

Capsule Summary  
SM-51  
Great Mills Medical College Site  
Great Mills  
Private

circa 1798

The Great Mills Medical College Site is significant as one of the earliest sites associated with the study of medicine in St. Mary's County. Although little archival information has been found to date that can provide a detailed history of the site, its importance is recognized locally. The ruins of the house remain visible, but are overgrown with vegetation.

According to genealogist Margaret Fresco, Dr. Barton Tabbs (1757-1818) established a medical college at his home on this site following the close of the Revolutionary War. Tabbs, who had studied medicine under Dr. John Bond of Charles County, had served during the war as a surgeon's mate in the Maryland line under Brigadier General Smallwood in 1776 and as a full surgeon by Council appointment in April 1777. He resigned from his post in 1779 and established a small school and private practice in Great Mills. Later, Dr. Tabbs became one of the founding members of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, established in 1799 for the regulation of the licensing of physicians.

Fresco notes that Tabbs purchased the tract "White Plains," also known as "Barton's Purchase," sometime after 1779. The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 shows Tabbs as the owner and occupant of property in Upper St. Mary's Hundred improved by a "fram'd dwelling house, 25' by 30,' 2 windows 5 1/2' by 28," 1 window 3'10" by 28," 2 windows 2' 10" by 22," 1 window 2'10" by 28," a fram'd addition to the end 20' by 30' not covered and without windows, doors, or floors. Fram'd kitchen 16' by 14,' Fram'd shop 16' by 14,' Fram'd house unfinished 20' by 16,' meathouse 12' square, milk house 10' by 8,' Log'd corn house 20' by 10.'" Although the house that Tabbs built on "White Plains" is a ruin today, photographs of the house do survive.

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815.

Historic Period Theme: Education  
Medicine

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence  
School

Known Design Source: none

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-51

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

Great Mills Farmhouse; Great Mills Medical College Site

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Flat Iron Road  not for publication

city, town Great Mills  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

## 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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert E. Frazier, Jr., and Carole A. Frazier

street & number P.O. Box 8 telephone no.:(301) 994-2735

city, town Great Mills state and zip code MD 20634

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 894

street & number folio 302

city, town Leonardtown state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

|                                    |  |   |   |                    |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                   |  | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins                   | <input 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Great Mills Medical College Site, also known as the Great Mills Farmhouse, is located on the south side of Flat Iron Road and on the west side of Route 5 near Great Mills in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Set back from the road, the ruin is largely overgrown and is not visible from the public way.

Little remains of the building that originally stood on the site except for the brick foundation walls and chimney base. Now significantly overgrown, both the chimney and south wall consist of Flemish bond brickwork with tooled mortar joints. The north wall is built of mortared fieldstones. A fragment of riven lath imbedded with rosehead nails was found on the interior of the house.

Built in the late eighteenth century, an early twentieth-century photograph of the one-and-a-half story structure shows that it was roofed with wood shingles. The main block was pierced by three bays on the main longitudinal elevation and the roof was pierced by two gable-roof dormer windows. A porch, supported by square posts, extended across the full width of the first floor. Two brick chimneys are located on one gable end of the house. A one-and-a-half story wing, also pierced by three bays and two dormer windows, was attached to the gable end of the main block.

Henry Chandlee Forman mistakenly identified this structure as "Wolseley Manor" in his 1958 publication Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. Forman's architectural analysis and reconstruction drawings of the building suggest that it consisted of an eighteenth-century side hall, double-pile plan structure enlarged in the later nineteenth century with a brick and frame addition on the east. He also notes that a stone cellar was located under the front room of the house.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics   | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> invention            |  |   |   |   |

**Specific dates** Unknown **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

The Great Mills Medical College Site, also identified as the Great Mills Farmhouse, is significant as one of the earliest sites thought to be associated with the study of medicine in St. Mary's County. Although little archival information has been found to date that can provide a detailed history of the site, its importance is recognized locally. The ruins of the house remain visible, but are overgrown with vegetation.

