

T-87

## Gross' Coate

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 04-05-2004***

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Gross' Coate

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Gross Coate Rd., 1.5 miles north of Little Park Rd. (North)

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☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

W. H. DeCoursey Tilghman

Telephone #: (301) 822-2668

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rt. 1, Box 566, Gross Coate

CITY, TOWN

Easton

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 503

Folio #: 495

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

Gross' Coate is located on a peninsula between Gross Creek and Lloyd Creek, tributaries of Wye River. It is a large brick dwelling which is the product of major remodelings and building from 1760 to 1914.

Two storys of the central portion date from around 1760. In the 1798 Tax Assessment that portion of the building is described as a two story brick dwelling house 38 by 34 feet. The building appears to have faced north or south since the original chimney bases exist in the basement on the east and west walls. There was probably a hip roof, however, that was replaced in the early 19th century by a gable roof with pedimented facade. A pencil sketch c. 1850 shows the north facade which resembles the Lloyd houses of the period, e.g. Wye Heights, Presqu'ile, Wye.

Beside the aforementioned alteration, a large kitchen wing 36 x 24 feet and entry 19 x 16 feet were built, but not complete in 1798. Judging from the incomplete condition of the above as well as the milk house, overseer's house and the poor condition of the meat house and quarter, this period was one of great rebuilding on the plantation, a fact that was to repeat itself in another 100 years.

Around 1850, a dining room was added east of the parlor and north of the entry. Another addition was built on the south side of the house around 1870, after the Civil War. It was a three story section which was lowered during the major remodeling of 1914.

The orientation was changed from the north to the west in 1914 through the design of Wilson Levin Smith, architect of Maryland National Bank, Baltimore. His design is largely Georgian Revival with the old block being the central part of the composition. It was raised to full three storys, the south wing was lowered about a half story and a new north wing was constructed to balance the south. Hip roofs cover the three sections, all of which are joined by a modillion cornice. Across one bay of the north wing and extending around the south wing is a one story verandah with flat roof supported on pairs of square columns and terminating in a simple balustrade, the same type as is on the central portion of the roof. The principal result of the design is one of unifying a largely haphazard structure into a gracious plantation house.

Presently, the interior is very plain. There is no paneling or woodwork remaining from the first period, and like the exterior, it is largely the result of remodeling in 1914. The plan consists of a stair hall with double parlors on the north and a single high ceiling parlor to the south. Beneath the stair is an office to the south and farther beyond (east) is the dining room to the north. The hall terminates in the kitchen which is two rooms and which has an original herringbone brick floor. Finally, a small wing was built in 1914 on the east end of the structure.

Beyond the kitchen are extensive outbuildings including: a dairy, smoke house, wash house, school house, carriage house and barn. The latter incorporates an 18th century brick stable and forms the terminus to the work yard. Most of the structures were built in 1914.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grosse' Coate is significant physically on several counts. The presence of the 1760 structure is important as a survival of a plan of building resembling Avonville and Ratcliffe Manor. The late 18th century addition is a fine example of kitchen or auxiliary structures of the period. The 1914 remodeling was a very ambitious attempt to unify the 19th century additions to the building as well as unifying the service yard to the house and garden. East of the barns and house is a burial ground set on a knoll surrounded by a granite fence and containing the graves of members of the Tilghman family who have lived at Grosse' Coate since 1759.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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

