

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Ferry Farm House Inventory Number: T-187
Address: Historic district: yes no
City: Trappe Zip Code: County: Talbot
USGS Quadrangle(s): Cambridge
Property Owner: Tax Account ID Number:
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): Tax Map Number:
Project: Section 106 Agency: DOT/FHWA
Agency Prepared By:
Preparer's Name: Date Prepared:
Documentation is presented in: federal files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property:
Inventory Number: Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: Date:

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*
[no info on form]

| | |
|---|--|
| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW | |
| Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Eligibility not recommended |
| Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | Considerations: <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 |
| MHT Comments: Federal DOE | |
| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services | Date |
| | Monday, May 19, 1980 |
| Reviewer, National Register Program | Date |

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 Ferry Farm house

AND/OR COMMON Boling Brooke

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Route 50

South side of Ferry Farm Road, 200 yards east of U.S. NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Trappe VICINITY OF First

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

Maryland 24 Talbot 041

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 | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input 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"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dorrance R. Smith

Telephone #: (301-228-8455)

STREET & NUMBER Boling Brooke

CITY, TOWN STATE
Trappe VICINITY OF Maryland 21673

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber: 390
Folio: 219

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Washington Street

CITY, TOWN STATE
Easton Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-187

| 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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ferry Farm house is situated between Bolinbroke Creek on the east, and Read's Cove and Porpoise Creek on the west, near the northern end of the Choptank River Bridge, overlooking the broad waters of the Choptank and Cambridge beyond. It is an early 18th century, frame, gambrel roof dwelling with a large, 20th century, gambrel roof wing.

The old house is three bays long and two bays deep, and built on a brick basement. The bricks are large and laid in English bond, the brickwork resembling early 18th century work on the Eastern Shore. The walls of the houses are covered with plain weatherboard and the windows of the first story have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Those above have 6/6 sash. Each facade has a central entrance, the south entrance with transom. A large 20th century chimney is built onto the west gable and another within the east gable. There is a leanto porch on part of the north side.

The interior presently consists of a central stair hall with a living room on the west and dining room and kitchen on the east. The stair is a good, first half of the 18th century one, and the east rooms retain some early woodwork. In these rooms the major posts protrude from the walls and are encased in fluted pilasters of rather crude design, similar to the fluting at White Marshes up river several miles.

From evidence in the basement, specifically the bases of the original chimneys, it is apparent that the east side was a single room and the west side had two rooms with corner fireplaces when the house was first built. The change to the present floor plan was probably made in the 1940's, when the wing was added. The wing is about 1-1/3 times the size of the original house, with dissimilar fenestration.

81 SIGNIFICANCE

T-187

| 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 checked="" 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ferry Farm house is significant architecturally because it is one of the earliest gambrel roof dwellings in the county. It is important for its original first half 18th century woodwork and original floor plan. The plan is similar to Back Creek Mill house, Cecil County.

Ferry Farm house ranks as the focus of one of the earliest economic enterprises in the county, the terminus of a ferry across the Great Choptank River to Dorchester County, and what is now the City of Cambridge.

According to the Rent Rolls of 1708, "Bullen" was surveyed for 800 acres for Henry Bullen in 1659. The property lay on the north side of the Choptank River, adjoining the lands of Thomas Read and Read's Creek. According to this tax assessment, Henry Bullen owned and possessed 390 acres. Henry had inherited this part of "Bullen" through a division of his mother's estate. By 1670 Naomi Mackey had been widowed three times in ten years. She made a gift deed of her properties to her four sons, Henry Bullen, Thomas (probably Larrimore), and Hezekiah and William Mackey. They shared equally in the distribution.

Henry started selling acreage from "Bullen" in 1706, when Thomas Barnett paid him 10,000 pounds of tobacco for 100 acres along Read's Creek (10/49). The following year, he made the first of three sales to Thomas Taylor. The first two were for acreage only, 290 acres in all (11/32) (11/73). In 1709 Bullen sold 130 acres to Taylor with houses, outhouses, etc. Taylor immediately sold the entire 250 acres to William Troth for £100. This price would not indicate that there was any substantial sort of house on the property. Following Troth's death in 1712, his daughter, Judith, the wife of Samuel Dickinson of neighboring "Croisadore," inherited this part of her father's estate.