According to genealogist Margaret Fresco, Dr. Barton Tabbs (1757-1818) established a medical college at his home on this site following the close of the Revolutionary War. Tabbs, who had studied medicine under Dr. John Bond of Charles County, had served during the war as a surgeon's mate in the Maryland line under Brigadier General Smallwood in 1776 and as a full surgeon by Council appointment in April 1777. He resigned from his post in 1779 and established a small school and private practice in Great Mills. Later, Dr. Tabbs became one of the founding members of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, established in 1799 for the regulation of the licensing of physicians.

Fresco notes that Tabbs purchased the tract "White Plains," also known as "Barton's Purchase," sometime after 1779. The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 shows Tabbs as the owner and occupant of property in Upper St. Mary's Hundred improved by a "fram'd dwelling house, 25' by 30,' 2 windows 5 1/2' by 28," 1 window 3'10" by 28," 2 windows 2' 10" by 22," 1 window 2'10" by 28," a fram'd addition to the end 20' by 30' not covered and without windows, doors, or floors. Fram'd kitchen 16' by 14,' Fram'd shop 16' by 14,' Fram'd house unfinished 20' by 16,' meathouse 12' square, milk house 10' by 8,' Log'd corn house 20' by 10.'" Although the house that Tabbs is believed to have built on "White Plains" is a ruin today, photographs of the structure dating to the early twentieth century do survive.

A nineteenth-century description of both the house and the Tabbs family was published in the Chronicles in 1965. The text was written by Dr. Tabbs' granddaughter, Mrs. Philip Ford Combs, in the early to middle 1800s. She wrote, "The house at White

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-51

Fresco, Margaret. Doctors of St. Mary's County, 1634-1900.  
Ridge, MD: n.p., 1992.

Combs, Mrs. Philip Ford. "The Tabbs Family," Chronicles 13.6  
(June 1965): 1-8.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7.5

Quadrangle name St. Mary's City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|   | Zone                 | Easting              | Northing             |

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|   | Zone                 | Easting              | Northing             |

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| C | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

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, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date June 1995

street & number

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtwn

state MD 20650

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 HISTORIC TRUST  
 DRCH/DRCD  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514-7600

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Robert E. Frazier, Jr., and Carole Ann Frazier  
FROM: Barbara Thompson  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 894, folio 302.  
DATE: May 12, 1994.  
NOTES: Transfer of her 1/3 interest in two parcels. Parcel 1 being 1 3/4 acres.

TO: Barbara Thompson, Robert E. Frazier, Jr., and Carole Ann Frazier  
FROM: Paul Gregory Matthews and Joseph Ryan Matthews  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 584, folio 52.  
DATE: March 11, 1991.  
NOTES: Transfer of two parcels. Parcel 1 being 1 3/4 acres, the same as CBG 62/237.

TO: Paul Gregory Matthews and Joseph Ryan Matthews  
FROM: Hilda Mae Fox, Thomas Douglas Matthews, Mary Alice Guyther, Paul Gregory Matthews and Joseph Ryan Matthews.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 469, folio 52.  
DATE: April 19, 1989.  
NOTES: Transfer of parcel one being 1 3/4 of an acre "Part of Great Mills."

TO: Hilda Mae Fox, Thomas Douglas Matthews, Mary Alice Guyther, Paul Gregory Matthews, and Joseph Ryan Matthews.  
FROM: Joseph Ryan Matthews and Thomas Douglas Matthews, personal representatives of the estate of Leoma M. Coppage.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 467, folio 38.  
DATE: April 11, 1989.  
NOTES: Transfer of three tracts, parcel one being 1 3/4 of an acre.

TO: Leoma M. Coppage, widow.  
FROM: John W. Garner and Imogene B. Garner  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 62, folio 237.  
DATE: April 6, 1956.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Great Mills" being the old homestead of J. J. Alston, 1 3/4 acres.

TO: John W. Garner and Imogene B. Garner  
FROM: J. Frank Coppage and Leoma M. Coppage  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 32, folio 284.  
DATE: August 17, 1951.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Great Mills" being 1 3/4 of an acre.

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

TO: J. Frank Coppage  
FROM: First National Bank of St. Mary's at Leonardtown, Philip Langley, and Sarah A. Langley.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 422.  
DATE: January 29, 1941.  
NOTES: Transfer of 1 3/4 of an acre.

TO: First National Bank of St. Mary's  
FROM: J. Bernard Love, Sheriff  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 9, folio 58.  
DATE: December 9, 1935.  
NOTES: Sale of property as the result of an execution in Circuit Court dated May 29, 1935. Sale of "Part of Great Mills," being 1 3/4 acres, for \$350.