December, 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

ST. MICHAELS QUADRANGLE

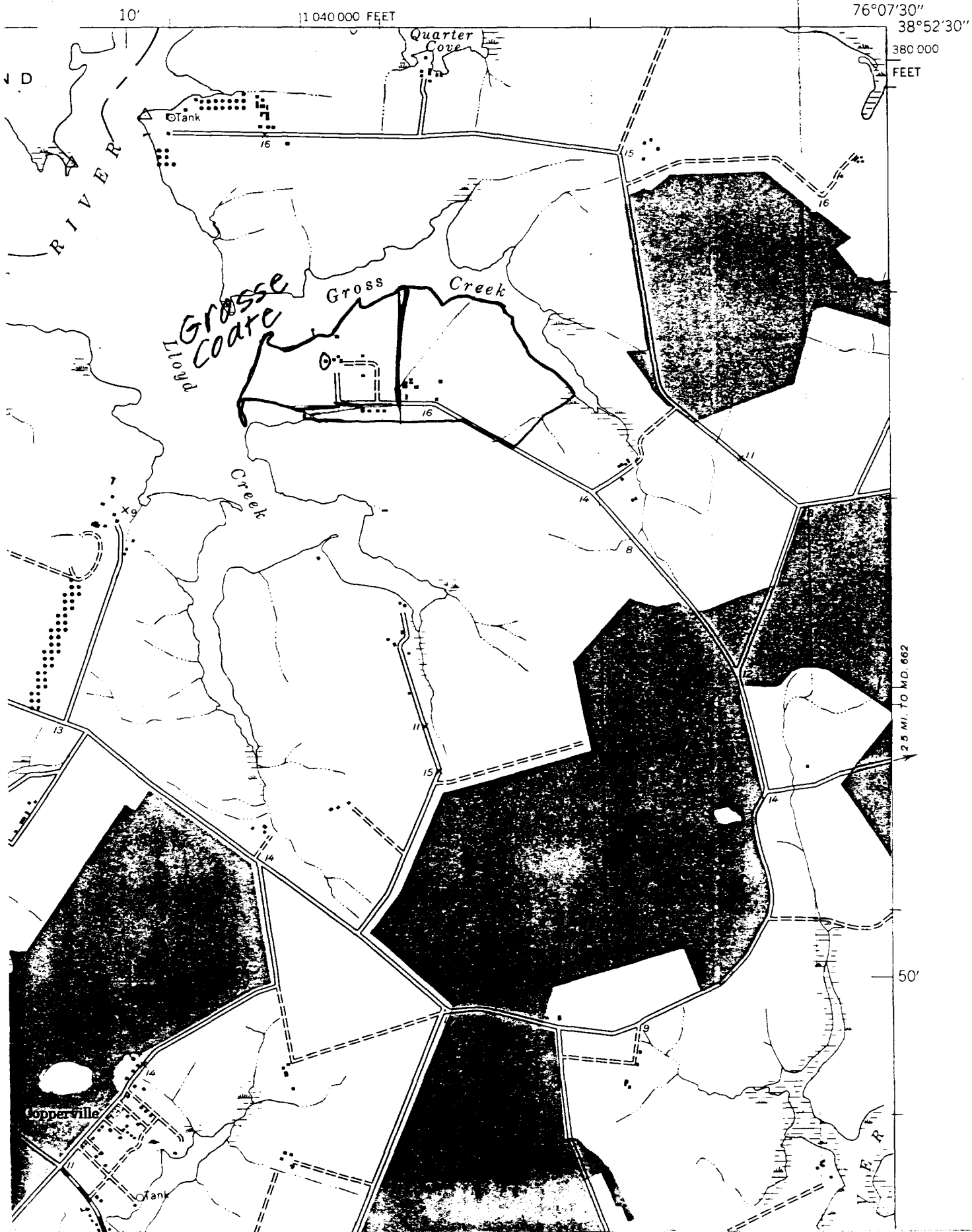
MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 ST. MICHAELS 15' QUADRANGLE

(WYE MILLS)

7-87





13x1.46

75%

87

Gross Count

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6/1975 - Negative data conflict



M. Bourne July 1975





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Michael O. Bourne

6/1975

Neg-MHT





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Michael O. Bourne

6/1975

Neg-MHT

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Michael O. Bourne  
6/19/75  
Neg-MHT



T-87      Gross' Coate

Michael O. Bourne

6/1975

Neg - MHT







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Michael O. Bowme

6/1975

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