

WI-1  
Pemberton Hall  
Salisbury vicinity  
Private museum

1741

Pemberton Hall, located on a large tract of land bordering the Wicomico River, is the earliest dwelling to remain standing in the immediate vicinity of Salisbury. Dated by an inscribed brick located over the east gable end door, the gambrel roofed, three-room plan house is distinguished by Flemish bond brickwork with a glazed header checkerboard pattern, plastered cove cornices, and extensive mid eighteenth-century woodwork.

Construction of Pemberton Hall was accomplished by Isaac Handy (1706-1762) on land he purchased in 1726 from Joseph Pemberton. In addition to being a sizable land owner and merchant\planter, Isaac Handy also served as a Justice of the Peace and a colonel in the Maryland militia. Prior to the official creation of Salisbury in 1732, the small community at the head of the Wicomico River was known as "Handy's Landing."

The three-room plan house that Isaac Handy financed is well known within the vocabulary of English vernacular architecture as transplanted and adapted in the American colonies. Known variously as the "hall" or "outer room," the largest space, consuming over half the first floor, is entered directly through the front and back doors. During the mid eighteenth century, this multipurpose room was the most public space, employed for entertaining guests along with daily chores such as cooking in the expansive fireplace. The room is finished in a high order with raised-panel woodwork and fluted pilasters that flank the hearth. Fixed in the northwest corner is the original staircase, which is largely enclosed behind the raised-panel wall. A series of steps is exposed within the room and it survives with its original closed stringer, turned baluster

handrail. The arched cupboard in the southwest corner was recently restored, and its form and details were based on regional examples. The combination of pilasters and deeply set raised panels assembled across the fireplace wall conforms to an architectural idiom found throughout the East Coast colonies during the early to mid eighteenth century. The hall is further enhanced by the raised-panel interior partition that divides the first floor. Piercing the south end of the raised-panel partition is an unusual arched door opening that provides access to the larger of the two east rooms.

This three-room arrangement is corroborated by the supporting chimney bases found in the cellar. A large relieving arch supports the west end chimney stack, while the east end is defined by two smaller, unequal sized arches. However, the east end chimney base is significantly larger than the stack above it, indicating that the two fireplaces were reduced in size sometime after initial construction, probably during the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Indicative of the larger original size of the chimney stack are obsolete pocket mortises in the second story joists and patches in the second story flooring. The c. 1750-70 reworking of the east end chimney increased the space in each room. In the northeast room a square-fronted stack was adapted to a corner fireplace that provided additional space and a more convenient fireplace location in its position next to the gable end door.

The disposition of the second floor rooms is unusual for extant mid eighteenth-century houses on the lower Shore. An ell-shaped passage follows the north wall and provides access to a range of small to medium sized bed chambers. While this

arrangement seems fairly anomalous for the region. A few pocket mortises in the floor at the east end indicate that the two east chambers may have been one large room originally. The inclusion of a passage permitted a distinct element of privacy for those occupying the various chambers, in contrast to other mid-size, mid eighteenth-century dwellings where one passed through one room to reach another. Clear architectural evidence indicates that the flue and firebox in the west chamber were introduced after initial construction; this explains the omission of a brick hearth. The floor of the firebox was laid with large brick pavers like the large hearth on the first floor. The lack of hearth has caused some fire damage to the adjacent floor joist. A particularly unusual feature of the southeast chamber is the eighteenth-century tester frame built in the ceiling. Material would have hung from the frame to enclose the space around the bed.

Pemberton Hall remained in family hands following Isaac Handy's death in 1763. True to his will the property passed to his son Henry, who died intestate in 1787. Isaac Handy's grandson, Henry Handy, Jr., was assessed for the plantation and its improvements at the time of the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment. The house and the domestic outbuildings were described as:

*Situate on the Wicomico River, 1 Brick Dwelling house 1 story with hip roof, 1 Brick cook house 1 story 22 by 18, 1 Brick stable 1 story 26 by 14 ft., 1 sawed log milk house 1 story 12 by 12, Valued at \$500*

Also standing on the property at the time were a number of agricultural buildings that included a 28' x 20' frame barn with ten foot sheds to each side, a 17' x 7' sawed log corn house, a 16' x 14' sawed log quarter, a 18' x 16' tan house, and a 23' x 20' bark house. The

property was valued at a substantial \$2,000.

Handy family ownership of Pemberton Hall continued until 1835. Following Handy family tenure, the property was acquired by Jehu Parsons, who left the plantation to his son Allison C. Parsons in 1859. Captain Parsons was a staunch southern sympathizer during the Civil War and reportedly fired a cannon from this property on the occasion of confederate victories. Few changes were made to Pemberton during the 19th century. By the mid twentieth century the house had reached a deteriorated condition that threatened its future . In a bold effort to preserve the house, the property was acquired by the Pemberton Hall Foundation in 1963 and a restoration plan was initiated.

The Pemberton Hall Foundation administers the operation of the house and its restoration, while the Wicomico County office of Parks and Recreation manages a large river-front natural area. Occupying the site as well is the Wicomico County Historical Society, which financed construction of a facility in the form of a late eighteenth-century tobacco barn.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Pemberton Hall

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-1

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Rural Agrarian Intensification  
1680-1815
  
4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-1  
 Magi No.  
 DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Pemberton Hall

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Pemberton Drive  not for publication

city, town Salisbury  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pemberton Hall Foundation

street & number % Dr. Robert McFarlin  
 Lemon Hill Lane

telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Md 21032

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Pemberton Hall is located on the south side of Pemberton Drive several miles east of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half Flemish bond brick house is centered in a large county-owned park that borders the Wicomico River. The house, owned by the Pemberton Hall Foundation, is a principal historical focus of the park. Facing south, the gambrel roof is oriented on an east/west axis.

Dated by an inscribed brick to 1741, the story-and-a-half, three-room plan, Flemish bond brick house is supported on a high Flemish bond brick foundation. Glazed headers are found within the foundation wall in a checkerboard pattern that is repeated more consistently on the north and south walls. The gambrel roof is covered with wood shingles. Attached to the east gable end is a single-story wing erected during the past twenty years and known as the Parsons wing.

The south elevation is a slightly asymmetrical three-bay facade with double leaf raised-panel doors framed by a mortise-and-tenon surround. A jack arch stretches across the top of the door opening. Located to each side are twelve-over-twelve sash windows that are also topped by brick jack arches. The windows are flanked by raised-panel shutters. Finishing the base of the roof is a plastered cove cornice. The steep slope of the roof is pierced by three hip roofed dormers filled with nine-over-six sash windows. Piercing the foundation wall are cellar openings filled vertical diamond-cross sectioned bars.

The west gable end, also laid in Flemish bond, is accented with random glazed headers with the checkerboard pattern less consistent than the north and south sides. A two-course beltcourse stretches across at the second floor level. Centered on the wall is a shed roofed cellar entrance with beaded edge board-and-batten doors. North of the cellar entrance is a small window opening, and two six-pane windows light the second story. The gable end is finished with a molded bargeboard. Rising through the center of the gable end is an interior brick chimney stack. Several glazed headers accent the Flemish bond pattern of the west face of the stack.

The north wall is similar to the south elevation with a center door opening filled with double leaf raised panel doors. The twelve-over-twelve sash windows flank the entrance and each opening is topped by a brick jack arch. The base of the roof is finished with a plastered cove cornice. Lighting the second floor are three hip roofed dormers filled with nine-over-six sash windows.

The east gable end is largely covered by the Parsons wing. Exposed on the southeast corner of the house is a nine-over-six sash window flanked by raised-panel shutters. The second floor is lighted by one six-pane window. Rising through the end wall is an interior brick chimney stack. The Flemish wall bond has random glazed header highlights.

(Continued)

# 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** 1741 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Pemberton Hall, located on a large tract of land bordering the Wicomico River, is the earliest dwelling to remain standing in the immediate vicinity of Salisbury. Dated by an inscribed brick located over the east gable end door, the gambrel roofed, three-room plan house is distinguished by Flemish bond brickwork with a glazed header checkerboard pattern, plastered cove cornices, and extensive mid eighteenth-century woodwork. Construction of Pemberton Hall was accomplished by Isaac Handy (1706-1762) on land he purchased in 1726 from Joseph Pemberton. In addition to being a sizable land owner and merchant\planter, Isaac Handy also served as a Justice of the Peace and a colonel in the Maryland militia. Prior to the official creation of Salisbury in 1732, the small community at the head of the Wicomico River was known as "Handy's Landing."

The three-room plan house that Isaac Handy financed is well known within the vocabulary of English vernacular architecture as transplanted and adapted in the American colonies. Known variously as the "hall" or "outer room," the largest space, consuming over half the first floor, is entered directly through the front and back doors. During the mid eighteenth century, this multipurpose room was the most public space, employed for entertaining guests along with daily chores such as cooking in the expansive fireplace. The room is finished in a high order with raised-panel woodwork and fluted pilasters that flank the hearth. Fixed in the northwest corner is the original staircase, which is largely enclosed behind the raised-panel wall. A series of steps is exposed within the room and it survives with its original closed stringer, turned baluster handrail. The arched cupboard in the southwest corner was recently restored, and its form and details were based on regional examples. The combination of pilasters and deeply set raised panels assembled across the fireplace wall conforms to an architectural idiom found throughout the East Coast colonies during the early to mid eighteenth century. The hall is further enhanced by the raised-panel interior partition that divides the first floor. Piercing the south end of the raised-panel partition is an unusual arched door opening that provides access to the larger of the two east rooms.

