

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File # 843

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Nichols House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1/2 mile south of Pilettown

CITY, TOWN

Pilettown

x VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

\_\_DISTRICT

x BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

\_\_PUBLIC

x PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

x OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

x YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

x PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles R. Nichols

Telephone #: No phone

STREET & NUMBER

Box 167 A

CITY, TOWN

Conowingo

x VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21918

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: WAS 371

Folio #: 665

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nichols House c. 1877-1900 is a 2 story frame house located on the Old Conowingo Road south of Pilot Town. The House is on the west side of the road. The main gable runs north/south and the primary facade has a eastern exposure.

The 2 story main block is 3 bays across by 1 bay deep. A gable 2 story addition extends off the back of the main block. It is 2 bays across by 2 rooms deep. Shed roof additions are found on the north and south sides of this back wing. A front porch extends across the main facade.

The asbestos shingled house rests on an uncoursed stone foundation and is capped with a medium pitched slate roof.

The main facade consists of 3 bays with the central one being a door. 6/6 sash remain in the first floor. The second floor has 3/3 sash windows. The eaves are extended with a small boxed cornice. The front porch has plain supports and a tin roof. The south gable end has a small exterior gabled entrance to the cellar space. A modern brick stack rises against this wall. The back additions are relatively plain and with out significant detail.

The north gable end is similarly unadorned. A stuccoed brick stack does rise out of this end gable.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house does not have much significance other than it is one of a dozen houses like itself that form Pilot Town. Each is unique in that it has grown and expanded in its own way.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

is a portion of the land owned by the State of Maryland, and is situated in Cecil County, Maryland. The boundary is described as follows: ...

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	Cecil County Committee	DATE 7/25/78
STREET & NUMBER	Cecil County Courthouse	TELEPHONE 398-7568
CITY OR TOWN	Elkton	STATE Maryland

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

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Pilot Town

CE- 840, 842, 843, 844, 845 (log house), 846, 847 (school no. 3), 848, 849 (store),  
 850, 851, 852, 853 (Johnson Victorian), 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860,  
 861, 862, 863.

Pilot Town owes its existence to two primary reasons. The first is the 19th Century mining activity in the area and the second is the shift of the Susquehanna crossing from the Bald Friar ferry to the town of Conowingo. The road from Pennsylvania to the Bald Friar ferry passed west of the present Pilot Town crossroads. It is obvious that this route predated any other southerly route in the vicinity especially since the earlier farms and houses are oriented to it. St. Patrick's Church (CE-834), Pembroke Farm (CE-836), Moore-Love log house (CE-845), and the Fulton-Alexander House (CE-841) all date from before the mid 19th Century and stand near or next to the earlier route. Due to the treacherous descent to the ferry and easier access at Conowingo a covered bridge was built across the Susquehanna at Conowingo, which eclipsed activity at Bald Friar. With the construction of a bridge at Conowingo a more direct southerly route from Pennsylvania was needed, which necessitated an easterly shift in travel. It amounted to a difference of a few hundred yards but was enough to form an intersection with the east/west Mount Pleasant road. Continued interest in the mining of feldspar, soapstone, and gravel in the mid 19th Century brought more development and change. Pilot Town was a definite result of these two factors and the mid to late 19th Century housing that exists today is ample evidence for this occurrence. Pilot Town supported a local market till the early 20th Century (CE-849) and its own school (CE-847) till about the same time.

The houses that make up Pilot Town are traditional two<sup>story</sup> frame structures that one sees throughout Cecil County. (see CE-840, CE-842, CE-844, CE-846,

Pilot Town

2

CE-848, CE-851, CE-852, CE-853, CE-854, CE-855, CE-856, CE-857, CE-858, CE-859, CE-860, CE-861, CE-862, CE-863) The structures are basically plain straightforward buildings that are typical houses for workers in a mining area. This is not to say that the previous agricultural life of area was replaced by the mines. The farming community continued as it had since the late 18th Century but now alongside mining operations that brought Irish immigrants in the early 19th Century.

CE-861

NICHOLS HOLLIE WAS 371/665 AFTER 1877

CHAS. RICHARD NICHOLS (PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ANNA J. NICHOLS (DECEASED) JAN. 1977)  
TO  
CHAS. RICHARD NICHOLS 1977

