

The Perrin-Smith House  
119 North Washington Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-24

c. 1795

The Perrin Smith House is named for the editor of the town's first newspaper, The Republican Star, which was founded by Mr. Smith in 1800 and is the ancestor of The Star Democrat. A very large (seven bay) two-and-a-half story building, there is a central entrance and stair hall. French doors permit access to first floor rooms. Occupied and restored by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club, the structure has Adamesque sunbursts and fluted pilasters on the dormers and finely detailed transom lights on the first floor doors.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T-24  
210 0245210

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club

AND/OR COMMON

Perrin-Smith House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

119 North Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Private Club

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club

Telephone #: 301-822-0644

STREET & NUMBER

119 North Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 159

Folio #: 083

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Town of Easton Survey by Paul Brinkman

DATE

August 29, 1967

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

T-24

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This brick building stands on the west side of North Washington Street in the downtown commercial district; it faces east. The northernmost in a group of five Federal row buildings, the building is one of the finest structures remaining from the earliest period of the town.

Seven bays wide, the Perrin-Smith House has a central hall plan with two rooms to either side and a central entrance.

Two-and-a-half stories in height, it is covered by a gable roof with three gable dormers in each roof slopes. Huge double chimneys rise from the gable ends of the building. They have corbelled caps and are connected with brick curtains. There is passage-way between this building and its northern neighbor (113-115 North Washington, T-23); it is covered by barrel vaults which carry the weight of the chimneys above.

Flemish bond brick is used on the face of the building; mortar joints are tooled into a narrow bead. Attention is given to the brick pattern at the corners of the front facade; they are terminated with an English corner.

Window and door openings are evenly spaced and elaborately detailed. Frames, joined with wooden pegs, are trimmed with a bead and quarter-round back bond molding. Sills are of wood. Sashes are twelve over twelve on the second floor windows and on the first floor windows in the third, fifth, north bays. Above windows and door openings is a keystone lintel of light grey sandstone. They are decorated with a chiseled pattern of reeding and fluting.

The main entrance has jambs which are treated with flush beaded paneling. The transom light has an elaborate pattern of curved, interlocking muntins and the six panel door has three tiers of raised and beveled panels. Like the windows the door frame is beaded and trimmed with a quarter-round back band molding.

In the second and sixth bays are double French doors with fourteen lights of clear glass. Other details - the paneled jambs, transom light and trim - are identical to those on the main entrance.

The cornice of this structure, identical to those on 111 and 113-115 North Washington and 107-109 South Washington Street, has an intricate chain of carved wood is found in the position of the bed molding.

The cornice terminates <sup>in</sup> corner blocks of carved stone which duplicate the profile of the cornice.

The dormers retain their Federal details. They have gable roofs with cornice and return. Pilasters flank the opening; they do not reach the return, but have an Adamesque shield above. The round-headed window opening holds six over six sashes with rounded upper lights. Slate is used on the roof and dormer cheeks.

On the inside of the building much early or original detail remains, including the stair and the yellow pine flooring on the upper floors. For many years the first floor held a secession of shops. Now the southern half houses the Harbor Club and the northern half is a rental office. Although most interior detail on this floor is gone, the rooms have been sympathetically restored.

The central stair is quite simple; plain rectangular balusters are used and the newel is slender and gently shaped. Step brackets are found

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(cont.)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1795 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of the Perrin-Smith House can hardly be over emphasized. Along with the Bullitt House it is the most elaborate of Easton's Federal period house and among the best preserved. \*<sup>1</sup> In every detail it displays the extraordinary attention to fine craftsmanship and delicacy of detailing so loved by builders of the Federal period. Intended to be a fine house, it is generous and somewhat unrestrained in its use of ornamental mantles, cornice, door and window trim. If the Bullitt House is an example of the fine free-standing townhouse, the Perrin-Smith House is its companion row house. \*<sup>2</sup>

The building has played an equally illustrious part in the social and political life of the town. Although not built by him, Perrin Smith, founder of The Republican Star Easton's oldest newspaper (now The Star Democrat), purchased the property in 1801 and used the location as his office for many years. The structure was purchased by The Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club in 1911.

