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T-214

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Webley or Mary's Delight

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 33, .9 mile north of Wittman Road (west to house)

CITY, TOWN

Claiborne

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
✓BUILDING(S)	✓PRIVATE	✓UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

David B. Baker, Jr

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Webley, P. O. Box 160

CITY, TOWN

Whittman

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21676

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 507

Folio #: 378

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

T-214

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	✓ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	✓ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
✓FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Webley or Mary's Delight is located at the end of a long lane on a rise of ground overlooking the Bay. At the time of our visit, spring 1976, the house had not been lived in for several years and the gardens and lawns had become a jungle of growth.

The house is a five part mansion built in two periods. Its central block was constructed in the first decade of the 19th century a very substantial Federal mansion. In 1925 the hyphens and wings were added, having been designed in the Georgian style by Arthur Blakeslee AIA.

Unlike most of the great Federal mansions of the day, e.g. Fairview and Sherwood Forest, Webley has a central pedimented pavillion on its approach facade. On its first story is an entrance door with transom flanked by two small narrow windows, similar in composition to Bloomingdale, Queen Anne's County. The porch is a superior classical Doric pedimented portico dating from the 1920's. On the second floor the window is also flanked by narrow side windows. In the pediment is a lunette window. Only the facade of the central block has been painted white in contrast to the brick wings and Bay side. It is a five bay facade with no water table and a flush stone beltcourse. The windows have 12/12 sash and rusticated stone jack arches with keystones. Prior to its being painted, the facade had a very refined appearance with the stone contrasting with the even color Flemish bond brickwork. Two original dormers flanking the pavillion and the cornice have the same refinement of carved and gougework detail as found in the Federal houses in Easton. Like those same houses, a parapet wall rises from the gables and from each side rised a huge brick chimney.

Facing the Bay, Webley's facade was originally plainer, for it lacks the contrasting stone and brick. On this side there are brick jack arches over the windows and the brickwork is laid in Common bond. In 1925 a segmentally arched pedimented architrave was added to the west door and a large Doric portico was built over three of the five bays. Apparently the cornice was all renewed at this time for it continues along the facade and portico. Since it was constructed, a second story porch was added within the portico with Chinese balustrade and screening beneath.

Both facades of the hyphens and wings are identical. The hyphens are one and one-half storys with three glazed arched openings, the center of each having French doors. A single dormer pierces the 'A' roof on both sides. Webley's wings are two storys tall with pedimented facades each having a broad semicircular arched recess with a smaller semicircular arched window or door within. On the second storys are two shuttered windows and in the pediment a keystoned oculus. At each side there are two semicircular arched windows on the first and two regular windows on the second with a large chimney rising between.

Webley's floorplan is now two rooms and a central stair hall in the old part and a large single room in each of the hyphens and wings. Originally, in the old section, there were two rooms on the north side of the stair hall as the window treatment differs from front to back and the original arched bases of the chimneys exist in the basement.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

7 Continued

Most of the woodwork is original and in a fair state of preservation. The stair has a delicate walnut balustrade with turned newels two balusters per step and a shadow rail above paneled wainscoting. Its spandrel is plain, but the ends of the steps have fine fretwork scrolls.

Adjacent the entrance are boxed areas for plumbing installed in the 1920's. Original paneled wainscot and trim surround the hall, however, the cornice is from the 1920's.

Since the hyphen has been added at the south gable, two original parlor windows have been converted into a door and shelf. Centered between the two former windows is the chimney breast, with the focal point of the room a finely executed mantel with stop fluted pilasters supporting a frieze with central reeded panel and recessed ovolo over the pilasters. Like most of great late Georgian houses, the window trim continues to the floor and there are recessed paneled jambs and area beneath the large window. Original chair rail with alternating blocks of reeding surrounds the room. Two ceiling girders and the cornice date from the 1920's.

The dining room mantel has pilasters with herringbone reeding above which runs a row of short flutes alternating with applied plaster rosettes. Its central panel has a swag design with flutes and drill holes. The east windows have the same recessed panel beneath the window, however, there are reeded pilasters beneath the chair rail. Plain pilasters with window seats on the west differ from the east window treatment. A portion of the door has been scraped to reveal original graining with stenciled lines around the panels. Most of the hardware throughout is original, including iron box locks, but excluding the hinges.

