

S 'M. -38

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE MONUMENT

1934

St. Mary's City

Situated at the entrance to St. Mary's City, this monument, sculpted by Hans Schuler, was a gift of all 23 counties to the State of Maryland. It commemorates religious and civil freedom in Maryland.



FREEDOM
OF CONSCIENCE

RECTED BY

COMMITTEE ON CONSCIENCE

SM-38

*There was a wind over England and it blew.
 Strong, resistless the wind of the western star,
 The wind from the coasts of hope, from the barely-known
 And, under its blowing, Plymouth and Jamestown sin.
 To the small, old towns, the towns of the oldest graves,
 Notable, remembered, but not the same.
 —Stephen Vincent Benet, Western Star*



ST. MARY'S CITY, HAVEN C

The Seventeenth Century as Prolog

CHAPTER I

Strong bonds of place and principle link St. Mary's College to the first Maryland settlement and capital at St. Mary's City. The seed of the present College, St. Mary's Female Seminary, was founded in 1840 to "cherish the remembrance of great events and sacred places . . . connected with the early history of our ancestors," and the legislature required that this Monument School be built on the very spot "where [European] civilization and Christianity were first introduced into our State." Maryland's original capital had begun its precipitous decline exactly 150 years before the creation of the Seminary and had long since disappeared by the time the school was built in 1845. It was the Monument School that brought new life to St. Mary's City and reawakened interest in the long-obscured legacy of the Calverts. Considering the timeless bonds that connect the young College to the ancient capital, it is essential that this sesquicentennial history begin with the significant seventeenth-century heritage of St. Mary's City.

In the "Beginning"

Although Southern Maryland had been visited by Indian bands and farmed by native villagers for thousands of years prior to English settlement, the wider world

first learned of the region when Captain Henry Fleet (1606) sailed the Thames River in Chatham. Famous for its royal dockyard, the structures of Sir Francis Drake, Fleet came to the Chesapeake Bay, his cousin, Virginia Governor, months after his arrival and the Indian Uprising of 22 Maryland's only Southern colony. Fleet was captured by other ships on the Potomac River. Fleet was living and learning among the Anacostia River and the Indian dialects and of the land area.

Captain Fleet was the first to reside at the future site of St. Mary's for beaver pelts between 1606 and 1608. Fleet brought him to the village of St. Mary's along both banks of the Anacostia Bay. Fleet's knowledge of the Indians for furs and of the Indian products made him the first to enter the boardrooms of London. Fleet's dams of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland or a Monument School. Fleet's activity in this region was on the site of St. Mary's City. Fleet the delicate etiquette taught these traditional

