

Capsule Summary  
SM-524  
Leesburg  
Avenue Vicinity  
Private

c. 1905

Leesburg, constructed in c.1905, is an example of early-twentieth century construction methods and building plans. The single-pile, center-passage dwelling was constructed of dimensioned lumber, contained interior-end stove flues, and was decorated with elements such as a turned newel and banisters that were commonly found in building catalogs. While the original fenestration of the building was modified, the exterior covered with aluminum siding, and an addition were made to the dwelling in the 1960s, the structure still retains enough historic fabric to distinguish it as a good example of its building-type.

Leesburg was constructed on one of two lots purchased on March 13, 1905 by George L. and Susie V. Beitzell. Buying the tracts from Thomas D. Ellis--executor for Josephine Ellis, the Beitzells constructed Leesburg on a small rise overlooking nearby Canoe Neck Creek. The property remained in their possession until 1960 when it was sold by Mary J. Beitzell to James Bennett McWilliams. While not entirely sensitive to the building's historic fabric, the McWilliams' made changes to the building that ironically invoked historical forms. Most notably through the construction of the two story covered porch--recalling the veranda of Mt. Vernon. The house is currently slated to be demolished in the Fall of 1996.

SM-524, Leesburg  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

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

Resource Type

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

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-524

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Leesburg

and/or common Wardsworth

**2. Location**

street & number 75 Cryer Road  not for publication

city, town Avenue  vicinity of congressional district 7

state Md county St. Mary's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Harold Hudson

street & number 75 Cryer Road telephone no.: (301) 884-2604

city, town Avenue state and zip code Md 20609

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 880

street & number folio 307

city, town Leonardtown state Md

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-524

### 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: 1

Leesburg is located 0.1 miles south of Cryer Road and approximately 0.4 miles east from the intersection of Cryer and Oakley Roads near Avenue. Overlooking Canoe Neck Creek and surrounded by agricultural fields, the house is oriented on an east/west axis. The property also contains a modern tobacco barn and a cinder block horse barn.

Leesburg is a two-story, five bay, single-pile, center-passage frame house with a gable roof. Since its initial construction in c. 1905, several additions have been added to the building giving it a T-shaped plan. The wall framing has also been sheathed with aluminum siding and the fenestration on the east elevation has been modified.

The east or primary elevation consists of two distinct sections--the main block and a one-story, southern end addition. The main block exhibits four bays on the first floor and five on the second. The first floor exhibits an asymmetrical fenestration consisting of a paired set of two-over-two, double-hung sash windows, a centrally located panelled and glass pane door and another panelled and glass pane door. The second floor, however, features five, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The entire elevation is shaded by a two story tall porch that is supported by four square columns that rest on a concrete slab foundation. This elevation also exhibits a centrally located cross-gable on the roof and two interior end brick chimney flues, and is covered with a raised-seam, metal roof. The south end, gable roof addition features three, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. The roof is covered with composite shingles.

The north elevation features the unadorned gable end of the main block and a front and rear entrance to the south addition. On the east side and covered by the two story porch, a single door permits entry into the south addition. On the west side another door facing north also allows entry into the south addition. A single two-over-two window is located to the west of this door.

The west elevation exhibits four bays. On the first floor there are four, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows while the second floor features four, six-over-six windows. The two-over-two windows as well as the first floor doors and windows on the north elevation represent a major change in the house's fenestration. The original six-over-six windows survive in a nearby barn. The south addition has two sets of two, two-over-two windows. Evidence seen just above the roof line of the addition reveals that there was once a shed roof addition to the south side of the house. It appears as if it has been incorporated within the more modern one story, south addition.

The south elevation features a paired set of two-over-two windows and three, separate, two-over-two windows--all located on the addition. The gable roof of the addition lies parallel to that of the main block. It changes pitch, however, about midway through the elevation and continues to the west as a shed roof.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-524

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 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Leesburg, constructed in c. 1905, is an example of early-twentieth century construction methods and building plans. The single-pile, center-passage dwelling was constructed of dimensioned lumber, contained interior-end stove flues, and was decorated with elements such as a turned newel and banisters that were commonly found in building catalogs. While the original fenestration of the building was modified, the exterior covered with aluminum siding, and an addition were made to the dwelling in the 1960s, the structure still retains enough historic fabric to distinguish it as a good example of its building-type.

