

Capsule Summary
SM-610
Ellis/Butler Tenant House
Bushwood
Private

c. 1940s

The Ellis/Butler Tenant House represents a contributing resource to an assemblage of buildings associated with Richard Carroll Ellis -- a prominent local carpenter, miller, sawyer, and postmaster. The dwelling lies just south of the Ellis Mill (SM-609) and the Bushwood Post Office (SM-608) and just north of Blair's Purchase (SM-125) and is visible from all three sites.

The frame, two story, three bay dwelling was constructed in the 1940s. Aloysius and Grace Butler, a local African American laborer and his wife, were tenants of the house which stood on the Ellis property. According to Frances Ellis, daughter of Richard, Aloysius Butler was a laborer for neighboring farms and occasionally helped her father. While the dwelling is currently deteriorated, it represents a typical example of modest, mid-twentieth century tenant housing and aids in relating Bushwood's rural appearance in the early and mid-twentieth century.

SM-610, Ellis/Butler Tenant 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 Crossroads
Historic Function and Use: Tenant House
Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ellis/Butler Tenant House

2. Location

80 yards from the intersection of Maddox Rd. & Bushwood Wharf Road on the SE side of Bushwood Wharf Rd.
street & number not for publication

city, town Bushwood vicinity of congressional district 7

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-30, G-22, P-294

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 Donald G. Eaton and Lucy A. Peterkin

street & number PO Box 25 telephone no.: 301-769-4762

city, town Bushwood state and zip code Md 20618-0025

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 398

street & number folio 54

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-610

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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 checked="" 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: 2

The Ellis/Butler Tenant House is located approximately 0.1 mile south from the intersection of Bushwood Wharf and Maddox Road. Oriented on a north/south axis, the dwelling is situated on a slightly southwest sloping lot. It is bounded to the south by the old road cut for Bushwood Wharf Road, to the east by a wooded tract of "Blair's Purchase" (SM-125), to the north by the Ellis Grist Mill (SM-609), and to the west by the present Bushwood Wharf Road. To the north of the dwelling is a series of outbuildings that include a contributing meat house and two storage sheds.

The Ellis/Butler Tenant House, constructed in the 1940s, is a frame, two story, three bay dwelling with three wings or additions. The building is situated on a cedar post foundation and is sheathed with lap siding fastened to the balloon frame with wire nails. At the intersection of the wall and roof is an open cornice which reveals exposed, but undecorated, rafter tails. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

The north or primary elevation of the main block is pierced on the first floor by two, two-over-two double hung sash windows and a modern wood door. These bays are shaded by a screened-porch. The second floor is pierced by two, two-over-two windows. To the east of the main block is a one story, frame wing which is pierced by a two-over-two window. To the west is a one story frame wing that is pierced by a six-over-six window. Judging from the change in the window sash and chimney construction, this section of the house appears to have been constructed after the main block.

The west elevation consists of the gable ends of the west wing and the main block. The west wing is blind but features an exterior end chimney flue constructed of cinder blocks. The main block is pierced by a two-over-two window. A one story, frame addition with a cinder block foundation and shed roof covered by corrugated metal projects from the main block. This addition features a four-panel door. This door is sheltered by a concrete porch with a shed roof that wraps around not only the rear addition but also the south side of the west wing.

The south elevation consists of the rear of the main block, two wings, and shed roof addition. The west wing is pierced by a five panel door, another door (now removed), and a six-over-six window. The shed addition features a two-over-two window. The main block is pierced on the first and second floor by a two-over-two window. At the junction of the main block and the rear shed addition an interior brick chimney flue extends up past the roof line of the main block. The east wing is pierced by a two-panel-below-three-light door.

The east elevation consists of the gable end of the east wing and the gable end of the main block. The east wing features a two-over-two window and the second floor of the main block is pierced by a two-over-two window.