\*1 Other fine, but simpler, Federal period buildings also beautifully preserved are the Talbot County Historical Society Building (T-32, 27 South Washington and the Talbot County Women's Club Building, T-11, 18 Talbot Lane.)

\*2 Another Federal building, comparable in elegance to the Perrin Smith House is the small structure at 109 South Washington, which, however, is used as a private residence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.  
Will Records, Talbot County Court House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant      Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

November 4, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,  
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

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

119 North Washington Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-24

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club  
Perrin-Smith House

on the open-string course.

The second floor rooms are very large. In the southern rooms Federal period mantles remain. Characteristically they have shallow geometric carving and a frieze with shield. The front south room mantle has engaged columns with reeding; in the rear the rectangular opening is flanked by double engaged, reeded columns. In the north, the mantles appear to be replaced by later nineteenth century mantles showing Greek revival influence. The opening between northern rooms was enlarged and Victorian ionic columns inserted.

Door treatment is quite elegant: the six panels of each door appear on both sides, those on the front being raised and beveled. Jambs are also paneled. Simpler treatment of interior trim is used on the upper floor.

The building is carefully maintained and preserved. It is used as a private club.

734

Thomas Perrin Smith House  
Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club  
119 North Washington Street

L27/F33            In 1796, William Meluy bought Lot 130 as laid out by Town Commissioners, with a 50 foot frontage on Washington Street and a depth of 16 perches or 174 feet. He paid £ 500.. to John Bennett, Jr. for this property. Bennett Sr. had bought  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre as early as 1775 from Joshua Clark, of which Meluy's purchase was a part. Bennett's purchase cost him £ 600.., so it is evident that there were structures already built here in 1775 as well as 1796. Mr. Meluy immediately sold the land and buildings to Dr. Perry Noel for the same price. Dr. Noel turned it over to Rev. Joseph Telford in 1799, also for £ 500.. The 1798 tax assessment lists this house as owned by Dr. Noel and occupied by Robins Chamberlaine, with an assessment on the value of \$1355.00. The price went up in 1801, when Thomas Perrin Smith bought the house and lot for £ 700.. In reviewing these twenty-five years, with the limited sources of research available, it seems probable the John Bennett Sr. built the brick structure and that it was improved and perhaps added to while Robins Chamberlaine occupied it. Robins Chamberlaine, a son and heir of James Lloyd Chamberlaine was a very rich young man and was accustomed to living in the finest style. Infact, he lived so handsomely that he soon squandered his fortune. By the time Mr. Smith bought the house, Samuel Nicols was the tenant.

