

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-906

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT HOUSE

and/or common JOS. TONGUE'S HOUSE AT LAND'S END FARM

## 2. Location

street & number Cumberstone Rd.  not for publicationcity, town Cumberstone  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_state MD county a.a.

## 3. Classification

| Category                             | Ownership                                 | Status                                     | Present Use                            |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district    | <input type="checkbox"/> public           | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input 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 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 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 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 SALLY M. STOTZstreet & number Cumberstone Rd. telephone no.: 867-2595city, town Harwood state and zip code MD. 20776

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. \_\_\_\_\_ liber \_\_\_\_\_

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ folio \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

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

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-906

|                                    |                                       |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Condition</b>                   |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                   | <b>Check one</b>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input 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.

This tenant house at Creekside Farm was probably built c.1906-10 by Mr. James Murray, owner of Creekside Farm. Apparently the house was constructed initially as a one-room-up, one-room-down frame dwelling much like its farm neighbor "Jane's House" (AA-905). The original 1906-10 portion is today the left half of the present side-gabled main block.

Within a few years of construction of the first portion, the second portion, or right half of the main block, was added, doubling the size of the original structure.

In 1912-13 a separate one-room-up one-room-down structure, located four feet behind the left half of the main block, was added. (The 4-foot in-between space was later in-filled with a bathroom.) James Wells Jr. (born c.1905) remembers that the separate rear section was built by a carpenter Mr. Glover from Galesville to accomodate the arrival of the large Wells family to Creekside Farm. James Wells Sr. worked as a tenant farmer for Mr. James Murray until c. 1925.

In 1925 Mr. Murray's wife Susie died, and their son Churchill married Marjorie Burwell from Lothian.<sup>1</sup> Wilson Parker, tenant farmer, parttime preacher, and friend of Marjorie's from Lothian, moved into the Creekside Farm Tenant House. He soon married Louisa Brent, a native of Cumberstone, born 1895. [During the early 1900's "Miss Susie" Murray used to conduct Sunday School at Cedar Park for the Cumberstone black children. Louisa Brent attended this school as recounted by her daughter Jessie Neal, current occupant of Parkhurst Tenant House (AA-907) across the road from Creekside Farm.] Wilson Parker lived in Creekside Tenant House until 1943 (Louisa died in 1941).

From c.1945-1955 Creekside Farm Tenant House was occupied by the Hartges, a white tenant family.

In 1956 the current occupants moved in, Joseph and Bernice Tongue. Joseph, a Cumberstone native, was born across the road at Parkhurst Tenant House in 1937; his mother's aunt was former Creekside occupant Louisa Brent Parker. Bernice comes from Lothian, and her father's uncle was former occupant Wilson Parker. Small world!

For generations in Cumberstone a few black families have shared among themselves the available farm jobs and tenant houses, while the land has remained in the hands of the Murray family. During years of living side by side, the land owners and employees developed a relationship of mutual need and familiarity. Black women nursed white children, and white women schooled black children. Sue Murray recalled  
(cont'd. next page)

<sup>1</sup> Marjorie and Churchill Murray changed the name of Creekside Farm to "Land's End".

# 8. Significance

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| Period                               | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499   | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599   | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699   | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|                                      |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates  | Builder/Architect |
|---|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D<br>and/or<br>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 type="checkbox"/> local  |                   |

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

Cont'd. from previous page

her mother Marjorie carrying dinners over to an ailing Wilson Parker at Creekside Tenant House after his wife had died.

But in the 1960's demographic changes came to Cumberstone when the Smithsonian began to acquire land there: in 1966, Ivy Neck farmland, in 1970 Parkhurst farmland, and in 1980 Poplar Knowle farmland, all sold to the Smithsonian in an effort to protect the land from development. This transfer meant the end of the symbiotic relationship between white families and black families in Cumberstone.

The new owner, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), continues many of the same farming activities on the land, but the labor force is hired from outside, and local black families have moved away. The tenant houses are mostly empty and deteriorating. (See AA-225A and AA-225D at Ivy Neck.) One family, Sam and Jessie Neal, was given a life estate in their tenant house (AA-907 Parkhurst). Sam died in 1986. When Jessie leaves, her house will no doubt remain empty too.

Creekside Farm Tenant House, which does not belong to the Smithsonian but is still owned by the Murray family, is about the last house in Cumberstone to be occupied by native Cumberstone blacks.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-906

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name S. River, MD. 1957; revised 1979.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 SUSAN WETHERILL, VOLUNTEER

organization ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COMMITTEE/MHT date 10/87

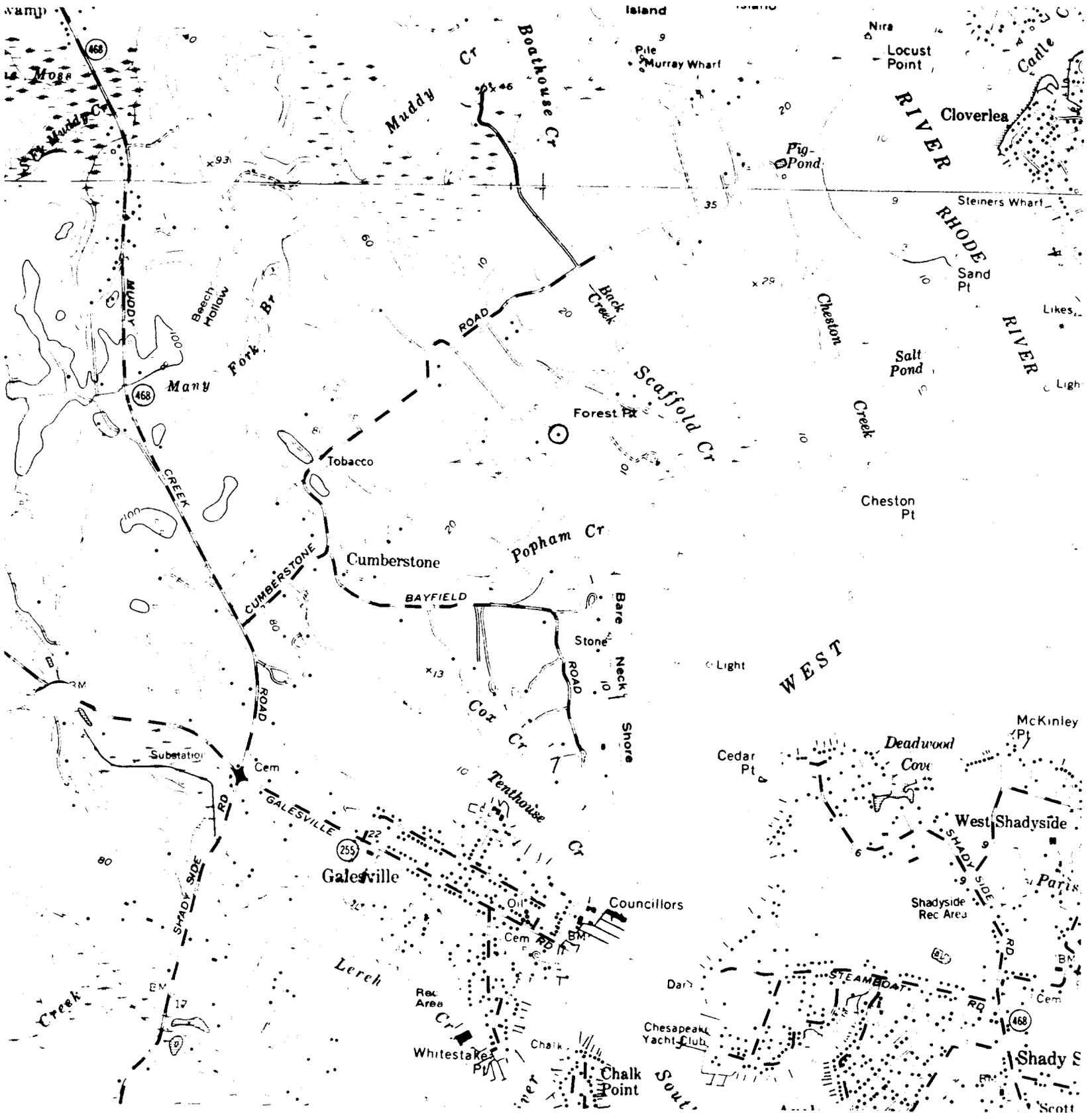
street & number P.O. BOX 1573 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town ANNAPOLIS state MD. 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



AA-906 CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT HOUSE  
 CUMBERSTONE

Deale, MD. USGS MAP  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1957, revised 1979



MARCH 1985

AA-906

CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT #5E

Cumberstone

A.A.Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 3/85

✓ corner



AA-906

CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT HSE.

Cumberland

A.A.Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 3/85

facade, SE elev.



AA-906

CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT HSE  
Cumberland

A-A Co. MD

J. Wetherill, 3/85

E ~~W~~ Corner



AA-906

CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT HSE.

Cumberstone

A.A.Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 3/85

W corner



AA-906

CREEKSIDE FARM TENANT HSE

Cumberland

A.A.Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 3/85

W corner