

WO-353  
Esau Boston Farm  
Pocomoke City vicinity  
Private

c. 1815, c. 1840, c. 1900

The Esau Boston or Tull farmhouse is one of the oldest surviving frame dwellings to remain standing southwest of Pocomoke City. Estimated to date to the early nineteenth century, c. 1815, the single-story two-room plan dwelling was enlarged around 1840 by a taller two-story, two-bay addition that gave the house a stepped appearance. Extending northward from the house is a single-story hyphen that joins a turn of the twentieth century kitchen. Although the additions are not built on the same axis, the Esau Boston house follows the regionally distinctive stepped or telescope building history common to vernacular traditions. The interiors have survived with representative examples of early to mid nineteenth century woodwork. Joining the house on this farm are two significant outbuildings, a single-story brick dairy dating to around 1840 and a rectangular frame slave house thought to date to 1850.

On December 3, 1798, Esau Boston, Sr. was issued a resurvey of his land, comprising several tracts which he consolidated under one name, "Lock." Included in the 189 acres were parts of "Boston's Hardship," "Keel," "Rudder," and part of "Long Trusted." Esau Boston, Sr. evidently fiananced the construction of the oldest part of this house during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1835 Esau Boston, Sr. transferred ownership of his resurveyed lands to his son Esau Boston, Jr. (1784-1869) Esau, Jr. is recorded in 1837 as one of four commissioners appointed by the General Assembly to condemn and lay off a lot of ground for a public wharf at Cedar Hall landing. Esau, Jr. married three times, Jane Beauchamp in May 1807; Mary Broughton in March 1833; and finally

Mariah Melvin in February 1847. In 1860, Esau Boston is listed in the U. S. Census as a relatively wealthy farmer with assets around \$20,000. He died in 1869 and left his, "Farm whereon I now dwell called by the name 'Lock' containing one hundred and eighty acres," to his son James Henry Boston. He also bequeathed to his son James his best Bible and four shares of captial stock in the "Pocomoke Bridge Company." (TT 8/519) Boston family ownership of the farm was maintained until 1910 when the farm was sold to James S. Clogg.(ODC 6/120) The current owner purchased the farm in 1929.(BB 10/239)

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ESAU BOSTON FARM

MHT Inventory Number: WO-353

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE  
AGRICULTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
AGRARIAN/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
FARMSTEAD
  1. Single-family dwelling
  2. Dairy
  3. Slave house
  4. Granary
  5. Corn crib

Survey No. WO-353

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ESAU BOSTON FARM

and/or common TULL FARM

## 2. Location

street & number Southeast side of Cedar Hall Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Pocomoke City \_\_\_x vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___x occupied	___x agriculture	___ museum
___x building(s)	___x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___x private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Drucilla Tull

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Pocomoke City state and zip code MD 21851

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber BB 10

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 239

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0353

<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.

The Esau Boston farm, more commonly known as the Reuben Tull farm, is located on the south side of Cedar Hall Road three miles southwest of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story main house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in at least three distinct stages the oldest part of this stepped or telescope frame house involves the eastern single-story, three-bay frame house that was enlarged around 1840 with the two-story, two-bay frame addition that extends from the west gable end of the original dwelling. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story hyphen that joins a two-story turn of the twentieth century one-bay by one-room kitchen. Supported by a concrete block and brick foundation, the house is uniformly sheathed with a layer of asbestos shingles, and the various pitched roofs are covered by a layer of asphalt shingles. The farmhouse is joined on the property by a common bond brick dairy, a former slave house that has been extensively rebuilt, and a row of mid to late nineteenth century outbuildings including a granary, two corn cribs, and a smokehouse.

The south (main) elevation of the original single-story two-room plan frame house is marked by a side entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The cornice is boxed. The east gable end of the original house is defined by an exposed and stuccoed brick firewall, a side six-panel door entrance and a single-pane sash window. The upper gable is marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows to either side of an interior end brick stack topped by a corbelled brick cap. The flush gable end is trimmed by a bargeboard.

Fully covering the west gable end is the 1840s two-story, two-bay addition that contains a front side entrance as well. Single-pane sash fill the window openings, and a boxed cornice trims the base of the roof. Four-over-two sash windows pierce the east end above the original house to light the attic. The west end of the addition is dominated by an exterior common bond brick stack with a corbelled base and corbelled shoulders. Bargeboards finish the gable ends.