It is impossible to say when and by whom, this house was built. Henry Bullen was granted a ferry across the Choptank from Bullen's plantation, in 1722. Whether he ever ran this ferry is unknown. It is known that a house was built in the town of Trappe, early in the 18th century by a member of the Dickinson family and there is a resemblance to this house as both had gambrel roofs. We know that the Troth/Dickinson families owned this property from 1709 until 1768. At that time, James Dickinson sold the tract called "Bullen" and "Bullen's Addition" to William Akers for £1050 current money. This considerable price would indicate that the Ferry Farm house was standing at this time. We also know from many deeds in which the description includes "on the road to Akers Farm," that there is no doubt that William Akers ran the ferry across the Choptank River to Dorchester County.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| |
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Ferry Farm house
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

Local tradition has it that he used his home as an inn or ordinary, as well. We do know that Akers was a planter and merchant. In 1786 he sold a sloop, "The Mayflower," "riding at anchor in the Choptank River," to John and James King (23/136). We also know that he increased the size of his property in 1783 by adding 150 acres adjoining "my now dwelling plantation" from Thomas Barnett, the heir of his father, who had bought this land in 1706 (21/279).

Akers ran his ferry and other enterprises until the early 19th century. He was listed in the 1798 Tax Assessment as owner and occupant of a frame dwelling, 38' X 27'. The kitchen measured 35' X 16'. William Akers is also credited, in the 1783 Tax Roll, with 320 acres on the Choptank River and Ferry. The premises included a dwelling house, meat house, tobacco house, kitchen, logged dwelling (later occupied by his son, Daniel), woods, etc., valued at £827.

There is no record of the exact date of William Akers' death. Distribution of his estate was not made until 1812 (JP B/322). He left his widow, Ann, and a son, Daniel. His daughter, Sarah, had married James Saunders, but was deceased by this time, as was his son, Harrison. There were grandchildren bearing the name Abbott.

In 1809 (33/165) William Jenkins paid \$5,000 to James Saunders and his wife, Sarah Akers Saunders, for two parcels of land. These were incorporated into the farm of Alexander Bowdle in 1869 (75/458).

Bowdle had made his first purchase in the area in 1843, when he bought 107½ acres from the widow of John W. Jenkins, Mary Elizabeth, and her new husband, Solomon Mullikin, Jr., which they owned by right of inheritance (57/306). He added another portion in 1845 (57/392). In 1847 Bowdle married Sarah Emily Kirby, and they made the old "Ferry Farm" their home. He left no will, but hers was probated in 1895 (14/402), and indicated that she had had a home built in the town of Trappe. This she left to her son, "who assisted in building my home," and his children. To her daughter, Nannie B. Highley, she left her farm in Ferry Neck of 160 acres, and a house and lot on the north side of the public road in Ferry Neck. After the natural life of her daughter, the property was to go to her grandson, Alexander Bowdle Highley.

Highley divided his inherited farm into building lots. By the terms of his will (31/386, 1960), a part of the farm, now known as Cambridge Ferry Farm, was sold to Dorrance R. Smith and his wife, Betty Ann, in 1963 (390/219). The Smiths bought the house "as is," since there had been a fire in the roof. They made the necessary repairs and other improvements, so that it is comfortable for modern living, yet retains some interesting features of its long history.

T-187

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Ferry Farm house
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES -

Land and Probate Records of Talbot County, Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

Tax Assessment of 1783, Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Microfilm, Talbot County Library, Easton, Maryland.

Rent Rolls, Talbot County. Manuscript copy by Howard Mullikin, Talbot County Library, Easton, Maryland, p.4.

