

Capsule Summary  
SM-588  
Dixon House  
Sandgates Vicinity  
Private

c. mid-1910's

The Dixon House, constructed in the mid-1910's, represents a significant example of rural farm house design. Originally consisting of the four bay, two story main block and three bay two story rear ell, the Dixon House features a rare two room interior plan with each first floor room having its own exterior entrance. This feature is commonly found in tenant houses during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, but its presence within the main house of a once large farm is somewhat uncommon.

The Dixon House was constructed upon part of the once expansive colonial tract called "Della Brooke Manor." Henry Jones owned much of the property around the house for most of the nineteenth century, but in 1881 Jones died leaving the farm to his daughters Henrietta A.M. Starr and Essie P. Jones. The Jones sisters eventually sold the 120 acre tract to T. Raymond Dixon, Edgar Dixon, Henry O. Dixon, and William R. Dixon in 1920. While the Dixon house was erected by members of the Dixon family in the 1910's, the property was not actually purchased by them until three to five years later.

From 1920 until the 1990's, Henry O. Dixon and his wife Edna lived at the farmhouse. The house and surrounding farm is still owned by members of the Dixon family. With the lack of nearby development, the dwelling, nearby tobacco barns, and rolling cultivated fields accurately recall the early-twentieth century agricultural landscape of St. Mary's County.

SM-588, Dixon House  
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: Dwelling  
Known Design Source: None

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

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic Part Della Brooke

and/or common Dixon House (pref)

**2. Location**

2.1 miles N of the intersection of South Sandgates Rd & Route 235, on W side of S. Sandgates Rd.  
street & number  not for publication

city, town Sandgates  vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-15, P-7

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Edna Dixon (POC: Harry O. Dixon, Jr.)

street & number 26803 Sandgates Road telephone no.: 301-373-8787

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code Md 20659-2730

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 194

street & number folio 90

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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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

The Dixon House is located on the northwest side of Sandgates Road near Sandgates, Maryland. Oriented on an east/west axis, the dwelling is situated on an easterly sloping 2.5 acre tract surrounded by cultivated fields that drain into the Patuxent River. Besides the house, the property also features two storage sheds and two, early-twentieth century tobacco barns. Overall, the house and surrounding property command a nearly unencumbered viewshed of the Patuxent River and surrounding rural landscape.

Constructed in the 1910s, the Dixon House is a two story, four bay, frame dwelling with two room plan, a gable roof and two rear ells. According to Harry O. Dixon, Jr., the house originally consisted of the main block and two story ell. The one-and-a-half story ell was added after the dwelling's initial construction. While this later addition rests on a concrete slab, the rest of the dwelling is situated on a brick pier foundation that is infilled with cinder block. The building's walls are covered with cedar shingles that obscure an earlier sheathing of clapboard. The clapboard is fastened to the frame with wire nails. At the juncture of the wall and the gable roof line is an enclosed cornice. The roof of the entire dwelling is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east or primary elevation of the Dixon House consists of the main block and the side of a rear ell. The main block is pierced on the first floor by four bays that consist of two doors and two windows. The two doors—a four panel door and a fifteen pane door—are located at either end of the elevation while the two-over-two, double-hung sash windows are situated between the doors. All of these bays are shaded by partially deteriorated porch that is supported by a series of chamfered posts that feature a battered (thick base, skinny top) profile. Directly above the first floor bays are four, two-over-two windows that light the second floor. A centrally located, interior brick chimney flue pierces the peak of the gable roof. The rear one-and-a-half story ell that lies parallel to the main block and perpendicular to the two story rear ell is pierced by a single two-over-two window.

The south elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the side of the two-story ell. The main block is pierced on the first and second floor by a two-over-two window. The rear ell is pierced on the first floor by three bays that consist of a fifteen pane door and two, two-over-two windows. These bays are all shaded by screened-in porch. The second floor is pierced by three, two-over-two windows.

The west elevation features the gable end of the two story ell and the side of the one-and-a-half story newer addition. The two story does not feature any openings. The addition is pierced by a four light-over-three panel door and a modern two-over-two window. These bays are shaded by a screened-in porch.

The north elevation consists of the gable end of the addition, the side of the ell, and the gable end of the main block. The gable end of the addition is pierced by a two-over-two window on the first floor and a six light fixed sash on the attic story. An interior end brick chimney flue extends from the roof of the addition as well. The side of the two story ell is pierced near its

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-588

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

### Builder/Architect

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 Dixon House, constructed in the mid-1910s, represents a significant example of rural farm house design. Originally consisting of the four bay, two story main block and the three bay two story rear ell, the Dixon House features a rare two room interior plan with each first floor room having its own exterior entrance. This feature is commonly found in tenant houses during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, but its presence within the main house of a once large farm is somewhat uncommon.

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7.1 Description

northwest corner by a two-over-two window. At the juncture between the addition, ell, and main block is an enclosed breezeway that features a six-over-six, double-hung sash window and a shed roof. The gable end of the main block is pierced on the first and second floor by a two-over-two window.

