

WI-5
New Nithsdale
Salisbury vicinity
Private

c. 1740-50

Situated atop a gentle rise of land along the north shore of the Wicomico River near its tributary of Rockawalkin Creek is a second quarter of the eighteenth-century brick house historically known as "New Nithsdale," a name attached to a 1794 resurvey of the Murray plantation that included 374 acres and incorporated a large portion of the 1666 patent of "Avery's Policy." Sarah McBryde, who had the property resurveyed, received the plantation bordering the Wicomico River and Rockawalkin Creek at the time of her father, William Murray's death in 1774. On the occasion of the 1783 tax assessment, William McBryde, Sarah's husband, was listed with "Nithsdale," encompassing parts of "Avery's Policy" as well as another tract known as "Munsley."

Captain William Murray assembled a sizable agricultural estate during the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century, and he is credited with the construction of the well-built, story-and-a-half brick dwelling commonly known as "New Nithsdale." The south (main) wall is accented by a finely executed glazed brick checkerboard pattern, an architectural finish that distinguishes the most elaborate gentry dwellings dating from the middle years of the eighteenth century. Nearby Pemberton Hall (WI-1), erected in 1741, and Green Hill Church (WI-2), built in 1733, were designed with glazed brick patterning as well.

Each of the south facade window and door openings are spanned by a finely crafted gauged and rubbed brick jack arch, another masonry finish linked with the most expensive mid eighteenth-century buildings in the region. A third feature, the cove cornice which enclosed the base of the roof, is repeated at Pemberton Hall and

Almodington (S-40) in Somerset County, which is also dated around 1740-50.

At the time of his death in 1774, Captain William Murray left an estate valued at close to L 2400, which included twenty-two slaves and a list of outstanding debts valued at L 1293.14.9, but were depreciated to L 1034.19.10 3/4 due to the growing hostilities with Great Britain. Captain Murray's other daughter, Betty, married Captain Thomas Handy (1737-1764) whose estate fell under Murray's management while Thomas Handy was out to sea. Handy died at sea sometime after 1764 and Betty Handy married William Stone, another local planter and member of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church.

Following William Murray's death his large land holdings were divided between his two daughters, and Sarah inherited Nithsdale (also known as Nethersdale) while Betty Handy received "Vulcan's Vinyard" and part of another tract called "High Suffolk." Sarah's husband William McBryde, who was taxed for Nithsdale in 1783, was a prominent local participant in the Revolutionary War as a purchasing agent for Somerset County. He was authorized to acquire vital foodstuffs such as wheat, corn, peas, flour, pork, bacon and brandy for Continental troops. After his death in 1793, Sarah McBryde remained on the plantation, for which she was taxed five years later by the Federal government. The federal assessors described the property occupied by Sarah McBryde as

situate at Wicomico River, near Rockawalking Creek, 1 Brick dwelling house, 1 story 40 by 20 feet with a shed adjoining the house 36 by 14 ft. of brick, 1 Brick milk house, 1 story 10 by 14, 1 smoke house 1 story 14 by 14, 1 cook house of Brick 1 story 20 by 26 ft., 1 carriage house framed, of wood, 1 story with sheds 35 by 19 feet

The house was valued at \$400. The land assessment, including a range of agricultural storage buildings and animal barns, was placed at \$2,000. Seven slaves worked on the plantation at the time. Following Sarah McBryde's death around 1813 the property remained in family hands until the mid nineteenth century.

By the mid twentieth century the house had reached such a deteriorated state that it was no longer inhabited. Otis and Elizabeth Esham acquired the property in 1955, and proceeded to work through a program that preserved as well as enlarged the eighteenth-century Flemish bond brick house.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: New Nithsdale

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-5

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): Dwelling

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

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic New Nithsdale

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Nithsdale 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Mrs. Otis G. Esham

street & number Nithsdale Drive telephone no.: 410-742-1364

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 833

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 95

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1968 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-5

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 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.

New Nithsdale is the name associated with a story-and-a-half Flemish bond brick house located on the Wicomico River east of Rockawalkin Creek west of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half brick house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1740-50, the story-and-a-half brick house has Flemish bond walls, and a steeply pitched asphalt shingle gable roof. In 1956 a large Colonial Revival frame addition was attached to the east gable end of the main block.

The south (main) facade of the original mid eighteenth century brick house features a beautiful Flemish bond wall highlighted by a checkerboard pattern of glazed bricks. A slightly off-center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash window openings have rubbed and gauged brick jack arches. Stretching across the base of the gable roof is a cove cornice which was reworked during the mid 1950s. The steeply pitched roof is defined by three gable roof dormers filled with six-over-six sash windows.

The west gable end is a Flemish bond wall featuring random glazed headers. Several window openings have been bricked up. Piercing the gable end is an interior end brick chimney. The edge of the roof is enclosed with a plain bargeboard.

The east gable end is fully covered by the two-story, five-bay Colonial Revival addition, which is faced with a colossal Roman Doric portico. Flanking the main block are Flemish bond brick chimneys. The west chimney is built atop the interior end chimney stack of the mid-eighteenth century house. Attached to the east end of the two-story addition is a hyphen and gable roofed wing erected in brick and frame materials.

The interior of the 1740s brick house was thoroughly reworked during the mid 1950s. The original floor plan, probably followed a hall/parlor or three-room plan that was later modified to its center hall arrangement. The slightly off-center location of the riverside door points to this theory as does the early nineteenth century woodwork existing in the center hall. Remnant woodwork from the mid eighteenth century includes several five-panel doors similar to those found at Long Hill and Bounds Lott.

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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <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	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Situated atop a gentle rise of land along the north shore of the Wicomico River near its tributary of Rockawalkin Creek is a second quarter of the eighteenth-century brick house historically known as "New Nithsdale," a name attached to an 1794 resurvey for 374 acres including a large portion of the 1666 patent of "Avery's Policy."¹ Sarah McBryde received the plantation bordering Wicomico River and Rockawalkin Creek at the time of her father, William Murray's death in 1774. On the occasion of the 1783 tax assessment, William McBryde, Sarah's husband, was listed with "Nithsdale," encompassing parts of "Avery's Policy" as well as another tract known as "Munsley."²

Captain William Murray assembled a sizable agricultural estate during the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century, and he is credited with the construction of the well-built, story-and-a-half Flemish bond brick house commonly known as "New Nithsdale." The south (main) wall is accented by a finely executed glazed brick checkerboard pattern, an architectural finish that distinguishes the most elaborate gentry dwellings dating from the middle years of the eighteenth century. Nearby Pemberton Hall (WI-1) erected in 1741, and Green Hill Church (WI-2), built in 1733, were built with glazed header patterns as well. Each of the door and window openings across the south facade are spanned by a finely crafted gauged and rubbed brick jack arch, another masonry finish linked with the most expensive mid eighteenth-century buildings in the region. A third feature, the cove cornice that encloses the base of the roof, is repeated Pemberton Hall and Almodington in Somerset County (S-40) also dated around 1740-50.

At the time of his death in 1774 Captain William Murray left an estate valued at close to L 2400, which included twenty-two slaves and an list of outstanding debts valued at L 1293.14.9, which was depreciated to L 1034.19.10 3/4 due to the increasing

¹ Ruth T. Dryden, Land Records of Wicomico County, Maryland 1666-1810, privately printed, 1992, p. 299.

² 1783 Federal Tax Assessment, William McBryde, Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury State University.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

New Nithsdale, WI-5

Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

hostilities with Great Britain.³ Captain Murray's other daughter, Betty, married Captain Thomas Handy (1737-1764) whose estate fell under Murray's management while Thomas Handy was out to sea. Handy died at sea sometime after 1764 and Betty Handy married William Stone, another local planter and member of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church.⁴

Following William Murray's death his large land holdings were divided between his two daughters, and Sarah inherited Nithsdale (also known as Nethersdale) while Betty Handy received "Vulcan's Vinyard" and part of another tract called "High Suffolk." Sarah's husband William McBryde, who was taxed for Nithsdale in 1783, was a prominent local participant in the Revolutionary War as a purchasing agent for Somerset County. He was authorized to acquire vital foodstuffs such as wheat, corn, peas, flour, pork, bacon and brandy for Continental troops.⁵ After his death in 1793, Sarah McBryde remained on the plantation, for which she was taxed five years later by the Federal government. The federal assessors described the property occupied by Sarah McBryde as

*situate at Wicomico River, near Rockawalking Creek, 1 Brick dwelling house, 1 story 40 by 20 feet with a shed adjoining the house 36 by 14 ft. of brick, 1 Brick milk house, 1 story 10 by 14, 1 smoke house 1 story 14 by 14, 1 cook house of Brick 1 story 20 by 26 ft., 1 carriage house framed, of wood, 1 story with sheds 35 by 19 feet*⁶

The house was valued at \$400. The land assessment, including a range of agricultural storage buildings and animal barns, was placed at \$2,000. Seven slaves worked on the plantation at the time. Following Sarah McBryde's death around 1813 the property remained in family hands until the mid nineteenth century.

By the mid twentieth century the house had reached such a deteriorated state that it was no longer inhabited. Otis and Elizabeth Esham acquired the property in 1955, and proceeded to work through a program that preserved as well as enlarged the eighteenth-century Flemish bond brick house.

³ Maryland Prerogative Court 1774-1776, 121/370, Inventory of Captain William Murray, 22 August 1774, probated 12 July 1775.

⁴ Isaac W. K. Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*, p. 53.

