mary's City Commission  
4 March 1980

Draft catalog entry

SM-329

c.1850

Eldon Grove

Lockes Crossing Road near Thompson's Corner

Mechanicsville vicinity

A five bay, end chimney dwelling retaining the general plan and appearance of 18th-century hall and parlor dwellings. Eldon Grove was taller, however, being a story and a third in height. Upstairs it had three chambers and a passage. Downstairs the plan was of a living room and dining room separated by a central passage and stair.

In poor repair, Eldon Grove was razed in 1959.

Eldon Grove is reputed to have been built in 1850 by Dr. Thomas Slye Barber after the previous dwelling was destroyed by arson.

Garry Wheeler Stone 4 March 1980

**RECEIVED**

MAR 11 1980

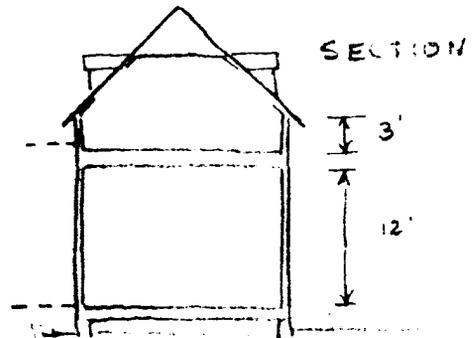
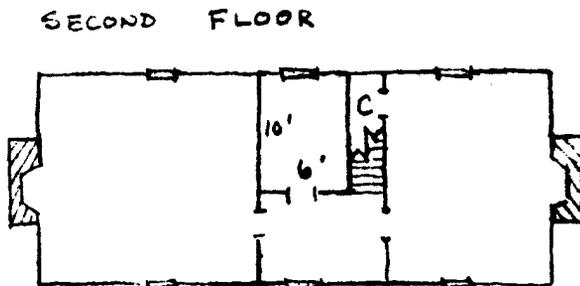
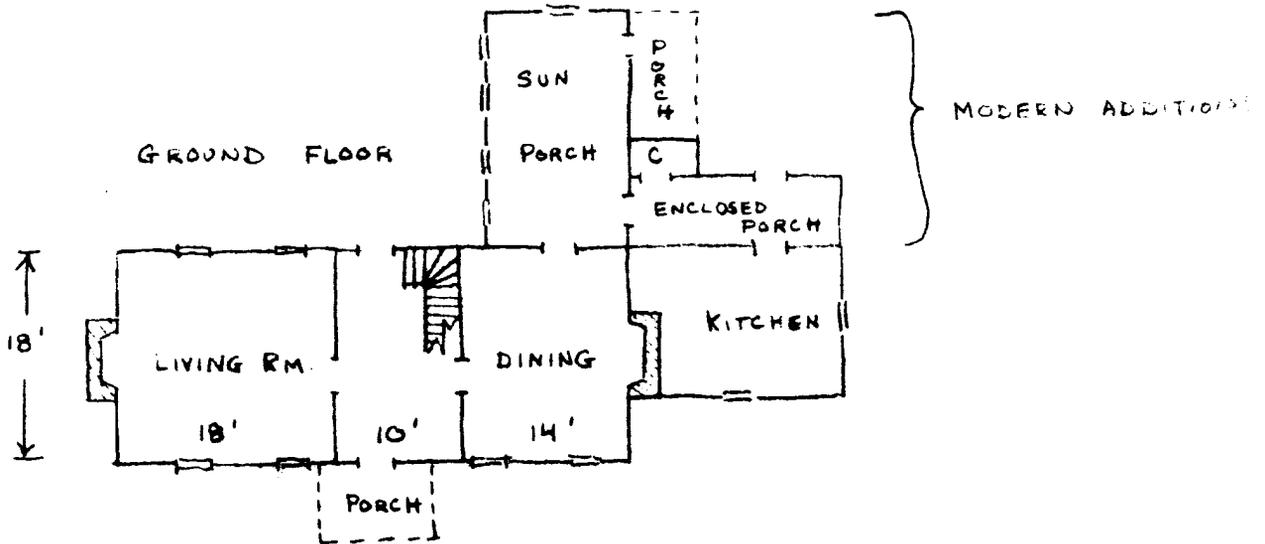
MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

