

Capsule Summary
SM-421
Joseph Solomon Russell House
Maddox vicinity
Private

Circa 1905

The Joseph Solomon Russell House is a two-story, five-bay frame structure located at the Chaptico Wharf site. This building is significant as one of the first homes built in this area following the sale of the Chaptico Wharf property. The Russell house is relatively well-preserved, retaining both its original fenestration pattern and exterior porches. Notably, this house was the birthplace of Dr. May Russell, who served as president of St. Mary's College from 1949 to 1969.

Around 1870, the Chaptico Joint Stock Wharf and Transportation Company erected a wharf at this site on the Wicomico River, then known as the "Salt Works." In an 1883 edition of the St. Mary's Beacon, the wharf was advertised as "one of the best in the county (with) two steamers plying between it and Washington and Baltimore." By 1903, the company had fallen on hard times, and Joseph Solomon Russell purchased the property at public auction two years later. During his ownership, the site became known as Russell's Landing.

SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-421

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Joseph Solomon Russell house

2. Location

street & number Chaptico Wharf Road not for publication

city, town Maddox vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name William D. and Anna Hill

street & number telephone no. 301-769-3405

city, town Chaptico state and zip code Md. 20621

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber CBG 92

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 3

city, town Leonardtown state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. Sm-421

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date of move _____

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Joseph Solomon Russell House is located at the end of Chaptico Wharf Road near Maddox in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The Russell House is one of a cluster of houses located at the Chaptico Wharf Landing. Three outbuildings stand next to the house. The house faces south, with the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1907, the main block of the Russell House is a two-story, five bay, single pile frame structure with a one-story addition on the east side. A two-story, three-bay wing forms an ell with the main block on the structure's west end. The house is sheathed with wood shingles and roofed with metal shingles. The foundation consists of brick piers reinforced with concrete.

The south (main) elevation is pierced by a partially glazed central entrance door with a two-light transom flanked on the west by two two-over-two sash windows with wide, plain surrounds. Two one-over-one sash windows are located east of the door. A porch supported by chamfered square posts and scroll sawn brackets extends across the full-width of the south elevation. The wood porch floor remains intact. The second floor is lit by four two-over-two sash windows and one six-over-six sash window. At either end of the main block an interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap pierces the roof ridgeline. A one-and-a-half story addition with a corrugated metal roof extends to the east of the main block. The addition is pierced on the first floor by a four-panel door and a six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds.

The west elevation of the main block is lit by one small two-over-two sash window with narrow surrounds. The three bay wing which extends to the north is pierced by a modern entrance door flanked on either side by two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds. The second floor is lit by three two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds.

The north elevation of the main block is lit on the first floor by two two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds. The second floor is lit by two of the same windows. The gable end of the western, two-story wing is blind on the north side and the ridgeline of the roof is pierced by an interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap. The one-and-a-half story addition to the east of the main block is pierced by a five-panel door.

The east elevation of the western wing is pierced on the first floor by a central entrance door flanked by two-over-two sash windows. A porch supported by square posts extends across the full width of the first floor. The second floor is lit by three two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds. The one-and-a-half story wing on the

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	none	Builder/Architect	unknown
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check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Joseph Solomon Russell House is a two-story, five bay frame structure located at the Chaptico Wharf site. This building is significant as one of the first homes built in this area following the sale of the Chaptico Wharf property. The Russell house is relatively well-preserved, retaining both its original fenestration pattern and exterior porches.

The Chaptico Joint Stock Wharf and Transportation Company was incorporated on February 26, 1870 (St. Mary's County Incorporation Record JAC 1/2). The stockholders in this corporation included Augustin L. Taveau, George R. Garner, Dr. James Waring, Dr. John W. Turner, George H. Morgan, John E. Farr, John E. Carpenter, and John Parsons. The purpose of the corporation was for "building a Wharf or Wharves, Warehouse or Warehouses, and all other necessary buildings appertaining to the business incidental to trade of steam boat and other vessels. Also for the erection of pens or inclosures for cattle and stock for the further purpose of expediting trade between St. Mary's County and other places in and out of the state of Maryland for the purpose of charging said steamboats or other vessel or vessels for such freight as shall be taken off or landed on such wharf or wharves, and also for passengers who may come on or go off at said wharf or wharves...said wharf or wharves to be built at a place called the Salt Works situated on the Wicomico River." In an 1883 edition of the St. Mary's Beacon, the wharf was advertised as "one of the best in the county (with) two steamers plying between it and Washington and Baltimore."