⁵ Anne Kennerly Morris Clay, "New Nithsdale: A History," Unpublished manuscript, 1989, pp. 9-10.

⁶ Federal Direct Tax Assessment, 1798, List of Dwelling Houses, Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

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New Nithsdale

Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

1798 Tax Assessment- Dwelling Houses

Sarah McBryde-occupant

situate at Wicomico River, near Rockawalking Creek, 1 Brick dwelling house, 1 story 40 by 20 feet with a shed adjoining the house 36 by 14 ft. of brick, 1 Brick milk house 1 story 10 by 14, 1 smoke house brick 1 story 14 by 14, 1 cook house of Brick 1 story 20 by 26 ft., 1 carriage house framed, of wood, 1 story with sheds 35 by 19 feet

Value \$400

1798 Tax Assessment- Lands

situate at Wicomico River, near Rockawalking Creek, 1 framed wood house 18 by 18 ft., 1 framed wood Lumber house 14 by 30 ft., 1 framed wood corn house 14 by 30 ft., 1 framed wood corn house 27 by 8 ft., 1 framed wood stable & cow house 48 by 32, 1 old framed wood house with cellar 30 by 18 ft., out of repair 1 framed wood Barn 30 by 20 ft.

Value \$2,000

1798 Tax Assessment-Slaves

7 slaves

5 between 12 and 50 years of age

1783 Tax Assessment- William McBryde

Nithsdale 289 acres Mumsley and Avery's Policy

Improvements-good

Situation-good

Soil-sandy

Maryland Prerogative Court 1774-1776, Volume 121/370-

Inventory of Captain William Murray, written August 22, 1774 Appraisers-William Winder
Esme Bayly

Value of goods and chattel L 1362.10.7 ½

Separate debts due the estate L 1293.14.9 is current money L 1034.19.10 ¾

Greatest creditor, William Handy and Sarah Skinner

Nearest kin, Betty Stone and Sarah McBryde

Probated 7/12/1775 and witnessed by Francis Murray and William McBryde

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The 1877 Atlases and Other Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Salisbury: Wicomico Bicentennial Commission 1976 Bicentennial Edition, 1976.

Hall of Records: index cards, early records, miscellaneous materials.

Jacob, John E: Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico County.

Salisbury: The Salisbury Advertiser, 1971.

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Land and Probate Records of Wicomico County, State of Maryland.

Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury, Maryland.

Torrence, Clayton: Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1979.

Wicomico County Free Library, Inc: reference materials in the Maryland Room. Salisbury, Maryland.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Charles J. Truitt, Historic Salisbury, Maryland (1932), quoted in Swepson Earle, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore, quoted in papers of Richard Waller Cooper, Salisbury, Maryland.
- 2 Anne Kennerly Morris Clay, " 'Long Hill': a history."
- 3 Wicomico Bicentennial Commission 1976 Bicentennial Edition, The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, 1976, p. 20.
- 4 Probate Records ELW 1/162, Wicomico County, 1887.
- 5 Land Records LW 7/731 & LW 7/690 for 130 acres, LW 8/436 for 50 acres, and LW 7/732 for 75 acres, Somerset County, 1863 & 1864. Wicomico County was formed from parts of Somerset and Worcester Counties in 1867.
- 6 Land Records LW 7/689, Somerset County, 1863.
- 7 Probate Records JP 5/61, Somerset County, 1841.
- 8 John E. Jacob, Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico County, 1971, p. 77; family papers in the possession of Wilmer O. Lankford, Princess Anne, Maryland.
- 9 Land Records JP 2/267, Somerset County, 1815.
- 10 Land Records JP 1/120, Somerset County, 1813.
- 11 Probate Records EB 27/178, Somerset County, 1813.
- 12 Land Records T 483 & T 481, Somerset County, 1810.
- 13 Patents 1C#P/88, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1794.
- 14 Probate Records EB 18, 135, 202, Somerset County, 1798.
- 15 Land Records I 48, Somerset County, 1790.
- 16 Land Records F 215, Somerset County, 1774.
- 17 Accounts Box 7 Folder 6 and Inventories 121/370, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1775 & 1774.
- 18 Assessment of 1783, Somerset County, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1783.

- 19 Patents TI 3/530, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1743.
- 20 Land Records X 301, Somerset County, 1747.
- 21 Land Records X 302, Somerset County, 1747.
- 22 Land Records X 166, Somerset County, 1745.
- 23 Probate Records EB 9/204, Somerset County, 1738.
- 24 Land Records EI 36 & EI 137, Somerset County, 1735 & 1737.
- 25 Land Records EI 201, Somerset County, 1737.
- 26 Land Records I 48, Somerset County, 1790.
- 27 Land Records 6 MA 781, Somerset County, 1682.
- 28 Patents 10/180, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1666.
- 29 Land Records X 301 & X 302, Somerset County, 1747.
- 30 Land Records EI 36 & EI 137, Somerset County, 1735 & 1737.
- 31 Land Records X 301, Somerset County, 1747.
- 32 Probate Records EB 9/245, Somerset County, 1744.
- 33 Patents TI 3/530, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1743.
- 34 Land Records X 301, Somerset County, 1747.
- 35 Land Records EI 201, Somerset County, 1737.
- 36 Probate Records EB 9/204, Somerset County, 1738.
- 37 Land Records I 48, Somerset County, 1790.
- 38 Land Records EI 97 & EI 98, Somerset County, 1736.
- 39 Judicial Records #9184, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1744,
found among papers of Duncan C. Augustine, Salisbury, Maryland;
Clayton Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland,
1979, p. 148.
- 40 Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, op. cit., p. 12.
- 41 Land Records EI 201, Somerset County, 1737.
- 42 Patents TI 3/530, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1743.
- 43 Land Records X 301, Somerset County, 1747.
- 44 Inventories 121/370, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1774.
- 45 Assessment of 1783, Somerset County, Hall of Records in Annapolis,
1783.

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- 46 Patents TI 3/530, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1743.
- 47 Patents 1C#P/88, Hall of Records in Annapolis, 1794.
- 48 Federal Assessment of 1798, Rewastico Hundred, Wicomico County
Free Library on microfilm, 1798.
- 49 Family papers in the possession of Wilmer O. Lankford , Princess
Anne, Maryland.
- 50 Land Records MF 311, Somerset County, 1740.
- 51 Wicomico Presbyterian Church Salisbury, Maryland 1683-1959,
compiled and edited by Mrs. J. William Slemons (Ruth Fritzsinger
Slemons), pp. 9, 12, 38, 39; Jacob, loc. cit..
- 52 Family papers in the possession of Wilmer O. Lankford, Princess
Anne, Maryland.

"NEW NITHSDALE" : a history

Anne Kennerly Morris Clay
Quantico, Maryland
March 1, 1989
WI-5 MHT

The writer gratefully acknowledges the aid of Duncan C. Augustine, Richard Waller Cooper, and Wilmer O. Lankford who made available to her various papers in their private collections.

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SCHEDULE A CHAIN OF TITLE

SCHEDULE B WICOMICO COUNTY TAX MAP
1901 USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
1877 ATLASSCHEDULE C SKETCH OF JP2/267SCHEDULE D SKETCH OF T483SCHEDULE E SKETCH OF LC#P/88SCHEDULE F SKETCH OF T13/530SCHEDULE G SKETCH OF LC#P/88 & adjacent tracts

FOOTNOTES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"New Nithsdale"

"New Nithsdale" lies on the northerly shores of the Wicomico River* in Wicomico County, State of Maryland. Its architecturally worthy neighbors include Old Green Hill Church downriver and Pemberton Hall upriver. While the older portion of the dwelling, relatively intact as to the exterior, is quite characteristic of mid-eighteenth-century architecture on the Eastern Shore, nonetheless, it is unique to Wicomico County, being one of only five extant examples of homes from that period, and, further, being the only story-and-a-half brick structure still standing. Known for years as the old McBride, or McBryde, Mansion, once the residence of Colonel John B. Slemons, the home evoked praise from the philanthropist Enoch Pratt that the "Proprietor of 'Acme Hall', in Baltimore, was mistaken when he said he owned the oldest building thus beautified in the State." 1

Otis and Elizabeth Esham are the present owners of the nominated property which consists of 3.97 acres and contains the original 42' x 20' brick house, plus a two-story 42' x 36' addition with a 38' x 30' garage wing constructed in 1956. The Eshams, in title since 1955, are the latest in a long chain of owners dating back to the early eighteenth century. A Such a varied history contrasts somewhat with other nearby ancient structures, such as "Long Hill", which, until recently, has seen only two families in over 200 years. 2

Members of the Freeny family held the property between 1853 and 1918. A building, undoubtedly the nominated structure, is shown on

* The Wicomico River was designated the Cuttomocktico, later the Rokiawakin, River by early settlers.

the 1877 Atlas in District #9 as being in the hands of J. O. Freeny. 3 Anne Maria Freeny, who died 5/4/1887, devised to her son, John Oscar Freeny, all the tract where he now resides on the north and west sides of the Wicomico River. 4 She had acquired her interest through several conveyances: a 50-acre tract, "Namesdale" (perhaps a misspelling), probably to the north; a 75-acre tract, part of "New Nithsdale", to the east; and a 130-acre tract, part of "New Nithsdale" owned by John B. Slemons, which was earlier described as lying on the south side of a branch rising on the Patrick farm and emptying into mill creek a short distance below Andersons Mill, subject to a graveyard. This latter is an exact description of the farm surrounding the nominated site, prior to its current development. 5 B