ELDON GROVE SM-329

AS DESCRIBED BY PAUL & DOROTHY BARBER

29 FEB 1980

NO SCALE



GARRY STONE

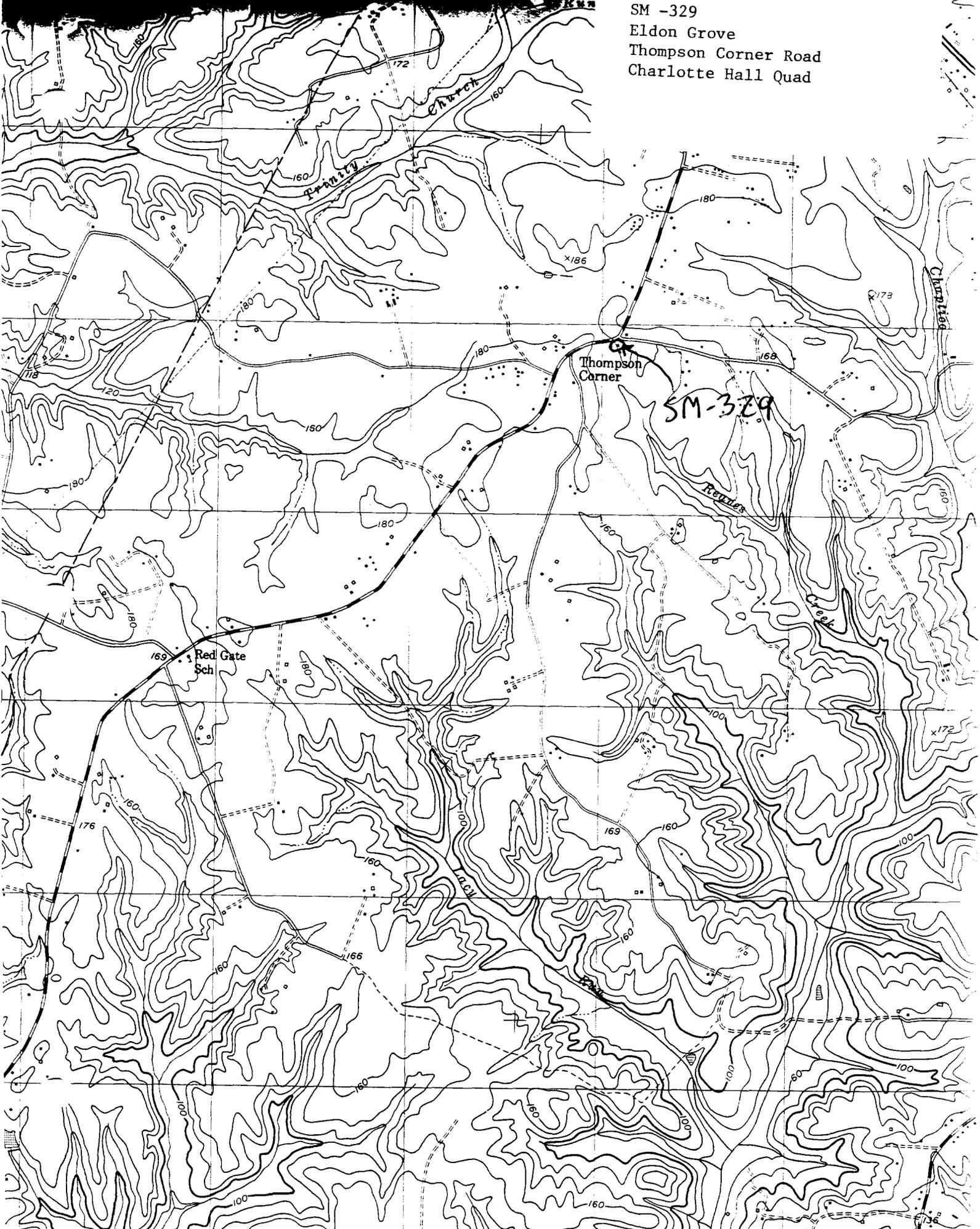
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

SM -329  
Eldon Grove  
Thompson Corner Road  
Charlotte Hall Quad



SM - 329

Eldon Grove  
Charlotte Hall



SM-329

SM-329      ELDON GROVE

(photograph from Mr. and Mrs.  
Paul Barber, family collection)

MHT



FIGURE 32

80%

SM-329  
ELDON ~~PLANTATION~~ GROVE (SITE)

Historic Photo of House c1910.