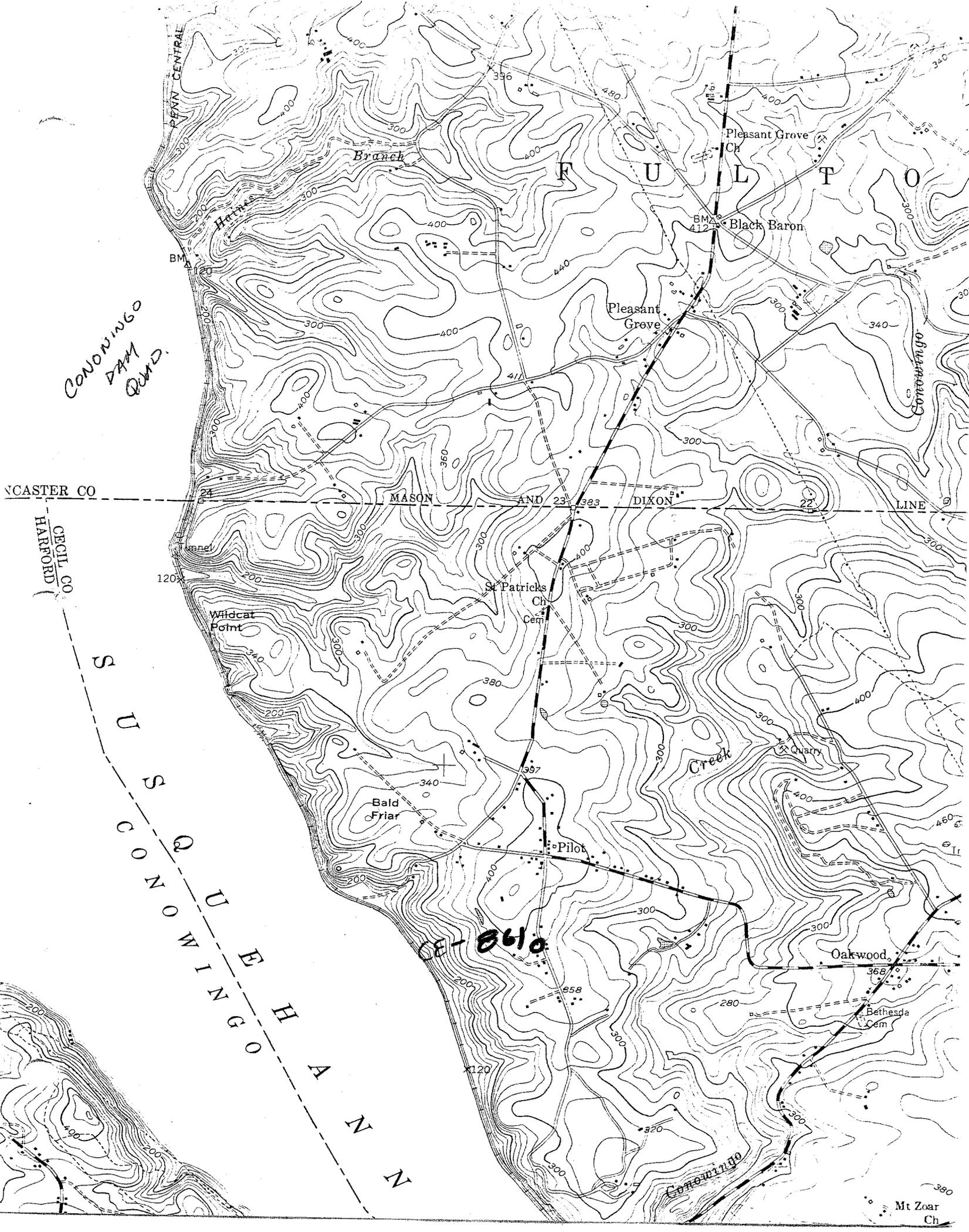
WAS 245/240 ANNA J. NICHOLS AND HUSBAND PAUL R. (DECEASED) JAN. 1973  
↓ TO ANNA J. NICHOLS  
AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETIES BY DEED OF  
CHAS. T. ROWLAND SEPT. 24, 1969

CLAUDE  
~~CHAS~~ T ROWLAND AND PEARL ROWLAND  
REESE R. PREWITT AND AGNES R. PREWITT  
JOHANNA R. WAGNER AND PAUL W. WAGNER  
TO  
PAUL R. NICHOLS & ANNA J.

(2)

WAS 80/394 AMOS W. ROWLAND (WILL) RHT 1/47 August 1959  
TO CLAUDE T. ROWLAND

WAS 27/530 DEC. 1955



PENN CENTRAL

FULTON

CONOWINGO DAM QUARRY

Pleasant Grove Ch

Black Baron

Pleasant Grove

WYOMING

MASON

AND

DIXON

LINE

CECIL CO  
HARFORD

Wildcat Point

St. Patrick's Ch Cem

Bald Friar

Pilot

Creek

Quarry

CE-840

Oakwood

Bethesda Cem

Mt Zoar Ch



NICHOLS House

CE-861

PILOT TOWN, MD

EAST ELEVATION

7/78

PBT

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