

MILLS HOUSE

One of the most interesting Victorian cottages in Southern Maryland is the Mills House, decorated with jigsaw patterned barge boards and porch brackets. The roof has a chimney at each end and a large cross gable at the facade. A small centered Victorian period porch stands at the principle facade. The immediate grounds are enclosed ~~in by a~~ with a Victorian picket fence.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mills House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Varden Street (Lower Marlboro Lane)

CITY, TOWN

Lower Marlboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elizabeth B. Mills

Telephone #: 627-7444

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lower Marlboro

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: AWR 20

Folio #: 286

also AAH49:179

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

This one-story white clapboard cottage has a Victorian appearance which disguises its true age. It measures one room deep by five bays wide. Two gabled dormers containing 6/6 sash light either side of the loft.

On the first floor, a central door appears in either side, east and west. A Victorian 4-pane transom and 3-pane sidelights surround the east door. The other four bays on this side contain windows, with 9/9 sash to the south and 9/6 sash to the north. The southern two bays of the west side contain 9/9 sash. Two 6/6 sash windows appear in either gable end in the loft. Two 9/6 windows, which have been shortened from their original 9/9, light the first floor's south end. A pair of louvered shutters accompanies each window.

A porch runs along the west side of the house. The northern section of this porch has been enclosed, covering two bays on this side. The southerly of these two bays has always contained a door. The enclosed porch has a 6/6 window on the west. The north end of the house has one later 6/6 window lighting the first floor.

A late-19th century kitchen adjoins the Mills House to the north. It includes one 6/6 window in either side, east and west, and a door to the north.

A large tower-like dormer containing a round-topped 6/6 window and featuring a gingerbread gable was added to the center of the roof's east side at the turn of the century. Below this dormer a hip-roofed porch covers the central three bays. Its four posts are cut with fanciful jig-saw "X"'s and are braced with sawn scrollwork brackets.

The 24' x 20' original section of the Mills House includes the center stair hall and south room. This part contains 18th century construction and features, although they are not detailed enough to allow close dating. The ceiling rises 9'8" to exposed wall plates. This original section may have once had a different floor plan.

The south end was originally brick with a large exterior chimney. It was changed after c. 1890 to its present frame end with an interior brick chimney. The elaborate mantel appears to date from c. 1830, and may have been re-used from the north addition. Engaged reeded columns support the mantel. A band of reeding runs under the central portion, whose two vertically fluted panels separate a central sunburst set in a horizontal rectangle with cut-out corners, and similar vertical sunbursts over the columns. Two deeply-cut Greek ovolo moldings support the delicately carved mantel shelf.

The north room was added c. 1830. The ceiling height is 8'. A fireplace was once located in the north end.

The present stair may have been added at the time of the 1830 addition. The banister's rounded end forms the newel cap, which rests on a slim, rounded post. The step end boards are simple curves. The stair rises to a landing before its return.

On the second floor, many of the south room's features date from the rebuilding of the south end. The gable windows display the same moldings and corner blocks as those used in the hall. The plain late-19th century mantel employs quirk-ogee moldings similar to those reframing the architraves in the parlor below. Only the beaded dormer framing appears original. The six shallow door panels lack the fine moldings of the first-floor doors. All the first-floor doors are composed of six panels displaying finely-cut moldings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-13

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The Mills House is one of the most charming and architecturally interesting houses in Lower Marlboro. It sits on the Patuxent River bank just south of the village center. A picket fence, two large cedar trees, and patches of garden provide a quaint setting for the house.

This house began as a cottage with a brick end and large chimney. It may date from as early as the mid-18th century, and is one of the oldest extant dwellings in the village.

According to the late owner, Mrs. Elizabeth Mills, "a Mr. Dalrymple, then postmaster of the town, lived here in the 1880's and 1890's and Captain Gourley of the steamboat line lived here while he was captain of the line coming here from Baltimore."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information from the following deceased persons, as recorded
in Calvert County Historic District Application #HD-75-1
(filed with Calvert County Planning Office)

Mrs. Elizabeth Mills(b.c.1890's)
Mr. Griffith Armiger(b. 1883)
Mr. Lawrence M. Wells(b. 1886)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION Calvert County Historic Sites Survey DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER Box 107 TELEPHONE MD 20754

CITY OR TOWN Dunkirk STATE Zip

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

Two steps lead down from the hall to the chamber over the low-ceilinged north room. This room has an odd "sunken" feeling since its eaves line is continuous with the south section. A floor patch at the north end indicates the removal of the chimney. The door to this room is identical to those below, and includes a wooden drop-bar latch.

