

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Boston Clift

AND/OR COMMON

Boston Cliff (Preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER East side of Manadier Road, .5 mile south of its intersection  
with Dover Neck Road and Dutchmans Lane

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Talbot

CODE

041

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Daniel Palmer

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. 3, Box 384

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland

21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-122

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Boston Cliff is basically a five-bay, 1½-story, brick building built circa 1729. A three-bay, 1½-story extension of 20th century date has been made on the east end. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with random glazing. The stepped water table jogs above the basement windows, and there is a belt course at the second floor level on the gable end. Also on the gable end is one small casement on the first story and two on the second. The first story windows have 12/8 sash and tow lock heads. The central door has a jack arch across the wide opening. There are five gable roof dormers with 6/6 sash on the south side of the steep, asymmetrical roof. At each end of the building are tall chimneys with chimney caps having plaster bands. On the north side of the house is a leanto across half the structure; it is built of frame with a double sloping roof.

The interior is divided into stair hall flanked by living room and dining room, with a den in the leanto behind the dining room. Original woodwork exists in most of the rooms, but the most significant is the open string stair with carved flowers on the stair spandrels, turned balusters, and a bold handrail which extends over the newels, as at Hampden and Fernwood. The structure has raised paneling, including the paneled wainscot and chimney wall in the living room. On the wall of this room pilasters flank the horizontal panels above the fireplace. Two arched closets flank the fireplace.

(It was not possible to see the inside of this house for the purposes of this report. Reference: H.C. Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, 1934.)

The acreage around the house is farmed today as part of a larger farm. Boston Cliff has always been the center of an agricultural landscape.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 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 1729 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Boston Cliff has the most well-executed early Georgian interior in Talbot County, taking into consideration those at Hampden, Troths Fortune and Myrtle Grove. It is the earliest dated example and the finest. Its location is attractive, and the house commands its site very successfully.

Boston Cliff is also unique in its use of dormer windows only on the south, and its asymmetrical roof. Its interior is largely intact and is of the finest design and craftsmanship available at the time.

In the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, the building stood very similar to its present appearance. The brick kitchen was smaller than the present wing, measuring 20' x 22'. At that time, it was owned by Elizabeth Dickinson.

The name Boston Cliff, a grant to Joseph Winslow, may derive from the fact that Winslow was a mariner from Boston, although at the time the grant was issued, he was said to be from Elizabeth City, Virginia. In 1668 he sold his patent of 680 acres to Samuel Winslow, also a mariner (1/53). William Lewis, in his will dated 1669 (Will Records, 1/13), left this acreage to his daughter, Sarah, who married Ralph Fishbourne. However, Lewis added that while he did buy this land from Samuel Winslow, the indenture was not yet recorded. There is no evidence that it ever was recorded. The Lewis/Fishbourne family lived on "Bayside," and never took up residence on this Choptank River property.

The use of these lands is obscured from this time until 1709, when it is recorded that Daniel Powell and his wife possessed them (11/120). Powell had married Susannah Pitt, the daughter of John Pitt, an early settler and Quaker and a large landowner, in 1694. Daniel was the son of Howell Powell, a neighbor of the Dickinsons at Crosiadore, further down the Choptank River.

Daniel Powell wrote his will in 1718, but it wasn't probated until 1732 (2/136, Will Records). He left the upper part of "Boston Clift" to his son, John, with the proviso that John should deed over to his brother Joseph a tract called "Cold Rain," on the Tuckahoe River. No will of John Pitt has been found; possibly he left "Boston Clift" to his daughter Susannah. Another son, Howell, was to inherit the "lower" part of Daniel's plantation.

John Powell's will was probated in 1746 (DD3/336, Hall of Records). He apparently died "without issue." He devised his "dwelling plantation" to his nephew, Daniel Dickinson, and the lower half, which had been devised to his brother Howell and "where my late mother Susannah lived," to another nephew, Powell Co. According to H. Chandlee Forman, there is a brick on a chimney end marked with the date 1729. Daniel Powell may

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Boston Cliff  
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

may have built this house in the three years before he died, but it is also possible that his son John built it, knowing his father would leave the land to him.

In any case, Daniel Dickinson made this his home. He fathered a family of three sons and four daughters, and outlived his wife. He left "Boston Cliff" to his eldest son, John (JB4/F41, 1778-82), with the proviso that the back room and chamber be reserved for his daughters as long as they remained unmarried.