The interior was not visible at the time of the visit, but the main block clearly features a two room plan. Each room featuring a mantle that is decorated with beaded pilasters, a plain frieze, and a curvi-linear shelf supported by brackets. The interior was also plastered.

Besides the house, the property also consists of two sheds and two tobacco barns. The two sheds are situated to the west of, but in close proximity to, the main house. Immediately to the north of the sheds is a large, axial plan tobacco barn with a foundation of cinder blocks. The exterior is sheathed with vertical, circular sawn boards. Each gable end has a pair of metal hinged wood doors. The interior consists of eighteen, four foot rooms that extend six tiers to the roof peak. The second tobacco barn is located approximately fifty yards to the northwest of the first tobacco barn. It features an axial plan with an adjoining shed. The barn rests on a large aggregate concrete pier foundation and the exterior is sheathed with vertical, circular sawn boards. The interior features thirteen, four foot rooms and is five tiers high.

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8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

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

Reference: Liber 194, Folio 90

Grantee: Henry O. and Edna A. Dixon

Grantor: Lawyers Title Company of St. Mary's County

Date: July 5, 1973

Notes: The property is listed as 72.38 acres and is called "Part of Della Brooke." It was surveyed by J.F. McCrone, Jr. on May 21, 1973.

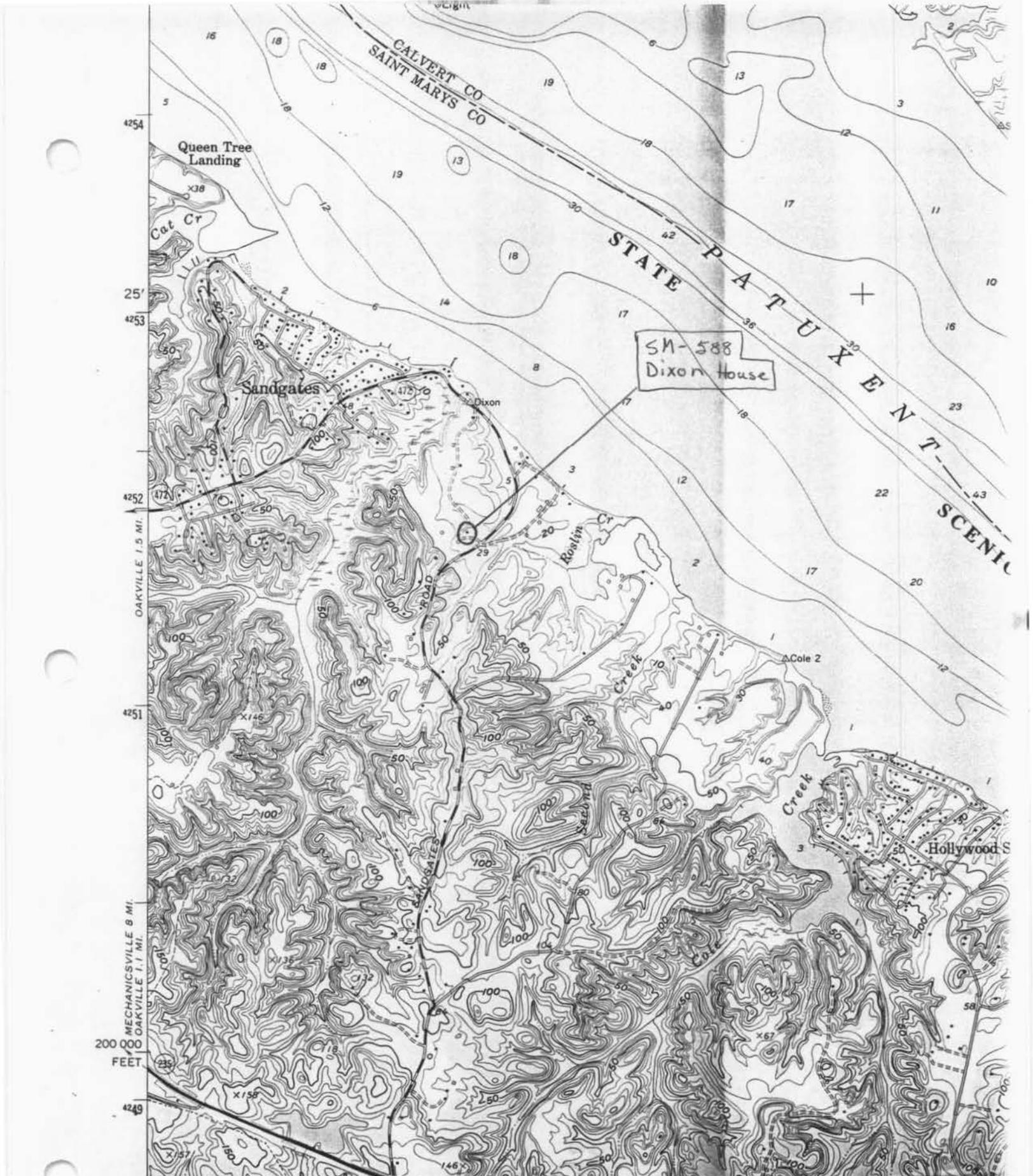