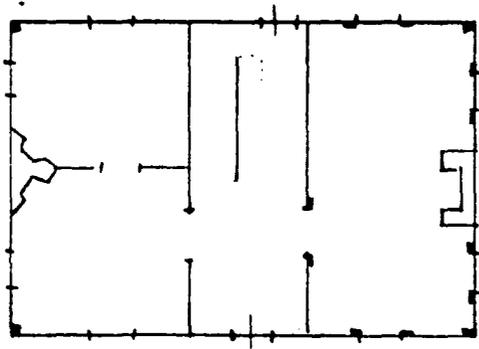
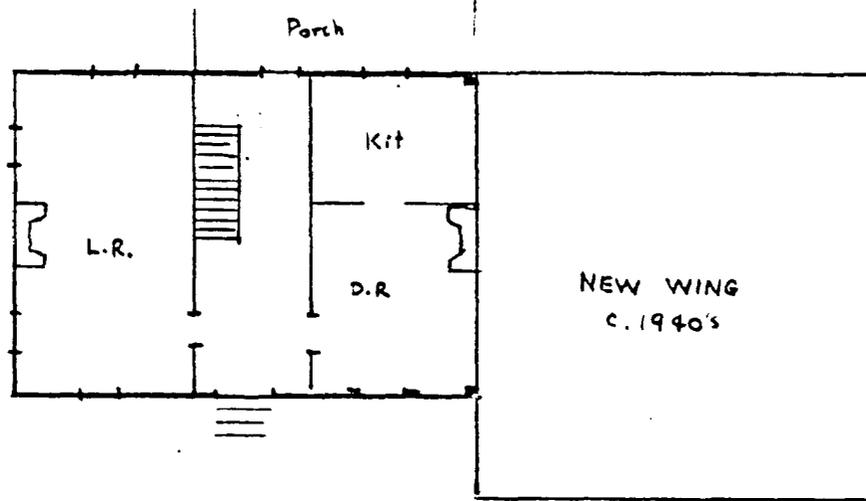
Forman, H. C. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland, by the author, 1934, p. 183.

Preston, Dickson. Trappe, The Story of an Old Fashioned Town. Easton, Maryland. Economy Printing Co., 1976, p. 8.

Wilson, E. B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions, New York: A.S. Barnes, 1965, p. 79.



-THIS PLAN FOR ILLUSTRATION OF TEXT ONLY
 -IT IS NOT A MEASURED DRAWING
 -PROPERTY OF MICHAEL BOURNE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED
 LEST MORE ARCHITECTURAL ERRORS BE PROPAGATED.



CONJECTURAL
 ORIGINAL PLAN
 FROM EVIDENCE
 IN BASEMENT

FERRY FARM or Bolina Broke
 Talbot Co.
 No scale
 M.B. - 1/00

T-187

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ferry Farm House

AND/OR COMMON

Boling Brooke

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ferry Farm Rd., 200 yds east of Rt. 50 (south)

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

— 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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dorance Smith

Telephone #:(301) 228-8455

STREET & NUMBER

Boling Brooke

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21673

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 390

Folio #: 219

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-187

| 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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ferry Farm House is situated near the northern end of the Choptank River Bridge overlooking the broad waters of the Choptank and Cambridge beyond. It is an early 18th century frame, gambrel roof dwelling with a large 20th century gambrel roof wing. The latter is not to be described herein.

The old house is three bays long and two bays deep and is built upon a brick basement. The bricks are large and laid in English bond, the brickwork resembling early 18th century work on the Eastern Shore. The walls of the house are covered with plain weatherboard and the windows of the first story have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Those above have 6/6 sash. Each facade has a central entrance, the south entrance with transom. A large 20th century chimney is built onto the west gable and another within the east gable. There is a leanto porch on part of the north side.

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From evidence in the basement, namely the bases of the original chimneys, it is apparent that the east side was a single room and the west side had two rooms with corner fireplaces.

In the east rooms the major posts protrude from the walls and are encased in a fluted pilaster of rather crude design similar to the fluting of White Marshes up river several miles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-187

| 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ferry Farm House is significant architecturally because it is one of the earliest gambrel roof dwellings in the County. It is important for its original first half 18th century woodwork and unusual floor plan. The plan is similar to Back Creek Mill House, Cecil County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses....., 1934, p. 183.
Wilson, E.B., Maryland's Colonial Mansions, A.S. Barnes, New York,
1965, p. 79.