An 1863 deed conveyed property where Mary E. Slemons formerly resided, including her maidenland and land assigned her from John B. Slemons' will. 6 The latter includes land to the east of the house as is clear from Somerset County Judicial Record WP2/445, a proceeding in 1855 to divide the real estate of John B. Slemons, while the former is land bequeathed to Mary by her aunt, Elizabeth McBryde, who died in 1841. Terms of the will are as follows: to my neace (sic) Mary Elizabeth McBryde the house and improvements and 150 acres to be laid off on the side next to Rocowokin Creek or Mill Creek, to be kept in the hands of John B. Slemons my nephew 'til Mary shall want to commence housekeeping; to my nephew John B. Slemons the remaining part of the land, circa 332 acres, woodland to be divided equal in proportion to the quantity given; John is to give Mary her bord (sic) and \$30 per year for use of the property left to Mary. An interesting item in the will is the bequest to John of the boy Elijah until Elijah turns 21, then send him to Liberia and give him \$40 to support him until the boy gets some business but if Elijah refuses to go to Liberia, Mary shall have him for life. 7 It is apparent that Mary Elizabeth McBryde married her cousin, John Brown Slemons, after 1843, when his first wife, Martha Jane Bennett Slemons, died. 8

In 1815, Elizabeth McBryde bought, for \$4612, parts of several tracts including "New Nithsdale", "Calcutta ", "Halls Adventure", and "Kings Neglect". The combined tract, consisting of 449 acres, began at the mouth of Rockawalkin Creek alias Cottinghams Creek alias Mill Creek and extended northerly to the mouth of a small creek known as Little Creek. 9 C The seller, James Ritchie, acquired the property in 1813 through the settling of Sarah McBryde's estate. 10

Sarah Murray McBryde, daughter of Captain William and Frances North Murray, died prior to 1813. Two of her daughters, Frances McCree and Elizabeth McBryde, were appointed executrices of her estate. 11 Shortly before her death, Sarah had joined John Rider in two quit-claim deeds to establish property lines, she to retain all east and south of the lines. 12 The beginning courses are the same as those of Elizabeth McBryde's deed in 1815, both descriptions definitely including the house site which is a short distance east of Rockawalkin Creek. D

The 1798 Federal Tax Assessment lists Sarah McBryde as occupying 1 brick dwelling house 40' x 20' with adjoining brick shed 36' x 14'; also 4 outbuildings: milk house, smoke house, cook house, carriage house. Sarah had obtained a special warrant to resurvey contiguous lands in 1794. This patent contains quite a descriptive history of the tracts making up "New Nithsdale". There was part of "Vulcan's Vineyard", originally granted to Thomas Cottingham for 300 acres in 1665; also "Avery's Policy", originally granted to John Avery for 300 acres in 1666; including part of "Munsley", originally granted to William Elgate for 354 acres in 1675; and finally "Nithsdale", originally granted to William Murray for 289 acres in 1743. The resurvey contained, with 17 1/4 acres vacancy added, 374 1/2 acres, being less than the original complement, and was reduced into one entire tract called "New Nithsdale". 13 When the lines for the various tracts are drawn out, it is clear that the dwelling house stands completely within "Avery's Policy". E

Sarah Murray McBryde was administratrix for the estate of her husband, William McBryde, who died prior to 1798. 14 Both Sarah and William had acquired their interests from several sources: Katherine Elgate Driskill's share of "Avery's Policy" and "Mamsley" (sic), a partition deed between Betty Murray Handy and William and Sarah McBryde, and the estate of William Murray. In 1790, William Driskill deeded to William McBryde that part of "Munsley" and of "Avery's Policy", consisting of 150 acres, that had been deeded by William Elgate to his daughter, Katherine Driskill, mother to William Driskill. 15 It is learned through the partition deed in 1774 that Captain William Murray, the deceased father of Betty Handy and Sarah McBryde, was seized of "Neathsdale" (sic) containing 289 acres, "Vulcan's Vin(e)yard" containing 29 acres and also part of "High Suffolk" containing 310 acres. Since William was without any male heir, his daughters agreed to partition in two parts, Betty to get "High Suffolk" and William McBryde with his wife, Sarah, to get "Neathsdale" and "Vulcan's Vinyard". 16 In Captain Murray's estate, 1/3 was disbursed to the widow, Frances Murray, 1/3 was due William McBryde for his wife, and 1/3 was due William Stone for his wife. Betty Handy is the same person as Betty Stone. 17 In 1783, William McBryde was assessed for 289 acres in Rewastico Hundred, consistent with the aforementioned conveyances. 18

It is stated in the 1743 patent of William Murray for 289 acres of "Niths Deal" that he, along with Ann (Elgate) Hall and Rebecca (Elgate) Brady, same person as Rebecca Evans, was seized, except for the part possessed by Levin Gale, of tracts contiguous: 300 acres of "Avery's Policy" and 354 acres of "Monsley". William's part, 252 acres, and a vacancy, 37 acres, "together with a paragraph of our instructions 12/15/1738," were reduced to one entire tract called "Niths Deal". 19 Again, when the lines are drawn out, the nominated structure is wholly within the patented area. F

Several deeds subsequent to the 1743 patent helped solidify Murray's title and shed light on earlier transfers. The three daughters of William Elgate--Katherine Driskill with her husband Moses, Ann Hall, and Rebecca Evans--conveyed to William Murray in 1747 their father's interest in a 45-acre tract on the "northeast of a small branch issuing out of Cottenham Creek below the mill running easterly from the creek and is crost by a road leading from the mill to the dwelling house of Captain Isaac Handy and said Murray...now included in the lines of William Murray's certificate of resurvey." William Elgate, "being old and for want of necessaries of life for support," was obliged to sell part of the land-to maintain himself and small family- to Levin Gale, who in turn disposed the same land to William Murray, Elgate and Gale living but a short time after the agreement so that the land was not conveyed in any sort either to Gale or to Murray. The heirs of William Elgate thus wanted their father's just debts to be paid and the bargain with Levin Gale fully complied with by their conveying whatever interest they held to William Murray. 20 By the same token, George Gale and Matthias Gale, executors of Levin Gale's will, conveyed whatever interest Levin had acquired in the 45 acres through William Elgate's aforementioned note. 21

In 1745, James Nicholson conveyed to William Murray, mariner, 29 1/4 acres of "Vulcan's Vinuard" on the eastmost side of a certain creek running through the aforesaid tract called Cottinghams otherwise Rokawakin Creek and bounded by the said creek and another tract of land called "Avery's Policy". 22 From a sketch of the tract lines, this parcel is seen to lie between Rockawalkin Creek and the westerly homeline of "Avery's Policy"; G it was probably bought by William Murray in order to give him the natural westerly boundary of Rockawalkin Creek.

By his will, William Elgate left to his daughter, Ann Hall, 260 acres "with the plantation I now live on," and to his daughter,

Katherine Driskill, all the remaining part of "Avery's Policy" beginning at a marked red oak, north to Cottingham's Creek binding upon the line of Richard Nicholson. The latter includes the land upon which the nominated dwelling sits while the former lies farther east. A codicil to the will provided that all land on the southwest side of Cottinghams Branch was to go to Levin(g) Gale upon his paying some money to Elgate's wife, Sarah. 23 This land could well be the same 45 acres hereinbefore referred to. Elgate had already sold 2 tracts to Gale: 1) in 1735, 11 acres including Rokiwakin Mill on the north side of Cottingham's Branch, being part of "Munsley"; and 2) in 1737, 100 acres adjoining the aforementioned 11 acres, bounded on the southwest by the branch of Cottingham's Creek, also being part of "Munsley". 24 These are thus clearly too far north to include the house site. In 1737, shortly before his death, Elgate conveyed to his daughter Katherine Driskill 1/3 part of all "Munsley" and "Avery's Policy", from the river to the running branch that divides it from the land "I sold Levin Gale not yet alienated to him...150 acres being that part of land along Cottingham's Creek or the west most side of the 2 tracts up to the running branch." 25 Elgate was probably trying to ensure that Katherine would definitely end up with this portion of his estate, the debts for his final illness notwithstanding. The house site is within this tract of land which accounts for the necessity of Katherine's interest being conveyed to William McBryde in 1790, as stated above. 26

William Elgate had purchased the tract of "Avery's Policy" in 1682 from Colonel Henry and Sybil Jowles who had intermarried on 6/7/1677, Sybil being the widow of William Groome and his devisee; Groome had purchased the tract in 1667 from John and Sarah Avery.* 27

* Sarah Avery is one of the earliest known teachers in the area, according to Torrence's Old Somerset, p. 287.

John Avery was the original patentee of the land grant, made in 1666 for 300 acres of "Avery's Policy" on the northside of Cuttomocktico River. 28 This description begins "at a marked oke dividing it from Thomas Cottingham," a consistent starting point for many years.