Leesburg was constructed on one of two lots purchased on March 13, 1905 by George L. and Susie V. Beitzell. Buying the tracts from Thomas D. Ellis--executor for Josephine Ellis, the Beitzells constructed Leesburg on a small rise overlooking nearby Canoe Neck Creek. The property remained in their possession until 1960 when it was sold by Mary J. Beitzell to James Bennett McWilliams. The McWilliams family extensively altered the building in order to make it habitable. While not entirely sensitive to the building's historic fabric, these changes ironically invoked historical forms. Most notably through the construction of the two story covered porch--recalling the veranda of Mt. Vernon. The house is currently slated to be demolished in the Fall of 1996.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property 9.908

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Same as per deed reference.

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

state	code	county	code

**11. Form Prepared By**

**name/title** Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

**organization** St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning      **date** October 1996

**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

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

SM-524, Leesburg  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

(cont.)

The interior of the main block consists of a central passage flanked on either side by a single room. The passage is adorned with an open string stair featuring a turned newel and banisters. Each of the side rooms contain a square-shaped chimney flue for a stove. The second floor exhibits a similar plan. The window surrounds of the north room, however, exhibit molded trim. The imperfect joining at the corners of the surrounds suggests that the trim was taken from an earlier dwelling.

Due to termite infestation and resulting structural damage, the house is scheduled for demolition in the fall of 1996.

SM-524, Leesburg  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 296, Folio 268

Grantee: Robert Harold and Margaret Louise Johnson, Jr.

Grantor: Joyce F. and Billy Eugene Rutherford

Date: July 9, 1986

Note: The property consists of 9.908 acres.

Reference: Liber MRB 20, Folio 87

Grantee: Joyce F. and Billy Eugene Rutherford

Grantor: Joyce P. Rutherford, personal representative of Katherine H. McWilliams

Date: August 3, 1978

Note: A note listed on folio 85 refers to Katherine H. McWilliams' will. There is no deed reference provided in this deed. In Katherine's will (Saint Mary's County Wills, Liber 225, Folio 244) a previous deed reference is found.

Reference: Liber 91, Folio 341

Grantee: James Bennett McWilliams

Grantor: Mary J. Beitzell

Date: October 26, 1960

Reference: Liber EBA 4, Folio 323

Grantee: George L. and Susie V. Beitzell

Grantor: Thomas D. Ellis, et al

Date: March 13, 1905

Note: Josephine Ellis died and left the land to her heirs who sold the land to the Beitzell's.

Reference: Liber JFF 11, Folio 227

Grantee: Josephine Ellis

Grantor: John H. Long

Date: May 29, 1889

Note: Here two parcels are listed. Parcel one contains four acres. This tract abuts the second parcel which consists of seven acres. The dwelling of Josephine Ellis is referred to in tract one. This dwelling was probably replaced by the Beitzell family in 1905.