By the early twentieth century, the Chaptico Wharf Company began to have financial problems. In 1903 the corporation was unable to pay its taxes. As a result, the property on which the Russell House now stands, then known as the "Salt Works," was sold at public auction. During the Russell occupation of this site, the wharf became known as Russell's Landing.

Notably, this house was the birthplace of Dr. May Russell, who served as president of St. Mary's College from 1949 to 1969. During Russell's tenure as

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-421

Regina Combs Hammett, History of St. Marys County, Maryland 1634-1990.
Ridge, Md. n.p.,1991

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 42/100's

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attachment

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ date March 1994

street & number _____ telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtwn state Md

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

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

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

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

SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

east side of the main block is lit by one six-over-six sash window on the first floor and by one one-over-one sash window in the eave.

Three outbuildings stand on the property. One of these is a shed roof outhouse sheathed with wood shingles and roofed with asphalt shingles. Two sheds stand on the south side of the house. Both are sheathed with vertical siding and roof with corrugated tin. These sheds are currently used for storage.

SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

president, the college changed its name from St. Mary's Female Seminary to St. Mary's College of Maryland. Under Russell's leadership, the college was accredited in 1959. It turned co-ed in 1965 and expanded its enrollment from 90 students in 1949 to 600 students in 1970.

SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

TO: William D. Hill and Anna L. Hill
FROM: Joseph S. Russell Jr., Jane W. Russell, John C. Russell, Mary Russell, Charles W. Willis, and Elizabeth R. Willis.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 92, folio 3.
DATE: November 18, 1960.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 42/100s acres being part of land inherited from Joseph Solomon Russell Sr.

TO: Heirs
FROM: Joseph Solomon Russell Sr.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Estate #176.
DATE: 1958
NOTES: Russell's estate included 3 acres on Chaptico Wharf Landing occupied by one 10-room house and a cabin. (Realty Inventory RGC 4/76)

TO: Joseph S. Russell
FROM: J. Marshall Dent, County Treasurer
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 6, folio 422.
DATE: June 27, 1907.
NOTES: Transfer of property on the Wicomico River at or near what is generally known and called the "Salt Works" being the same assessed in the name of the Chaptico Wharf Company having been conveyed by John E. Farr and wife on march 29, 1871 (JAC 5/309) and sold at public auction on May 16, 1905 for \$365 for taxes overdue in 1903.