TO: Pirly I. Gatton and Lola C. Gatton  
FROM: J. Samuel Dyson and Florence A. Dyson  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 6, folio 309.  
DATE: March 5, 1929.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Great Mills".

TO: J. Samuel Dyson and Florence A. Dyson  
FROM: Richard H. Cockerille and Julia G. Cockerille  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 10, folio 418.  
DATE: November 25, 1912.  
NOTES: Transfer of 1 3/4 acres of "Part of Great Mills," with the stipulation that the Dysons agree not to put a store on the property. Price: \$600

TO: Richard H. Cockerille and Julia G. Cockerille of Prince George's County, MD.  
FROM: Robert Callahan and Mary A. Callahan  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 8, folio 166.  
DATE: November 15, 1909.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Great Mills Farm" made up of various tracts being 700 acres and also "Part of Guither's Range" now being part of "Great Mills Farm" being 165 acres. The above property known as "Great Mills Farm" or "The Home Farm of the late John J. Allston" being 865 acres total.

TO: Robert Callahan of Washington, D.C.  
FROM: William D. West of Washington, D.C., Trustee  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 5, folio 130.  
DATE: March 7, 1898.  
NOTES: As per Circuit Court decree, February 26, 1898, William West was appointed Trustee to transfer the interest in 865 acres of "Great Mills Farm" of Leonard P. West.

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

TO: Robert Callahan

FROM: R. Carrie West, widow, Mary E. Crampton and J. William Crampton, John T. West and Gertrude P. West, Henry P. West and Emma West, Charles E. West and Virginia A. West, William D. West and Katie P. West, Laura V. Beet and Alvin G. Beet.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JJG 5, folio 128.

DATE: March 7, 1898.

NOTES: Transfer of "Great Mills Farm" made up of a variety of tracts and being about 865 acres. Price: \$2500.

TO: John T. West

FROM: James F. Abell, mortgagee

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 2, folio 386.

DATE: December 4, 1894.

NOTES: Public sale of property as a result of J. J. Allston's default on a mortgage granted to Abell (JFF 12/3215). See Equity case 790, Decree Record JJG 1/359. This property is the same as "Great Mills Farm" made up of various tracts and being 700 acres, the same as JTB 2/450, and "Part Gaither's Range" being 165 acres, now a part of Great Mills Farm, and being a portion of JAC 2/199. In the aggregate the property totals 865 acres. Price: \$2650

TO: Heirs

FROM: Dr. Joseph Stone

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Estate 613.

DATE: 1836

NOTES: Dr. Joseph Stone died intestate in 1836. His property was distributed among his heirs in 1842. One of these heirs was his daughter Mary, wife of John J. Allston.

TO: Joseph Stone and Alexander McWilliams

FROM: Barton Tabbs Estate

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Commission Record, Liber JJ3, folio 258.

DATE: August 15, 1819

NOTES: Alexander and Ann McWilliams submitted a petition for the partition of the real estate of Barton Tabbs to court on March 6, 1819. As a result of the partition, Stone and McWilliams purchased a portion called "the Mansion house farm, consisting of several pieces or parcels amounting in the whole to 914 3/4 acres." Price: \$5200

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

Plains was a pretty one, a long two story and attic building with a wide veranda across the whole front. A large avenue planted with lombardy poplars led up the house. Inside was a wide hall upon which the door of the drawing room, dining room, etc. opened. On one side of the hall, at the back, was my Grandfather's study, and on the opposite side was what was known as Mrs. Tabbs room which opened on a large beautiful garden." Notably, there is some discrepancy between the description of the Tabbs house provided here by Mrs. Combs and that provided by Henry Chandlee Forman's reconstruction drawings in the 1958 publication Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens.

Presumably, Dr. Tabbs began the practice of tutoring young students of medicine soon after he was established at White Plains. Information regarding the number of Tabbs' students, the duration of the school, and the program of studies does not appear to exist. Most likely, the arrangement was something akin to an apprenticeship. Those who are known to have studied under Dr. Tabbs include Dr. Alexander McWilliams, Dr. Joseph Stone, James Thomas, and Benjamin Tabbs.

