

Capsule Summary  
SM-557  
The James and Estelle Longmore House  
Leonardtwn  
Private

c. 1918-20

In 1918, a circuit court case between the Eastern Shore Trust Company and Harvey E. Hackenburg vs. Frank D. Lawrence forced the sale of a series of properties that Asa A. Lawrence had once owned along Lawrence Avenue. Lawrence had purchased a series of properties on the west side of Leonardtown in order to facilitate the town's growth during the 1870s and 1880s. Unfortunately, Lawrence died in testate and a court case to settle his rather large estate ensued.

As a result of the case, one of several parcels were sold on the courthouse steps of Leonardtown to a number of interested buyers. One of them was James A. and Estelle Longmore. On May 17, 1918, the couple purchased a 1,238 sq. ft. lot and executed a deed with the trustees appointed by the circuit court L. Allison Wilmer and Joseph H. Ching. Soon after the purchase, the couple erected a two story, three bay, single pile dwelling with an L-shaped plan on the east side of Lawrence Avenue. James and Estelle owned the house until August 29, 1960 when their estate sold the dwelling to Charles J. O'Leary and Monica Tennison.

While the house has been considerably altered by a pair of modern additions and the stucco covering, it still retains its fenestration, building form, and original roofing materials. This makes it an important dwelling for understanding the development of domestic architecture in Leonardtown in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

SM-557, James and Estelle Longmore House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Town  
Historic Function and Use: Residence  
Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-557

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James and Estelle Longmore House

and/or common

## 2. Location

E side of Lawrence Avenue, just south of the intersection of Park and Lawrence Avenues

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 3

state Md \_\_\_\_\_ county St. Mary's

## 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	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Frederick J. and Rayetta S. McWilliams

street & number PO Box 136 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.: (301) 475-9388

city, town Leonardtown \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code Md 20650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ liber 134

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 479

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

Survey No. SM-557

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Longmore house, located on the east side of Lawrence Avenue just north of the intersection of Fenwick Street and Lawrence Avenue, was constructed c. 1918. The dwelling is oriented on an east/west axis and is setback about ten yards from the roadway. The yard is shaded by a large yew and several other deciduous trees that are randomly situated on the flat lot.

The dwelling itself is a two story, three bay, center-passage, single pile, frame house covered with stucco and topped with a pressed metal shingle, gable roof. The original dwelling exhibits an L-shaped plan and features two one story additions made to the west and south elevations. The roof of the original section exhibits a cross gable and one interior end brick chimney. Another exterior end chimney extends from a one story addition on the south side and an interior chimney pierces the roof of the original section's rear two story ell.

The primary elevation has been obscured by a modern one story addition that covers the three bays on the first floor. The addition's walls are sheathed with aluminum siding and pierced by three six-over-six, double-hung sash windows and a modern door. The second floor is characterized by the symmetrical placement of three, six-over-six windows. Judging from this arrangement the first floor probably followed this pattern except the middle bay was probably an entrance.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-557

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/ humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" 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**

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.

In 1918, a circuit court case between the Eastern Shore Trust Company and Harvey E. Hackenburg vs. Frank D. Lawrence forced the sale of a series of properties that Asa A. Lawrence had once owned along Lawrence Avenue. Lawrence had purchased a series of properties on the west side of Leonardtown in order to facilitate the town's growth during the 1870s and 1880s. Unfortunately, Lawrence died in testate and a court case to settle his estate ensued.

As a result of the case, one of several parcels were sold on the courthouse steps of Leonardtown to a number of interested buyers. One of them was James A. and Estelle Longmore. On May 17, 1918, the couple purchased a 1,238 sq. ft. lot and executed a deed with the trustees appointed by the circuit court L. Allison Wilmer and Joseph H. Ching. Soon after the purchase, the couple erected a two story, three bay, single pile dwelling with an L-shaped plan on the east side of Lawrence Avenue. James and Estelle owned the house until August 29, 1960 when their estate sold the house to Charles J. O'Leary and Monica Tennison.

While the house has been considerably altered by a pair of modern additions and the stucco covering, it still retains its fenestration, building form, and original roofing materials. This makes it an important dwelling for understanding the development of residential development in Leonardtown in the first quarter of the twentieth century.



SM-557, James A. and Estelle Longmore House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-title (Please note that all records can be found in the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRF 134, Folio 479

Grantee: Frederick J. and Rayetta S. McWilliams

Grantor: Charles J. and Virginia D. O'Leary

Date: June 17, 1967

Notes: The deed refers to a Charles A. Heard survey dating from October 13, 1917. The tract contains 27.84 perches.