Extending to the rear is a short single-story hyphen that joins the kitchen service to the house. The kitchen wing is a two-story, one-room plan frame structure lighted by two-over-two sash windows on each floor. An interior end brick chimney protrudes through the north gable end. The eaves are extended slightly beyond the wall surface.

The interior of the original house is divided on the first floor into two room fitted with early nineteenth century woodwork dating to around 1815. The woodwork, including period doors and mantels, remain in place. The second floor was not seen.

(continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-353

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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:  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.

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On December 3, 1798, Esau Boston, Sr. was issued a resurvey of his land, comprising several tracts which he consolidated under one name, "Lock." Included in the 189 acres were parts of "Boston's Hardship," "Keel," "Rudder," and part of "Long Trusted." Esau Boston, Sr. evidently financed the construction of the oldest part of this house during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1835 Esau Boston, Sr. transferred ownership of his resurveyed lands to his son Esau Boston, Jr. (1784-1869) Esau, Jr. is recorded in 1837 as one of four commissioners appointed by the General Assembly to condemn and lay off a lot of ground for a public wharf at Cedar Hall landing. Esau, Jr. married three times, Jane Beauchamp in May 1807; Mary Broughton in March 1833; and finally Mariah Melvin in February 1847. In 1860, Esau Boston is listed in the U. S. Census as a relatively wealthy farmer with assets around \$20,000. He died in 1869 and left his, "Farm whereon I now dwell called by the name 'Lock' containing one hundred and eighty acres," to his son James Henry Boston. He also bequeathed to his son James his best Bible and four shares of captial stock in the "Pocomoke Bridge Company." (TT 8/519) Boston family ownership of the farm was maintained until 1910 when the farm was sold to James S. Clogg. (ODC 6/120) The current owner purchased the farm in 1929. (BB 10/239)



## ESAU BOSTON FARM DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Standing next to the house on the west side is a single-story, four-course common bond brick dairy. The gable front structure has an east end entrance and boarded over six-over-six sash window openings in each side. The floor level of the interior is well below grade, and riven lath and plaster finish the walls. Some of the shelving remains in place as well.

North of the house is a single-story gable roof frame outbuilding referred to by Mrs. Tull as the old slave house. Estimated to date to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the rectangular weatherboard frame structure has been extensively rebuilt with later replacement studs and framing members. Little of the original mortise-and-tenon joinery remains intact. Several strap hinges are found on interior doors. A shed addition extends the building to the rear.

Other outbuildings include a mortise-and-tenon frame granary with later sheds to each side, and two rectangular frame corn cribs.

WO-353  
TULL FARM  
Cedar Hall Road  
Chain of title

BB 10/239 Augustus A. Mason and Lee W. Mason,  
his wife

to

12/7/1929 Reuben W. Tull  
Drucilla H. Tull

BB 6/229 L. Paul Ewell, trustee

to

10/23/1928 Augustus A. Mason  
Whereas at public auction made on  
6/9/1928 in and by a certain mortgage  
from Carl L. Merrill to James S. Clogg  
dated 8/28/1926 SMC 53/136

Mortgage James S. Clogg  
SMC 53/136 Sallie R. Clogg

to

8/28/1926 Carl L. Merrill  
being the same land which by deed  
dated 7/26/1921 conveyed unto James  
S. Clogg by John O. Mears and Della  
Mears ODC 41/302

ODC 41/302 John O. Mears  
Della Mears

to

7/26/1921 James S. Clogg  
"Lock" which was devised to a certain  
James H. Boston by his father, Esau  
Boston, late of Worcester County

WO-353  
TULL FARM  
Chain of title

Page 2

Mortgage  
ODC 37/196

John O. Mears and Della  
Mears, Accomac Co., Va.

to

2/3/1920

James S. Clogg  
Sallie R. Clogg  
"Lock"

ODC 6/120

James H. Boston and wife Susan F. Boston

to

1/6/1910

James S. Clogg  
\$4000.00

TT 8/519

Will of Esau Boston

to

Written  
2/3/1869  
Proved  
6/22/1869

James Henry Boston

4th-I give and devise to my son  
James Henry my Farm whereon I now  
dwell called by the name "Lock"  
containing one hundred and eighty  
acres of land more or less, also  
four shares of Capital Stock in  
the "Pocomoke Bridge Company" and  
my best family Bible to him and his  
heirs and assigns forever...

