

Capsule Summary

SM-820

Tenant House on Newtowne Neck

Compton vicinity

Private

circa 1900

Owned by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests since the seventeenth century, the 776 acre Newtowne Neck Peninsula served as an important source of income for this denomination. Continuously farmed since that period, the peninsula is marked by its relatively undeveloped flat topography consisting of flat cultivated fields of soybean and grain. Just prior to the Civil War most of the Jesuit farms in St. Mary's County relinquished the institution of slave labor in favor of tenant farming and sharecropping. The circa 1900 farmhouse located near the middle of the peninsula overlooking St. Clements Bay is one of last early twentieth century tenant houses remaining on the property. Although dilapidated, the house is nonetheless an important reminder of how the labor arrangements of Jesuit farms had changed by the early twentieth century. No further documentation is recommended.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-820

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Tenant House on Newtowne Neck

## 2. Location

street and number W side of Newtowne Neck Rd. approx. 2 miles S of its int. w/Bay Side Rd.  not for publication

city, town Compton  vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name Roman Catholic Clergy c/o Joseph M. Nilon

street and number 5704 Roland Avenue telephone N/a

city, town Baltimore state Md zip code 21210

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-47, P-1

city, town Leonardtown liber EBA 12, JMM 6 folio 253, 178

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>0</u>	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. SM-820

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Tenant House on Newtowne Neck is situated approximately 2 miles south of the intersection of Newtown Neck Road and Bay Side Road near the rural crossroads community of Compton, Maryland. The dwelling is oriented on a southeast/northwest axis and is approached via a dirt drive that extends to the northwest of Newtowne Neck Road. Constructed on an expansive 776.04 acre peninsula owned by the Jesuit Order, only about 10 acres around the house were surveyed. Much of the house's topographically flat surroundings is composed of cultivated fields. The peninsula is nearly encircled by Breton Bay, St. Clements Bay as well as the Potomac River. The north part of the property is bounded by residential lots.

The Tenant House itself is a dilapidated, circa 1900, two story, two bay, frame dwelling with one story wings to the north and south sides. The exterior appears to be covered with plywood and the roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. A single brick chimney flue protrudes from the roof of the main block.

The primary or southeast elevation is largely obscured by a screened-in porch that encloses portions of the south wing and main block. The second floor of the main block, however, is pierced by two windows which have been busted out. The north wing is lit by a single six-over-six, double-hung sash window.

No other elevations were investigated.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-820

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates**

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Owned by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests since the seventeenth century, the 776 acre Newtowne Neck Peninsula served as an important source of income for this denomination. Continuously farmed since that period, the peninsula is marked by its relatively undeveloped flat topography consisting of flat cultivated fields of soybean and grain. Just prior to the Civil War most of the Jesuit farms in St. Mary's County relinquished the institution of slave labor in favor of tenant farming and sharecropping. The circa 1900 farmhouse located near the middle of the peninsula overlooking St. Clements Bay is one of last early twentieth century tenant houses remaining on the property. Although dilapidated, the house is nonetheless an important reminder of how the labor arrangements of Jesuit farms had changed by the early twentieth century. No further documentation is recommended.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. SM-820

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 10 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 776.04 acres  
Quadrangle name St. Clements Island      Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is nearly encircled by Breton Bay, St. Clements Bay as well as the Potomac River. The north portion of the tract is bounded by residential lots. A more specific description of the property's boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EBA 12 and JMM 6 & Folio 253 and 178.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