Reference: Liber CBG 105, Folio 18

Grantee: Charles J. O'Leary and Monica O. Tennison

Grantor: James Longmore, et ux

Date: August 29, 1960

Reference: Liber EBA 17, Folio 135

Grantee: James A. and Estelle Longmore

Grantor: L. Allison Wilmer and Joseph H. Ching

Date: May 17, 1918

Notes: As a result of a circuit court case (#NE 1275) involving the Eastern Shore Trust Company vs. Frank D. Lawrence, executor of Asa A. Lawrence's estate, the lot was sold at a public auction. James Longmore and his wife Estelle purchased 27.84 perches of Lawrence's property for \$1510.

Reference: Liber JFF 4, Folio 361

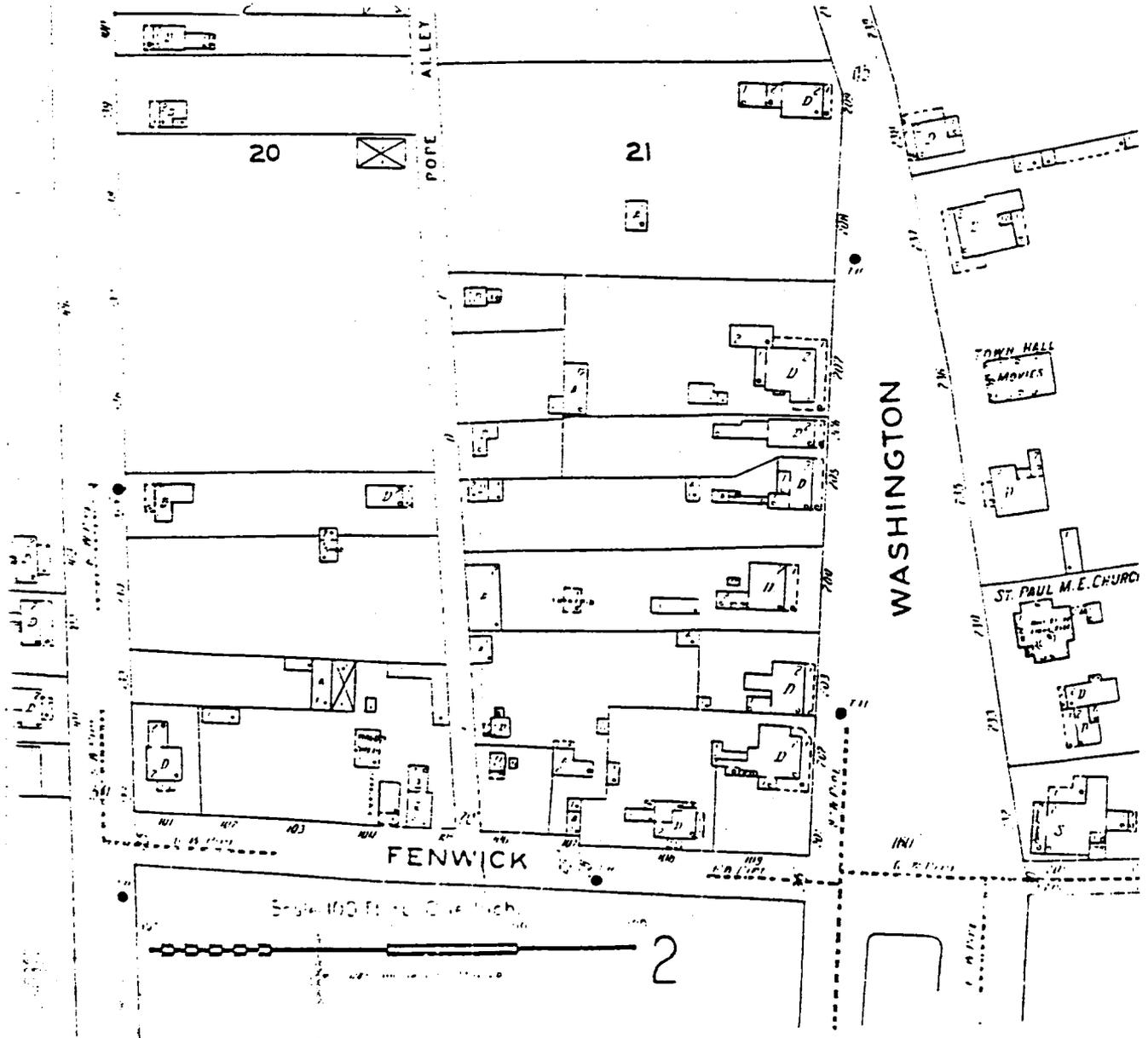
Grantee: Asa A. Lawrence

Grantor: Joseph H. Key and Robert C. Combs

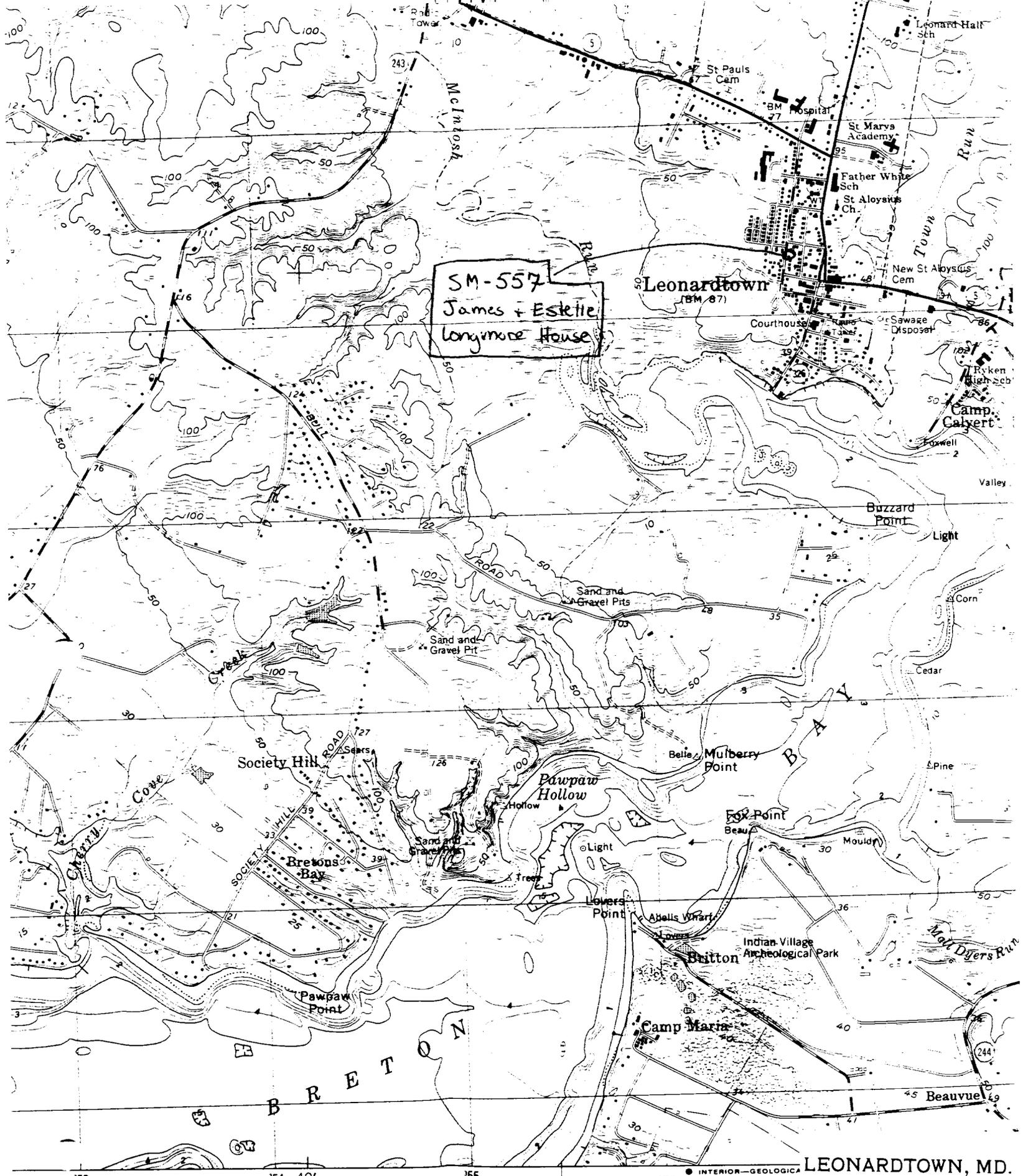
Date: December 22, 1880

Notes: Here Asa Lawrence purchases much of the property that is presently known as Lawrence Avenue. It represents a confirmatory deed for land he purchased previously from Maria Key but had never received legal title to.

SM-557, James A. and Estelle Longmore House  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

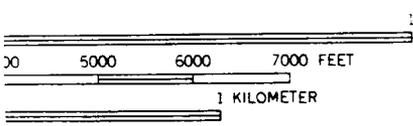


1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing the James and Estelle Longmore House fronting on Lawrence Avenue.



SM-557  
James + Estelle  
Longmire House

LEONARDTOWN, MD.  
SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-C6-TB-024



ROAC  
1963  
Heavy-duty 3ATHMETRY ADDED 1982  
Medium-duty PHOTOREVISED 1984  
DMA 5660 I SW-SERIES V833