The interior of the main block consists of two largely undifferentiated rooms. The west room features an open winder stair to the first floor as well as provisions for heat suggesting it was used as a common space. The west room permits entry into the west wing as well as the east room of the main block. While the west wing was apparently used as a kitchen the east room was probably used as a bedroom. The east room permits entry into the east wing which was also

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-610

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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 Ellis/Butler Tenant House represents a contributing resource to an assemblage of buildings associated with Richard Carroll Ellis -- a prominent local carpenter, miller, sawyer, and postmaster. The dwelling lies just south of the Ellis Mill (SM-609) and the Bushwood Post Office (SM-608) and just north of Blair's Purchase (SM-125) and is visible from all three sites.

The frame, two story, three bay dwelling was constructed in the 1940s. Aloysius and Grace Butler, a local African American laborer and his wife, were tenants of the house which stood on the Ellis property. According to Frances Ellis, daughter of Richard, Aloysius Butler was a laborer for neighboring farms and occasionally helped her father. While the dwelling is currently deteriorated, it represents a typical example of modest, mid-twentieth century tenant housing and aids in relating Bushwood's rural appearance in the early and mid-twentieth century.

SM-610, Ellis/Butler Tenant House
St. Mary's County
Description 7.1

apparently used as a bedroom. The rear shed addition features its own exterior entry. Its relative lack of windows and lack of heating suggests it was used for storage. The second floor of the main block consists of a lobby at the top of the stairs which permits entry into a bedroom on either side of it.

To the southeast of the Ellis/Butler House is a contributing meathouse that may predate the construction of the tenant house. The small outbuilding rests on a concrete foundation and is constructed using circular sawn lumber. The exterior walls are covered with lap siding attached to the frame using wire nails. The cornice is open and the rafter tails are exposed. The pyramidal roof is sheathed with decorative pressed metal shingles. A single door pierces the meathouse's south elevation. Just to the east of the meat house are two work or storage sheds constructed of circular sawn lumber.

SM-610, Ellis/Butler Tenant House
St. Mary's County
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 MRB 283, Folio 188

Grantee: Donald George Eaton and Lucy Agnes Eaton

Grantor: Frances M. Ellis

Date: November 3, 1977

Notes: The deed notes that the grist mill property was once part of the larger tract called "Bushwood" and "Bushwood Lodge" near the corner of Route 238 and Burshwood Wharf Road.