The original attic construction includes the unusual feature of rafters placed width-wise against the roof. This construction also appears in the oldest sections of CT-113 Chaney Farm and CT-224 Archer's Hays. In all three cases the buildings also feature some exposed construction members. In the Mills House, the rafters' apex is mortise-tenoned and double nailed. The rebuilt south end framing demonstrates that the chimney stack was enormous. The north end's studs contain wrought nails left from this previously exterior end's siding. The 1830's attic framing includes the more usual form of rafter. These members are half-lapped and pegged at the apex. The collars are half-lapped and double-nailed.

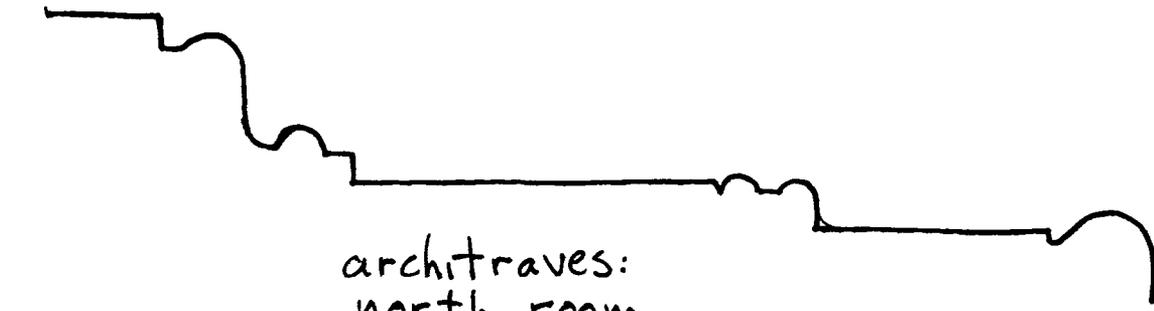
0500135204

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Calvert TOWN Lower Marlboro VICINITY CT-13 STREET NO. _____ ORIGINAL OWNER _____ ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. E. B. Mills PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 1-1/2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Victorian House DATE OR PERIOD c. 1860 STYLE Victorian ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		OPEN TO PUBLIC No	
<p>This house is a typical mid-nineteenth century farm house which has been enlivened by the addition of much fanciful Victorian gingerbread decoration. The house is 5 bays wide and 2 bays deep with a rather steeply pitched A-roof. The first storey windows are 9/9. The door is a central one and has overlights and sidelights. There are 2 peaked dormers on the roof. The central bay has an enlarged dormer on the roof which projects almost as a garden tower. This dormer has a round-arched window and elaborately cut barge boards along the roof line. A screened-in front porch which covers the 3 central bays of the house is supported by gingerbread columns of very intricate. A picket fence also cut in an elaborate gingerbread pattern surrounds the front yard of the house. The grounds are well kept up and have old, well-preserved outbuildings. There is a very large old cedar tree in the front yard.</p> <p>This house is interesting as one of the few good gingerbread decorated Victorian houses in Calvert County.</p>			
Endangered		Interior Exterior	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER PAUL A. BRINKMAN 16/7/67 DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE





architraves:
north room



architraves with blank corner blocks:
hall

← chair rail molding under 2 east windows
in north room



all architraves:
south room

CT-13 Mills Hs.