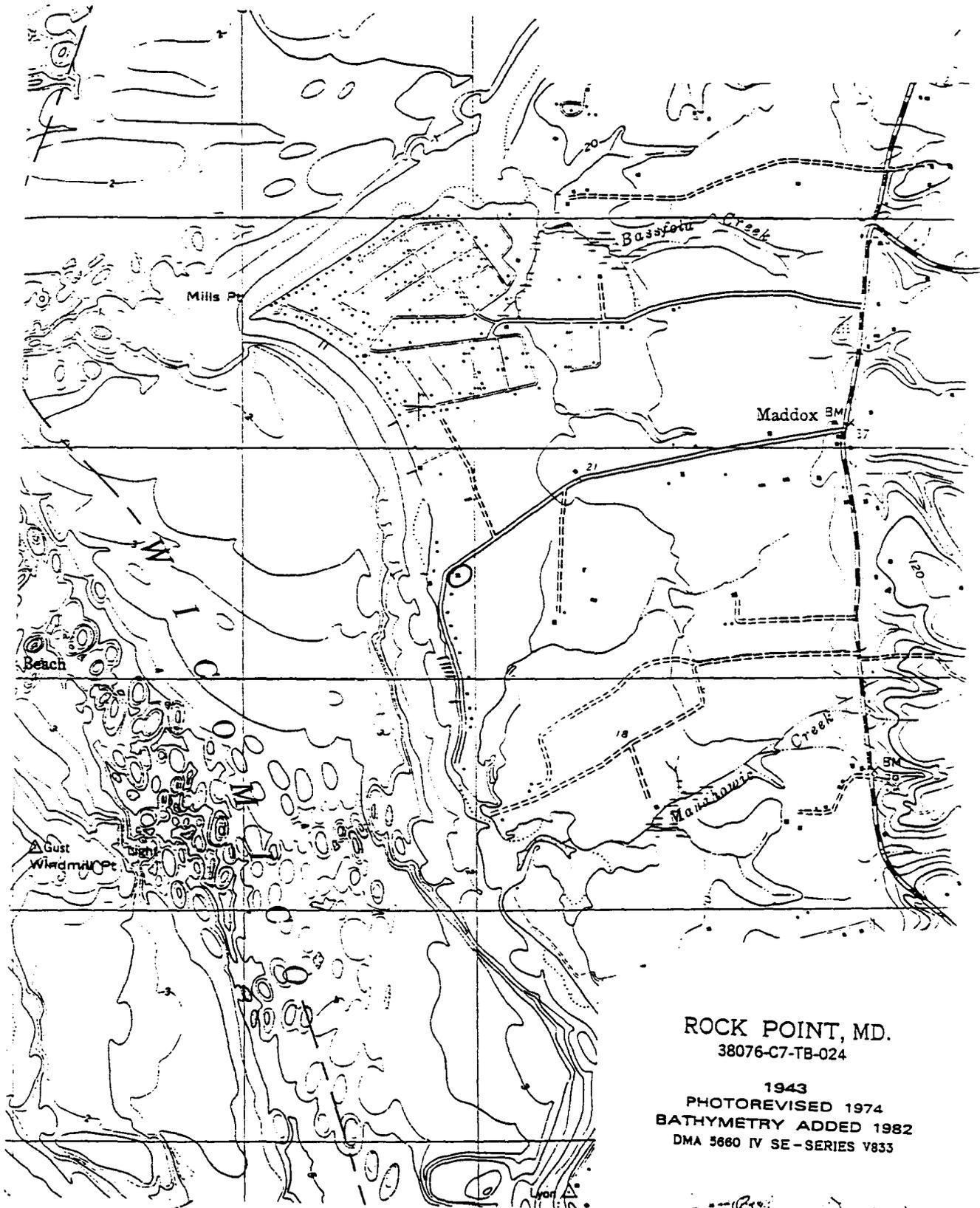
SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification.

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 92, folio 3.

Beginning for the same at a cedar stub set on the southeast side of the public road leading from Maldox to "Old Choptico Wharf" and at the northwest boundary of Walter Saunders' land, thence running with said road south 59° 45 min. West 154.3 feet; south 43° West 80 feet; south 27° 30 min. west 55 feet; south 19° 30 min. West 240 feet to a cedar stub set on the east side of the said road and at the northwest boundary of Joseph S. Russell, Jr., land, thence with said Russell's land south 76° east 174 feet to a cedar stub a boundary of the said Saunder's land, thence with said Saunders' land north 15° 15 min. east 470 feet to the first beginning, containing one and forty-two one hundredths ($1 \frac{42}{100}$) acres of land, more or less, as surveyed by George W. Joy, Jr., Registered land surveyor, on April 16th, 1960. Being part of the same land which the within Grantors inherited from Joseph Solomon Russell, Sr., as all of the heirs at law of said Joseph Solomon Russell, Sr.

SM-421
Joseph Solomon Russell House
Maddox Vicinity
Rock Point Quad



ROCK POINT, MD.
38076-C7-TB-024

1943
PHOTOREVISED 1974
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5660 IV SE - SERIES V833



SM-421, Joseph Saloman Russell House

St Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Hughes

March 1994

MD SHPO

SW Elevation.