Three years after Tabbs' death, a commission for the partition of his estate was submitted to the court by Alexander and Ann McWilliams. Tabbs' real estate was then divided and sold. Dr. Alexander McWilliams and Dr. Joseph Stone purchased the tract called "the Mansion house farm." Both McWilliams and Stone were sons-in-law of Dr. Tabbs.

Dr. Stone died intestate in 1836. The distribution of his property shows that his heirs all received a 1/6 share of his estate. Apparently, his daughter Mary Stone Allston, wife of John Allston, became possessed of the Tabbs home place through the distribution of Stone's estate. The tract remained in the Allston family until 1894.

After the Allstons, the property was owned by the West, Callahan, and Cockerille families. Richard H. Cockerille divided the house lot out from the remainder of the tract in 1912 and sold it to Samuel and Florence Dyson for \$600. Between 1915 and 1926, during the Dyson ownership, the Great Mills telephone exchange was located in the house.

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.5 Significance

Photo of Great Mills Farmhouse.

Source: Regina Combs Hammett, History of St. Mary's County, 1634-1990. (Ridge, Md: n.p., 1991): 252.

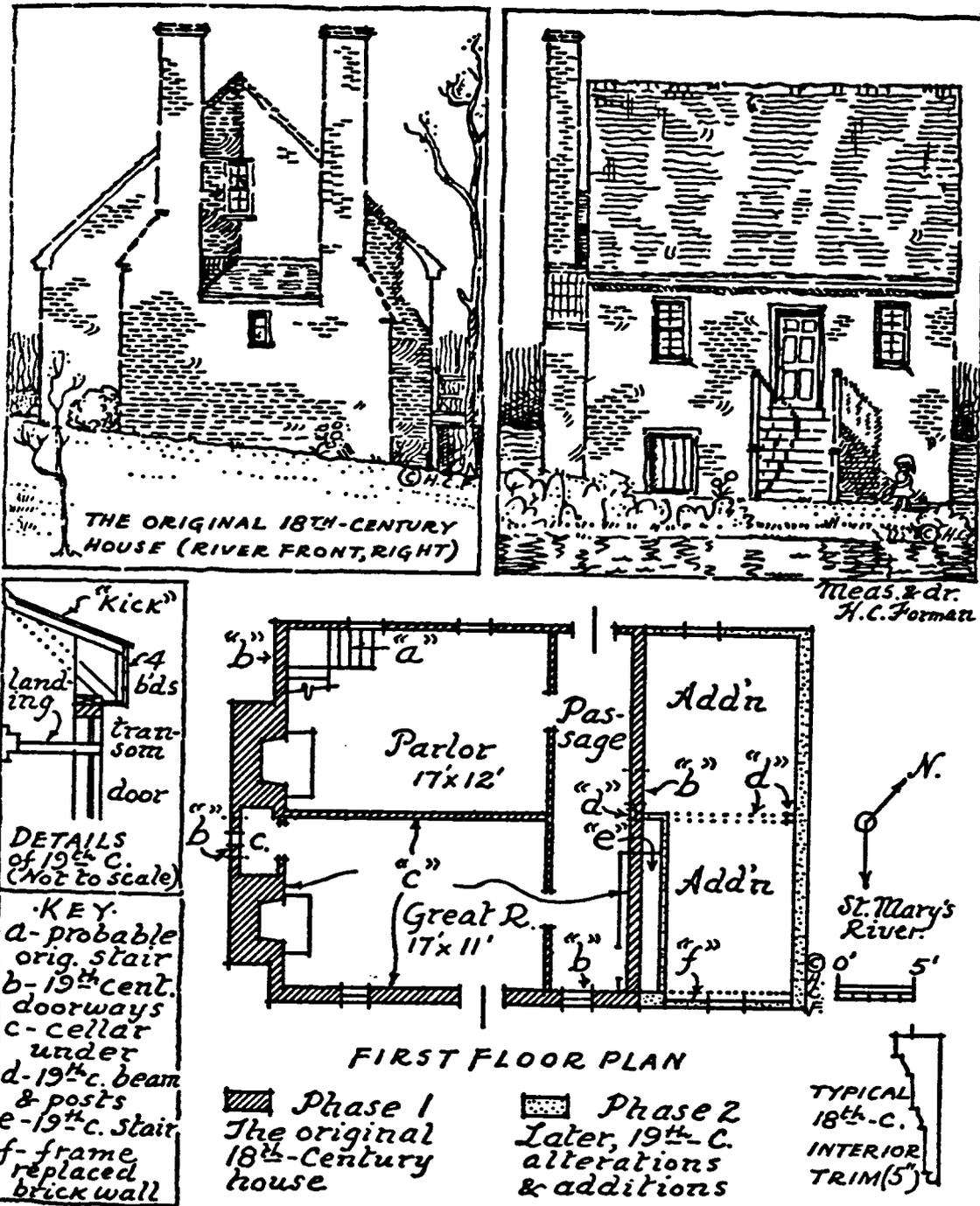


**GREAT MILLS FARMHOUSE -- GREAT MILLS TELEPHONE EXCHANGE 1915-1926**

Located on the east side of Flat Iron Road and on the west bank of the head of navigation of St. Mary's River. Built in the late 18th century, only the bricks survive (1990). Oral tradition credits this house as the site of Maryland's "first medical college."

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
 St. Mary's County  
 8.6 Significance

Source: Forman, Henry Chandlee, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens.  
 (New York: Bonanza Books, 1956): 109.



In St. Mary's County, WOLSELEY MANOR, as it is called in the neighborhood, presented a hard nut to crack. These reconstruction drawings are submitted by the author after many hours of study.

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.7 Significance

Source: Forman, Henry Chandlee, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. (New York: Bonanza Books, 1956): 110.

The house known as *Wolseley Manor* or the *J. J. Allston House*, herewith drawn, measured, and photographed (pp. 109, 136), is not Philip Calvert's dwelling. The oldest part of it above ground dates no earlier than the eighteenth century and, besides, the ruin stands on the west side, not the east side, of the north branch of the St. Mary's River.