JCH 2/544

Esau Boston, Sr.

to

12/29/1835

Esau Boston, Jr.            200 1/8 acres  
\$800 viz. "Boston's Hardship," "Keel,"  
"Rudder," "Long Trusted," and "Security"  
the whole consolidated in one entire Tract  
and called "Lock" by the patent of resurvey

WO-353  
TULL FARM  
Chain of title

Page 3

EDM 4/619 Ezra B. Risley of Philadelphia

to

12/18/1852 Esau Boston  
"Cypres or seder swamp" part of "Great  
Convenience and known by the name of  
the Layfield Swamp

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On 12/3/1798 Esau Boston, Sr. having requested a resurvey of his land was issued a new grant to the combined tract, now called "Lock" comprising parts of the 180 acres of "Boston's Hardship" granted to his father 7/10/1758, the 25 acres of "Keel" granted to his father 8/8/1769 and 7 acres of "Rudder" granted to Elijah Brittingham 5/10/1758 as well as part of the 100 acres of "Long Trusted" granted to Jacob Boston 6/28/1748 a total of 189½ acres  
(MD Land Office IC & B p. 15

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Esau Boston, Jr. married 1st Jane Beauchamp 5/17/1807  
2nd Mary Broughton 3/22/1833  
3rd Mariah Melvin 2/2/1847

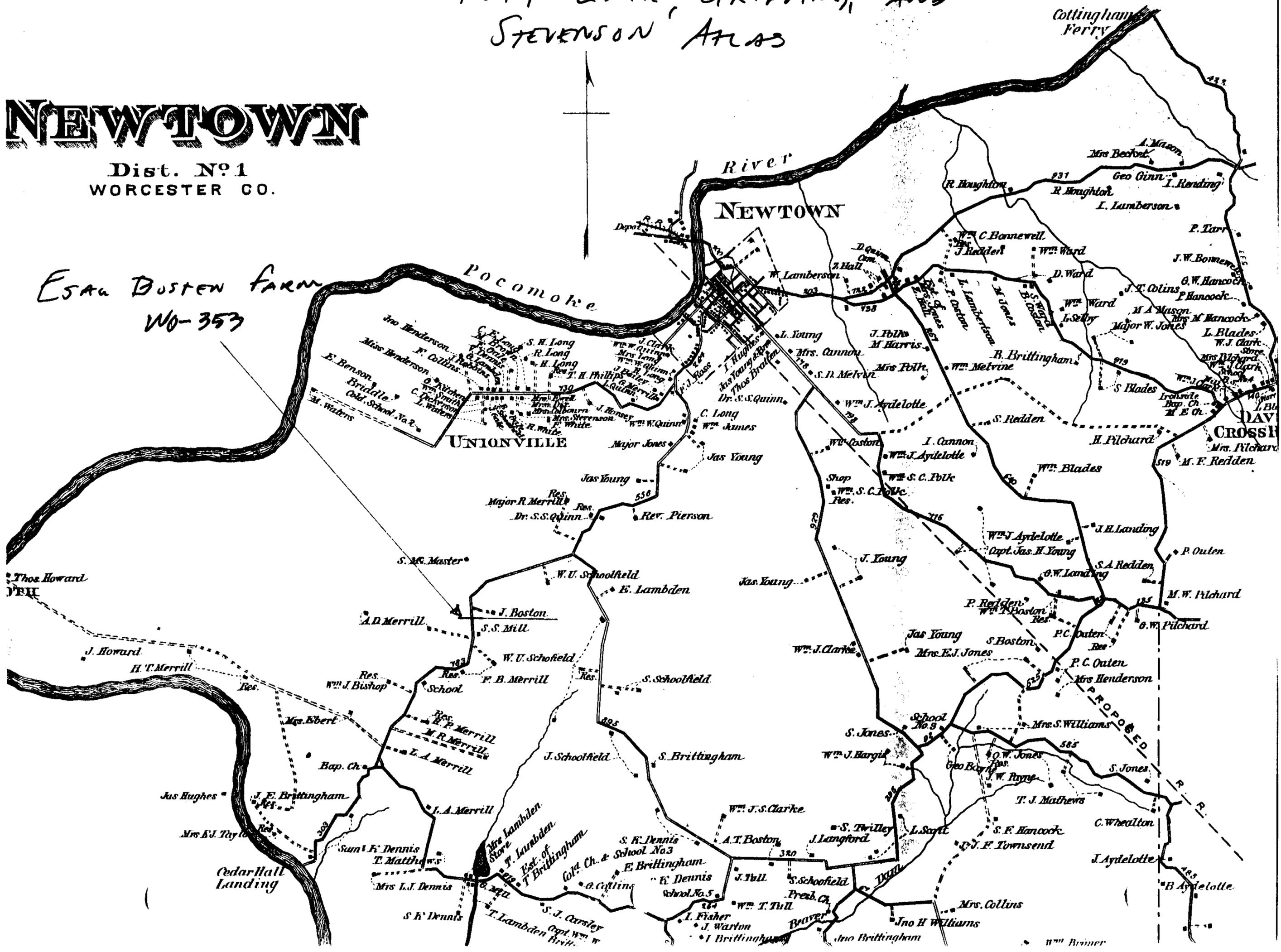
In 1837 Esau Boston, Jr. was appointed a commissioner by the General Assembly with Handy Mills, Barrister Horsey and Levin Henderson "to condemn and lay off a lot of ground for a public wharf at Cedar Hall Landing