tread

step ends

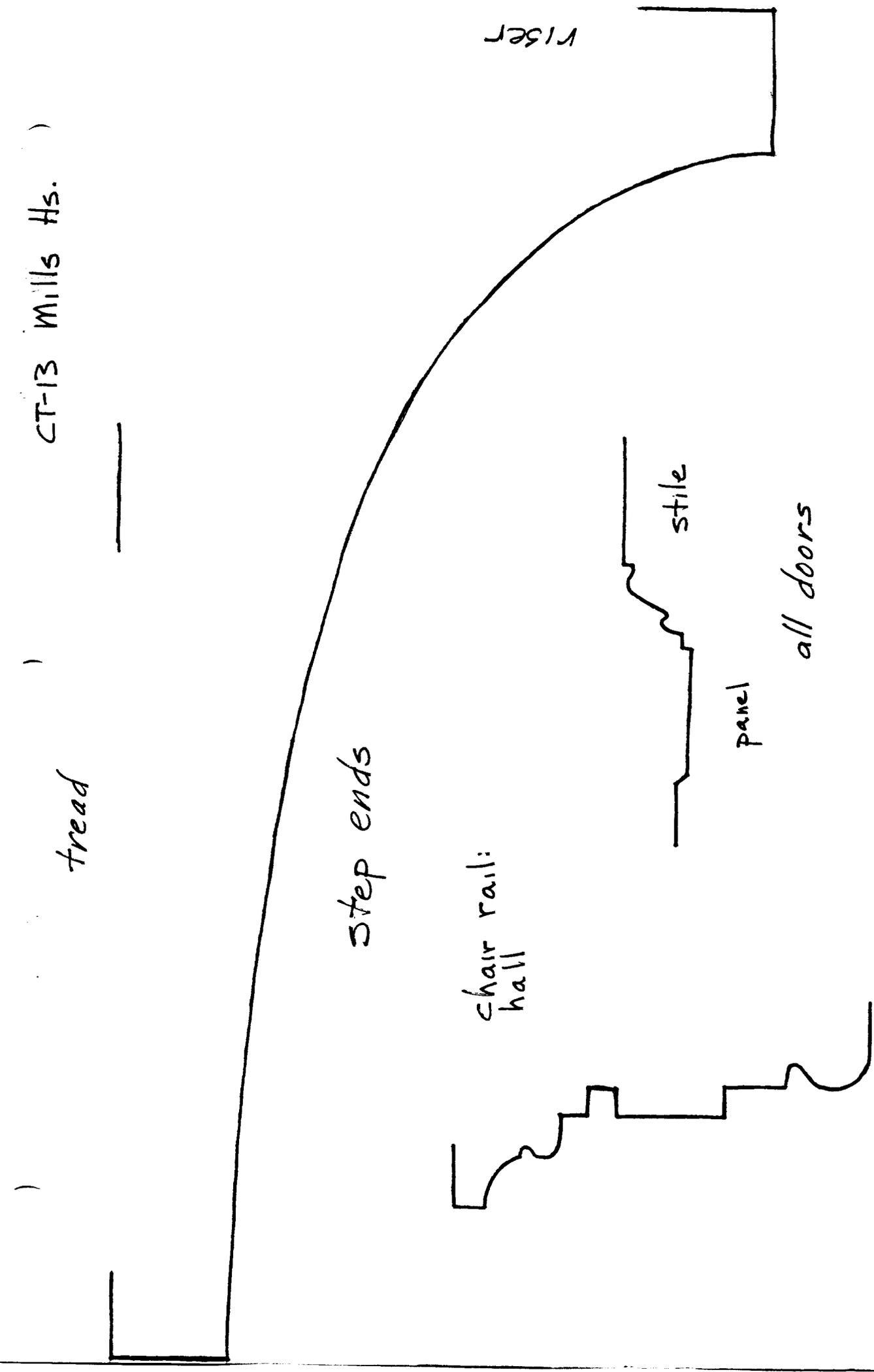
chair rail:
hall

stile

panel

all doors

riser



- Significant Site, etc.

(1) Lower Marlboro was already a settled community when it was made a town in 1692 (originally called Coxtown). Situated on the Patuxent River it was a port for shipping tobacco to England from the colony in the early days and continued as a port for shipping tobacco and produce to Baltimore in the steamboat era, until paved roads made trucks more efficient and the steamboat service was discontinued. Tobacco was the money crop in colonial days and still is today. Up until the boats stopped running, the port made the town important for the county, and busy, with two tobacco warehouses, two stores, a blacksmith shop, a canning factory, a cabinet maker, an ox trainer and handler, a boatwright and other craftsmen. Now it is a quiet, pretty river town, reminiscent of the way small towns looked years ago. Two houses have the original log construction overlaid with clapboards. At least ~~three~~ others date from the 18th century. The church (Methodist) is over 100 years old. The people who live here love the village and want to preserve its charm and assure that any new building will be in keeping with the town as it is. I believe that its interesting history through nearly ~~three~~ centuries should make Lower Marlboro eligible to be made a historic district.

