

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. T-920

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Joseph A. Robinson house

2. Location

street & number Thorneton Road not for publication

city, town Royal Oak vicinity of congressional district 2

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 George and Sharon Gruner

street & number Thorneton Road telephone no.: 745-2560

city, town Royal Oak state and zip code MD 21662

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 554

street & number folio 143

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-920

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Joseph A. Robinson house is located on the south side of Thorneton Road in Royal Oak, Talbot County, Maryland. This structure is the fourth house from the intersection of Thorneton and Royal Oak Road. The Thompson house faces north and the principle gable is oriented on an east/west axis.

Built by 1877, this three bay, two-story structure is sheathed in wood shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the foundation consists of brick piers.

The north elevation has a full width porch across the first floor supported by square posts mounted on cement pillars. This open porch has an oversize gable roof covered with tin. The central bay of this elevation is a four-panel entrance door with a three light transom and three light sidelights. The entrance door is flanked on either side by one six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds. The second floor is lit by three six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds. These windows are of a larger scale than those of the first floor. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the roof flanking the central bay. The roof line is finished with a boxed cornice.

The west elevation is lit on the first and second floors by two six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds. One window on the first floor has green, louvered shutters. A louvered vent pierces the attic level of this gable end elevation. The roof ends flush with this gable end.

The south elevation has a two-story, gable roof projection with a cinderblock foundation as the central bay. The first floor of this bay is lit on all three sides by one one-over-one sash window. A single panel door also pierces the west side and opens onto a cement pad sheltered by a shed roof extension from the main body of the house. The western most bay of this first floor consists of one six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds. The eastern most bay is lit by one three-over-six sash window and a three-light over three-panel door with a two-light transom. This door opens onto a small screened porch. The second floor is lit by three six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds.

The east elevation is lit on the first and second floors by two six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds.

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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: 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.

Bernice Leonard writes about this property in Twig and Turf III. In 1874 Mrs. Louisa Thompson purchased this property from Solomon S. Thompson. In the following year Louisa gave this lot to her three daughters: Martha P. Valliant, Lydia E. Jones, and Margaret Ann Phillips. In the 1877 Atlas the property appears with a house in place attributed to "Mrs. Thompson."

Martha P. Valliant and her husband James purchased the sisters' interests in the property in 1880 and then sold it four years later to George W. Kelly of Royal Oak. Kelly sold the property to Sarah C. Robinson in 1886. Sarah and Joseph A. Robinson, a surveyor, lived their full lives here. Their daughter Natalie, a school teacher, also remained in this house until her death in 1933.

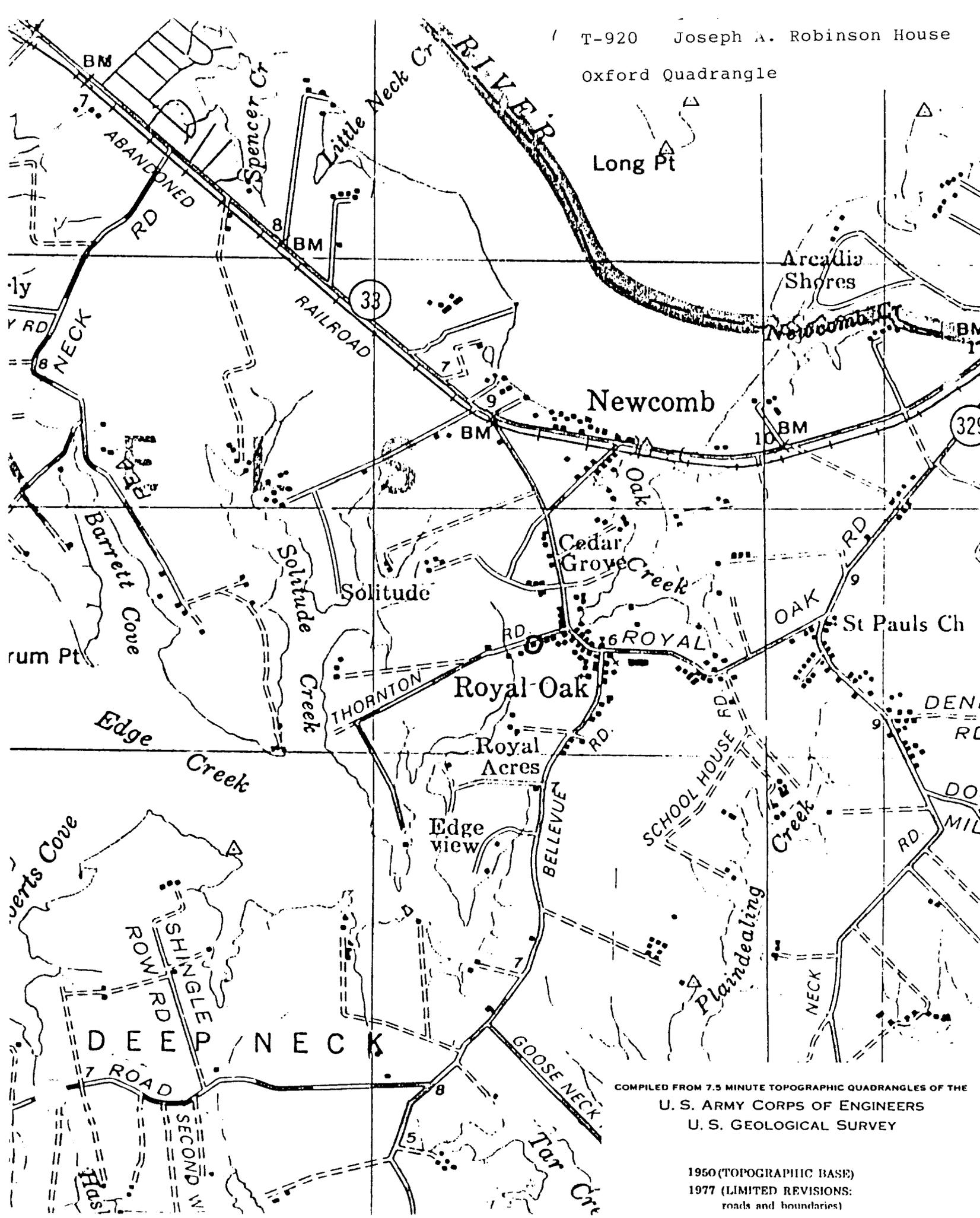
Albert Hall acquired this house from Richard Figeley around 1944. Hall was a carpenter who built wharves, worked on the sawmill, trapped, and farmed. He was a caretaker on the farm "Retreat" and would sell milk from the cows there from his house. Hall was also a carpenter and did some remodeling work on the house during his stay there. Hall removed the summer kitchen and back porch from the rear of the house. Following Hall's ownership, Ed Thornton purchased the property. The current owners, the Gruner family, have lived in the house for about nine years.

Albert Hall's daughter remembers being told that the two old oak trees located in front of the house stand in the location of an old camp meeting site. People from Peaneck are said to have taken their boats ashore at what is now known as "Thornton" at the end of Thornton Road, and then walk up to this oak tree site. Whether or not the house was standing at the time that these camp meetings were held is unclear.

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Joseph A. Robinson house Description cont'd.

A modern, gable roof outbuilding sheathed in aluminum siding stands on the property and is used as a two car garage.



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-920

JOSEPH A. ROBINSON HOUSE

NE ELEVATION