1/3



SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House

St. Mary's County, MD

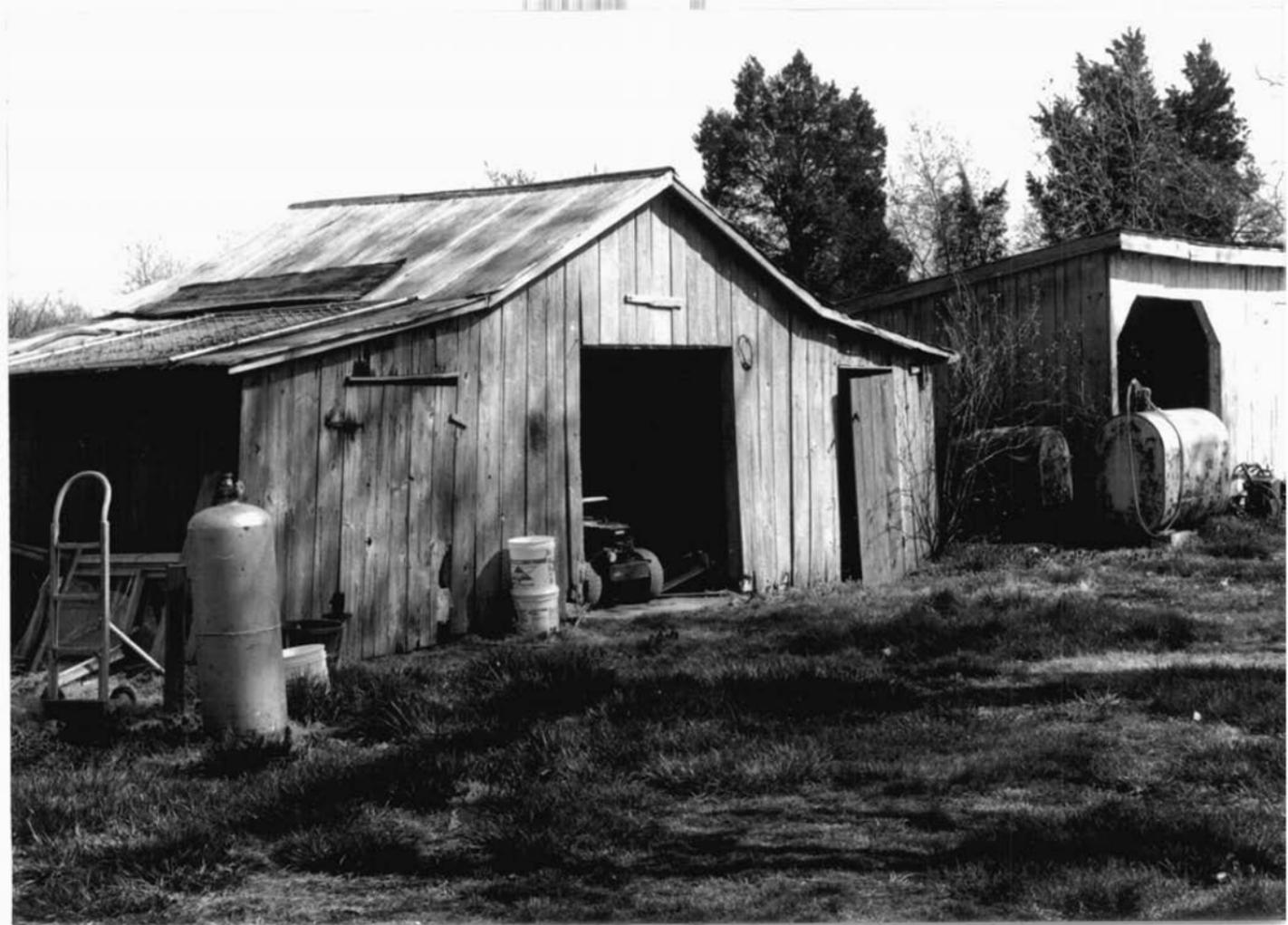
Elizabeth Hughes

March 1994

MD SHPO

NE Elevation

$\frac{2}{3}$



SM-421, Joseph Solomon Russell House

St. Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Hughes

March 1994

MD SHPO

Outbuildings. NW Elevation.

3/3