(Continued)



## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

Pemberton Hall, WI-1

Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The interior of Pemberton Hall survives with a large percentage of mid eighteenth-century woodwork original to the house. Restoration of this house has taken place over the past thirty years.

The principal room or "hall" consumes over half the first floor space and is the most elaborately finished room. The west end wall features a raised panel wall with tall fluted pilasters to each side of an extremely wide fireplace. The fireplace had been closed down over many years to a much smaller firebox. During restoration work over the past ten years the firebox has been reopened to its original dimensions, exposing a smoke shelf in back and small arched niches in the side walls. Large square brick pavers have been laid in the hearth. The firebox is framed by a mid eighteenth century crosstetted surround. The overmantel is finished with a series of square and rectangular raised panels. To the right (north) of the fireplace is an enclosed winder staircase with six steps exposed within the room. A turned baluster, closed stringer stair boasts a molded railing and a raised panel finish under the stringer. Raised panel doors open into the stair closet as well as the access to the cellar. To the left (south) of the fireplace is a built in arched cupboard that is a recent restoration. The features of the cupboard were based on regional examples. The inner wall of the hall is also paneled. An arched door is located in the south end of the long series of raised panel woodwork. Trimming the perimeter of the room are chair rail and baseboard moldings. The room is also distinguished by a series exposed floor joists.

The east end of the first floor is divided into two unequal sized rooms with paneled chimney breasts in each space. Empty pocket mortises in the floor joist system in each room indicate that the chimney breast sizes have been reduced, probably during the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The chimney breasts are covered with raised panel woodwork. Separating the two rooms is a plastered partition with a six-panel door centered in the wall. The fireplace in the northeast room is fitted in the corner next to a gable end door. Above the entrance on the exterior surface is the scratched date "1741."

The second floor is divided into four chambers that open off a narrow passage that runs along the north side. Raised panel doors open into the various chambers. The southwest chamber boasts a fireplace that was introduced sometime after initial construction. Probably dating to the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the chimney breast features raised paneling and a molded mantel shelf. Adjacent to the fireplace is a narrow closet that contains a ladder providing access to the attic.

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

Pemberton Hall, WI-1

Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The southeast bedroom is unusual with a surviving tester frame embedded in the ceiling. Small pocket mortises infilled in the flooring suggest that there may have been a single room at the east end which was later subdivided into two spaces.

## 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

Pemberton Hall, WI-1

Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

This three-room arrangement is corroborated by the supporting chimney bases found in the cellar. A large relieving arch supports the west end chimney stack, while the east end is defined by two smaller, unequal sized arches. However, the east end chimney base is significantly larger than the stack above it, indicating that the two fireplaces were reduced in size sometime after initial construction, probably during the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Indicative of the larger original size of the chimney stack are obsolete pocket mortises in the second story joists and patches in the second story flooring. The c. 1750-70 reworking of the east end chimney increased the space in each room. In the northeast room a square-fronted stack was adapted to a corner fireplace that provided additional space and a more convenient fireplace location in its position next to the gable end door.

The disposition of the second floor rooms is unusual for extant mid eighteenth-century houses on the lower Shore. An ell-shaped passage follows the north wall and provides access to a range of small to medium sized bed chambers. While this arrangement seems fairly anomalous for the region, the architectural details and historic photographs indicate that few significant changes have been made. The inclusion of a passage permitted a distinct element of privacy for those occupying the various chambers, in contrast to other mid-size, mid eighteenth-century dwellings where one passed through one room to reach another. Clear architectural evidence indicates that the flue and firebox in the west chamber were introduced after initial construction; this explains the omission of a brick hearth. The floor of the firebox was laid with large brick pavers like the large hearth on the first floor. The lack of hearth has caused some fire damage to the adjacent floor joist. A particularly unusual feature of the southeast chamber is the eighteenth-century tester frame built in the ceiling. Material would have hung from the frame to enclose the space around the bed.

Pemberton Hall remained in family hands following Isaac Handy's death in 1762. True to his will the property passed to his son Henry, who died intestate in 1787. Isaac Handy's grandson, Henry Handy, Jr., was assessed for the plantation and its improvements at the time of the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment. The house and the domestic outbuildings were described as:

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Also standing on the property at the time were a number of agricultural buildings that included a 28' x 20' frame barn with ten foot sheds to each side, a 17' x 7' sawed log corn house, a 16' x 14' sawed log quarter, a 18' x 16' tan house, and a 23' x 20' bark house. The property was valued at a substantial \$2,000.

Handy family ownership of Pemberton Hall continued until 1835. Following

## 8.2 SIGNFICANCE

Pemberton Hall, WI-1

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Handy family ownership of Pemberton Hall continued until 1835. Following Handy family tenure, the property was acquired by Jehu Parsons, who left the plantation to his son Allison C. Parsons in 1859. Captain Parsons was a staunch southern sympathizer during the Civil War and reportedly fired a cannon from this property on the occasion of confederate victories. Few changes were made to Pemberton during the nineteenth century. By the mid twentieth century the house had reached a deteriorated condition that threatened its future . In a bold effort to preserve the house, the property was acquired by the Pemberton Hall Foundation in 1963 and a restoration plan was initiated.

The Pemberton Hall Foundation administers the operartion of the house and its restoration, while the Wicomico County office of Parks and Recreation manages a large river-front natural area. Occupying the site as well is the Wicomico County Historical Society, which financed construction of a facility in the form of a late eighteenth-century tobacco barn.

Mag. # 2300012104

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland  
 COUNTY: Wicomico  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER:      DATE:

1. NAME  
 COMMON: Pemberton Hall  
 AND OR HISTORIC: Pemberton

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Pemberton ~~and~~ Drive  
 CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury  
 STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24      COUNTY: Wicomico      CODE: 045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	restoration study house	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum, house	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: Maryland Historical Trust      Administered by Pemberton Hall Foundation, Inc.; contact:  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 1704      Mrs. George Burnett, St. Giles  
 CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records  
 STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus  
 CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970       Federal       State       County       Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust  
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1704  
 CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
 COUNTY: Wicomico  
 ENTRY NUMBER:  
 DATE:  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Pemberton Hall is located on the south side of Pemberton Road three miles southwest of Salisbury, near the junction of Crooked Oak and Pemberton Roads.

This three-bay, one-and-a-half-story, brick house has a gambrel roof; the brick is laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers interspersed in the facade brickwork and on the gable-ends. There are two basement windows on each facade with vertical-bar grills; an unmolded water table on each elevation of the building. The central doors are double and have four panels in each door. The windows of each facade have twelve over twelve sash with a three-panel shutter protecting each. Above the door and windows of the facades are flat gauged brick arches. The cornice consists of a plaster cove. On each facade there are three hipped roof dormers with nine over six sash. Across each gable-end there is a two-brick-wide belt course at cornice level and a short course above the entrance to the basement. The east gable has two six-pane casement windows on the second story and a large window and door on the first story. Between the two latter openings, are two diamonds of glazed brick. "1741" is scratched in a brick above the side door. The west gable has two six-pane casement windows on the second story. There is one six-pane casement window at the first floor level of the north end, north of the centered basement entrance. The window is protected by a brick entry pent covered with a shingle roof.

The interior has a large square "hall" with raised paneling on two sides. The fireplace wall and chimney breast is decorated with pilasters and there is an enclosed staircase to both the second floor and into the basement. On the south side of the fireplace a cupboard is no longer there. Beyond this hall room are two smaller rooms, each with a paneled chimney piece. The second floor is divided into a hall and four bedrooms. In the southeast bedroom is an unusual valance board made to hold the curtains of a low post bed.

Pemberton is in process (1970) of careful restoration which is being done within the means of private funds raised locally on a regular, annual, basis. The landscaping is started (1970) and hopes are expressed by the Foundation that when the building is ready to be opened to the public as planned, an open space program in conjunction with the building will be instigated.

C

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1741

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The story of Pemberton Hall's significance includes two charter members of the Society of the Cincinnati, a Governor of Maryland, a Colonel in the Maryland Militia, an ardent Confederate sympathizer. The association of these men to the house is coupled with Pemberton Hall's eighteenth-century Maryland architectural design and constructional features and details.

Pemberton Hall tract, first patented in 1679 to William Stevens, was conveyed to Thomas Pemberton four years later. In 1726 Joseph Pemberton sold the land to Isaac Handy.

The Handy and Pemberton families played significant roles in the affairs of the County. Isaac Handy ( -1763), builder of the Hall in 1741, was a Justice of the Peace, a planter, and a Colonel in the Maryland Militia. He founded a shipping business as a result of servicing local planters through "Handy's Landing" (twentieth-century Main Street Bridge in Salisbury).