Particularly toward the latter years of the twentieth century, Levin Gale has been reputed to be the builder of "New Nithsdale". There is no evidence at all in the records to support this claim, as may be surmised from the following:

- 1) William Elgate, being old and sick, borrowed money from Levin Gale on 6/13/1737, creating a trust agreement on some lands to the north of a small branch, consisting of 45 acres. 29 Elgate had previously sold to Gale some lands nearby upon which stood the Rokiawakin Mill, all much farther north of the nominated house site. 30
- 2) Gale, having at best an equitable interest in any of Elgate's lands on account of his loan, died soon after his agreement with Elgate. 31 He never received a deed from anybody for the lands upon which the house sits. In his will, he left his remaining estate to his daughter Leah who would have been required to join in some instrument to convey whatever her interest. She never did. 32
- 3) William Murray, eventual owner of the entire tract of "NithsDeal", which clearly includes the house site, had an interest in the property as early as 12/15/1738. 33 His patent sets forth no interest of any kind from Gale or Gale's heirs. There is a reference by 1747 to a "road leading to the dwelling house of ... Murray," implying Murray had already built his house. 34 It is thus most improbable that Levin Gale, a man in his waning years, would have built such a fine home in the few months between his 6/13/1737 agreement, giving him only an equitable interest, and Murray's 12/15/1738 interest, soon confirmed by survey and deed.

- 4) To probably ensure that his daughter Katherine's portion would not be affected by his indebtedness to Levin Gale, William Elgate gave her a deed for the tract of land from the river to the running branch that divides it "from the land I sold to Levin Gale not yet alienated to him," it being 150 acres along Cottingham's Creek...up to the running branch: clearly the house site. 35 Elgate's will seems to confirm this desire and makes clear that his dwelling plantation was not on this portion. 36 Such a devise to Katherine accounts for the necessity of her heir's transferring any outstanding interest in the tract to William McBride in 1790, as stated above. 37
- 5) Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Levin Gale had already built a homeplace farther down the Wicomico River between Green Hill and WhiteHaven. In 1736, he acquired title to "Contention" on the north side of Wiccocomoco River between Manningtoe's Creek and Johnson's Creek, opposite the new dwelling plantation of Levin Gale. 38 Manningtoe's has been identified as the present Cherry Bridge Creek, 39 nowhere near the vicinity of "New Nithsdale". 40 Again, the likelihood is slim that Levin Gale would build a second home as substantial and fine as "New Nithsdale", on land in which he had only an equitable interest, some distance upstream from his existing dwelling plantation.

From the evidence presented, William Murray is in all likelihood the builder of "New Nithsdale". William Elgate's dwelling plantation was not on that portion of "Avery's Policy" adjoining Cottingham's Creek but was on a section farther east. 41 William Murray, as early as 1738, had an interest in the property and subsequently had it surveyed into one piece in 1743. 42 By 1747, there was a road down to his dwelling house. 43 A logical construction date would then be circa 1744.

A smattering of information in the records makes it possible to form an accurate picture of the inhabitants of "New Nithsdale" during

the eighteenth century. William Murray was a pilot of Great Britain; and, as a man of means, he left at his death: 22 slaves; 7 bedsteads with matts, cords, bolsters and pillows; 6 "mapole" chairs with flag bottoms and eagle claws; quite a wardrobe of clothing; much Delph ware; and a chart of the western ocean. 44

The heir to William Murray's homeplace was his daughter Sarah Murray McBryde, wife of William McBryde. In all probability, the McBrydes were in residence at "New Nithsdale" upon William Murray's death circa 1774 and continued to live there for the remainder of their lives. William McBryde is listed in the 1783 Tax List as owning in Rewastico Hundred 289 acres of "Nithsdale", 45 the same amount of land as was in William Murray's 1743 patent. 46 As stated above, Sarah McBryde obtained a special warrant to resurvey contiguous lands in 1794, which were reduced into one entire tract called "New Nithsdale", the name by which it is known today. 47 She is thus shown as the owner in the Federal Assessment of 1798, wherein is found a detailed description of all of the buildings on the property. Along with 1 brick dwelling house 40' x 20' with shed and an adjoining brick house 36' x 14' were a 1-story brick milk house 10' x 14', a 1-story brick smoke house 14' x 14', and a 1-story brick cook house. Nearby on the farm were a number of other outbuildings as well as 2 "framed" wood houses. 48 This site is thus a real treasure trove for archeological research.

It is about Sarah Murray McBryde's husband William that most is known. As purchasing agent for the county during the American Revolution, McBryde was commissioned to purchase such supplies as wheat, pork, flour, corn, bacon, brandy, fodder, and peas; and was issued letters of marque and reprisal as owner of various schooners, thus empowering their captains to attack enemy vessels. A loyal patriot, he signed the Oath of Allegiance and was allowed to purchase property confiscated from the Torys, John H. Carey and William Kennedy.

At his death from pleurisy in late 1793, it was said that "benevolence of heart and integrity in principle distinguished this gentleman." 49

Ardent Presbyterians, William McBryde and his descendants played key roles in developing the local church. Circa 1740, a meeting house was newly erected on land given by Levin Gale, just north of "New Nithsdale" and to the west of the head of Mill Creek, an easy distance, perhaps, by boat. 50 Along with William McBryde, James McCree, MD, John B. Slemons, and James M. Slemons are listed on the Honor Roll of Elders. It is no coincidence that each of the latter is buried at "New Nithsdale" in the graveyard a short distance from the home. 51 A nephew of William McBryde, William Murray Stone, became a bishop in the Episcopal Church and was undoubtedly a frequent visitor to "New Nithsdale". 52

Thus is concluded the lengthy saga of "New Nithsdale". A worthy candidate for National Register listing, given its archeological, architectural, and historical value, "New Nithsdale" is a one-of-a-kind structure deserving to stand with Wicomico County's best.

CHAIN of TITLE

Otis G. Esham
Elizabeth R. Esham
present - 12/11/80
952/356 #1C "Nithsdale" Section 2

Rock Creek Farms, Inc.
12/12/80 - 2/5/75
833/95 250 acres

Otis G. Esham
Elizabeth R. Esham
2/5/75 - 7/1/55
388/187

Hilda Howard Bounds, widow
Martha Bounds Vickers, daughter
George R. Vickers, IV
7/8/55 - 1951
intestate death of George C. Bounds

George C. Bounds
1951 - 11/9/42 + 11/4/42
to interest 382/17 + 382/22 1/2 interest

Beulah E. Livingston
Richard H. Hodgson, exec. mortgagee
Farmers & Merchants Bank
3/24/55 - 5/29/35
191/473

Richard H. Hodgson
5/31/35 - 7/25/19
113/252

John S. Whaley assignee
Ernest C. Clark
Hebron Savings Bank
First National Bank of Broad St.
Mary Stator Adkins
J. Virgil Adkins
Claude C. Dorman
3/24/55 - foreclose mortgage
#6213 shencours

Walter R. Dickerson

WI-5

Myra J. Disharoon
3/24/55 - 7/15/19

113/253

C. R. Disharoon Co.

7/17/19 - 5/28/18

109/153

William Morris Freeny, son

Ida J. Freeny

6/5/18 - 11/24/1909 (death of John Oscar Freeny)

JWD 1/63 Will of John Oscar Freeny

John Oscar Freeny, son

11/24/1909 - 5/4/1887 (death of Anne Maria Freeny)

ELW 1/62 Will of Anne Maria Freeny

Anne Maria Freeny

5/4/1887 - 5/27/1863

LW 7/73 130 acres

Josephus Humphreys

Sarah A. W. Humphreys

8/25/1863 - 5/9/1863

LW 7/690 graveyard reserved

William W. Johnson

Mary A. Johnson

5/15/1863 - 5/9/1863

LW 7/689

Mary Elizabeth ^{McBride} Slemmons

5/15/1863 - 7/20/1850 (death of John Brown Slemmons)

JP 5/174 Will of John Brown Slemmons

8/7/1841 (death of Elizabeth McBride)

JP 5/61 Will of Elizabeth McBride

includes house & 150 acres

John Brown Slemmons

6/2/1850 - 8/7/1841 (death of Elizabeth McBride)

John Brown Glenora

1/20/1850 - 8/7/1841 (death of Elizabeth McBride)

JP 5/61 Will of Elizabeth McBride
remaining 332 acres + Woodland

WI 5

Elizabeth McBride

8/7/1841 - 11/15/1841

JP 2/267 449 acres

James Ritchie

1/10/1815 - 2/27/1813

JP 1/100

James McCree, executor

Francis McCree, executor

Elizabeth McBride, executor

5/8/1813 - c. 1813 (death of Sarah McBride)

EB 27/178 estate of Sarah McBride

Sarah Murray McBride

William McBride, died c. 1793

Betty Murray Handy, Gil 1774

c. 1813 & ① 7/7/1810

T 488 Quit Claim deed for property

② c. 1793

EB 27/181-1354202 estate of William McB

③ 4/6/1790

I 48 Katherine Dickell interest

④ 4/1/1794

IC #P/82 patent of "New Nithsdale"

⑤ 8/31/1774

F 215 partition deed

⑥ c. 1770

EB 11/170 AA estate of William Mur

Captain William Murray

by 1774 - 5/20/1743

TI 3/500 patent of "Nithsdale"

- 11/30/1747

X 601 interest of Elgates heirs

- 12/11/1747

X 302 interest of Gale heirs

↓ - 8/2/1745

X 166 interest of James Nichol

William Dickell

4/13/1790 -

death of Katherine Dickell

WI-5

William Duskell

4/13/1790 -

death of Katherine Duskell

Katherine Duskell

Ann Hall

Moses Duskell

- c.1738 (death of William Elgate)

1747 - c.1738

E201 + EB 9/204

EB 9/204

William Elgate

Sarah Keene Elgate (2nd wife?)
Katherine Elgate (1st wife?)

