MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-912

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mary Thomas house

2. Location

street & number 25910 Royal Oak Road ___ not for publication

city, town Royal Oak ___ vicinity of congressional district 2

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ 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 Paul R. and Donna M. Stone

street & number telephone no.: 745-9485

city, town Royal Oak state and zip code MD 21662

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 688

street & number folio 411

city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-912

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Mary Thomas house is located on the north side of Royal Oak Road in Royal Oak, Talbot County, Maryland. This house is the third structure to the west of the General Store. The Mary Thomas house faces south with the principle gable oriented on an east/west axis.

This one-and-a-half story, frame structure is sheathed in red, wood shingles and supported by a brick pier and cedar post foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the roofline is finished with a boxed cornice.

The south (main) elevation has a central one-light over three-panel entrance door flanked by one six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds on either side. The entrance door is sheltered by a small gable roof portico with slender doric column supports. The second floor has a two bay, shed roof projection lit by two six-over-six sash windows.

The east elevation gable end is blind. The roof ends flush with the wall of the house here. A one-story, gable roof addition extends to the north lit by one six-over-six sash window with wide surrounds. According to the owner, this addition was moved from its original site in a grove of trees a few yards from the house and attached to the house by a previous owner. An exterior brick chimney stands on the northen end of the addition. A five year old shed roof addition, which rests on a cement pad, extends to the north of the gable roof structure.

The north elevation is lit by one six-over-six sash window on the first floor. The second floor has a two-bay projection like that on the south elevation lit by two six-over-six sash windows. The north side of the first floor addition is lit by two one-over-one sash windows and a four-light over two-panel door.

The west elevation gable end is blind. The roof ends flush with the wall of the house here. The one-story, shed roof addition which extends to the north is lit by six one-over-one sash windows and has an exterior brick chimney.

There are no outbuilings.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-912

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	_X_ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
_X_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B _X_C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national _x_state _x_local

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

Bernice Leonard writes about this property in Twig and Turf III. The Mary Thomas house is located on the "Barbershop Lot," part of the farm "Retreat" puchased by E. T. Benson from the heirs of Antony Banning in 1863. One local man remembers his great-grandmother living there who told him that livestock were once kept on the first floor, while slaves lived in the loft above. Many of the beams beneath the structure are held together by wooden pegs.

Mary Thomas was a black resident in this house around 1910 who took in washing. She was one of a series of people who rented the cottage between 1880 and 1910 when its upper floor was expanded. At some point early in this century a summer kitchen located nearby on the property was moved to the rear of the cottage as an addition.

Jerry Harris, Jr. owned this property for many years which he either kept vacant or used for storage. Following his death in 1961, this structure became a residence again. More recent owners have continued to expand the first floor of this cottage which was originally a single cell dwelling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-912

Leonard, Bernice. Twig and Turf III: The Royal Oak. Decorah, Iowa: Anundsen Pub. Co., 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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 Elizabeth Hughes, Architectural Historian

organization Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission **date** 12/31/91

street & number **telephone**

city or town Easton **state** MD

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.

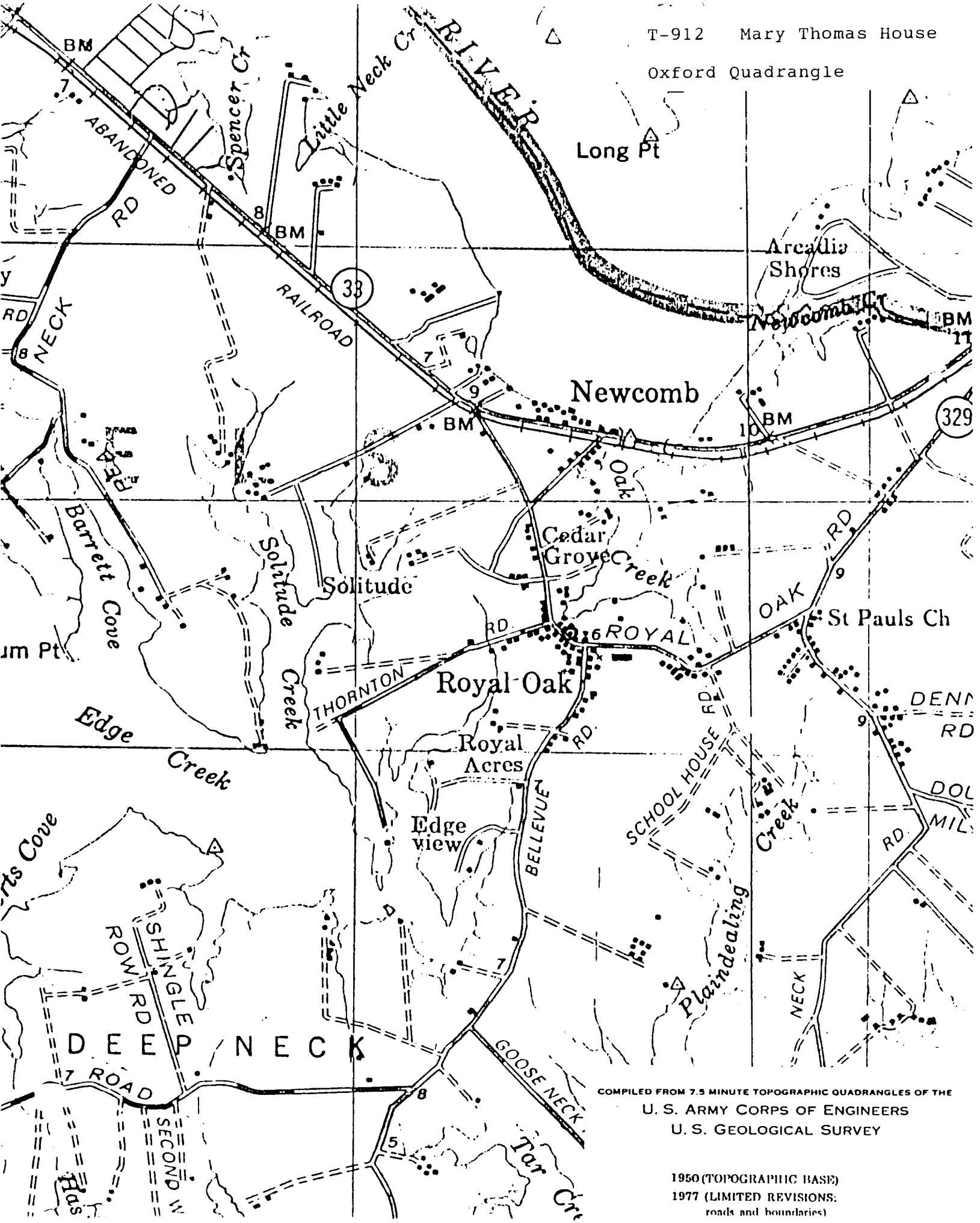
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCL
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

PS-2746

T-912 Mary Thomas House

Oxford Quadrangle



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)
1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS: roads and boundaries)

T-912

MARY THOMAS HOUSE

SW ELEVATION