One of "builder" Isaac Handy's five sons, George Handy (1756-1820), was a charter member of the Society of the Cincinnati, albeit he never owned the Hall. He served in the Maryland Line in the Fifth Regiment as well as Lee's Dragoons in the American Revolution. After the "builder's" death the house became the property of George Handy's brother, Henry Handy.

During the Civil War the Hall was the home of Allison Parsons, a southern sympathizer. Despite the Federal troops encamped in Salisbury, Parsons insisted on firing a cannon upon the receipt of news of each Confederate victory. After issuing several ultimatums to Parsons, the U. S. Army soldiers raided Pemberton Hall in order to silence the cannon. However, Parsons had buried it before their arrival. In addition to the cannon firing which provoked the raid, Parsons used Pemberton Hall as a rendezvous for Eastern Shore Confederate sympathizers.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Mrs. George E. Burnett, St. Giles, Hebron, Md. 21830;  
 Michael Bourne, Field Surveyor, Nancy Miller,  
 Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704,  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21404.

Katherine Scarborough, *Homes of the Cavaliers*, 1930

Paul Wilstach, *Tidewater Maryland*, New York: Blue Ribbon Press,  
 1931.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 21' 09"	75° 38' 57"				
NE	38° 21' 15"	75° 38' 33"				
SE	38° 20' 22"	75° 38' 21"				
SW	38° 20' 20"	75° 38' 49"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 560 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Nov. 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Post Office Box 1704

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
 Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer  
 for Maryland

Date November 9, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-1000  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

(1 of 2 continuation sheets)

Pemberton Hall

## #8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Frances Handy, a granddaughter of "builder" Colonel Isaac Handy ( -1763), eloped with Alexander Roxburg, a hero of the American Revolution (Major, Fourth Regiment, Maryland Line), charter member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

William Handy (1802-1857), a descendant of Colonel Handy, and a Maryland State Legislator, became known for his support of free trade, state's rights, and John C. Calhoun's doctrine of nullification. (See Calhoun's South Carolina Exposition and Protest, 1829, on the 1828 tariff.)

In 1868 Elihu E. Jackson (1837-1907), Governor of Maryland from 1888 to 1892, with James Cannon purchased Pemberton Hall at a trustee's sale, the building and land surrounding it being retained by Cannon. Cannon sold his interest in Pemberton Hall to Cadmus J. Taylor (1884) who willed the property to his son James Ichabod Taylor. James Taylor's son Rex A. Taylor, a Judge of the Wicomico County Circuit Court, and his brother Seth Taylor owned Pemberton Hall from 1931 to 1963, at which time the Foundation took it over.

According to tradition Loyalists gathered at Pemberton Hall during the American Revolution.

## #9. REFERENCES (continued)

Henry Chandlee Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, Easton, Maryland: the author, 1934.

Works Progress Administration, Maryland A Guide to the Old Line State, New York: Oxford University Press, 1940.

Swepson Earle, The Chesapeake Bay Country, Baltimore: Remington-Putnam, 1938.

Historic Salisbury Maryland, Garden City, N. Y.: Country Life Press, 1932.

Heinrich Ewald Buchholz, Governors of Maryland, Baltimore: Williams & Watkins, 1908.

Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Baltimore: Biographical Publishing, 1879.

Form 10000  
July 1969

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

(2 of 2 continuation sheets)

Pemberton Hall

#9. REFERENCES (continued)

Hester Dorsey Richardson, Sidelights on Maryland History, 2 vols.,  
Baltimore: Williams and Watkins, 1913.

Somerset County, Wills, Deeds and Testamentary Papers, Hall of  
Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

C

EDEN QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1942

lat. 38° 21' 09"  
long. 75° 38' 57"

lat. 38° 21' 25"  
long. 75° 38' 33"

PEMBERTON HALL

Bell  
Marsh

Patrick's  
Landing

Shad  
Point

Sharps Point

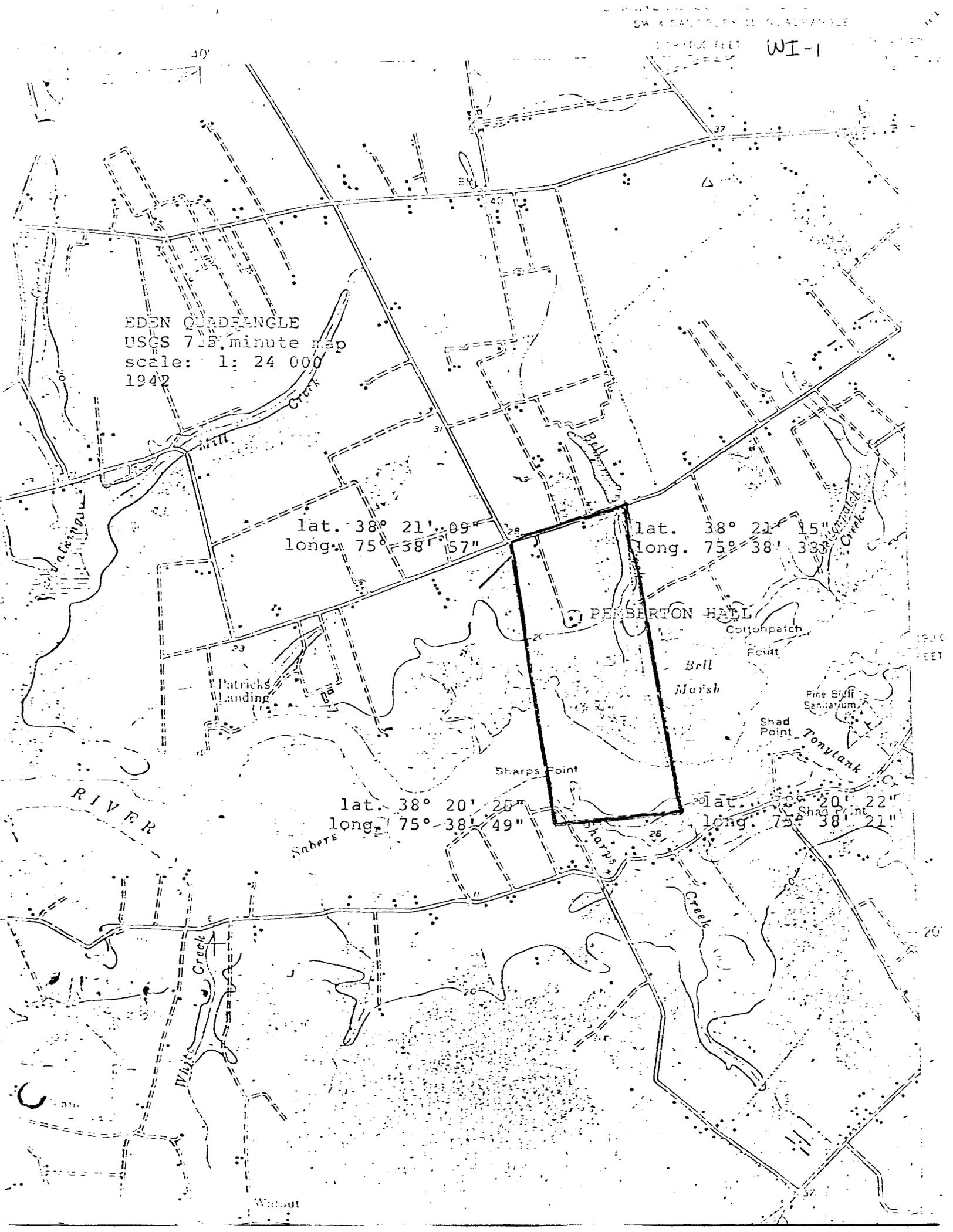
lat. 38° 20' 25"  
long. 75° 38' 49"

lat. 38° 20' 22"  
long. 75° 38' 21"

RIVER

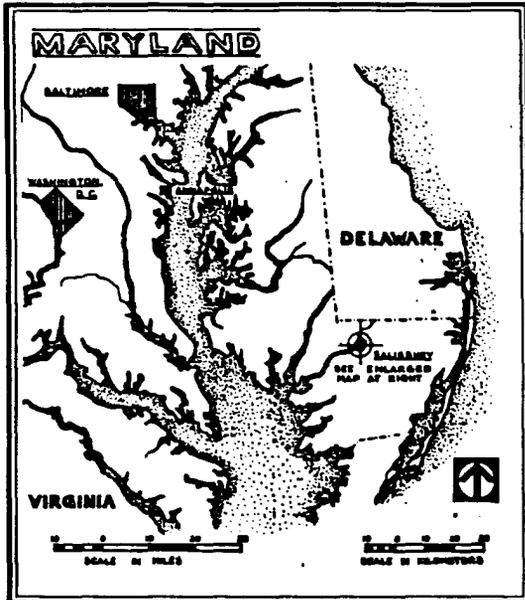
White  
Creek

Walnut

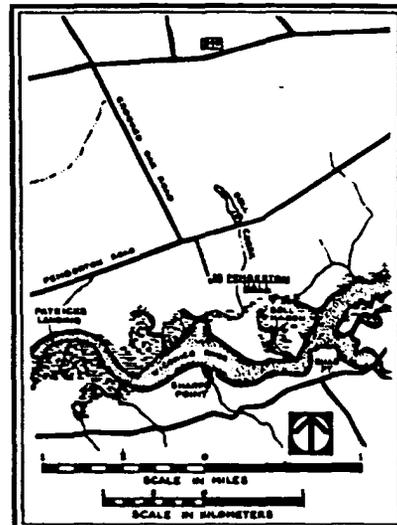


# PEMBERTON HALL 1741

## SALISBURY, MARYLAND



DERIVED FROM A.A. DELAWARE-MARYLAND-VIRGINIA-WEST VIRGINIA, 1978 EDITION.