There is no doubt that the little habitation is a mix-up as regards chronology. After several visits, the writer believes that he has found the solution to what man made of the structure over the years. One of the puzzles was why the original downstairs passageway was so narrow that there was scarcely room for a small stair. The logical place for a staircase to fit was in the chimney end of the parlor; consequently we have conjecturally drawn it thus (p. 109).

Now, to get down to brass tacks with the chronology: Phase I, the original eighteenth-century dwelling, represents a Late Cell type of structure of Transitional Style—that is, the rear cell or aisle had grown large and the gable end had become symmetrical. Three of the outside walls are brick, the rear wall frame. A typical St. Mary's County brick chimney pent between chimneys projects from the west gable, and it may have had a tiny window, trace of which has been removed. A stone cellar ran under the Great Room on the front and extended under the forepart of the passageway, marked "c" on the drawing.

The nineteenth-century owners made hash out of this dwelling, but it became even more picturesque than before. In Phase II, some of the openings on the front façade were changed around; a brick-and-frame addition was added to the east gable; the downstairs passageway was bulged out to receive a new stairway; and three doorways—one upstairs and two down—were punched in the west or chimney-pent gable wall, leading to an ungainly addition on the west, which for lack of space we have omitted from the floor plan.

By the injection of a new stairway into this snugger, the owners were confronted with lack of head room when they built a stair landing across the transom bar of the front doorway. In fact, the transom window coincided with the level of the landing floor. There was not even room for a midget to walk under the roof rafters to gain the second floor. As a result of this problem the eaves were raised to form a "kick" on the roof, as may be seen in one of the inserts on the drawing. The raising of the roof did not form a true jetty, or overhanging storey, because the floor joists were not extended outward. The new stairway, which bulged out the front passageway, has plain balusters, set on the diagonal, and a square newel post, rounded and chamfered at the top.

The entire upstairs storey, its partitions, roof, and dormers were also done over at this time—all the trim and woodwork being nineteenth-century. The quaint chimney pent was entirely covered, its small roof being ripped off to form

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College Site  
St. Mary's County  
8.8 Significance

Source: Forman, Henry Chandlee, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens.  
(New York: Bonanza Books, 1956): 111.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

111

a deck over which to gain access to the second storey of the west addition.