c.1738 - 8/5/1682

MA 781

Colonel Henry Jowles

Sybill Groome Jowles

6/19/1686 - 6/7/1677

marriage

Sybill Groome

William Groome

6/7/1677 - 1667

unrecorded deed

John Avery

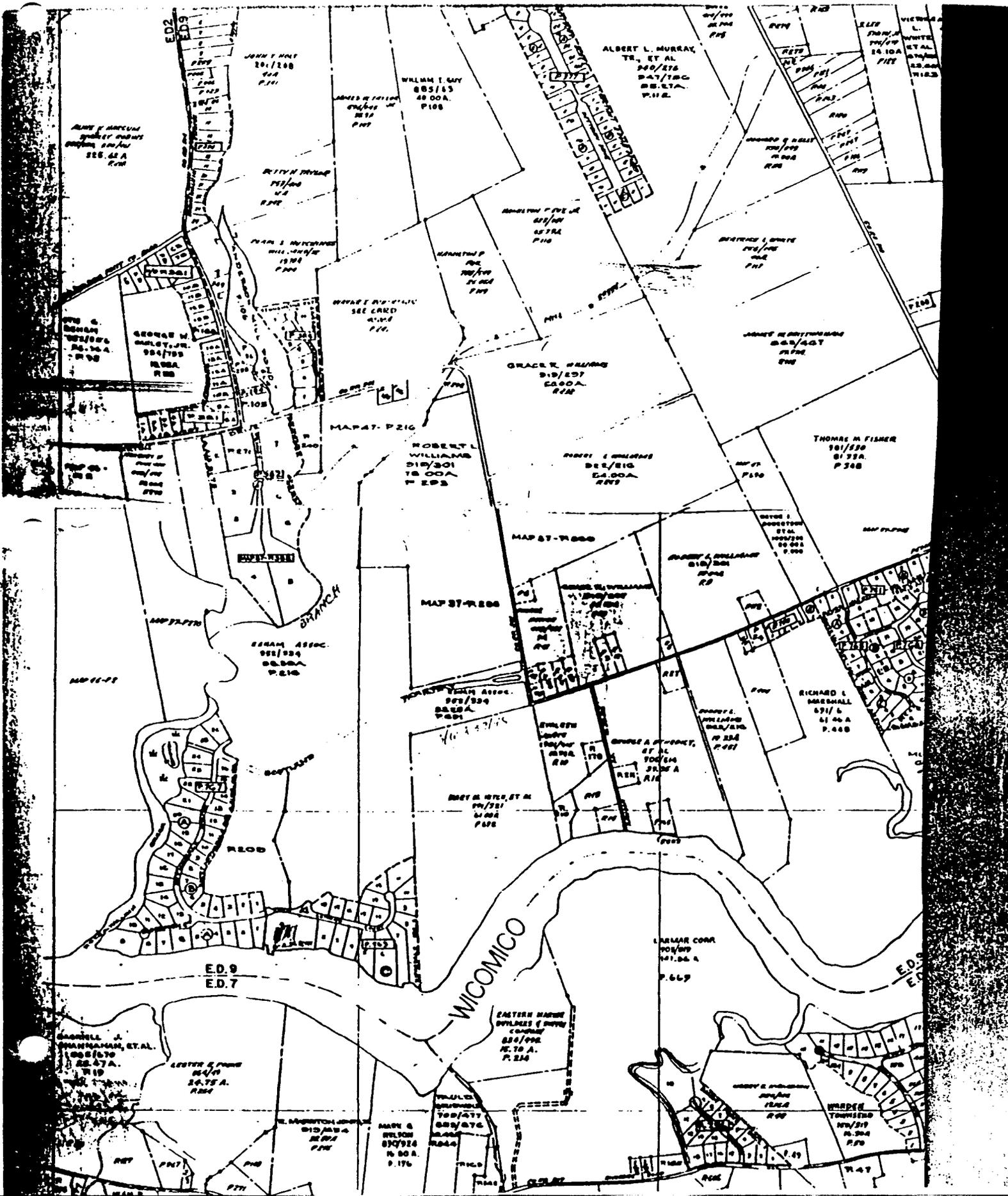
Sarah Avery

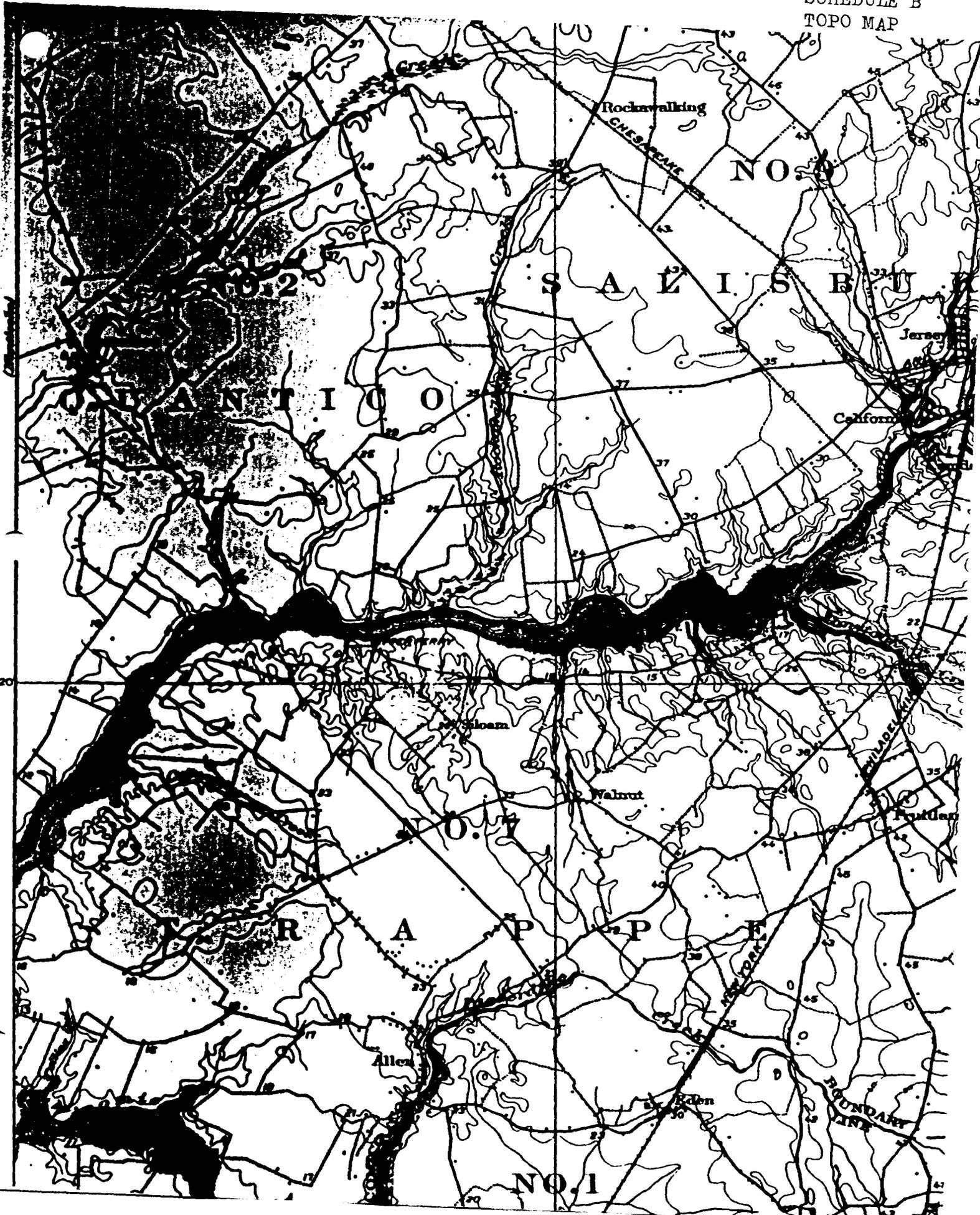
1667 - 9/28/1666

10/180 patent of "Avery's Policy"