DERIVED FROM U.S.G.S. MAP, EDEN, MD, N3815 - W7537.5 / 7.5 U.T.M. -

PEMBERTON HALL IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PEMBERTON ROAD, THREE MILES SOUTH WEST OF SALISBURY, NEAR THE JUNCTION OF CROOKED OAK AND PEMBERTON ROADS.

THE THREE-BAY, ONE-AND-ONE-HALF STORY BRICK HOUSE WAS BUILT BY COL. ISSAC HANDY IN 1741, AS THE DATE ON A BRICK ABOVE THE EAST DOOR INDICATES. ALTHOUGH COL. HANDY WAS A WEALTHY PLANTER, HE FOUND TIME TO SERVE AS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND A COLONEL IN THE MARYLAND MILITIA. HE ALSO FOUNDED A LUMBER BUSINESS AT THE HEAD OF THE WICOMICO RIVER, KNOWN AS "HANDY'S LANDING", WHICH LATER BECAME THE CITY OF SALISBURY.

AFTER ISSAC HANDY'S DEATH, PEMBERTON HALL BECAME THE PROPERTY OF HIS SON, HENRY HANDY. IT REMAINED IN THE HANDY FAMILY UNTIL 1855, WHEN IT WAS ACQUIRED BY JOHN PARSONS, A SALISBURY BUSINESS TYCOON. IT EVENTUALLY BECAME THE HOME OF HIS SON, ALISON PARSONS, WHO DURING THE CIVIL WAR WAS A SOUTHERN SYMPATHIZER. LATER IN THE 19TH CENTURY, ELIHU E. JACKSON, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND FROM 1866-1892, OWNED THE HOUSE JOINTLY WITH JAMES CANNON.

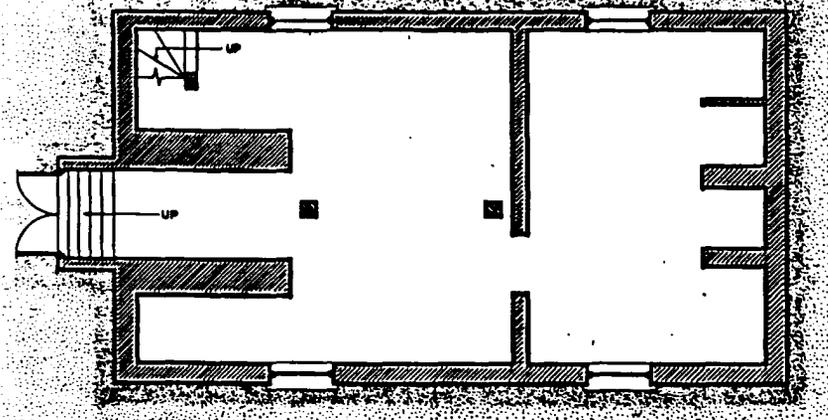
THE HOUSE ITSELF IS SIGNIFICANT AS ONE OF THE EARLIEST DATED GAMBREL ROOFED HOUSES IN MARYLAND, MEASURING 42 FEET LONG AND 24 FEET DEEP. ITS FLEMISH BOND BRICK WALLS RISE ABOVE AN UNMOLDED WATER TABLE. HIGHLY DECORATIVE GLAZED BRICK HEADERS ARE FOUND ON THE GABLE ENDS, WHILE A PLASTER COVE CORNICE EMBELLISHES THE FRONT AND REAR

### FACADES.

PEMBERTON HALL IS PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT FOR ITS EXTREMELY FINE, REMARKEDLY INTACT INTERIOR FEATURES. TWO SIDES OF ITS GREAT HALL ARE paneled, WITH THE MAIN FIREPLACE WALL HAVING FLUTED PILASTERS AND A STAIRWAY TO THE SECOND FLOOR. IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY, THE PARLOR WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO ROOMS. ON THE SECOND FLOOR, A CORNICE EMBEDDED IN THE PLASTER CEILING OF ONE CHAMBER PROVIDES AN INGENUOUS SYSTEM FOR HANGING TESTER CURTAINS AROUND A LOW POST BED.

MEASURED DRAWINGS OF PEMBERTON HALL WERE PREPARED BY THE INTERIOR DESIGN DEPARTMENT, MOUNT VERNON COLLEGE, WASHINGTON, D.C., IN COOPERATION WITH THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST (MHT), AND THE WICOMICO COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE MHT DURING THE WINTER OF 1962. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MARK J. EDWARDS, HISTORIC SITES SURVEY COORDINATOR (MHT); JACQUELINE F. DIANICH, CHAIRMAN, WICOMICO COUNTY COMMITTEE (MHT); AND ROBERT F. MEDEN, AIA, AIA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN, MOUNT VERNON COLLEGE, THIS DOCUMENTATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY STUDENT DESIGNERS CHERYL BROWN, PHYLLIS HAVENSTEIN, REBECCA HUBLER, CAROLYN PRYOR-KOHN, BRENDA MURPHY, MARY PETRINO, MARJORIELAINE PRINCE, AND THERESA SULLIVAN.

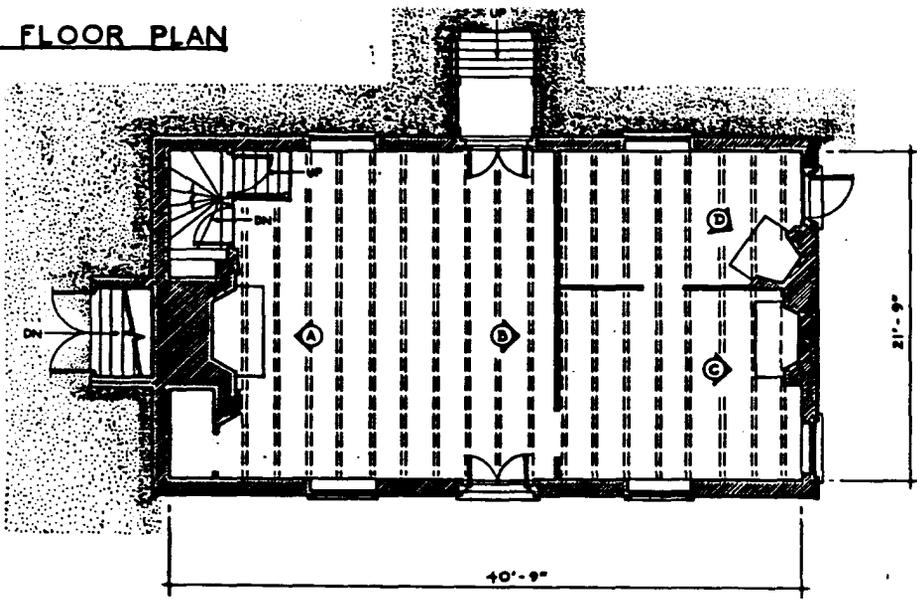
THE PEMBERTON HALL FOUNDATION MAINTAINS THIS HOUSE, AND NOW IS IN THE PROCESS OF RESTORING THIS IMPORTANT EASTERN SHORE LANDMARK.



**BASEMENT PLAN**

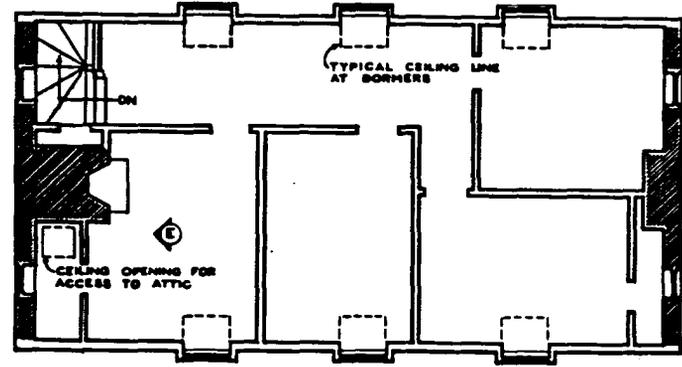
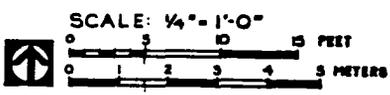
**NOTE:**  
FOUNDATION WALL IS STONE  
BELOW GRADE; FLOOR IS  
EARTH.

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

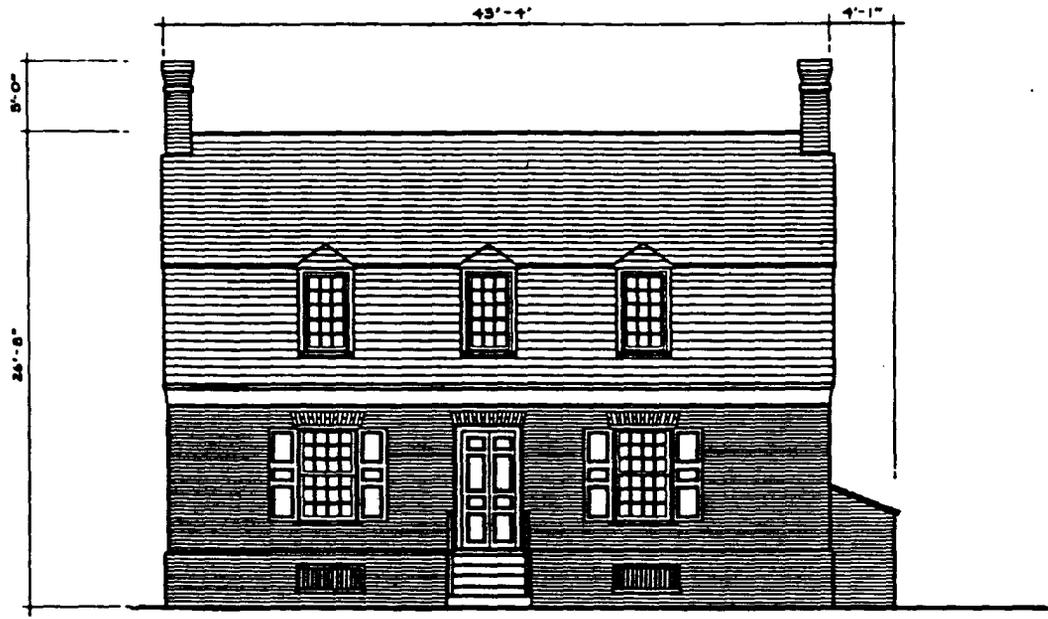


**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

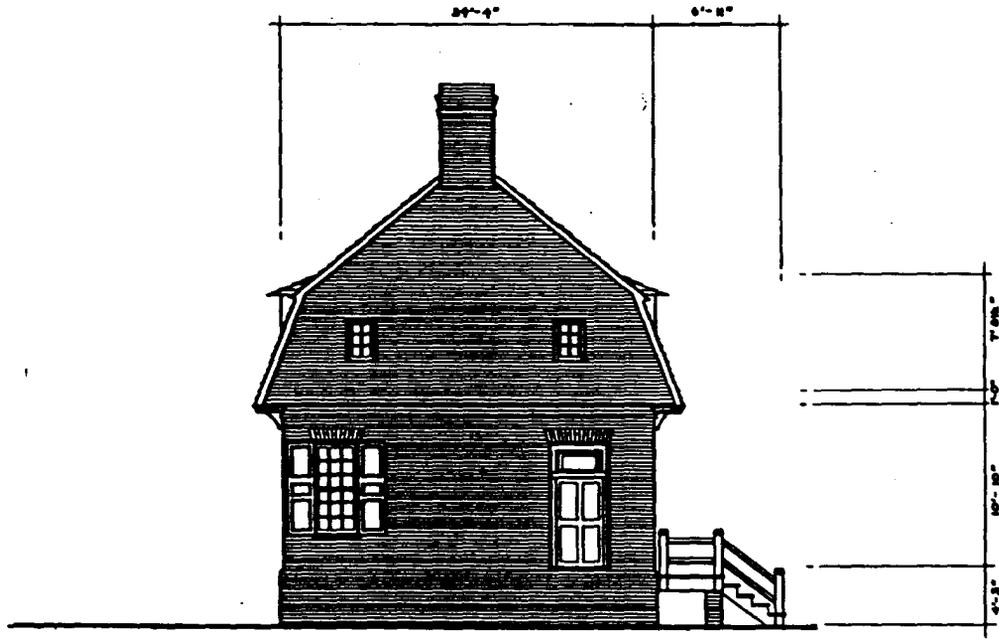
**NOTE:**  
MANY DOORS ON THE FIRST AND  
SECOND FLOOR PLANS ARE NOT  
SHOWN, AS THEIR TYPES AND  
SWINGS COULD NOT BE DETER-  
MINED ON THE SITE.



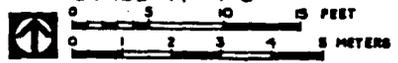
**NORTH ELEVATION**



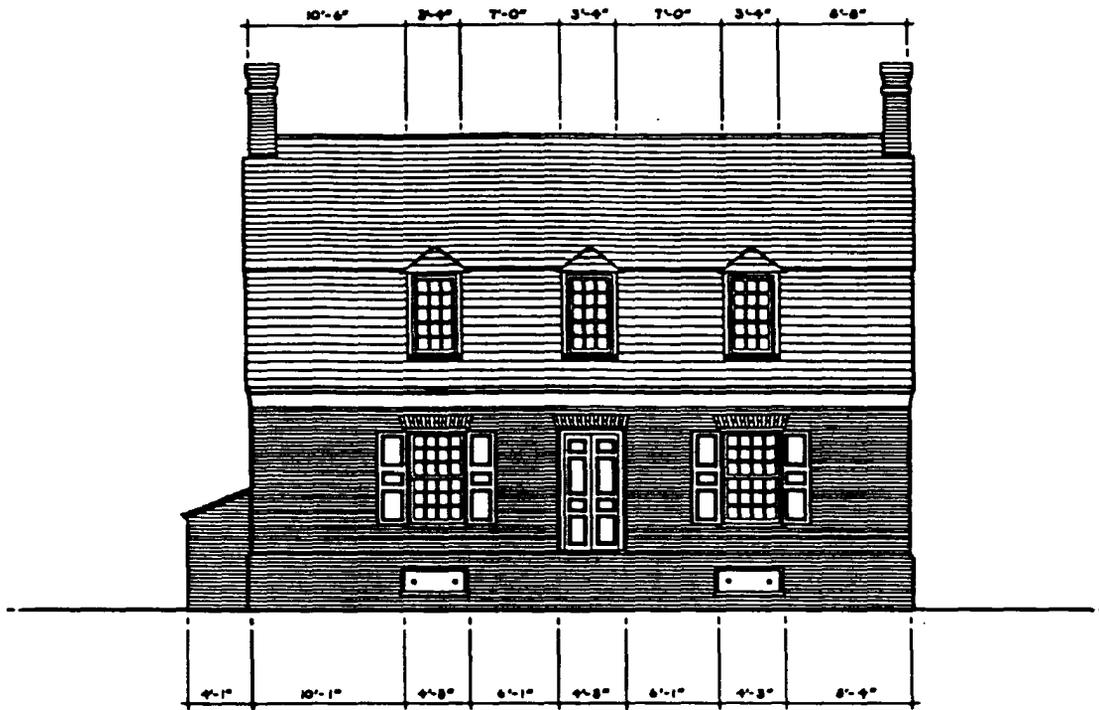
**EAST ELEVATION**



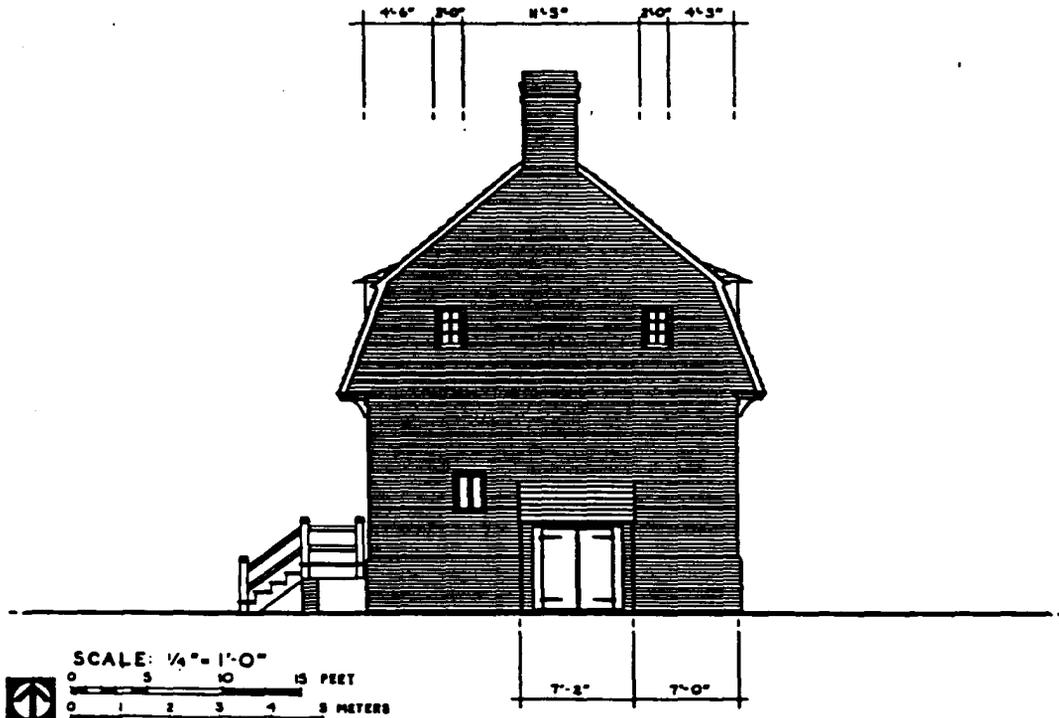
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



### SOUTH ELEVATION



### WEST ELEVATION



PHYLIS HAVENSTEIN, BRENDA MURPHY, AND MARY PETERING

MT VERNON COLLEGE REC. PROJ.

PEMBERTON HALL: 1741

PEMBERTON ROAD

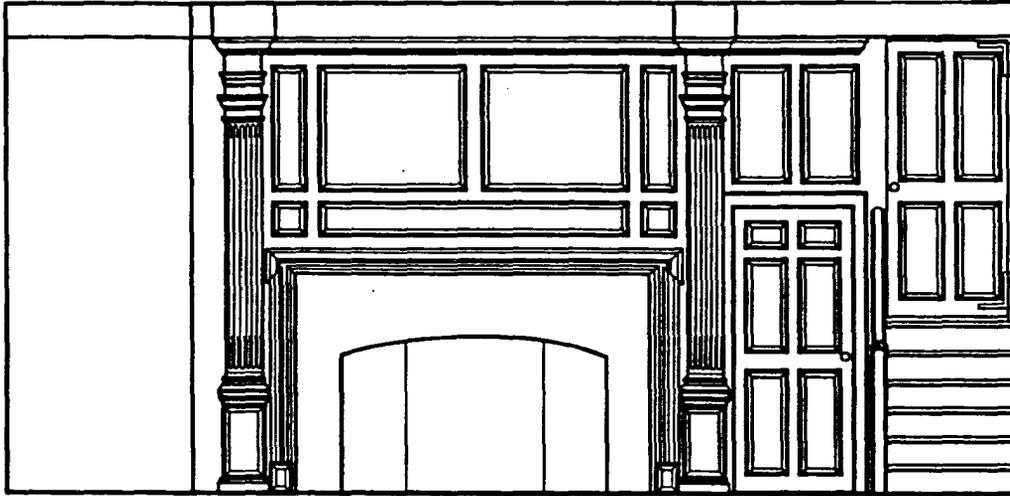
WISCONSIN COUNTY

SALISBURY

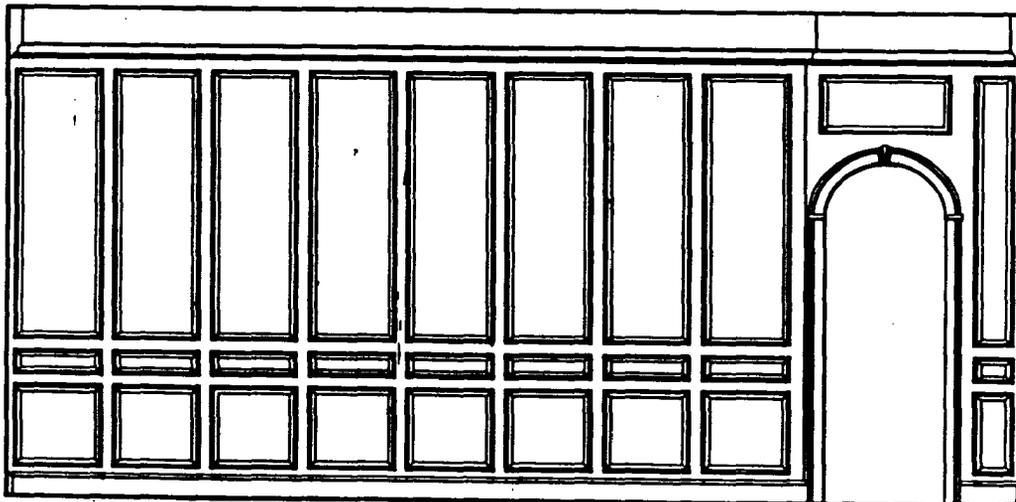
MARYLAND

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDING SURVEY  
SERIES 1 OF 3

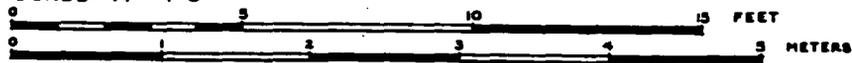
Ⓐ WEST ELEVATION - GREAT HALL



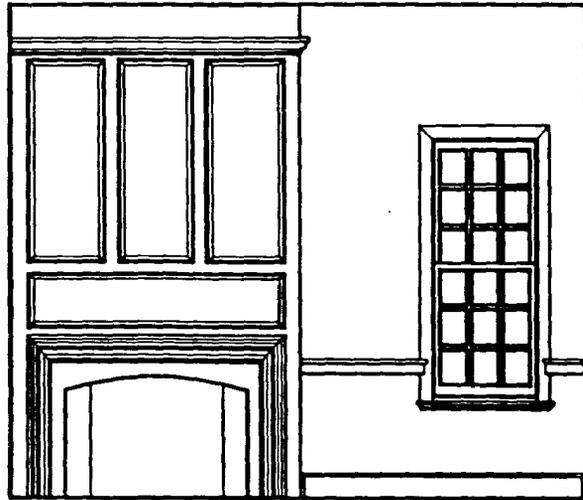
Ⓑ EAST ELEVATION - GREAT HALL



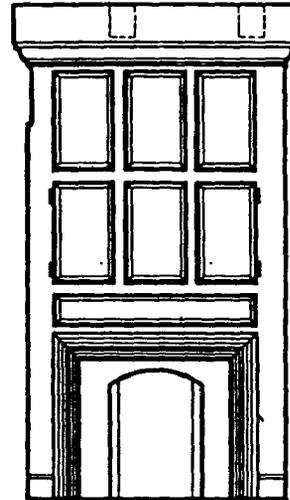
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



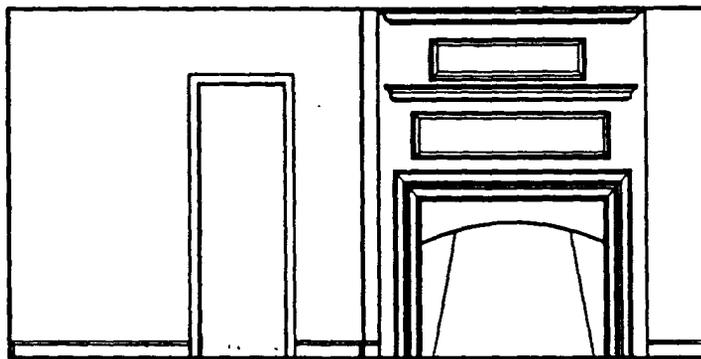
© EAST ELEVATION - PARLOR



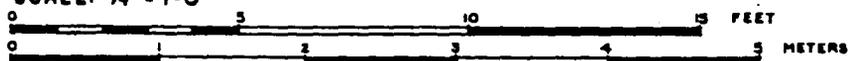
© EAST ELEVATION WARMING ROOM



© WEST ELEVATION - UPSTAIRS CHAMBER

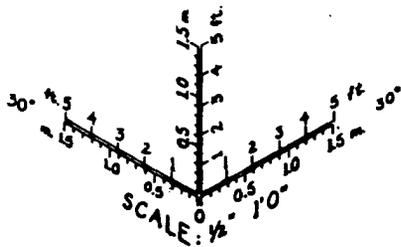
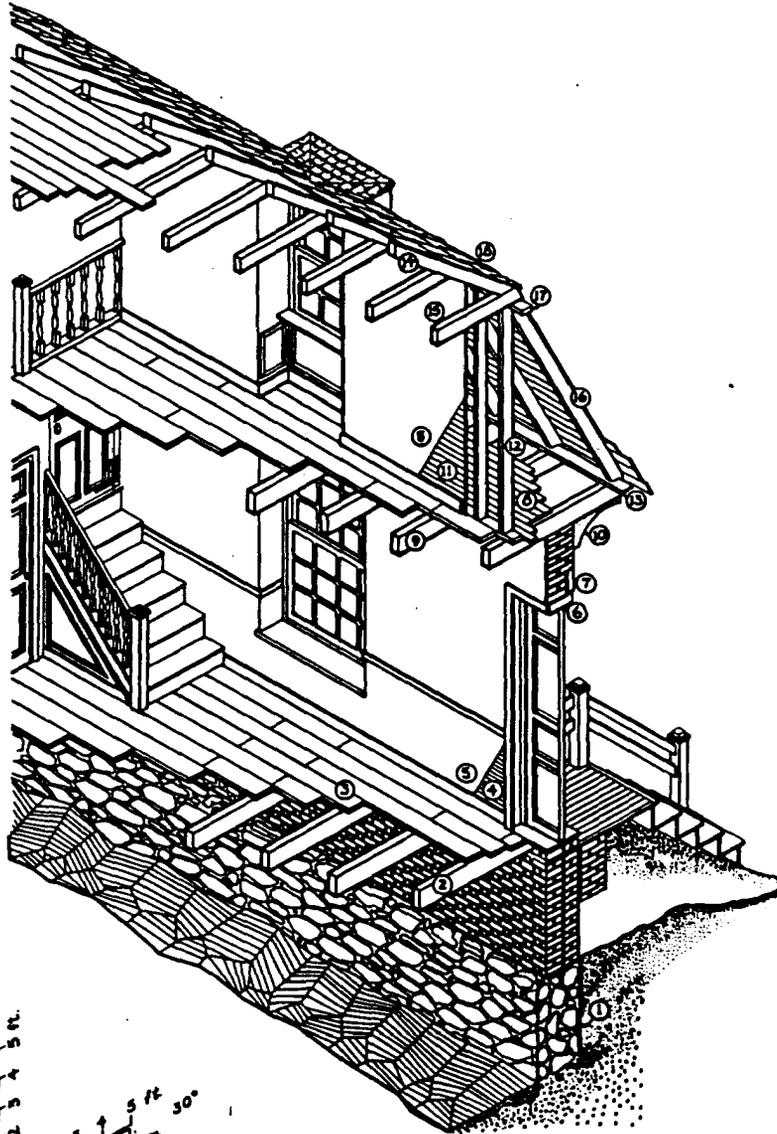


SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

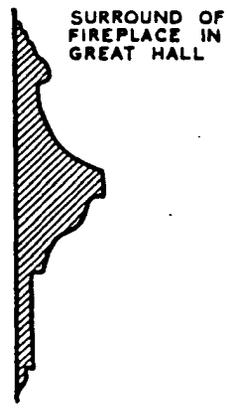


### CONSTRUCTION SECTION

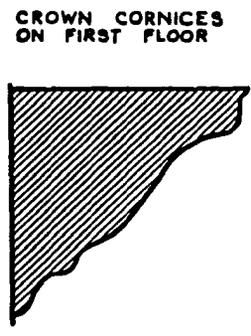
1. RANDOM STONE AND LIME MORTAR FOUNDATION WALL, 1'-8" TO 2'-0" THICK.
2. FLOOR JOISTS OF ROUGH-HEWN WOOD, 4"x8"s; ROUGHLY SPACED 2'-0" O.C.
3. RANDOM PLANK WOOD FINISH FLOOR.
4. HAND-SPLIT WOOD LATHE, APPROX. 1" THICK, APPLIED TO BRICK.
5. PLASTER, APPROX. 1 1/2" APPLIED BROWN COAT AND FINISH COAT.
6. DOOR FRAME HEAD, 4"x6".
7. FLAT-ARCH LINTEL OF BRICK AND LIME MORTAR.
8. RANDOM WOOD SHEATHING, WITH CEILING PLASTER APPLIED BELOW.
9. EXPOSED BEAMS IN CEILING, 4"x8"s, SPACED 2'-0" WITH FINISH COAT PLASTER BETWEEN BEAMS.
10. EXTERIOR PLASTER CORNICE, APPROX. 1'-6" DEEP AND 1'-0" HIGH.
11. HAND-SPLIT WOOD LATHE, APPROX. 1" THICK, APPLIED TO WALL STUDS.
12. KNEE WALL STUDS, 2"x4"s, APPROX. 16" O.C.
13. SOFFIT OF 2"x4"s.
14. RAFTERS, 2"x6"s, APPROX. 16" O.C.
15. CEILING JOISTS, 4"x8"s, APPROX. 2'-0" O.C.
16. COMMON RAFTERS, 2"x6"s, APPROX. 16" O.C.
17. PURLIN OF 2"x4"s.
18. HAND-SPLIT CEDAR SHAKES, REGULAR COURSING.



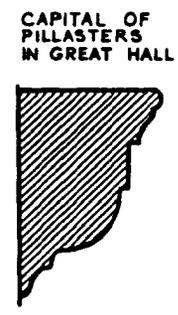
# ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS



SURROUND OF FIREPLACE IN GREAT HALL



CROWN CORNICES ON FIRST FLOOR



CAPITAL OF PILLASTERS IN GREAT HALL



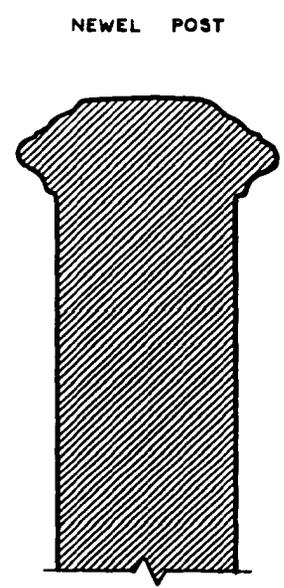
SURROUND OF FIREPLACES IN PARLOR AND IN WARMING ROOM



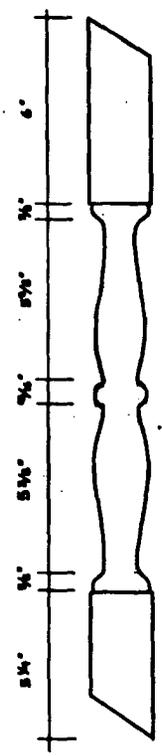
CHAIR RAIL ON FIRST FLOOR



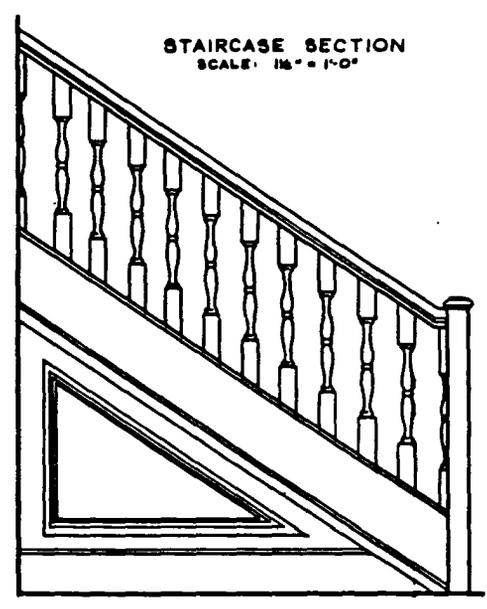
BASEBOARDS ALL ROOMS



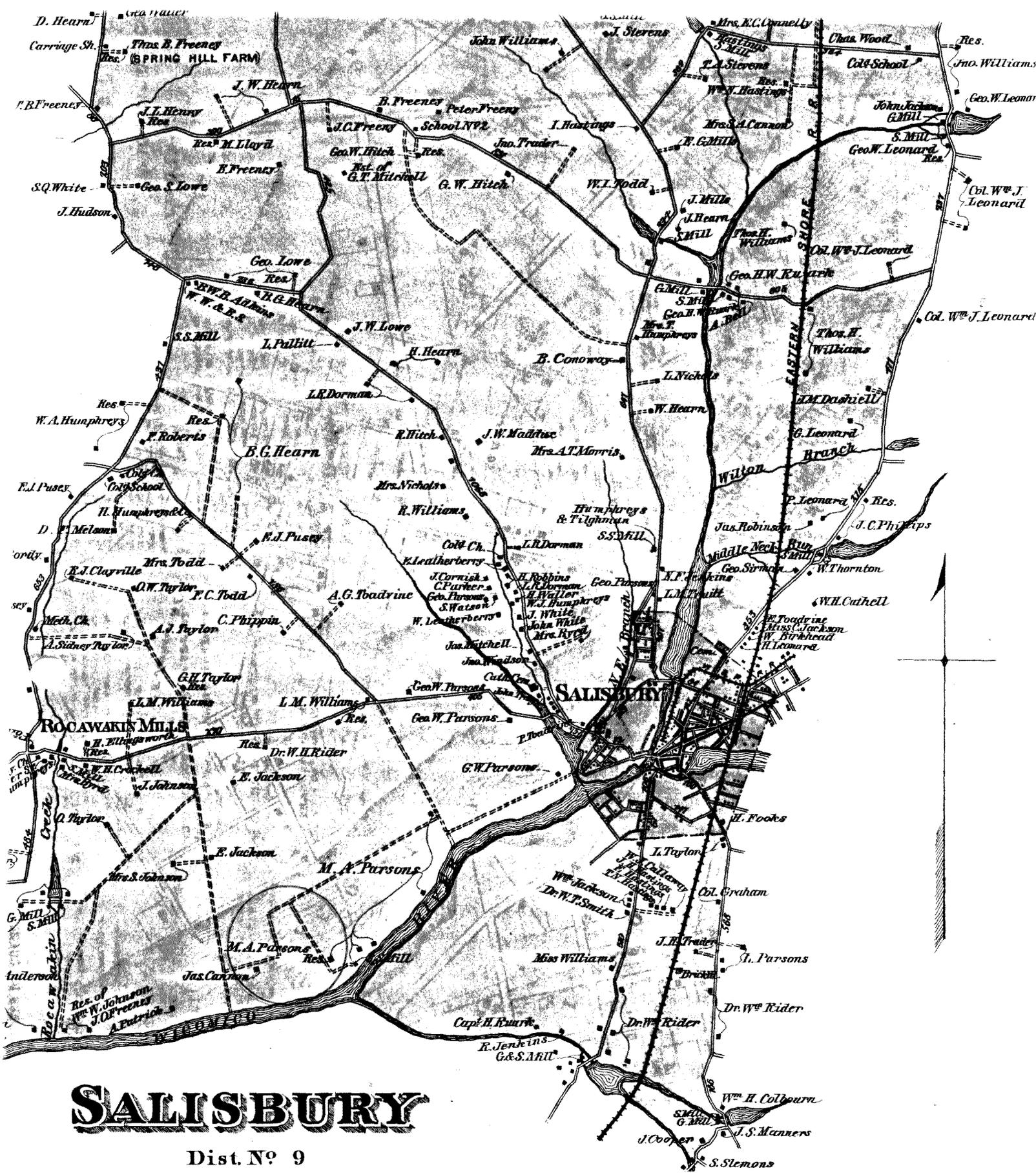
NEWEL POST



BANNISTER ONE-HALF ORIGINAL



STAIRCASE SECTION SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

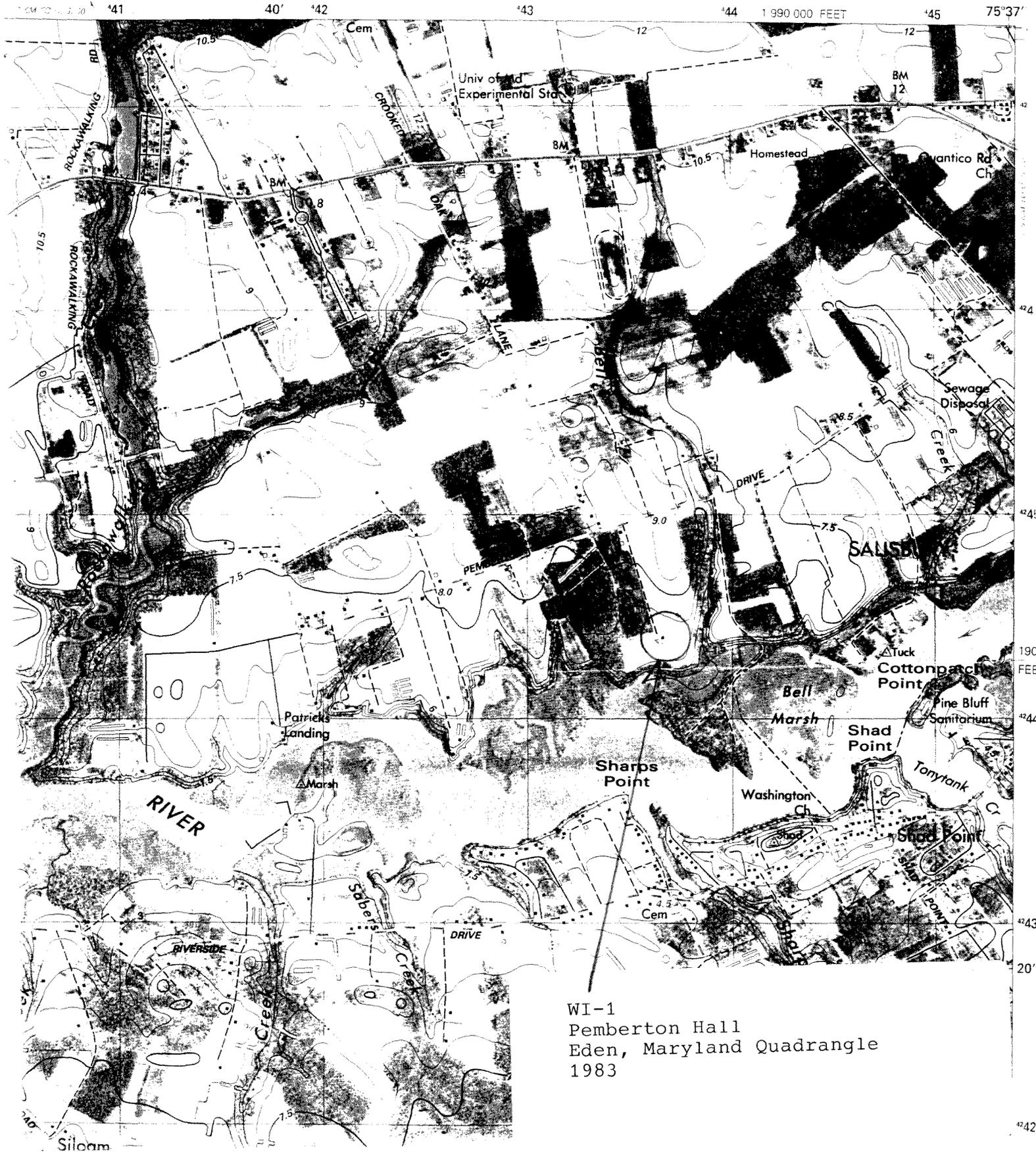


WI-1  
Pemberton Hall

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877

ID  
JR

EDEN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)



WI-1  
Pemberton Hall  
Eden, Maryland Quadrangle  
1983

WI-1

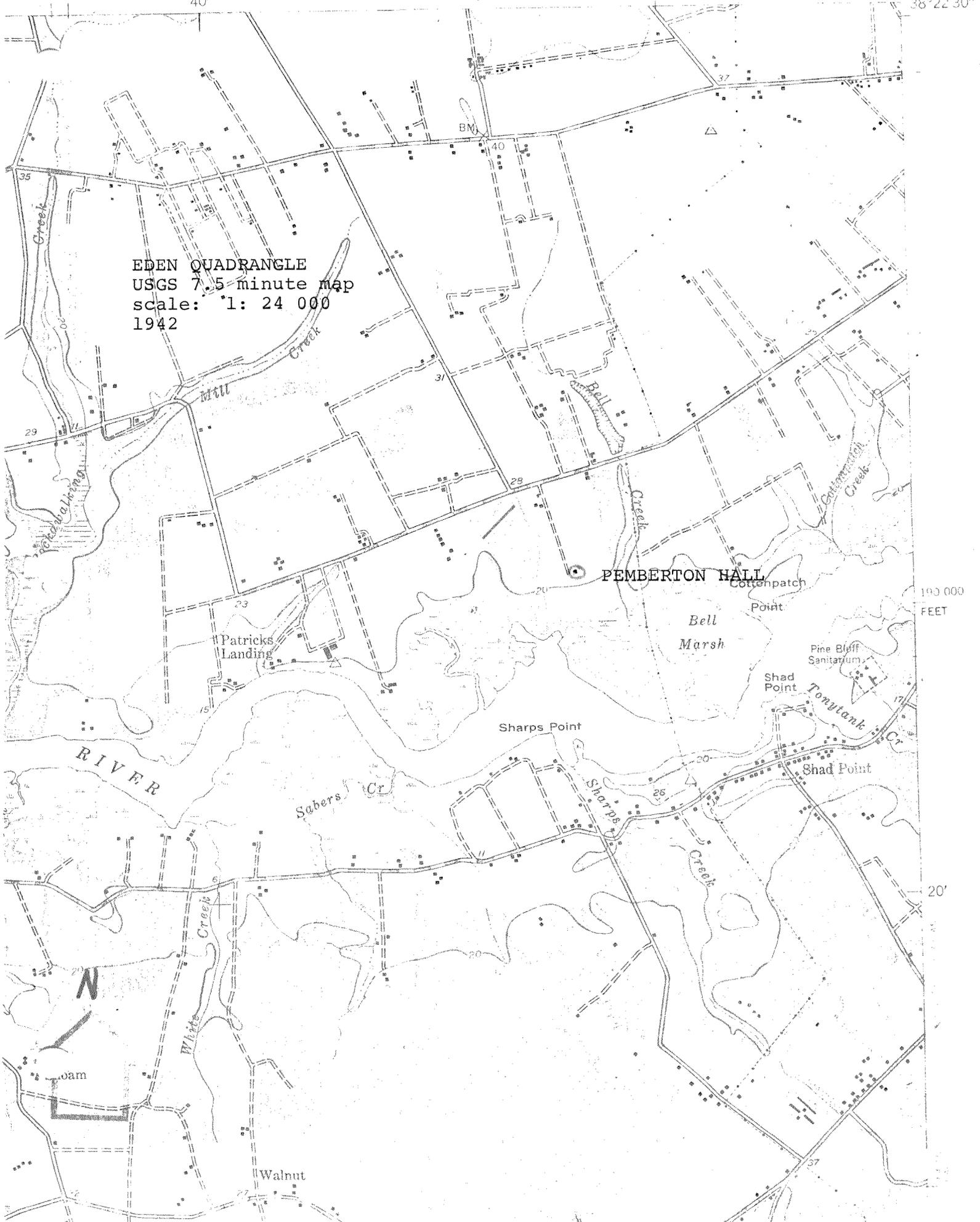
1 190 000 FEET

75°37'30"

38°22'30"

40'

EDEN QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1942



190 000  
FEET

20'

RIVER

Sabers Cr

Sharps Point

PEMBERTON HALL

Bell  
Marsh

Cottonpatch  
Point

Pine Bluff  
Sanitarium

Shad Point

Tomytank Cr

Shad Point

White Creek

Sharps  
Creek

Walnut

N

dam











PEMBERTON HALL

WI-1

MOB 3/08



PENBERTON HALL

WI-1



PENBERTON HALL

WI-1

SLIDE #11019



VI-1



SLIDE # 11074