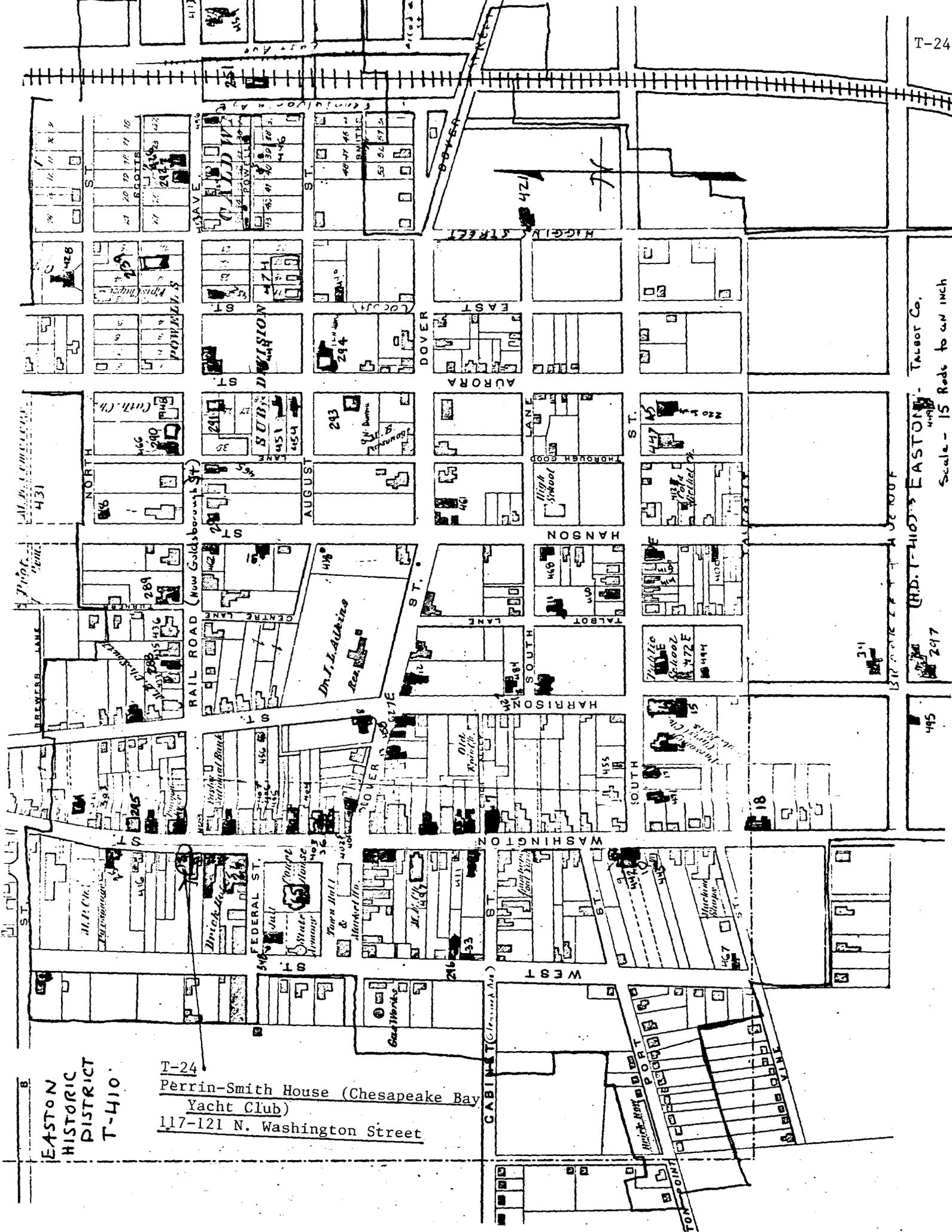
L27/F35  
L28/F284

L29/F133

Will Record  
L1\*/F189  
L1\*/F83

Mr. Smith immediately set about editing and printing the first newspaper in Easton, "The Republican Star". His paper, now the "Star Democrat" has continued to the present day. Mr. Smith never married and lived with his sister Ann Smith, who made it her home until her death. It was devised to her nephew General Richard Thomas and remained in the family until 1912, when it was bought by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club and has been maintained since as their club and headquarters.





EASTON  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
T-410

T-24  
Perrin-Smith House (Chesapeake Bay  
Yacht Club)  
117-121 N. Washington Street

RD. F-1100'S EASTON - Talbot Co.  
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

