

Capsule Summary
SM-454
Poplar Hill Glebe
Valley Lee
Private

Circa 1870 - 1880

Poplar Hill Glebe is a significant site because of its long period of occupation and use by the clergy of St. George's Episcopal Church. Deeded to the parish in the seventeenth century, the Glebe farm has been occupied by a series of dwelling houses. The structure currently on the site is a substantial house which appears to date from the 1870s.

The property which comprises the Glebe farm was originally a part of a tract of land known as "Itchcomb Freehold." At his death, Robert Cager devised about 344 acres of this property to St. George's Parish. The first house on the property appears to have been a modest log structure. Sometime before 1810 the Glebe "mansion" was built. This house was supposedly a brick and frame structure similar in appearance to Portobello. The fine mansion house burned in the 1870s and was soon replaced by the two-story, five bay dwelling now located on the site.

Herbjorn Egeli, a nationally known portraitist, purchased the farm in 1942. Egeli made many repairs to the house, which had been allowed to deteriorate over time.

SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
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: Agriculture
Religion

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Glebe Farm ; Poplar Hill Glebe (pref.)

and/or common Herbjorn Egeli House

2. Location

street & number West Side of Route 249 ___ not for publication

city, town Valley Lee vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

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

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

name Herbjorn and Lois Egeli

street & number Box 68 telephone no.:

city, town Valley Lee state and zip code Maryland 20692

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 13

street & number folio 346

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM 454

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

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Poplar Hill Glebe is located at the end of an unpaved road off of Route 249 near Valley Lee in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The property on the south side of the house slopes gradually towards Herring Creek. On the north side of the house, a two-foot high brick retaining wall stands about ten-feet from the dwelling. Beyond the retaining wall, the property extends to the road where two outbuildings are located. The house itself is in a very deteriorated condition. The grounds are overgrown and untended. The house faces south with the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in the 1870s or 1880s, Poplar Hill Glebe has a brick pier foundation infilled with cinderblocks. The exterior is clad with German siding and the roof, originally sheathed with wood shingles, is covered with seamed metal. The main block of the house is a two-story, five-bay structure with a center hall, single-pile plan. The cornice is boxed. A two-story wing which extends north from the northeast corner of the house forms an ell with the main block and appears to be a later addition. To the west of the main block extends a two-story kitchen wing.

The south (main) elevation of the main block consists of a central fifteen-light door flanked on either side by two six-over-six sash windows. The window surrounds have an interior beaded edge with a flat exterior border. The door surround has an interior beaded edge with a wide applied exterior molding. A porch extends across the first floor of the main block, sheltering one bay of the west kitchen wing and wrapping around to the east elevation. An earlier porch was replaced by this structure in 1953. The porch, part of which is enclosed with screening, has a cement pad floor. The roof is supported by plain square posts. The second floor is pierced by five six-over-six sash windows with surrounds identical to those on the first floor. The two-story kitchen wing which extends to the west is pierced on the first floor by one six-light-over-three-panel door and one six-over-six sash window. These openings are finished with flat surrounds and a simple drip molding. The second floor is pierced by one six-over-six sash window and one small one-over-one sash window. A one-story, hipped roof addition extends to the west of the kitchen wing. Used as a pantry, this addition originally had a hard-packed dirt floor. Now finished with a cement pad floor, it is pierced by a four-light-over-three-panel door. Screened window openings extend in a band on either side of the door and around to the west side of the structure.

The west elevation of the kitchen wing is blind. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline. The one-story addition is pierced by a band of screened window openings and one small three-over-three sash window. The west side of the ell which extends from the north east corner of the main block is pierced by one four-light-over-three-panel door and one six-over-six sash window. The second floor is

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Unknown

Builder/Architect Unknown

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.

Poplar Hill Glebe is a significant site because of its long period of occupation and use by the clergy of St. George's Episcopal Church. Deeded to the parish in the seventeenth century, the Glebe farm has been occupied by a series of dwelling houses. The structure currently on the site is a substantial house which appears to date from the 1870s. Though the house is deteriorated and most of the original outbuildings have been demolished, this very scenic property is not beyond repair.