Reference: Liber JMM 1, Folio 335

Grantee: T. Raymond Dixon, Edgar Dixon, Henry O. Dixon, and William R. Dixon

Grantor: Henrietta A. M. Starr and Essie P. Jones

Date: January 4, 1920

Notes: Starr and Jones were heirs of Henry Jones who much of the land in the Sandgates area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Jones died seized and possessed and his will, dated April 15, 1881 (Will Record JBA 1, 18), dictated that his daughters Henrietta and Essie should receive that section of the farm. The farm is mentioned in the deed as containing 120 acres. Their father, Henry Jones, was a significant landowner with several large farms. Unfortunately, a search through the Grantee/Grantor Index could not establish when he obtained the farm.

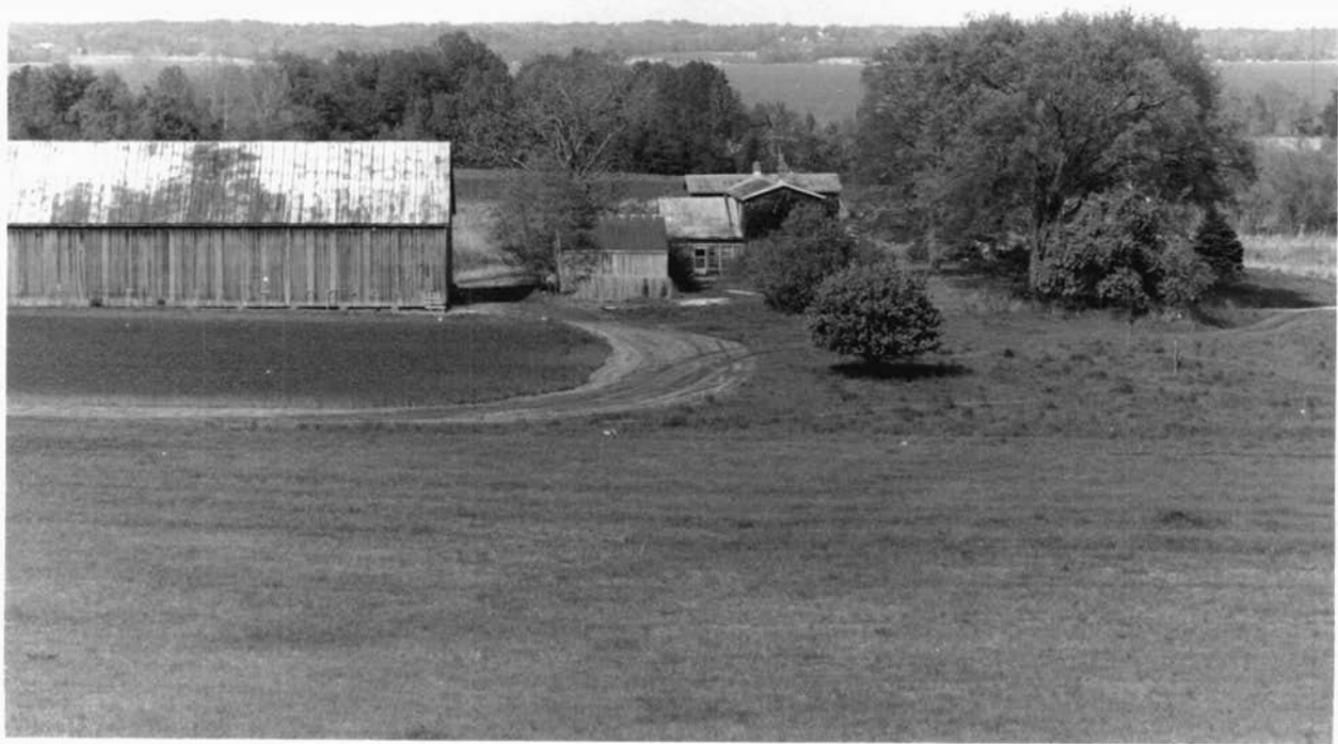


SM-588  
Dixon House

**BROOMES ISLAND, MD.**  
 NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
 38076-D5-TF-024  
 1963  
 PHOTOREVISED 1966  
 DMA 5660 I NE-SERIES V833

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 553 (1962)

LEONARDTOWN  
 5660 I SW



SM-588

Dixon House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Panetta

May 1997

Md. S&FO

Environmental - looking E toward Patuxent River

1 of 4



SM-588

Dixon House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancetta

May 1997

MD CHFD

E + S elevations

2 of 4



EM-588

Dixon House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May 1997

Md SHPO

View from porch - looking NE

3 of 4



SM-588

Dixon Horse

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May 1997

Md SHPO

N+W elevations

4 of 4