John Dickinson lived only until 1794 (Will Record 5/4). His widow Betty raised her family there, and in 1817 she leased the farm to Cyrus Newlin (40/294), with the stipulation that she have the use of the back room and chamber and whatever firewood she needed. For this and the rental she was paid \$200 yearly.

Betty Dickinson died in 1823. Newlin put the property through a Chancery procedure (45/1) and was able to gain title to it for a sum of \$1400 (45/5) that same year. In 1835 he sold the house and farm for \$2000 to Colonel William Hughlett (52/45), who wanted it for farm land, not as a dwelling. In 1845 this property, along with others, was devised to his second son, Thomas (9/371). This son was moving into the profession of law, and he sold back to his widowed mother, Mary Hughlett, the 350 acres of "Boston Cliff" that he had inherited (69/371, 1861). She immediately turned it over to her daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Captain E.L.F. Hardcastle (69/520).

Only one son of the Captain's, Robert, is known to have lived in the old brick house, and then only for a short time. The fields were tilled, but the house was for the most part occupied by tenants. It remained in the possession of the Hardcastle family until 1950, when the estate could be cleared and Charles J. Lipscomb and his wife, Betty, were able to purchase this parcel as well as adjoining acreage (287/584), 274 acres. The Lipscombs restored this house after its years of neglect, and added a wing. In 1967 they sold their holdings (417/122). Today Boston Cliff is owned by Daniel Palmer (439/275, 1969).

Boston Cliff, Otwell and Hampden are all early houses that show a great similarity. Their owners were close friends and neighbors. They were built at about the same time and may have used the same master craftsmen.

T-122

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 2.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 77.5 acres

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant  
Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

1km

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

1977

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

T-122

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Boston Cliff  
Talbot County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Probate Records of Talbot County. Courthouse, Easton, and Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Talbot County.

Barnes, Robert. Maryland Marriages. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975.

Forman, H. Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: by the author, 1934. p. 188.

Sidelights of Maryland History.

Pratt, Golden History of Early American Houses.

Wilson, E. B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1965, pp. 62-63.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Boston Cliff

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Manadier Rd., .5 mile north of Schwaninger Rd. (east to house)

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

D. H. Palmer

Telephone #: (301) 479-1314

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. 3, Box 384

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 439

Folio #: 275

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Boston Cliff is basically a five bay, one and one-half story brick building with a three bay, one and one-half story extension on the east end which is of 20th century date. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with random glazing. Its stepped water table jogs above the basement windows and there is a belt course at second floor level on the gable end. Also on the gable end is a small casement on the first story and two on the second. The first story windows have 12/8 sash and rowlock header. Its central door has a jack arch across the wide opening. On the steep roof are five 'A' roof dormers with 6/6 sash, only on the south side of the assymetrical roof. At each end of the building are tall chimneys with chimney caps having plaster bands. On the north side of the house is a leanto on half the structure, built of frame with a double sloping roof.

The interior is divided into stair hall, living room, dining room, and den behind the dining room in the leanto. Original woodwork exists in most of the rooms but the most significant is the open string stair with carved flowers on the stair spandrels, turned balusters and a bold handrail which extends over the newels, like Hampden and Fernwood. The structure is paneled with raised paneling, like the paneled wainscot and chimney wall in the living room. The fireplace wall has pilasters flanking the horizontal panels above the fireplace. Two arched closets flank the fireplace.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 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 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 checked="" 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 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 1729

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Boston Cliff is the most well executed early Georgian interior in Talbot County, taking into consideration those at Hampden, Troth's Fortune and Myrtle Grove. It is the earliest dated example and the finest. Its location is fine and it commands its site very successfully.

It is also unique in its use of dormer windows only on the south and its assymetrical roof. Its interior is largely intact and is of the finest design and craftsmanship available at the time.

In the tax assessment of 1798 the building stood very similar to its present appearance. Its brick kitchen was smaller, measuring 20 by 22. At that time it was owned by Elizabeth Dickenson.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-16

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses....., 1934, p. 188.  
Wilson, E.B., Maryland's Colonial Mansions, A.S. Barnes, New York, 1965, p. 62, 63.  
Pratt, The Golden History of Early American Houses.  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# TRAPPE