The property which comprises the Glebe farm was originally a part of a tract of land known as "Itchcomb Freehold." At his death, Robert Cager devised about 344 acres of this property to St. George's Parish. Assembly Proceedings of 1676 note that according to Cager's will, "the said Lands and Tenements and the Profits thereof be disposed of for the maintenance of a Protestant Minister from tyme to tyme to be amongst the inhabitants of St. George's and Poplar Hill Hundred..."

The first mention of the Glebe house is made by Leigh Massey, the Rector of St. George's Parish from 1723 to 1732/33. In 1724, Massey reported to the Governor of the Parish that the Parish had 2 churches, 500 Parishioners, a glebe of 400 acres, but an "indifferent" house. Tax records of the 1780s list five adult slaves as resident on the property, while those of the mid and late 1790s list 16 adults and 21 children as slaves.

Descriptions of the Glebe house are contained in the book Pilate and Herod, published by Reverend Harvey Stanley in 1853. Stanley notes that his descriptions of the localities in the book are "taken from personal survey, he believes to be accurate." Stanley first describes the Glebe house of the early period of the parish. He writes,

"A low flat plain elevated about two feet above the water's edge and covered with a heavy growth of oakes, hickories and other forest trees, with a small clearing on the right bank of St. George's River, and about a mile from its head. On this clearing is a hut or cabin with one small room twelve feet by fourteen and seven feet high; and a garret or loft, to be reached by a ladder, high enough for a man to walk under by

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 454

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2 Acres

Quadrangle name Piney Point quad

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

Acreege surrounding house.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning

date September 1994

street & number 328 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475 4662

city or town Leonardtwn

state Maryland

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

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

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

SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. These windows and the door are finished with plain surrounds and a drip molding. A shed roof addition, constructed in the 1950s, extends to the north of the ell. This addition is sheathed with board and batten siding and pierced by a modern door and two six-light windows.

The north elevation of the kitchen wing is pierced by a two-light-over-two-panel door and one six-over-six sash window on the first floor. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. The main block is pierced by a fifteen-light door on axis with the door on the south elevation. To the west of this door is a four-light-over-three-panel door. This secondary door is sheltered by a fully enclosed shed roof addition sheathed with board and batten siding. The addition is pierced by two six-light windows on the north side and a modern door on the west side. The western most bay of the main block is a six-over-six sash window. The second floor of the main block is pierced by three six-over-six sash windows. These windows are finished with beaded interior surrounds and are crowned by a simple drip molding. An exterior brick chimney stands against this wall of the main block. The first floor of the ell, which covers the two eastern bays of the main block, is obscured by a shed roof addition. The addition, which served as a laundry room, is pierced by a six-over-six sash window. The second floor of the ell is blind. An interior brick chimney pierces the ridgeline of the roof.

The east elevation of the ell is pierced by a fifteen-light door and one six-over-six sash window with a plain surround and drip molding. The second floor is lit by two six-over-six sash windows. The east gable end of the main block is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows on the first and second floors. These windows have an interior beaded surround. An exterior brick chimney stands against this wall of the building. The eave is finished with a decorative scroll sawn bargeboard.

The interior of the house consists of a center hall flanked by parlors on the east and west. The stair has a molded hand rail, turned balusters, and scroll sawn brackets. The east wall of the center stair hall has been removed to create a larger east parlor. None of the original finishes remain intact in the east parlor except for the interior beaded window surrounds.

The smaller west parlor has a closet built into the northeast corner of the room. The four-panel closet door opens to a space underneath the center hall stair. A hole in the floor of the closet was used by the Egeli family as a cabbage cellar. Modern shelving has been built into the northwest corner of the room. The fireplace mantel on the west wall of the room consists of chamfered post pilasters on rectangular blocks which support a plain frieze. The top of the frieze is bordered by a pulvinated molding and the mantel shelf is supported by sawn brackets. The interior door and window surrounds, except for the door on the north wall, are finished with an interior bead.

SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

The kitchen walls and ceiling are covered with wainscoating. Built in shelves, cupboards, and a sink are located against the south wall. A winder stair behind a four-panel door is located in the northwest corner of the room. This stair provides access to the maid's bedroom above.

The second floor of the house consists of a narrow hall which extends three bays against the north wall of the house. Bedrooms are located above both the east and west parlors. A dressing room is located above the stair hall. A stair which provides access to the attic is located in the dressing room. The stair is raised about three feet above the floor and is enclosed behind a plank door. A third bedroom and linen closet are located above the kitchen. A fourth bedroom is located on the second floor of the northern ell. No original woodwork survives on the second floor of the house.

The attic of the main block is one large open space with exposed, mitred rafters which are circular sawn. The attic space over the ell is visible but not easily accessible from that of the main block, suggesting that wing's later date of construction.

Two outbuildings are located on the north side of the property. Both are frame structures with metal roofs. The structure finished with swinging barn doors was constructed around 1920. The structure to the west of that barn building was constructed in the 1950s by Mr. Egeli for use as a workshop and studio.

SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

stooping himself. There is one chimney which is made, like the house, of logs, and the air from which is, after a fashion, excluded by mud used as a plastering. The walls are logged, but neither plastered, whitewashed, painted, papered, nor covered in any way."

Later, Stanley describes the Glebe house as a "mansion." He writes,

"The front door of the Glebe mansion looked out upon the West --- before and around, washing a semicircular bank or shore, flowed the peaceful waters of Herring Creek. The creek ran up into coves --- and described a course curving and beautiful, and by these spiral turnings made coves each side of the Glebe mansion beautiful enough to have gained for the creek a more romantic name than Herring Creek."

The date of construction of the Glebe "mansion" is unclear. Surviving Vestry Records mention a significant number of repairs to the Glebe in 1810, suggesting that a substantial frame dwelling already stood on the property. These records, which list Parish expenditures, mention bills for "sundry work on the Glebe House, getting and nailing on the shingles, ditto on 240 boards, hewing and sawing 413 feet lathing, ditto dressing and putting up barge boards, nailing on lath, ripping off old shingles and boards, drawing and straightening of nails, making one dormer, tarring the Glebe House, 350 clapboards for same, 4 sills for kitchen, for putting 3 sills under the kitchen."

An anonymous and undated manuscript entitled "St. George's Hundred" describes the later Glebe House in great detail. It states,

"The Glebe House at that time was a Colonial brick gable or end brick nogged frame building (somewhat after the style of Portobello House the old home of the Hebbs) with wide halls through the center rooms on each side of hall quaint out-side chimneys gambrel roof and dormer windows and wide Piazzas which ones look'd Mrs. Mitchel's wonderful rose gardens that ran down to creek shore lay'd out various shapes such as hearts and diamonds and triangles around such placed heavy white sea shells which could be procured from the bank along the shores. Around the shores were the little cabins and outhouses off each side of the rose garden..."

This paper goes on to say that the Glebe House burned in the 1870s, but that a few people were still living at the time of the writing who remember the house. Presumably, these people were the source for the author's description. Richard Henry Barnes Mitchell, mentioned in the paper, was the rector of William and Mary Parish at the Glebe between January 1, 1830 and April 23, 1844.

SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

In 1937, the Vestry of William and Mary Parish sold the "Glebe Farm" property to a realty company. Herbjorn Egeli, a nationally known portraitist, purchased the farm in 1942. At the time of his purchase, the Glebe house was in very poor repair. Egeli had the house jacked up and replaced many of the original sills and floor joists in order to stabilize the building. He also built a brick retaining wall on the north side of the structure to aid drainage.

Herbjorn's son, Peter, remembers that the Glebe farm property was originally occupied by a number of outbuildings, including a barn, a cowshed, a meathouse, a smokehouse, a dairy, a five-hole outhouse, and a windmill. A well was located northwest of the house. Mr. Egeli mentioned that the drive way to the house once curved around to the south side of the structure where it encircled a pair of walnut trees. He had been told that a maze of boxwoods were once located here between the house and the waters of Herring Creek. That maze may have been Mrs. Mitchell's intricate rose garden as described in "St. George's Hundred." Brick walkways also surrounded the house at one time, as evidence of these was uncovered around the northern ell during construction of the board and batten addition.

Mr. Egeli is unsure of the date of construction, but had heard that the house was built in 1839 to replace an earlier structure on the site. His brother, on the other hand, had always felt that the house was built around 1860. Neither the interior woodwork nor exposed plaster lath, visible floor joists, ground sills, or rafters can be used to date the house prior to the mid-nineteenth century. If the Glebe "mansion," described in the anonymous manuscript, burned in the 1870s, this structure would have been built as its replacement in the 1870s or 1880s. The stylistic details, the materials, and the form of the house are compatible with this period of construction.

SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Herbjorn Egeli and Louis V. Egeli
FROM: Manor Farms, Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 13, folio 346.
DATE: March 23, 1942.
NOTES: Transfer of the "Glebe Farm."

TO: Manor Farms, Inc.
FROM: Ervin Realty Co.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 10, folio 168.
DATE: Transfer of the "Glebe Farm."

TO: Ervin Realty Co.
FROM: Vestry of William and Mary Parish Protestant Episcopal Church
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 10, folio 160.
DATE: March 4, 1937.
NOTES: Transfer of the "Glebe Farm."

The property which comprises the Glebe Farm was granted to the Vestry of William and Mary Parish by Robert Cager in the 1600s.

SM-454, Glebe Farm
St. Mary's County
9.1 Bibliographical References

Allen, Rev. Ethan. "Notes on the History of the Four Parishes in St. Mary's County." 1862. Transcribed by Gale Burwell et al. Chronicles 39.2 (Summer 1991).

Burwell, Gale, Fred Bishopp, Mildred Milburn Fletcher, and Mark Milburn. "Probable Episcopal Rectors of St. Mary's County, Maryland Who Served William and Mary Parish and St. Mary's Parish." Unpublished typescript, 1989.

Egeli, Peter. Telephone Interview. September 1994.

"St. George's Hundred." Unpublished and undated manuscript held at the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

Singleton, Ogle Rideout. "Early History of the Anglican Church in Maryland." Unpublished essay, 1942.

Stanley, Harvey. Pilate and Herod: A Tale of the Church of England in the Province of Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: H. Hooker, 1853.

Vestry Records of William and Mary Parish. Microfilm held at the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

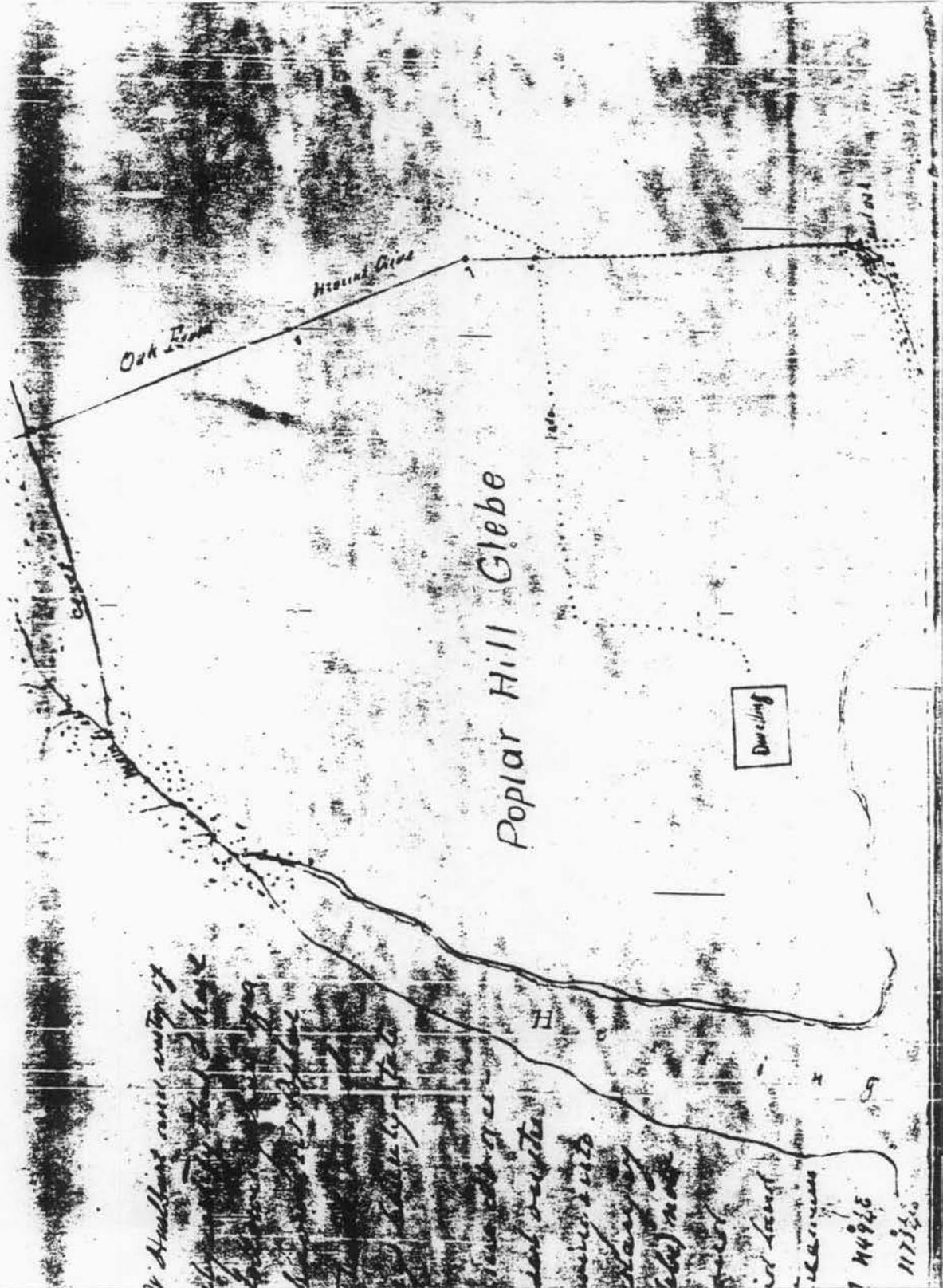
SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographical Data

A survey by Charles A. Heard dated May 11, 1918 is contained in the St. George's Episcopal Church (Poplar Hill) Vestry Minutes. This survey describes the Glebe lands as,

"...beginning for the same at a bound post situated on the south side of the gut flowing into Herring Creek a boundary of Myrtle Neck (or Little Glebe) now owned by Jessie Redmond thence running with said land ____ the gut or stream there _____. To wit, A N 49 deg., 4' E, 15.32 per.; 2 N 6 deg., 0'E, 14.44 per.; 3 N 7.3 deg., 1/4 E, 29.40 per. to a cement post now set on the west side of the public road leading from Valley Lee to Piney Point running up said road 4 N 30 E, 6.76 per.; 6 N 2 deg. 3/4' W 77.20 per. to a cement post now set north of the private road leading from the aforesaid public road to the Glebe dwelling a boundary of Mt. Olive now owned by John Johnson running with said land 6 N 1 deg., 3/4 W 16.84 per. to a cement post now set. Thence with said land with the Oak Farm now owned by George Cecil 7 N 21 deg. 1/4 W 136 per. to the main fresh of Herring Creek thence binding with the said fresh and creek to the beginning."

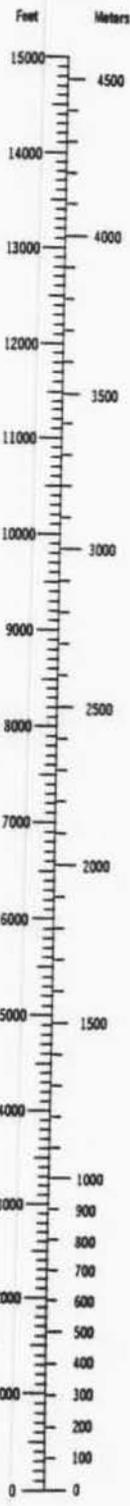
SM-454, Poplar Hill Glebe
St. Mary's County
10.2 Geographic Data

Plat of Poplar Hill Glebe as per survey by Charles Heard dated 1918.
Source: St. George's Episcopal Church (Poplar Hill) Vestry Minutes.



SM-454
 Poplar Hill Glebe
 Valley Lee
 Piney Point Quad

CONVERSION
 SCALES



PINEY POINT, MD. - VA.

38076-85-TF-024

1968
 PHOTOREVISED 1980



SM-454

Poplar Hill Grove

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

MD 21850

11/74

SW elev.

1/5



SM-454

Poplar Hill Garage

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

11/74

MD SHPO

SE elev

3/5



SM-454

Poplar Hill Girbe

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

1/14

MD SHPO

NE elevation

3/5



SM- 454

Poplar Hill Grabe

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

11/74

MD SHPD

NW elevation

4/5



10. 1. 4

10. 1. 4

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5/5