The brickwork of the river front of the original house and of the east addition was poorly constructed, because afterward at various intervals portions of the wall cracked, tumbled, or threatened to tumble. In recent years cement has been copiously used to strengthen the lower portion. To confuse matters for the archaeological detective, the largest part of the front wall of the east addition collapsed altogether, leaving jagged brick edges; and a section of frame wall was inserted, inadvertently making the river front more picturesque than ever.

It has never been discovered why three of the cellar walls are of stone boulders, the fourth wall, facing the river, being of brick and not even bonded with the stone walls. Probably no one will ever know if the stone cellar antedated the original eighteenth-century building.

One of the curious features of the river front was the two windows with sash having the panes set horizontally instead of vertically. Perhaps this is an example of "Carpenter Colonial" or of Victorian eccentricity. At any rate, on the chance that they are the former, we have shown them horizontally in the reconstruction.

SM-51, Great Mills Medical College  
St. Mary's County  
8.9 Significance

Source: Forman, Henry Chandlee, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. (New York: Bonanza Books, 1956): 136.



*This view of the so-called WOLSELEY MANOR, St. Mary's County, is taken from the land or north side of the house. On the left of the doorway is a nineteenth-century addition. This was not Chancellor Philip Calvert's dwelling. Johnston.*

S M -51 GREAT MILLS FARMHOUSE (ruin) 18th century  
Great Mills  
Private

Possibly constructed as a merchant's residence, the Great Mills farmhouse had among its outbuildings in 1798 a "Store house" and a barn, but no tobacco houses. The dwelling is located at the head of navigation on the St. Mary's River, at a ford below the Great Mill. Seated on the edge of the river terrace, its stone-walled cellar opens onto the flood plain.

The original plan of the house consisted of two rooms front to back with a narrow passage across the end. The rooms were heated with a pair of chimneys connected with a one-story pent. The chimney (south) gable and the river (east) side of the house were constructed of brick. Later in the 18th century, an eleven-foot addition with a brick gable was added to the north end, leaving only the road (west) side of the house of frame.

*At the time of*  
the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment John Armstrong owned the house. An 1823-24 map of the county shows his widow still living there, and a store to the north of the dwelling.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
 for the  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
 Great Mills Farmhouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 s Flat Iron Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Great Mills,

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: St. Mary's

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No  |  |   |  |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |   |  |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                    | _____                                    | _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   | _____                                    | _____                             |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
 J. V. Moran

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Flat Iron Rd.

CITY OR TOWN: Great Mills STATE: Md.

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
 St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

| 7. DESCRIPTION   |   |
|--|---|
| CONDITION  | (Check One)   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|  | (Check One)   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site  |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE   |   |
| <p>Now completely collapsed, the Great Mills Farmhouse was a house of more than average interest. The house, one story in height, had three walls of brick with the west elevation wall of frame. At the south end stood a pair of exterior chimneys with a one-story pent between. The cellar upon which the house was built had three walls of fieldstone and one of brick, the latter at the east elevation, river side. This brick wall was not bonded to the stone end walls.</p> <p>In the 19th century the house was extended on the north end by a two-room brick and frame addition and on the south end by one frame.</p> <p>Today one brick gable wall is partially standing as well as one brick chimney opposite.</p> |   |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| 6. SIGNIFICANCE  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century<br><input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century  |   |   |   |
| <b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b>  |   | C   |   |
| <b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>  |   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communications<br><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Invention<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br><input type="checkbox"/> Literature<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theater<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/> |
| <b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b><br><br><p>The reasons for its style of construction (full, partially exposed cellar) and location (close to the banks of this part of the St. Mary's River) are presently unknown but possibilities are that it was used as a small warehouse and/or store when the large St. Mary's River creek was navigated by flat-bottom tobacco boats. It is also said that this house was the site of an early medical college.</p> <p>This could prove to be an interesting archeological site. Various uses of the building should be established through research.</p> <p>This house was extensively recorded by H. C. Forman, assisted by Col. Miodrag Blagojevich of West. St. Mary's Manor. It has been erroneously called "Wolseley Manor House".</p> |   |   |   |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

Blank area for Acreeage Justification.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 J. Richard Rivoire and Michael O. Bourne

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SM-~~400~~ 51  
Great Mills Medical Coll.  
Site  
Great Mills  
St. Mary's City Quad