Reference: Liber DBK 173, Folio 263

Grantee: Frances M. Ellis

Grantor: Richard Carroll Ellis

Date: November 30, 1971

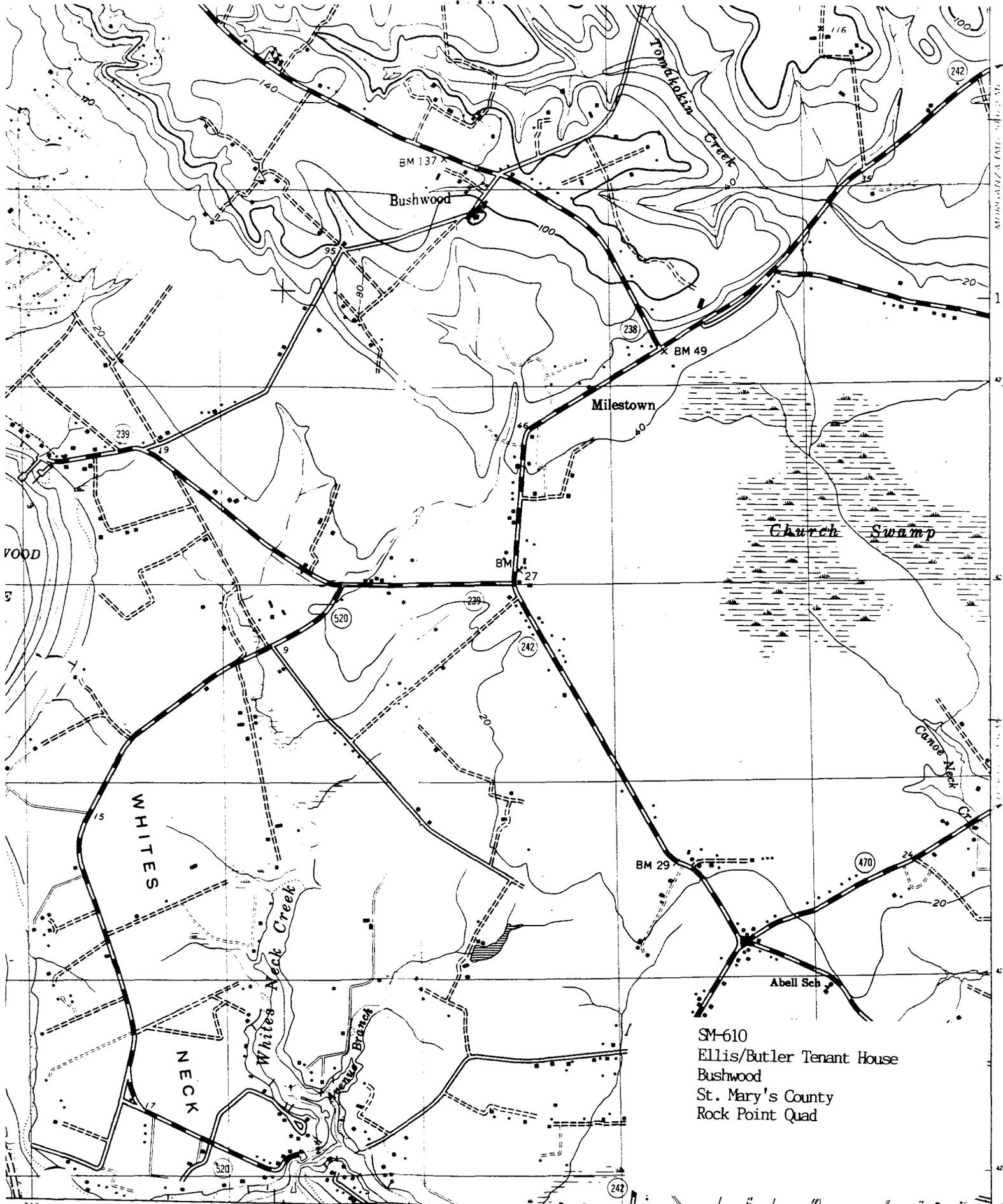
Reference: Liber EBA 11, Folio 68

Grantee: Richard Carroll Ellis

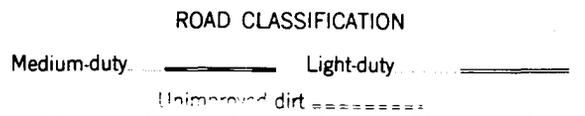
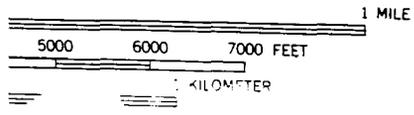
Grantor: John W. and Eleanor M. Renehan

Date: March 28, 1913

Reference: The deed notes that the property contains 11 9/10 acres and includes "the mill and machinery attached to said mill." The deed also requires that the property "never be used to sell ...liquors." The conditions of the transfer also gave the crop of wheat on the property and allowed the grantees to use the woods for cord wood. The deed also notes a survey by Charles Heard drawn on February 13, 1913. A search for the survey in the survey indices proved futile. The deed does not describe the Ellis/Butler House probably because it had not been erected yet.



SM-610
 Ellis/Butler Tenant House
 Bushwood
 St. Mary's County
 Rock Point Quad





SM- 610

Ellis/Butler Tenant House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

MD SHPO

Site elevations.

1 of 2



SM- 310

Ellis/Butter House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Loc/97

nd SHPO

F + N elevation;

2 of 2