On the second story the same type of trim survives although it is less sophisticated than that below. The third floor is divided in the same manner but it appears that only the east dormers are original, with their vaulted ceilings matching the curve of the sash. Baths exist in the center of the house over the entrance on second and third storys.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

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	✓ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
✓1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Webley compares favorably with other great houses of the period, including Sherwood Forest, Fairview, The Anchorage and Hope. In the refinement and quality of detail it is closest to Hope, but the floorplans of the two dwellings differ. It appears to have been one of the largest dwellings of the period, although Langdon has been made to look greater with its twentieth century additions and alterations. Prior to the facades being painted, the contrast of the stone and brick was a refinement which existed on no other country house in Talbot County. The 1920's additions to the house as well as the landscape have helped place it on a par with the other great period houses as well as those which have come to be great through similar treatment.

It is also significant as being the place in the 1830's where Dr. Absolom Thompson established a hospital. Dr. Thompson had married Elizabeth Kersey, daughter of John Kersey, builder of the mansion. A full account of the people associated with Webley was published in Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. XLIX, No. I.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Sara S., Raymond B.,"Webley or Mary's Delight, Bay Hundred, Talbot County," Maryland Historical Magazine, Baltimore, March, 1954.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE
April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Annapolis

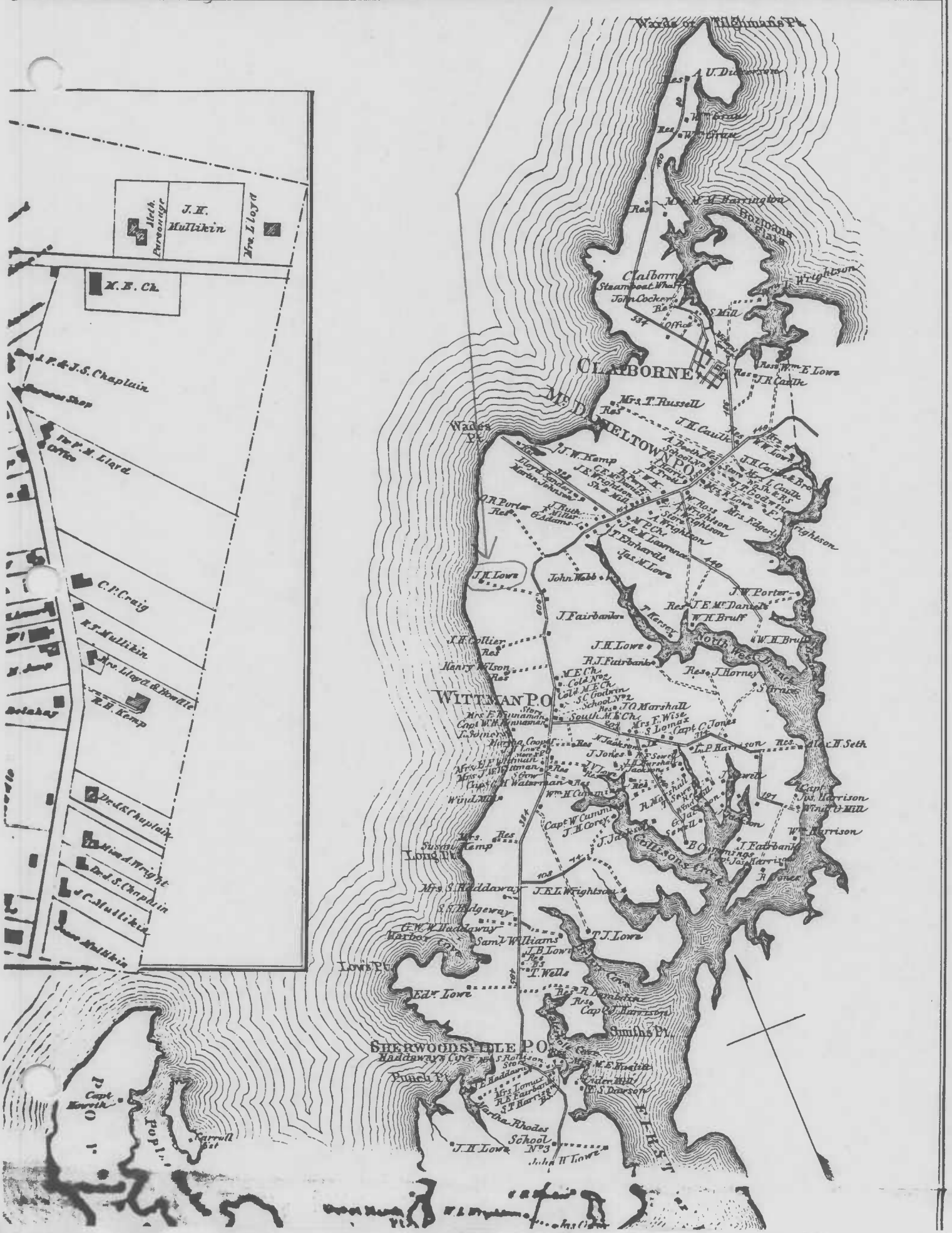
STATE
Maryland 21401

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

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas, 1877 T-214 WEBLET



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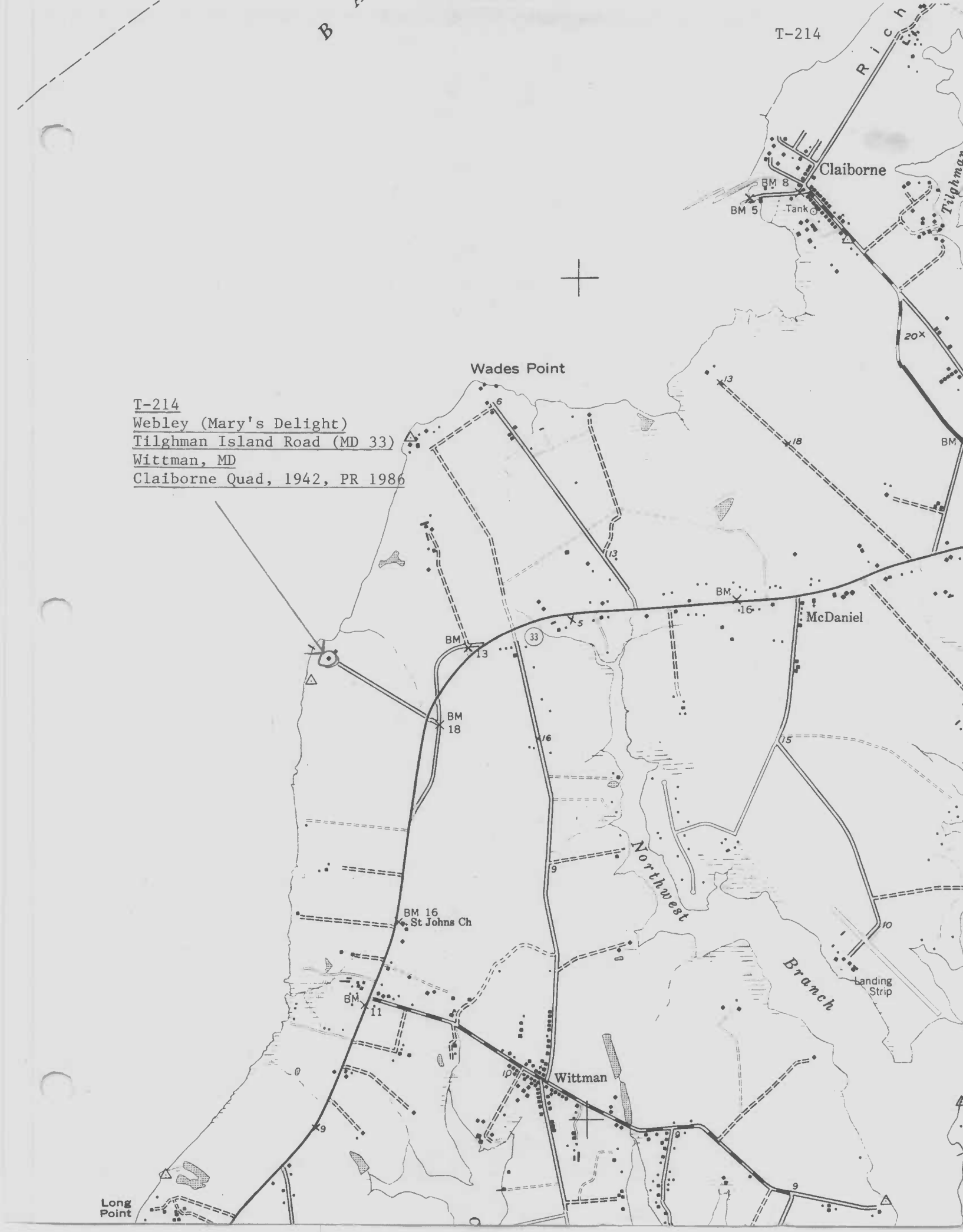
Webley (Mary's Delight)
Tilghman Island Road (MD 33)
Wittman, MD
Claiborne Quad, 1942, PR 1986



Webley & Marys Delight

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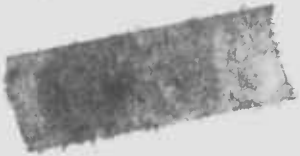

[redacted]

MICHAEL BOURNE

July 1926

N.W.

Webley or Manyo Delight

T- 214

M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976