SCHEDULE B
TAX MAP







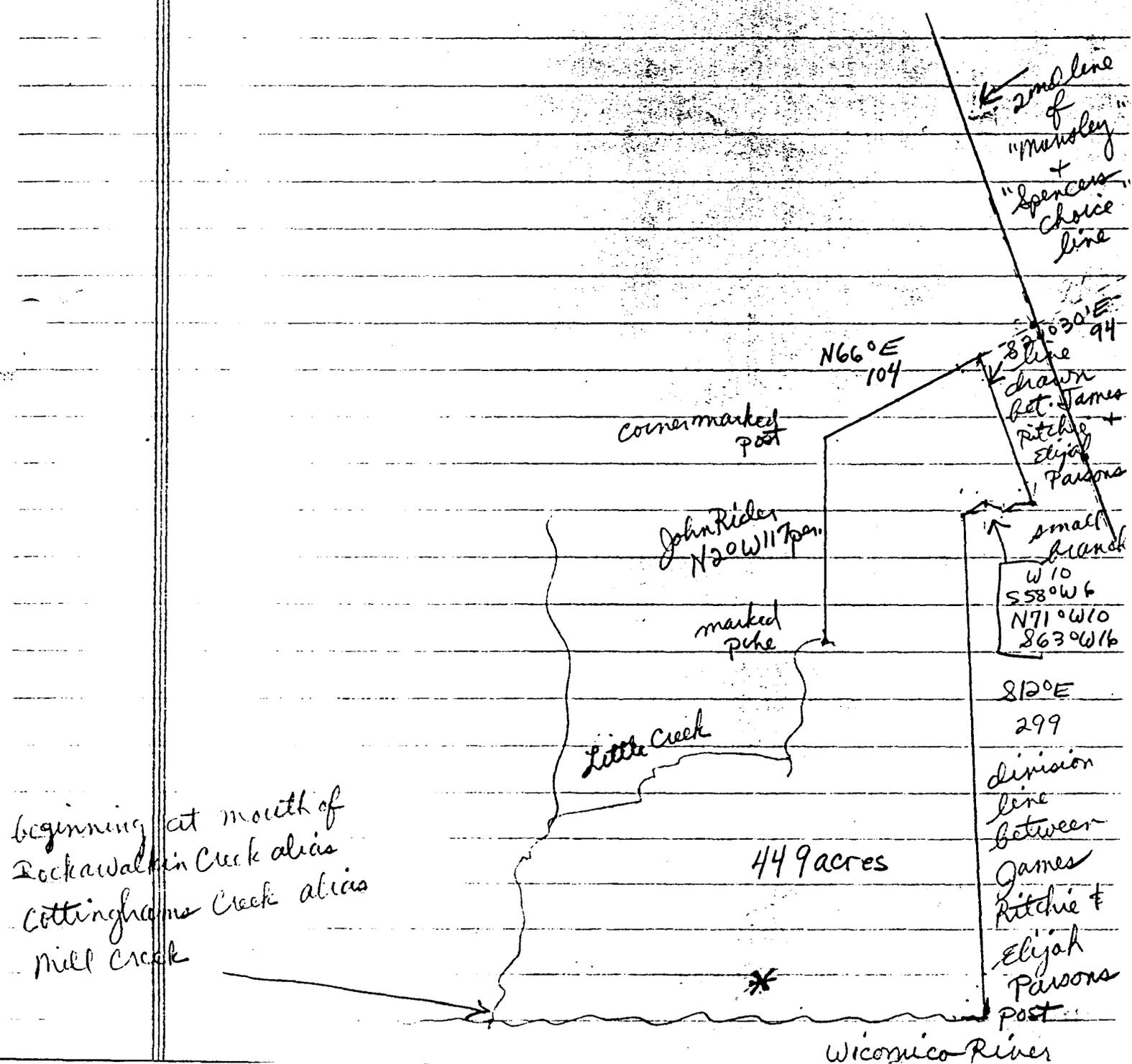
SALISBURY

Dist. No 9
WICOMICO CO.

JP 2/267 449 acres

SCHEDULE C

- to "New Withsdale"
- to "Calcutta"
- to "Hall's Adventure"
- "Kings Neglect"



beginning at mouth of
 Rockaway Creek alias
 Cottinghams Creek alias
 Mill Creek

Wiconico River

T483 East & South of lines

- PO "Avery's Policy"
- PO "New Nithsdale"
- PO "Calcutta"
- PO "Munsley"

John Rider

marked
sassafras
post

end of
25th line
of "N N A"

line of trees
N66°E137'

marked pine

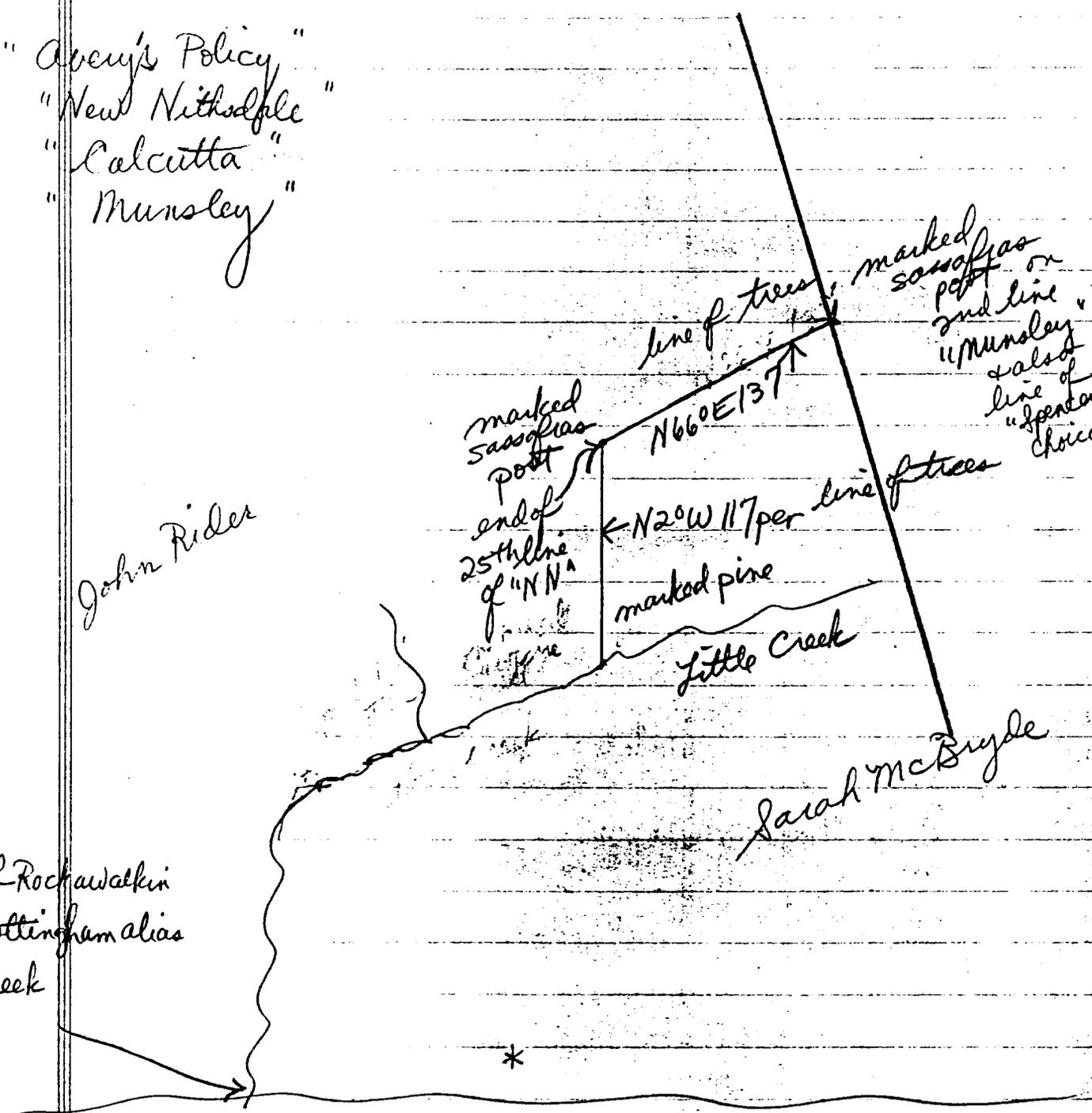
Little Creek

marked
sassafras
post on
2nd line
"Munsley"
& also
line of
"Spencer's
Choice"