(2) This storey and a half house of mine originally had brick ends with massive built-in chimneys and clapboard sides, a characteristic early Maryland house, this ^{one} a ~~notable~~ example of the style of "Satterley" in St. Mary's County, Md. The ~~brick~~ end was ~~on the outside~~ kitchen, now gone. Sometime between the early 1890's and 1941 when I acquired the house, the brick ends and the kitchen were torn down, and brick flues for stores built to replace the large chimneys. From interior details, such as wood work, a fine mantel in one room, blown glass surviving in some of the small-paned windows, a graceful ~~set~~ wide floor boards, ~~and~~ ^{"Christian" doors} ~~and~~ ^{knowledgeable}

Continued
inspectors
believe The house was built between 1750 and 1800. Some time prior to 1941 a large dormer window was built in the center of the 2^d floor front to accomodate a small hall bedroom being made into a bath room and a front porch added. The saw decorations around the new dormer and fancy scroll work around the porch columns give the facade of the house a Victorian look which belies its true age. I know nothing about the builder or 18th century owners. I do know that a Mr. Daltymple, then postmaster of the town lived ^{here} in the 1880's and 90's, and Captain Gurley of the steamboat line lived here while he was captain of the line coming here from Baltimore.

Elizabeth Mills
Mills House
Lower Marlboro

AAH 49/179

November 4, 1942

County Corporation

County Trust Company

stone planted on the shore of Mills Creek on the West side of the Store House.

AAH 30/589

The Eastern Shore
Trust Company

County Corporation

July 19, 33

West of public road called the Old Mill Road

40 ac.

Land owned by the late Gilbert Gott

AAH 23/125

October 15, 1929

John B. Gray
attorney

The Eastern Shore
Trust Company

Mortgage from George E. Hawkins and wife to the Eastern Shore Trust Co.

20½ ac.

August 14, 1919

Angus M. Moore
Molicie C. Moore

George E. Hawkins

BWD 16/448

January 29, 1916

John F. Lovett
Bettie Lovett

Angus M. Moore
Molicie C. Moore

October 21, 1913

Robin Whitten
and wife

John F. Lovett
Bettie Lovett

CT-13
Wills H₃

Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road Annapolis Maryland 21401
(301) 267-5087

January 20, 1975

Mr. Perry Van Vleck
2531 Second Avenue, Suite #4
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Perry:

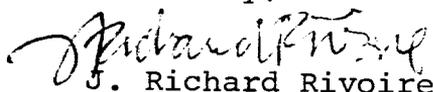
First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a most enjoyable day spent examining the "Victorian Cottage" at Lower Marlboro and Red Hall. The visit to Red Hall was a rewarding experience and I would like to again congratulate you on the fine job you did executing its restoration.

As regards the "Victorian Cottage" at Lower Marlboro: I think this small house is one of that town's most valuable assets in terms of its historical features and as much attention as possible should be given this property to insure its preservation. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to examine it, particularly since it is one of my favorite buildings in that area of the county. I was very impressed with the amount of original fabric that remains and the small amount of alteration that has occurred. I thought the stair particularly noteworthy and an unusually sophisticated feature for so small and simple a building. Taken together such features, i.e., stair, moldings, and framing, are all indicative of a construction date within the period 1790-1820 for the first two rooms (hall and south room) and a slightly later date, probably 1840-60 for the room on the north side of the hall, the front porch and the cross gable. The two shed additions on the north end and west side are, of course, more modern in date.

Lower Marlboro is one of Calvert County's most interesting and important historical sites and I hope those involved in the welfare of the County will always consider the preservation of its integral features, natural or manmade, mandatory.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in regard to this or any other matter please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


J. Richard Rivoire

JRR:sh

Historical and Cultural Administration
Department of Economic and Community Development

March 27, 1975

CT-13

Board of County Commissioners
Courthouse
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Gentlemen:

Under provisions of Article 5.00 of the Calvert County Ordinance for the Designation and Preservation of Historical Districts, the Historic District Commission has reviewed the application of Miss Elizabeth B. Mills (Encl 1 & 2) for the Historical District designation of the "Victorian Cottage" located on Patuxent Street in Lower Marlboro in the Third Election District, Calvert County.

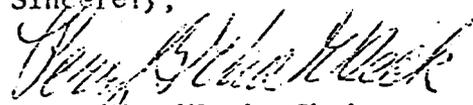
The property is included in the Maryland Historic Trust Inventory of Historic Places in Calvert County as Site CLVT-13 (Encl 3) and is shown on Assessors Map #14 as Parcel 64 (Encl 4).