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

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

DATE

March, 1977

TELEPHONE

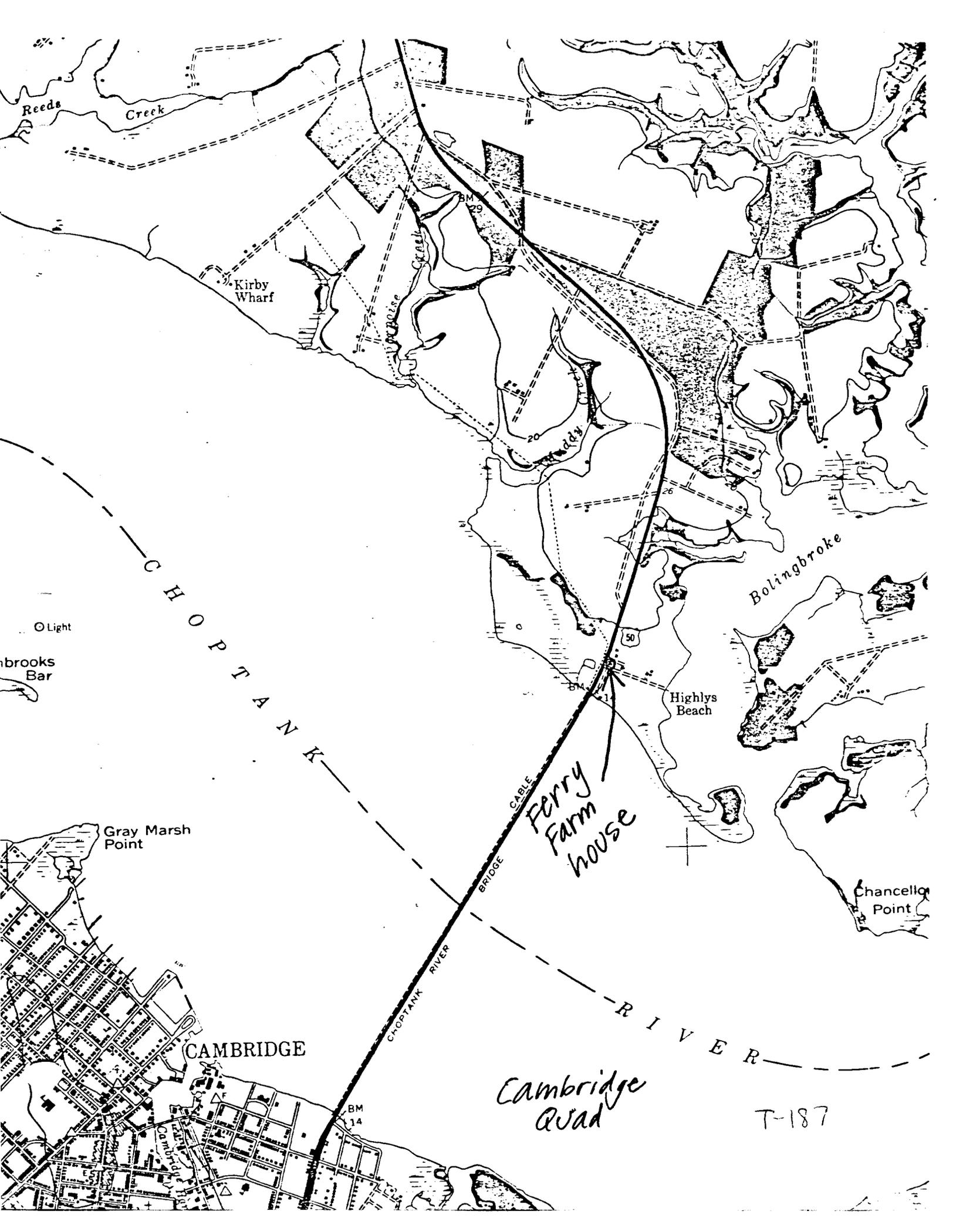
STATE

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



Reeds Creek

Kirby Wharf

Worcester Creek

CHOPTANK

Light

Brooks Bar

Bolingbroke

Highlys Beach

Ferry Farm house

Chancellor Point

Gray Marsh Point

CAMBRIDGE

RIVER

Cambridge Quad

T-187

BM 14

CHOPTANK RIVER

BRIDGE

CABLE

50

35

29

20

26

24

25

26

27

28

29

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31

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33

34

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42



15 x 1.44

75% 187

Ferry Farm House

T-187



S.

M. Bourne 3/77