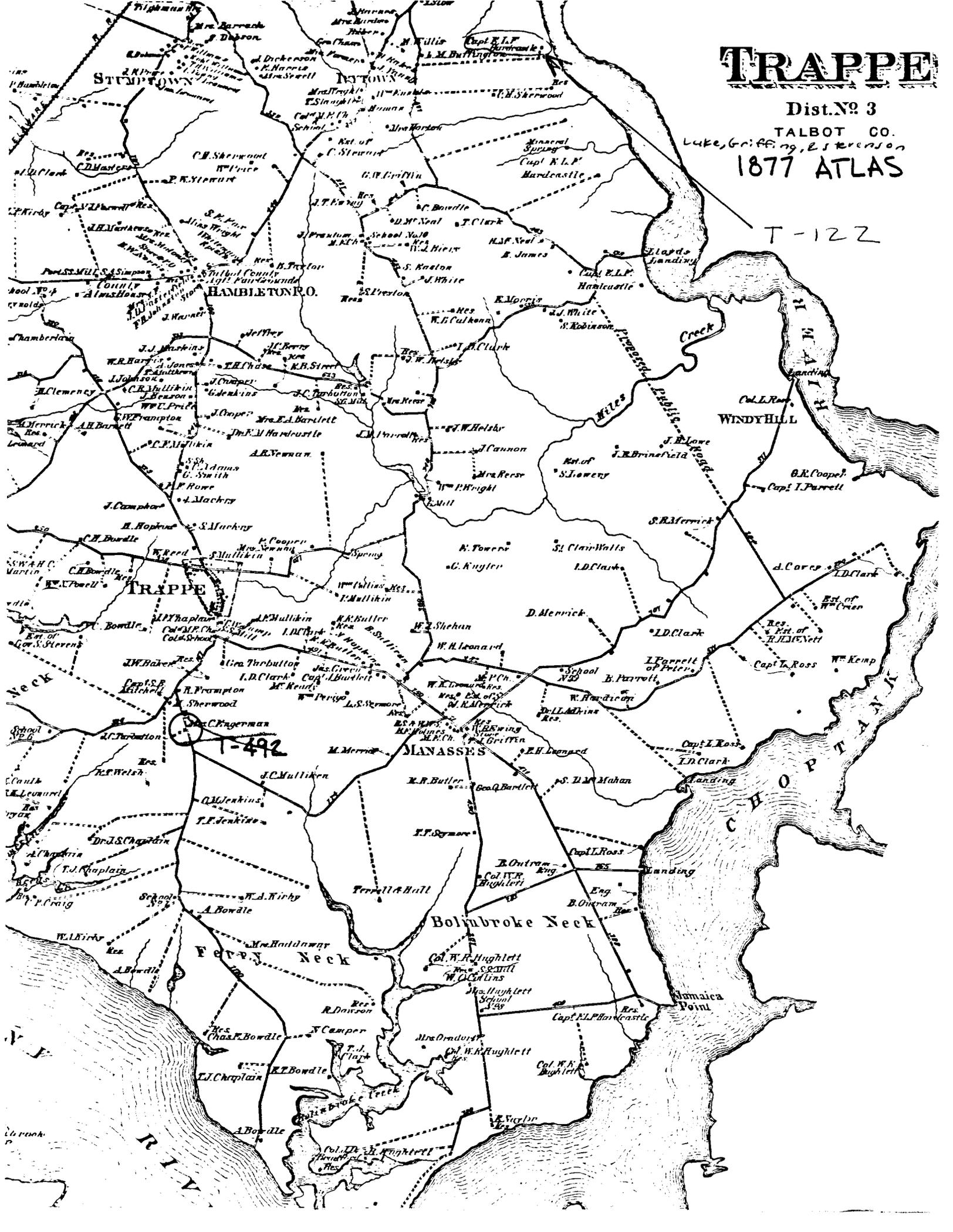
Dist. No. 3

TALBOT CO.

Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson

## 1877 ATLAS

T-122



STUMPTOWN

HAMBLETON P.O.