Mr. J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian of the Maryland Historical Trust, has evaluated the site and comments that the "house is one of the town's most valuable assets in terms of its historical features and as much attention as possible should be given ... to insure its preservation". (Encl 5)

After careful review of the application and the historical information available concerning this site, it is the conclusion of the Historic District Commission that the proposed site meets the criteria of Article 1.00 of the County Ordinance for Designation and Preservation of Historical Districts and that the application should be approved.

It is recommended that the County Commissioners schedule a public hearing with relation to this case and take action to designate the property as a Historical District.

Sincerely,



Perry Van Vleck, Chairman
Historic District Commission

5 Encls

cc: Calvert County Historical Trust Committee
Calvert County Historical Society

) As provided by Calvert County Ordinance, dated June 4, 1974

(2) May be attached

(3) Attachments: Photos; Deeds or Historical Documents; Plats; etc.

Stuhead Osborn CT-13

APPLICATION FOR CALVERT COUNTY DESIGNATION OF HISTORICAL DISTRICT (1) Mills Hs.

Name of Applicant: (Miss) Elizabeth B. Mills

Mailing Address: Box 37 Lower Marlboro, Owings, Md. 20836

Name of Property: _____

Location: Election District: 1 2 3 Community: Lower Marlboro, Md.

Adjoining Road(s) Chaneyville Road extended

Assessors Map No. 14 : Map Coordinates: 8704-2992

Area: Acres 3/4 acre more or less

Metes and Bounds Description(s): From intersection of S. side of Wells st with public road, following road about 40 yds. to intersection of road with N. side of Armiger lot, following Armiger boundary about 90 yds. to Patuxent River, following shore to intersection with Survey Plat or Tax Map Extract: Attach to application

side of Wells lot, following Wells S. boundary back to starting point. Owner of Record: Elizabeth B. Mills Deed Reference: Liber AA. H. no. 49 Folio 179

County Zoning District: _____

Adjoining Property Owners (2): Miss Margaret Anne Wells
Mr. Griffith Armiger

Significance of Site (Describe significant elements of cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history, or other basis for requesting designation) (2):

See attachments

Other Remarks (2): The information about the town during the steamboat era was given me by my neighbor Griffith Armiger, b. 1883.

The information about the house was given me by my former neighbor, Lawrence H. Wells (who has since died) b. 1886. He lived in the house as a small boy with his mother and stepfather, The above mentioned Mr. Dalrymple.

Attachments (3): 2 Photos; Description by Mrs. Mills; Ltr. Md. Historical Trust dated 1/20/75; Tax Map 14 Extract.

Signature of Applicant: Elizabeth B. Mills

Concurrence of Owner: Same

- (1) As provided by Calvert County Ordinance, dated June 4, 1974
- (2) May be attached
- (3) Such as: Photos; Deeds or Historical Documents; Plats; etc.

Encl 1

CT-13

Adjoining Road(s) Chaneyville Road extended

Assessors Map No. 14 : Map Coordinates: 8904-2992

Acres 3/4 acre more or less

Metes and Bounds Description(s): From intersection of S. side of Wells

to public road following road about 40 yds to intersection of road with N. side of
road, following Armiger boundary about 90 yds to Patuxent River, following shore

Intersection with Survey Plat or Tax Map Extract: Attach to application

Owner of Record: Elizabeth B. Mills Deed Reference: Lib. AA. H.
(no. 49 Folio 179)

County Zoning District: _____

Joining Property Owners (2): Miss Margaret Anne Wells
Mr. Griffith Armiger

Significance of Site (Describe significant elements of cultural, social, economic,
political or architectural history, or other basis for requesting designation) (2): _____