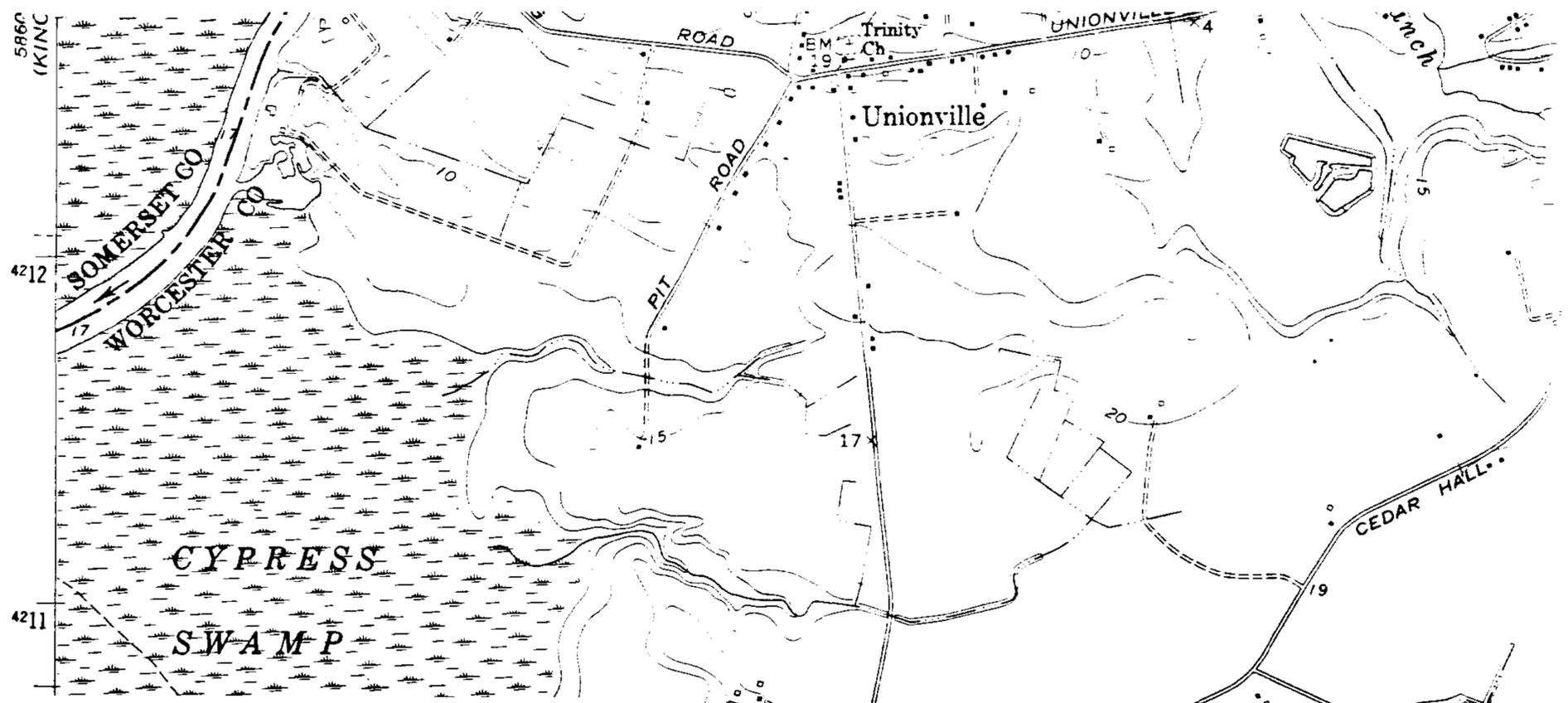
1877 LAKE, GRIFING, AND STEVENSON ATLAS

# NEWTOWN

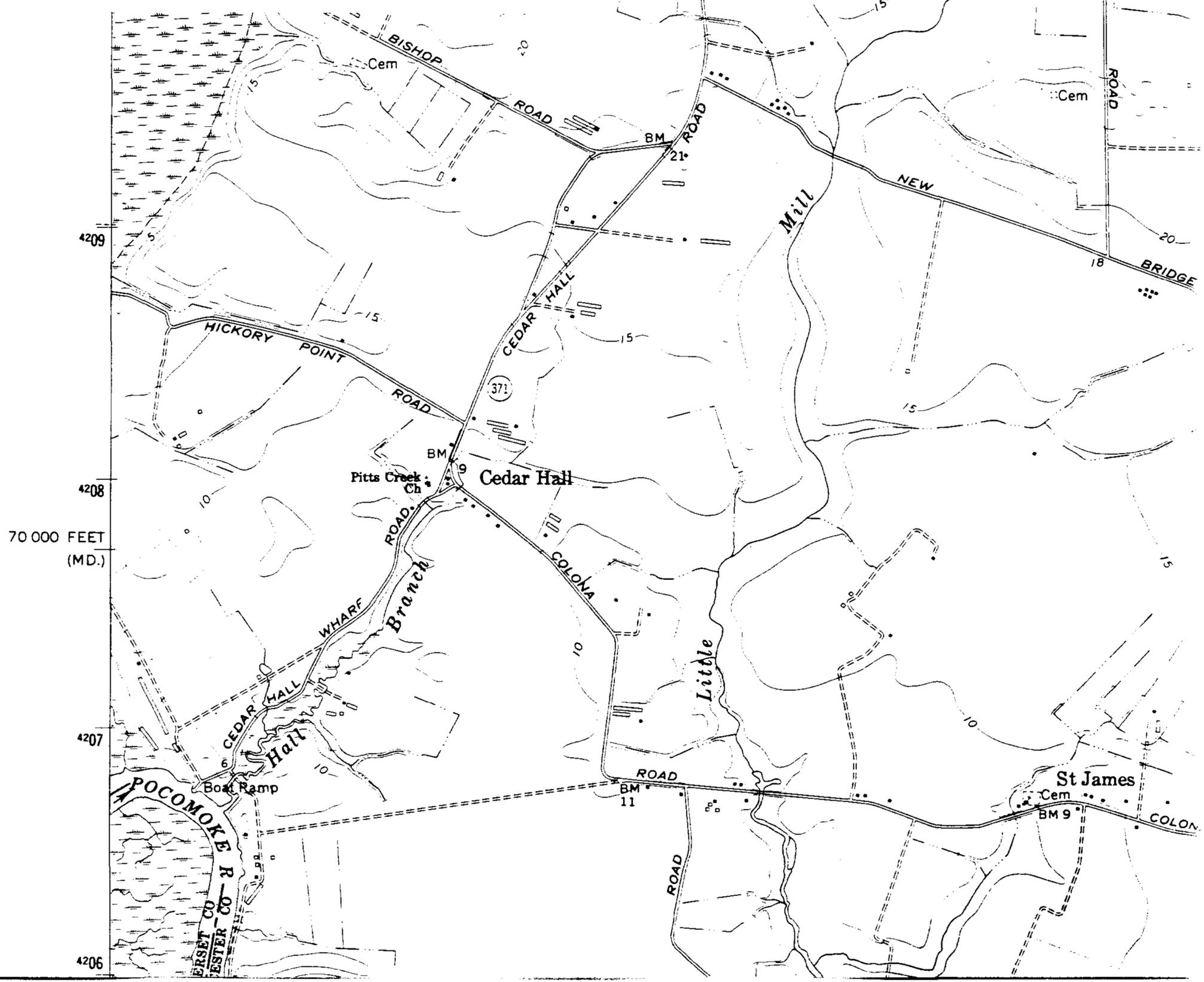
Dist. No 1  
WORCESTER CO.

ESAU BOSTEN FARM  
No-353





WO-353  
 ESAU BOSTON FARM (TULL FARM)  
 Pocomoke City, MD Quadrangle  
 1968



70 000 FEET  
 (MD.)