TERIOR  
Y

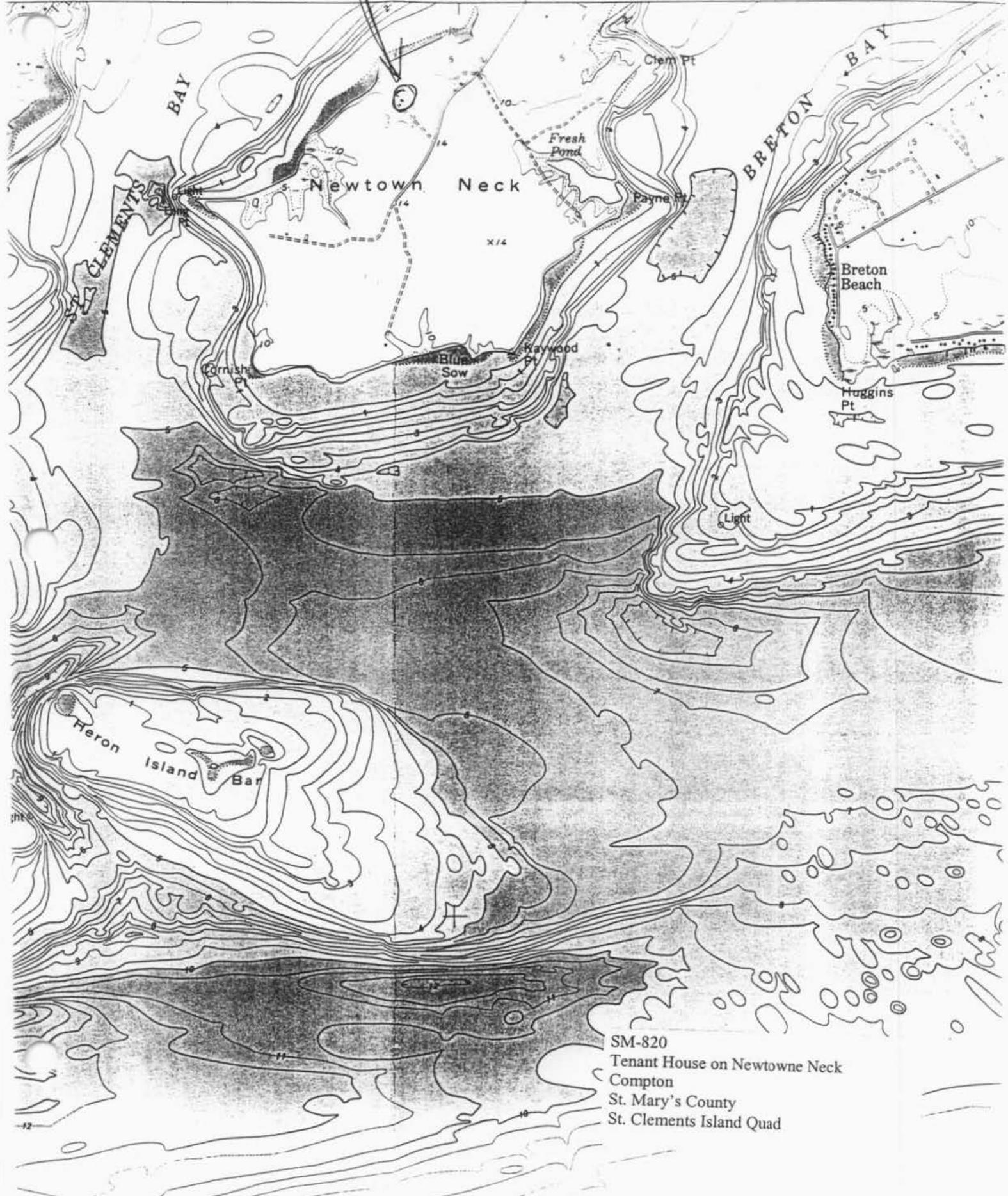
2 510 000 FEET (VA.)

42'30"

LEONARDTOWN 5 MI

5660 1 SW  
352 (LEONARDTOWN)

353



SM-820  
Tenant House on Newtowne Neck  
Compton  
St. Mary's County  
St. Clements Island Quad



SM-820

Tenant House on Newtowne Neck

St Mary's

Kirk Parson

Nov 99

MA SHRO

Looking NW

Left