See attachments

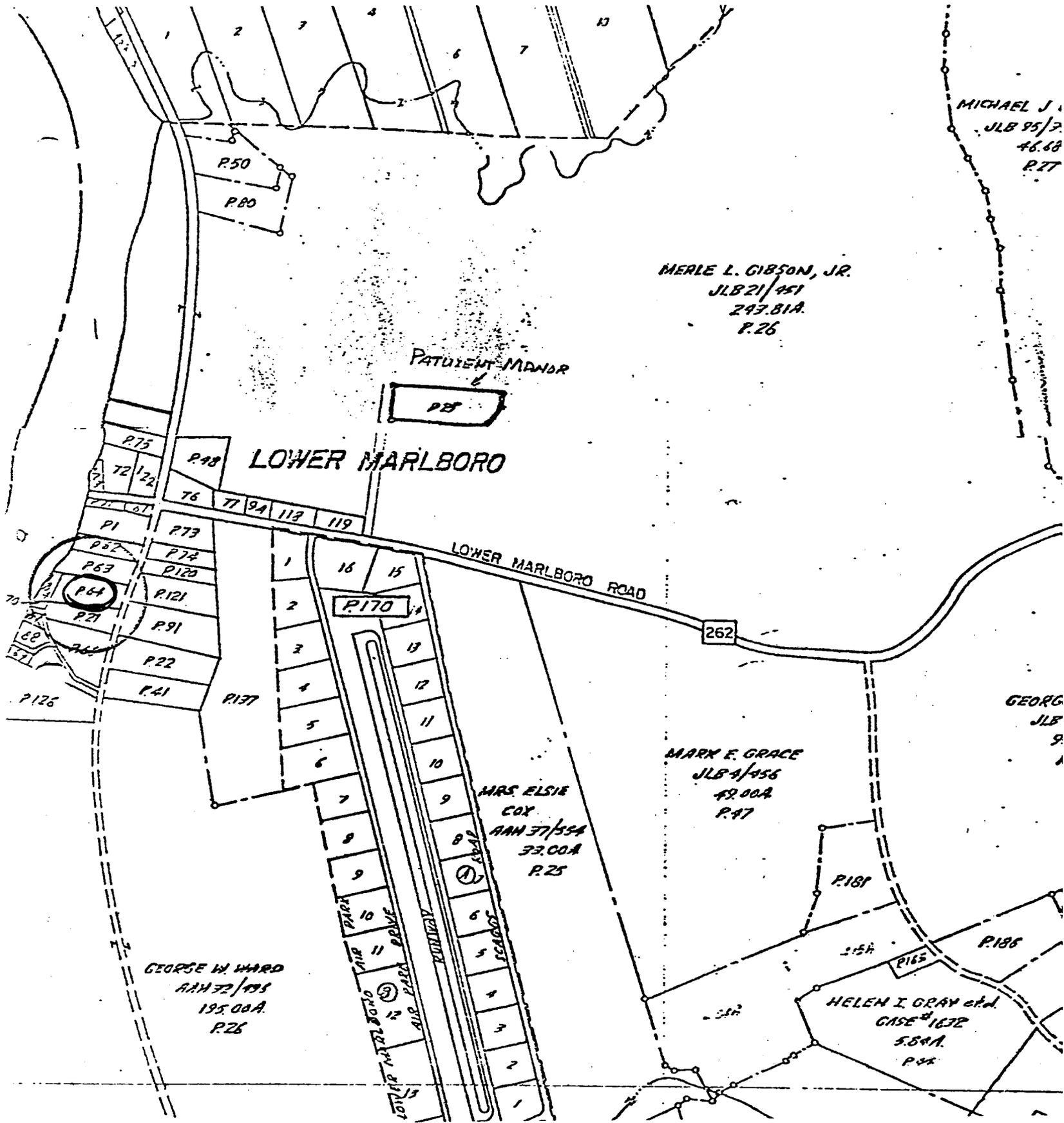
Other Remarks (2): The information about the town during the steamboat
was given me by my neighbor Griffith Armiger, b. 1883.

The information about the house was given me by my former neighbor,
Lawrence H. Wells (who has since died) b. 1886. He lived in the house as a small
boy with his mother and stepfather, the above mentioned Mr. Dalrymple.

Attachments (3): 2 Photos; Description by Mrs. Mills; Mr. Matthews' account
Dated 1/20/75; Tax Map/4 Extract.

Signature of Applicant: Elizabeth B. Mills
Concurrence of Owner: Same

- As provided by Calvert County Ordinance, dated June 4, 1974
- (2) May be attached
- (3) Such as: Photos; Deeds or Historical Documents; Plats; etc.