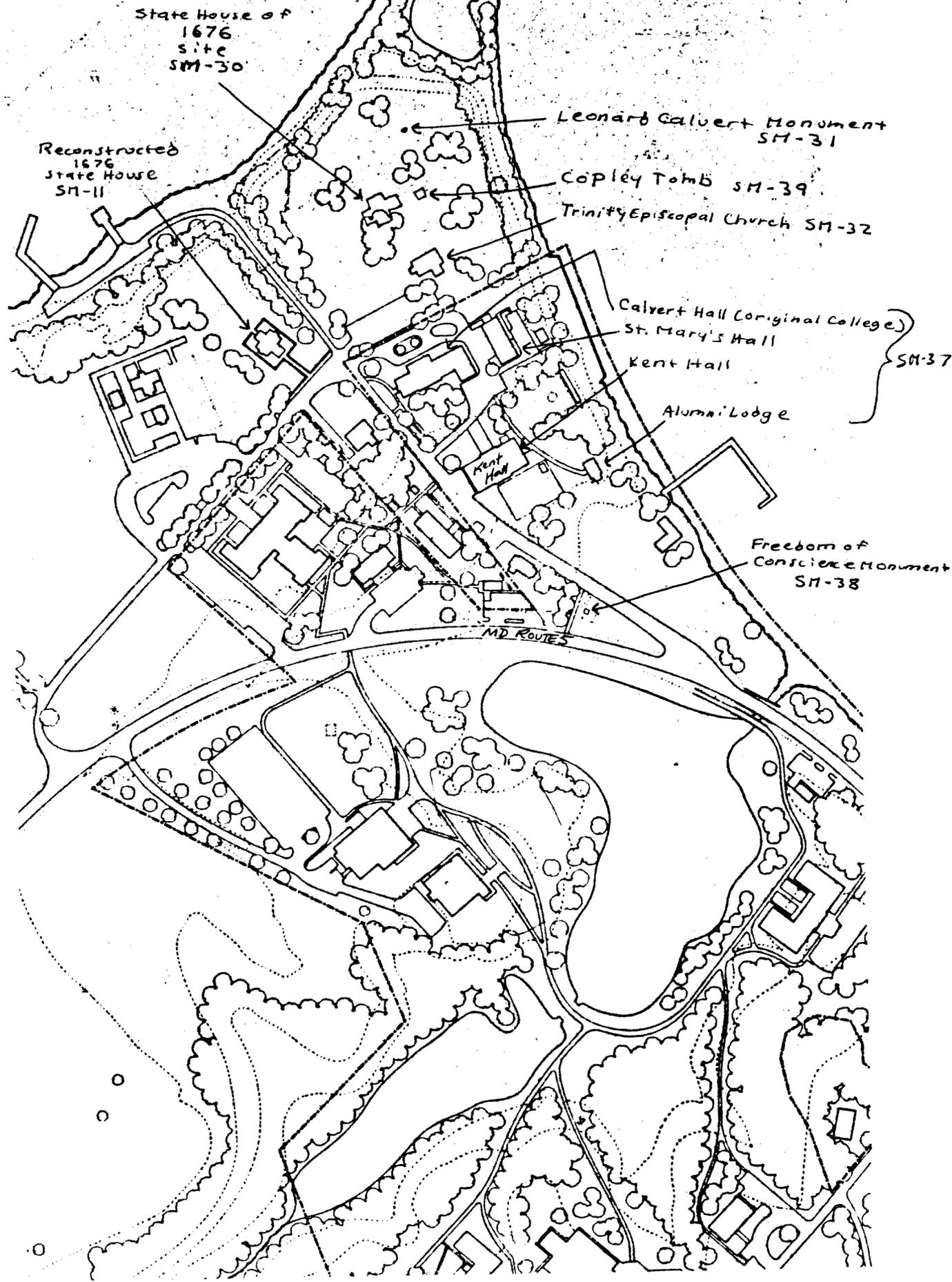
~~SM-37~~

*Freedom of Conscience Monument, St. Mary's College.
 Designed by sculptor Hans Schuler, this statue was erected
 for Maryland's Tercentenary in 1934 to commemorate the
 first practice of religious toleration in America.*



SM-37
St. Mary's College

1/2" = 100 ft.



State House of
1676
site
SM-30

Reconstructed
1676
State House
SM-11

Leonard Calvert Monument
SM-31

Copley Tomb SM-39

Trinity Episcopal Church SM-32

Calvert Hall (Original College)

St. Mary's Hall

Kent Hall

Alumni Lodge

SM-37

Freeborn of
Conscience Monument
SM-38

MD ROUTE 5



ST. MARYS CITY
QUADRANGLE

■ Cedar Landing

U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION
(WEBER FIELD)

Beachville



SM-38

Freedom of Conscience Monument
North Elevation

J. Kozlay

9/24/94



GRANT TO THE
STATE OF MARYLAND
FROM THE COUNTIES
OF... AND...
... ..

SM-38

Freedom of Conscience Monument

South Elevation

J. Kozlay

9/24/94



SM-38

Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances
St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Nov 1999

Md SHPO

Looking S

1 of 2



A GIFT TO THE
STATE OF MARYLAND
FROM THE COUNTIES
TO COMMEMORATE THE
300TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ITS FOUNDING
1634 1934

SM-38

Freedom of Conscience Monument

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

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Nov 1999

Elevation

2 of 2