CH-190 1649
Wolleston Manor, site
Port Tobacco

Captain James Neale erected his home here in 1649. Wolleston Manor was a 2,000 acre tract of land granted to him in 1642. Neale held various public offices including membership on the Provincial and the Governor's Council and was a Commissioner of His Lordship's Treasury as well as Deputy Governor in 1660. The Neale family is one of the most historically prominent of colonial Maryland and intermarried with many other firmly established Maryland families including the Bennetts, Lloyds, and Tilghmans. Neale's wife was reputedly a Lady in Waiting to England's Queen Henrietta Maria, for whom one of their daughters was named; from her many of the older Eastern Shore families claim descent.

In 1649, James Neale entered into a contract with one Francis West for the erection of a house on or near this site. The contract specified that the house be constructed as follows: ". . . forty foote long and twenty five foote wide frames worke to be nine foote betweene ye groundsill and Wall plate and all ye groundsills to be of Locust wood and ye Lower part to be divided into five roomes with two chimnies below and one small chimnye above And build built to it a porch ten foote long and eight foote wide ye loft to be layed with Sawed wood And to build two Dormer windowes above and other windowes at ye end of ye left And to point all windowes and doores below Stayres and all completely finished except ye covering and ye weatherboarding for and in consideration

CH-190

whereof . . ." full payment to include room and board and three-thousand, five hundred pounds of tobacco.