TRAPPE

MANASSES

Bolebroke Neck

Ferry Neck

CHOPTANK

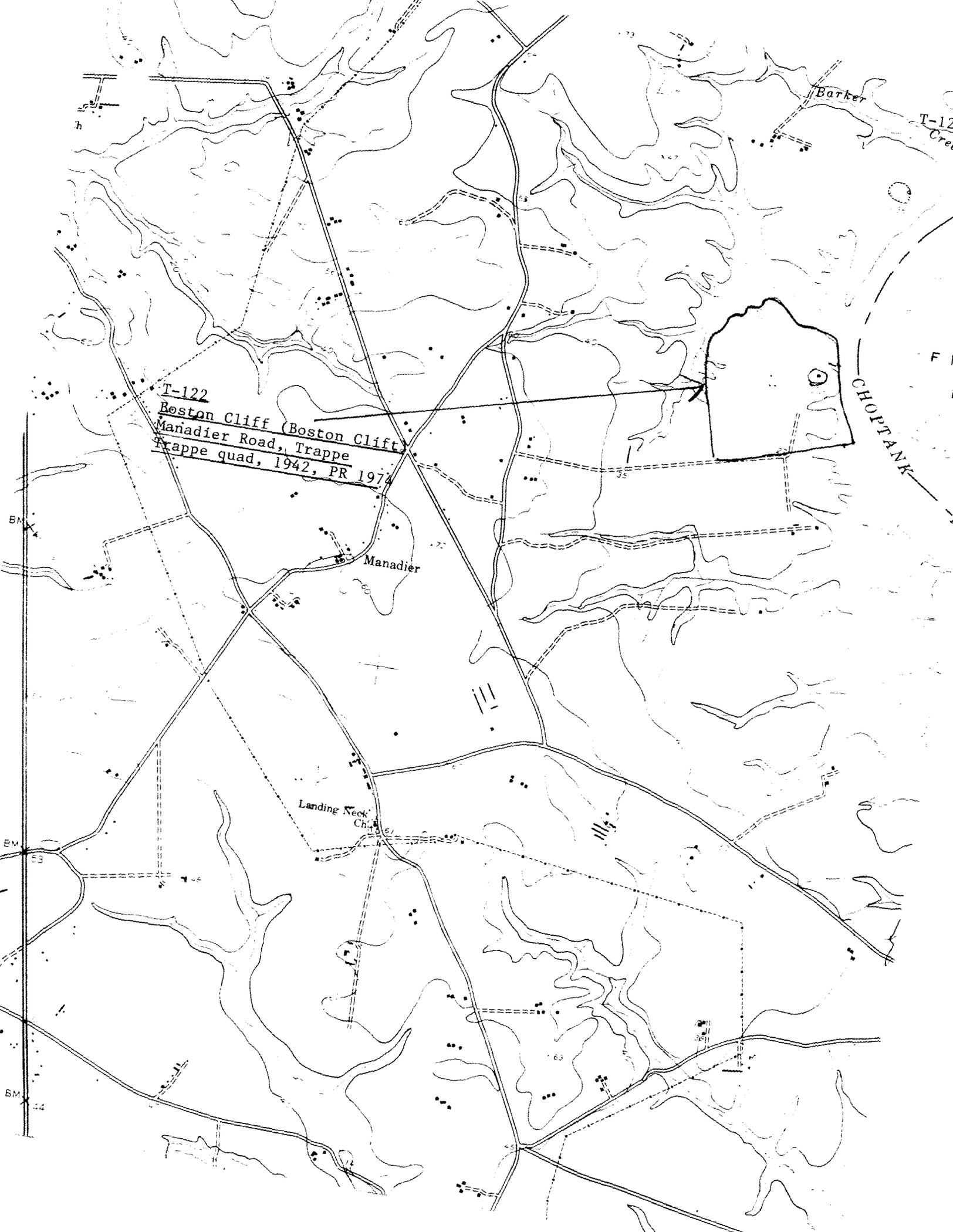
Jamaica Point

T-492

WINDY HILL

WILES CREEK

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER



38°45'

T-122



330 000  
FEET

TALBOT CO  
CAROLINE CO

*Boston Cliff*

FRAZIER  
NECK

CHOPTANK  
RIVER

Manadier

Landing Neck  
Ch.

42'30"

*Trappe  
Quad*



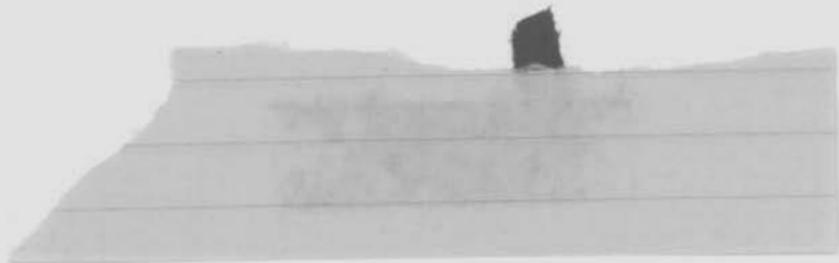
.10 x 1.52

75%

122

Boston Cliff

T-122



Ed Jones Aug 1975



12 x 1.79

7790

39991 J9 MD 1392

111  
L. 111

Boston Cipher

F B S

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of the Library of Congress

T-122

77%

2.11



.14 x 1.78

46<sup>cm</sup>

T-122

Boston Cliffs interior

2.12

46%

Fig.

2.12

Boston Cliffs

T B S

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379179 AND 13956