495  
297

18

15

444

422

400

468

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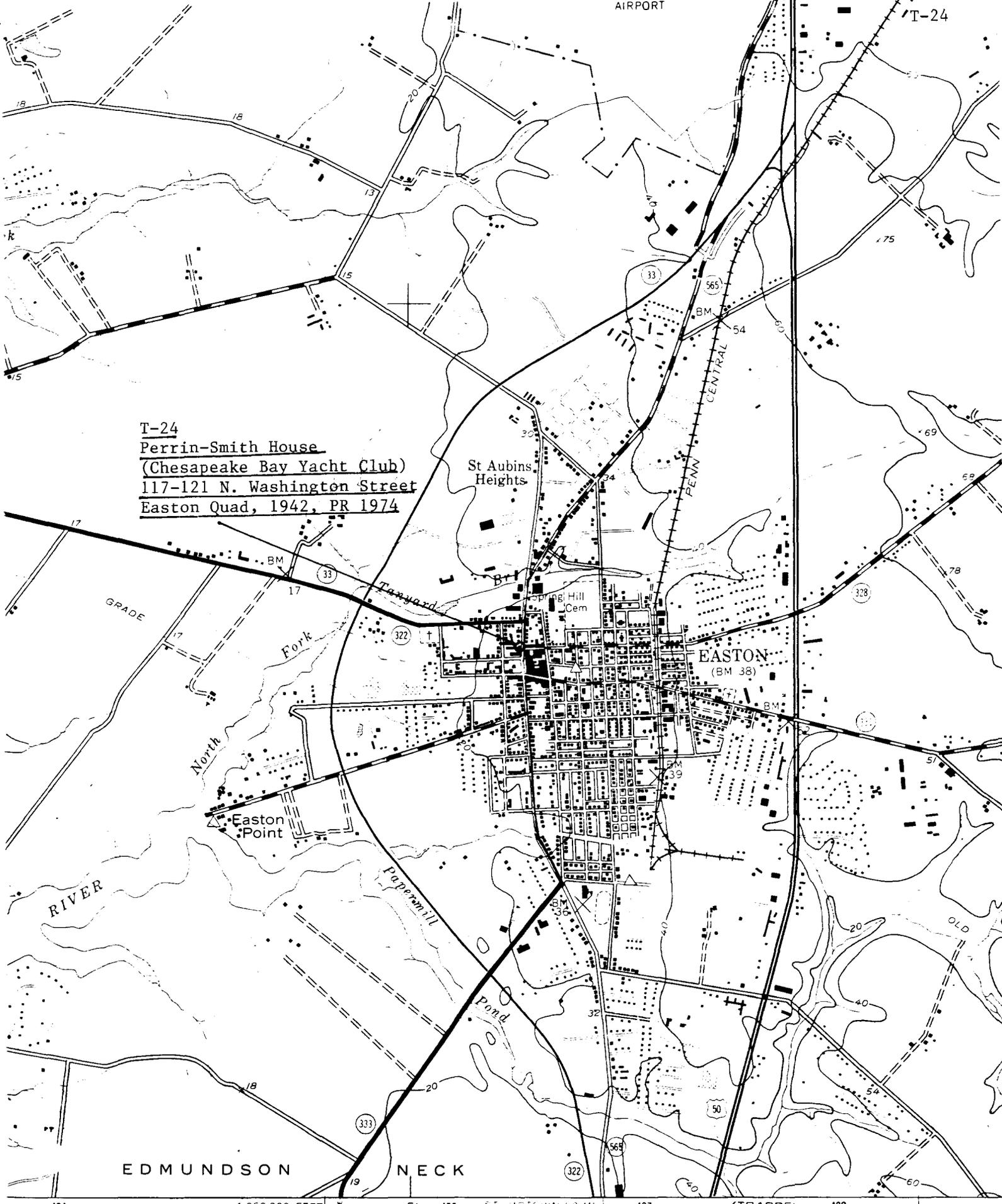
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T-24  
Perrin-Smith House  
(Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club)  
117-121 N. Washington Street  
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



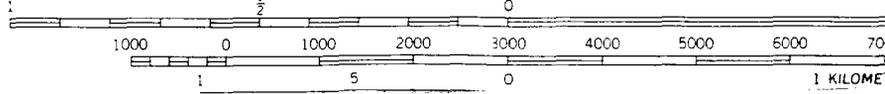
EDMUNDSON NECK

EASTON  
 (BM 38)

RIVER

1060 000 FEET  
 OXFORD 3 MI  
 SPACETOWN 19 MI  
 TRAPPE 67 MI  
 (TRAPPE)  
 5761 11 NE

SCALE 1:24 000



vey  
 metric methods



12 X 1.78

75% 29

PERRIN SMITH HOUSE  
117-121 NORTH WASHINGTON

T-24

EASTON, MD.

EAST FACADE

AUGUST 1976

MLFRITZ





JK

Perrin-Smith House

(Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club)

117-121 North Washington Street, Easton

East Facade



Federal Rowhouse, Easton, Talbot County

T-24

Thomas Perrin Smith House

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

DAG 67

601



Federal Rowhouse, Easton, Talbot County  
Thomas Perrin Smith House

T-24

DAG 67

901