76° 30'  
38° 15'

4000 N

LEONARDTOWN 5 MI

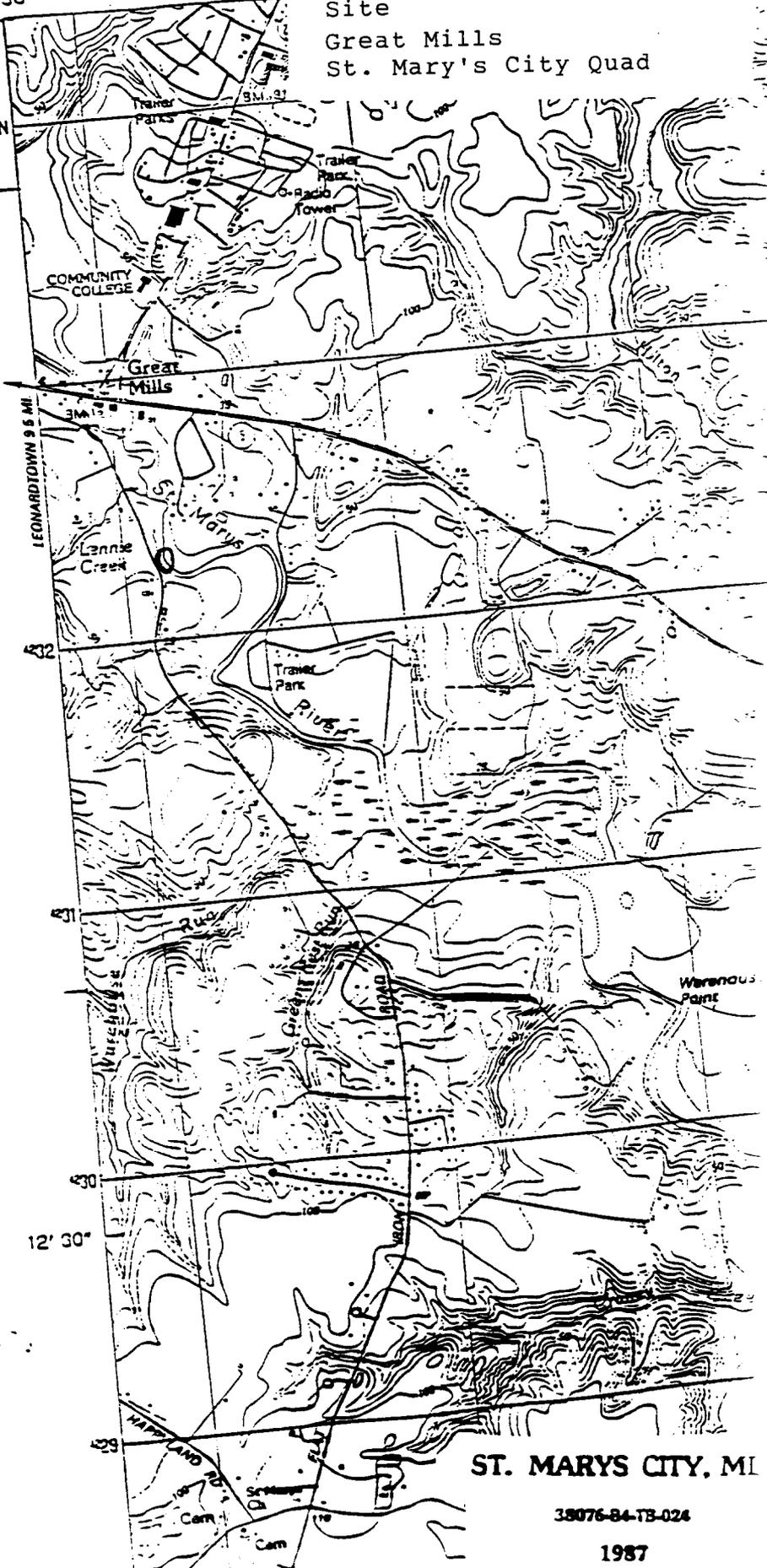
430

431

12' 30"

430

429



ST. MARYS CITY, MI

38076-84-TS-024

1987



SM = 51

Great Mills Medical College

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

MD SHPO

1/1

Ruined remains of exterior wall.