Application No. HD 75-1

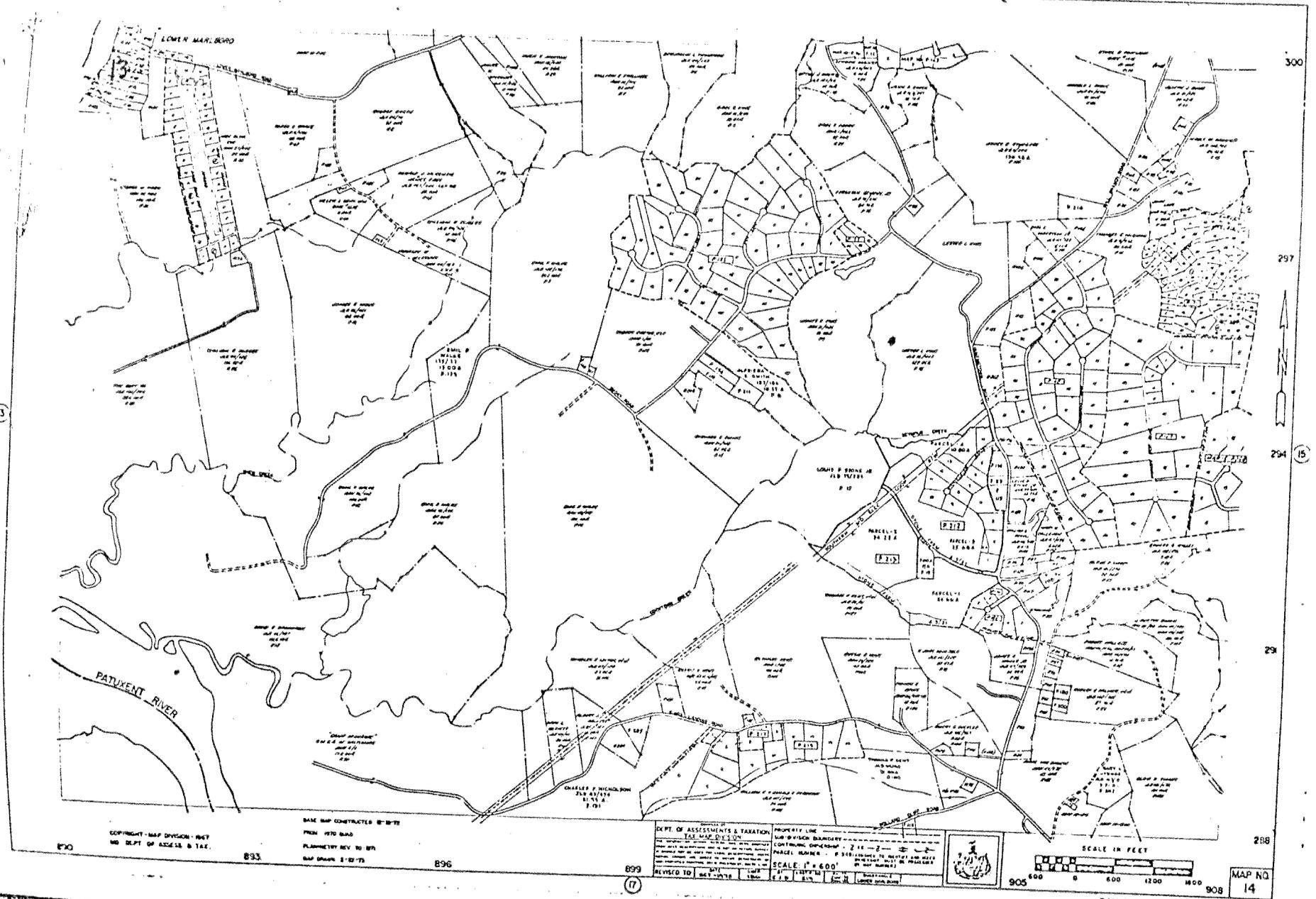
VICTORIAN COTTAGE (ELIZABETH MILLS)

Assessors Map 14, Parcel 64

CT-13



10 CT-13 Mills House



890
COPYRIGHT - MAP DIVISION - 1967
MD DEPT. OF ACCESS & TAX.

893
BASE MAP CONSTRUCTED BY B-72
FROM 1970 BARS
PLANNED BY REV. TO B-71
MAP DRAWN 2-22-73
896

899
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION
PROPERTY LINE
MAP DIVISION NUMBER
CONTROLLING COMMISSIONER - 2-11-73
PARCEL NUMBER - 2-11-73
SCALE 1" = 600'
REVISED TO 1-27-73



902
MAP NO.
14

CALVERT COUNTY 890-288
NOT TO SCALE
NOT TO SCALE



CT-13
MILLS Ass.
E.