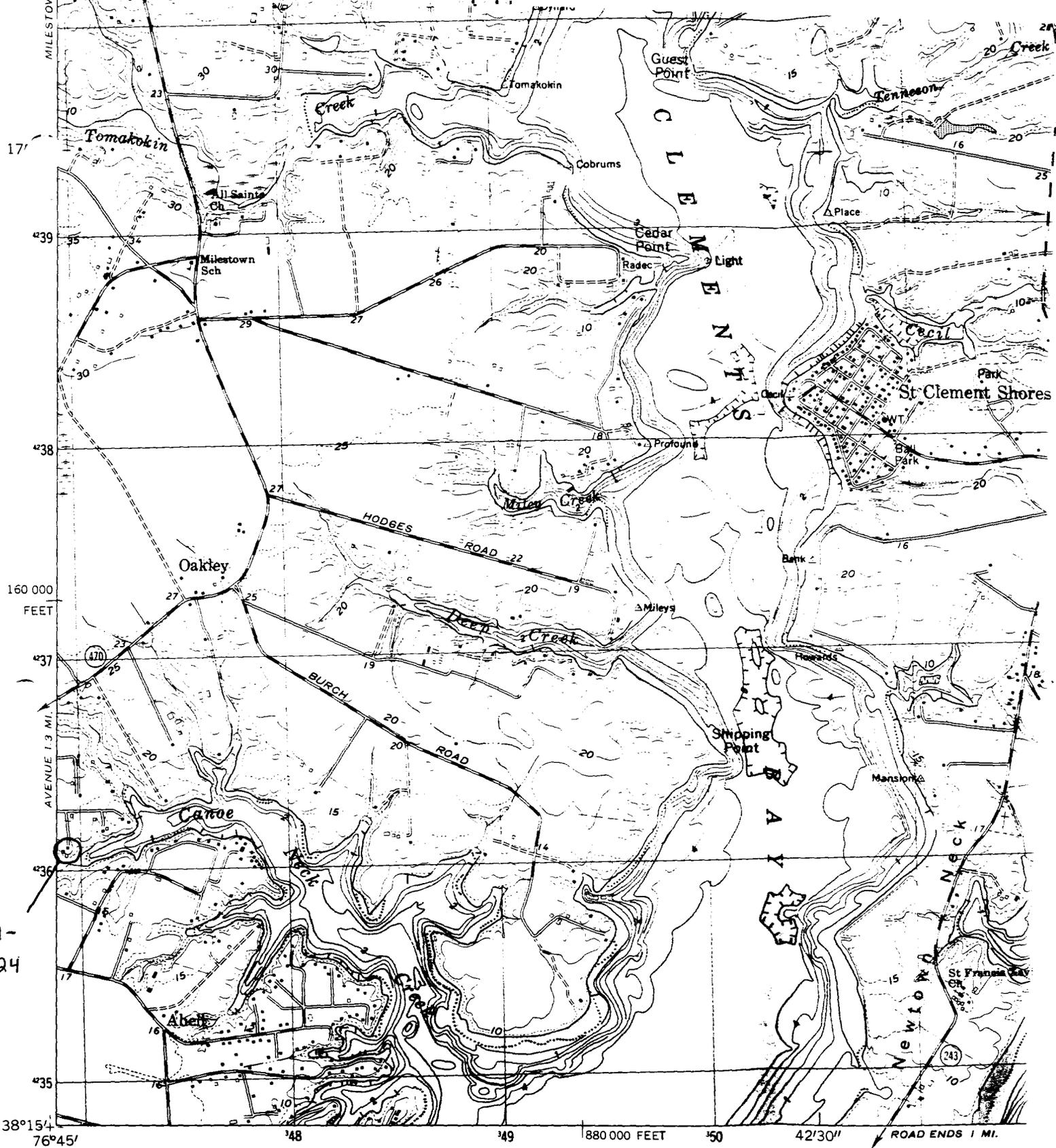
Reference: Liber JFF 8, Folio 402

Grantee: Josephine Ellis

Grantor: John Palmer, et al

Date: November 20, 1885

Note: The two parcels are still listed. The first lot is called "Leesburg" or "Wardsworth."



SM-524

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey and the National Ocean Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963

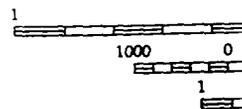
Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated photographs. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate system

Published through Transverse Mercator grid zone 18

NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY  
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX



**LEONARDTOWN, MD.**  
38076-CE-1000  
1963  
BATHYMETRIC ADDITION

RAYFORD HALL  
5800 IN. IN E



SM- 524

Leesburg

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August 1976

MD 3480

Explanations

1/4



SM - 5 w 4

Leesburg

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August, 1996

MD SHPO

N + W elevations

2/2



SM-524

Leesburg

St. Mary's County, Md

Cliff Ranzetta

August, 1996

Md SHPO

Environmental view looking SE

24