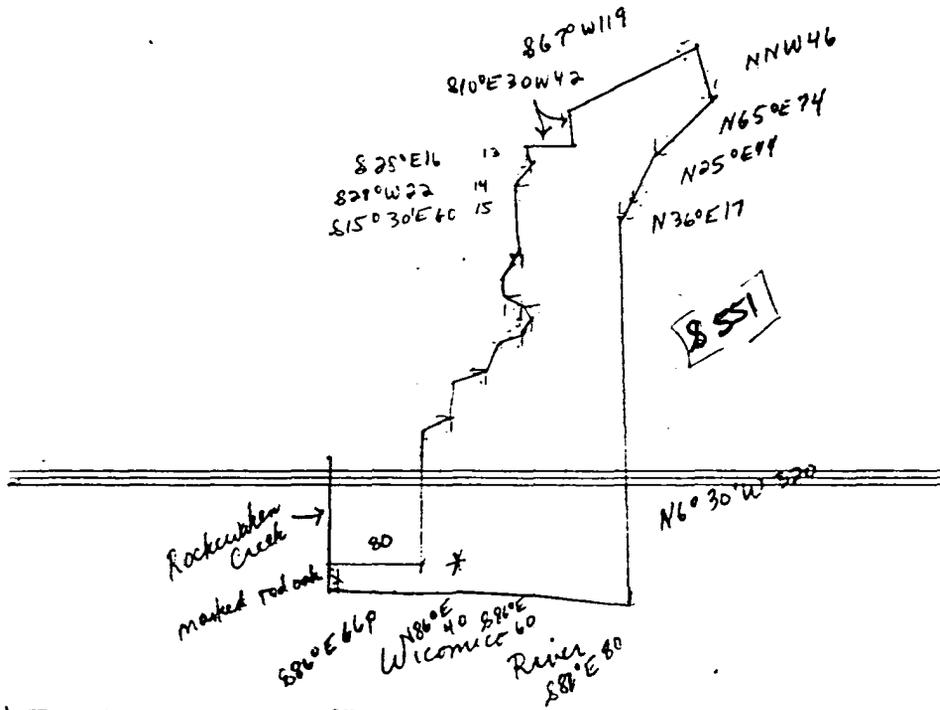
Sarah McBryde

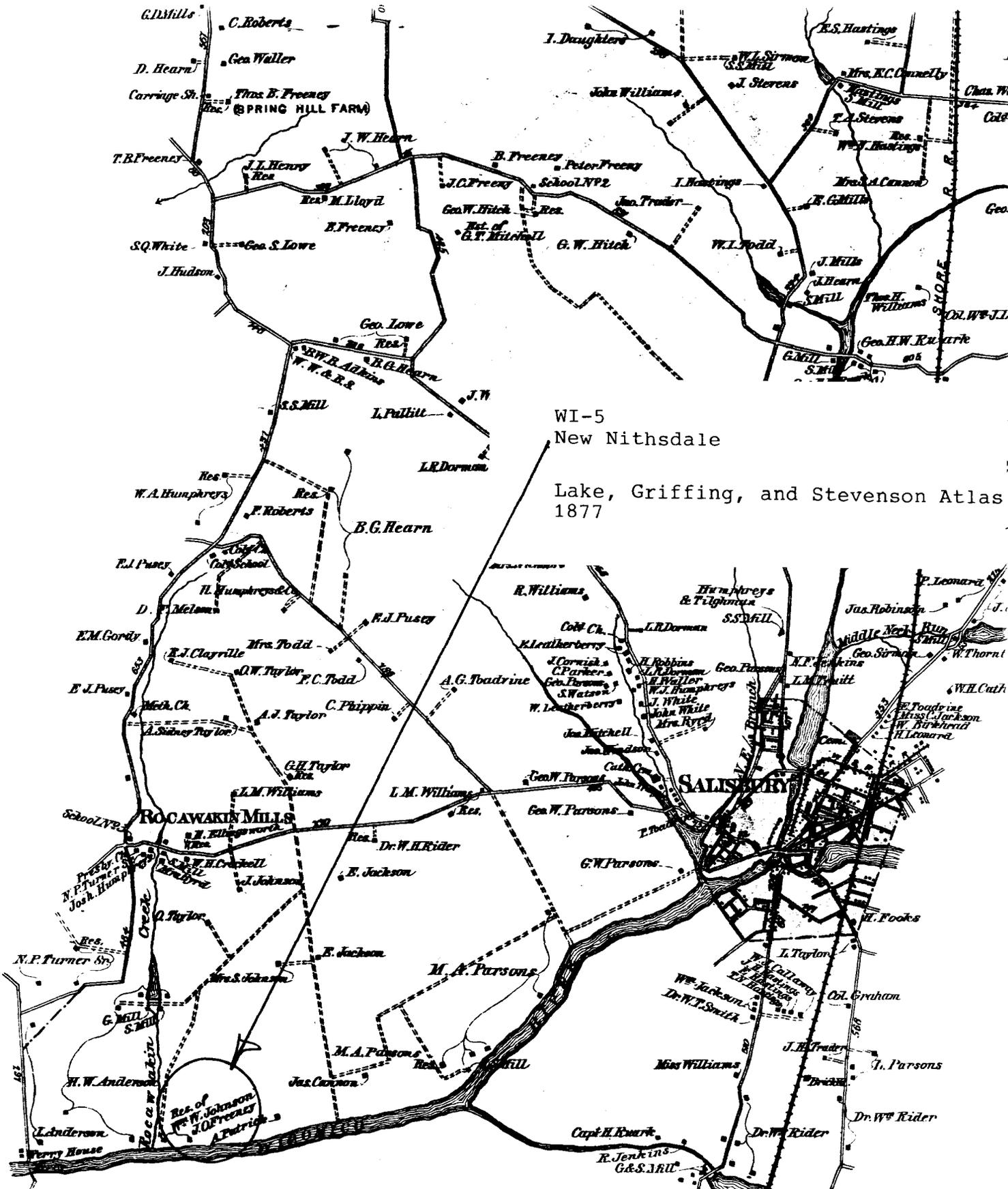
mouth of Rochawalkin
alias Cottingham alias
Mill Creek

*



TI 3/530 patent.
289a Nith's Deal





WI-5
New Nithsdale

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

SALISBURY

Dist. No 9
WICOMICO CO.

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

7.5 MINUTE S

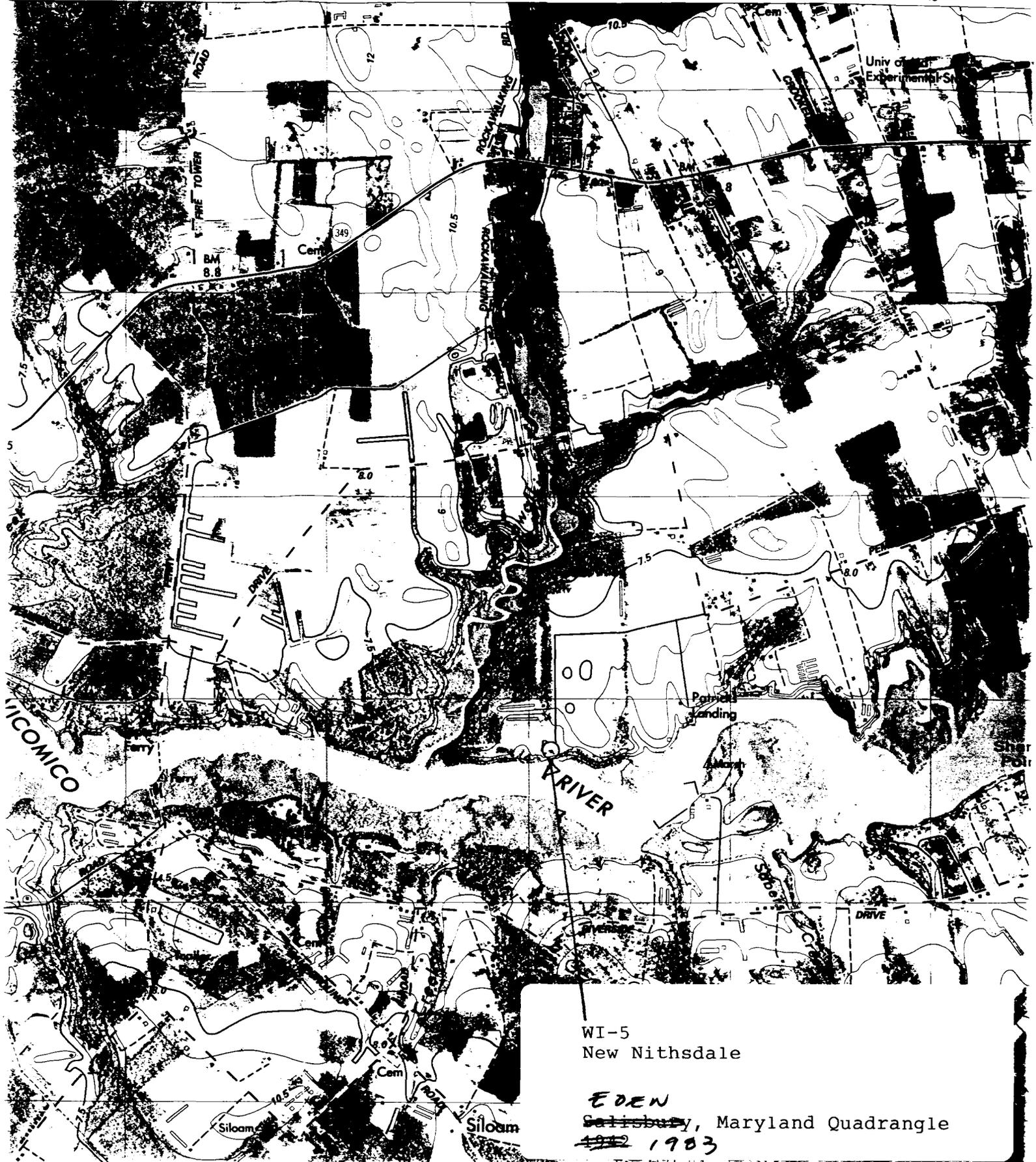
'39

5860 1 NW
(HEBRON)

4.7 KM TO U S 50' '41

40' '42

'43



WI-5
New Nithsdale

EDEN
~~Salisbury~~, Maryland Quadrangle
~~1982~~ 1983

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Avery's Policy, Nithesdale, New Nithesdale

and/or common New Nithsdale (PREFERRED)

2. Location

street & number about 2-3 miles west of Salisbury
Pemberton Drive and Wicomico River ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Wicomico code 045

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Otis Esham (Elizabeth)

street & number Pemberton Drive—New Nithsdale, Route 5

city, town Salisbury vicinity of state Maryland 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records Wicomico County Courthouse

street & number Division Street

city, town Salisbury state Maryland 21801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wicomico County, Maryland--WCMC-5
title Hist. Sites Inv, Vol. 2-Lower has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 Eastern Shore federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

New Nithsdale is located on a rise on the north bank of the Wicomico River, approximately four miles west of Salisbury, Maryland, off of Pemberton Drive, a local road paralleling the river just south of Maryland State Route #349. It is 1/4 mile east of Rockawalking Creek and approximately one mile east of Upper Ferry and Upper Ferry Road.

The nominated property has 3.97 acres and contains the original 42' x 20' brick house to which is attached on the east side, a two-story 42' x 36' addition and a 38' x 30' brick garage constructed in 1956. There is also to the east a 1965 frame barn, 42' x 36', a circular drive on the north side, extensive landscaping and large mature trees, a bulkheaded docking area, and over 400 feet of frontage on the river. In the northeast corner of the property is a 30' x 30' cemetery with a dozen 19th century grave markers.

Part of a 300 acre grant to John Avery, known as Avery's Policy, dated September 28, 1666, the property is limited to the immediate area surrounding the original building. The present owners have subdivided the remaining acreage while maintaining the integrity of the original site, identified as "Homeplace" on the attached survey plat dated March 25, 1980.

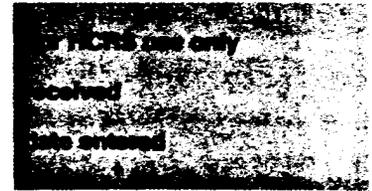
Built around 1735, the original house is a one and one-half story brick residence with gable roof, gabled dormers, and two inside end chimneys. The pale salmon color bricks are laid in Flemish bond with random glazed ends. The front entrance of the 42' x 20' structure faces south toward the river (the 1956 frame addition has a main entrance to the north). It is three bays wide and one bay deep and has its original five-panelled front door under a three-light transom. There are two front 9 over 9 windows, restored in original openings under rubbed and gauged brick flat arches. Four original window openings in the west wall were bricked-in around 1890. This house, complete with specifically dimensioned windows is fully described in the 1798 Federal Assessment, Somerset County, Maryland.

Three front and three rear dormers have been restored to original dimensions as indicated by interior framing. Diagonal clapboard and 6 over 6 windows have been installed. The roof has been restored with end returns and a wide cornice along the front. The rear of the roof has been extended over a modern porch which was added on the north side in 1956.

The three-bay interior is made up of a central hall (with stairs and closet) and rooms to the right and left. The hall is 7' wide and 20' deep. The 3' wide 2-run stairway is completely original. The design is simple with two square balusters on each step, a rounded hand rail and square newel posts and caps. (See photos 7 and 8.) All three first floor doors in the hall are original (see photos 6 and 11) hand worked, hand pegged, with 5-panel, 2 over 1 over 2 design.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



New Nithsdale, Wicomico County, Maryland

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The east room, to the right of the central hall, is approximately 15' x 20' and contains a large original fireplace minimally restored by the addition of a lining of one course of firebrick (see photo 9). The panelling on the fireplace wall is a restoration in the style of the period of the house. The room has been replastered.

The west room, also approximately 15' x 20' has a smaller original fireplace flanked by two closets which probably were added after the two windows in that wall were bricked-in around 1890. The closet doors are from another Eastern Shore house of the period. This room still has virtually all of its original oyster-shell and horse-hair plaster walls.

The second floor west room, to the right at the top of the stairs, is approximately 15' x 15' and has been preserved intact with the exception of plaster replacement. The floors (see photo 14), fireplace, panelling, and closet doors are original (see photo 12).

The remaining portion of the second floor was modified to tie in with the 1956 addition and, other than the dormer windows, no original elements remaining.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

Four acres being nominated represent the tract as recently platted in the subdivision of the area, retaining around the house a setting which maintains the integrity of the site as it existed in the 1700's and distinctly separating it from surrounding development.

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1730-1750

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of New Nithsdale is drawn from two sources. As a small one-and-a-half-story, three-bay brick house one room deep and with a Flemish bond facade with glazed headers, New Nithsdale represents a typical house of a moderately affluent Tidewater planter in the first half of the 18th century. Although a large frame extension is attached to the east side, New Nithsdale is an important example because it has been restored and retains much of the original fabric (doors, balustrade, wall paneling). The house also draws significance from association with Levin Gale for whom the house was erected. Gale was a successful trader and merchant who owned large tracts of land in the area and was appointed by the state legislature as one of the commissioners to establish the Town of Princess Anne (1733) now in neighboring Somerset County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In the 1730s traffic on the Wicomico River extended to the head of the river (now Salisbury). The site of New Nithsdale four miles downstream is significant and worthy of preservation since it was near the Upper Ferry on the road from Barren Creek to the head of the Manokin River (now Princess Anne). A mill had been established on Rockawalking Creek between the ferry and New Nithsdale and the mouth of the creek was an active shipping point. The Wicomico Presbyterian Church, third oldest in the United States (organized by Francis Makemie in 1683), had established its first meeting house by 1706 on the river between the ferry and the creek. In 1731 and 1736 Levin Gale purchased the mill and land at Rockawalking Creek and in 1742 sold a portion of that land to the church for their second meeting house about 1/4 mile above the mill.

New Nithsdale is located on the land purchased by Levin Gale in 1731 and he is believed to be the builder of the house in the 1730s. Gale was the son of George Gale, an early trader who was instrumental in the settlement of the site of Lower Ferry at Whitehave, 10 miles down the river (now a National Register Historic District). Levin was one of five commissioners (including his brother George) appointed by the Maryland Assembly to establish Princess Anne in 1733, seven miles in the southeast. Levin Gale, Jr. was a signer of the Oath of Allegiance to Maryland on June 27, 1778.

Today the house remains, high on the north bank of the river, not far from the still operating ferry, and near the sites of the mill and the churches.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Eden Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of this nomination are delineated on the attached map labeled "NR Boundary Map" drawn to a scale of 1"=100' and dated March 25, 1980.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty and Duncan C. Augustine

organization _____ date November, 1980

street & number Locust Lane telephone (301) 873-2995

city or town Whitehaven state Maryland 21873

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date _____



**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

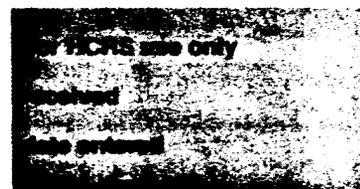
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New Nithsdale, Wicomico County, Maryland

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2



MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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EDEN QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (POGRAPHIC)

439

5860 1 NW
(THE BRON)

ROCKAWALKING 2.2 MI 40'

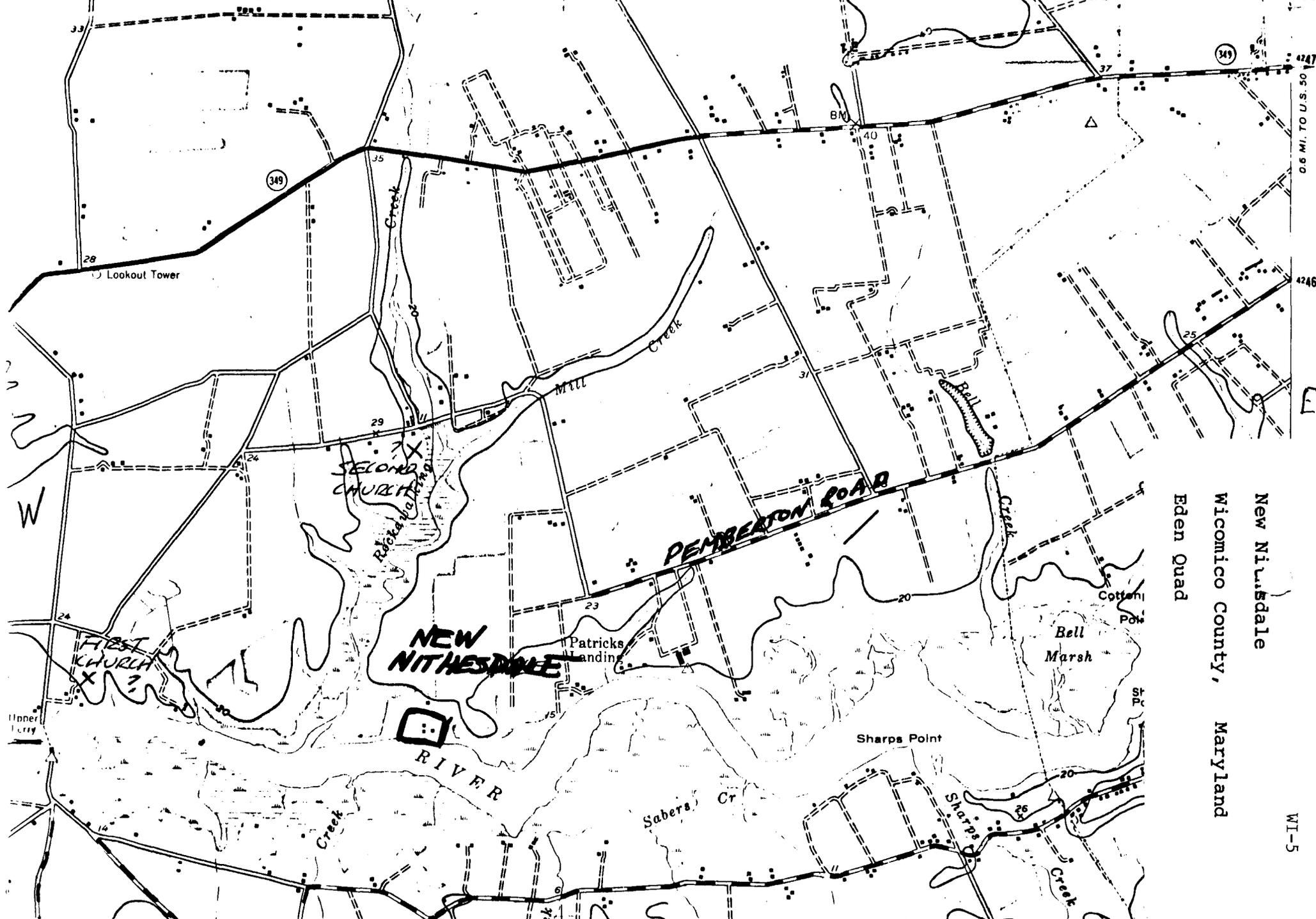
42

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44 1:250 000 FEET

45

75° 37' 30"
38



New Nithsdale
Wicomico County, Maryland
Eden Quad

0.6 MI. TO U.S. 50

WI-5



New Nithesdale, Wi-5

Michael Bourne 1970