W. NIELD
SPR. 76

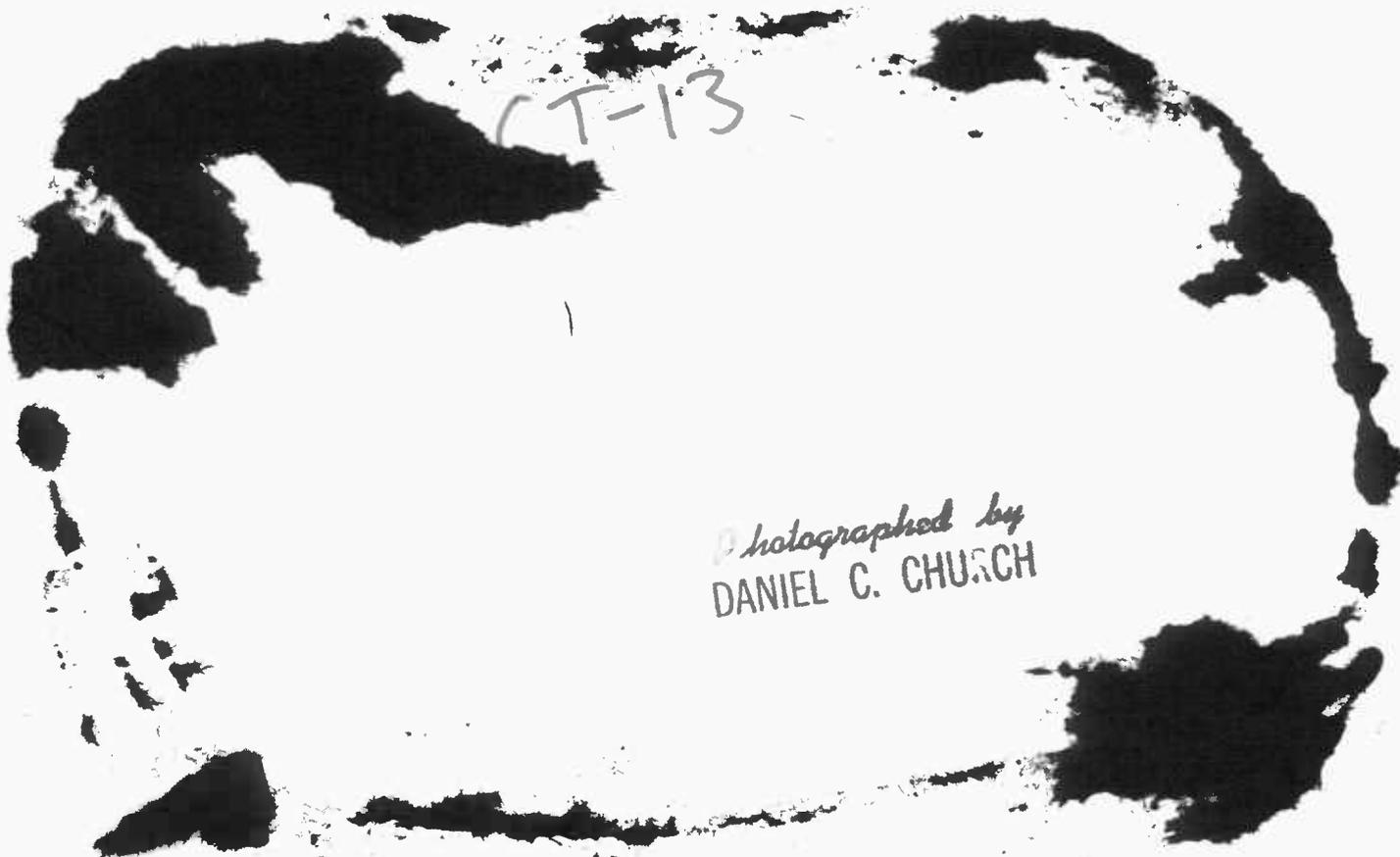


CT-13
Mills Hse.
S. W.

W. NIELD
SPA. 76



CT-13



CT-13

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH