

Capsule Summary
SM-636
Tenant House near Barton Hall
Oakley Vicinity
Private

c. 1880 - 1910

Constructed c.1880-1910, the Tenant House near Barton Hall is situated on an overgrown tract that overlooks the northern head of Deep Creek near present day Oakley, Maryland. The house is important for it reveals the similarities between slave quarters and late-nineteenth century tenant dwellings. Similar in form to the Bushwood Manor Duplex (SM-110A), Frame Duplex at Brome Farm (SM-33A), as well as the tenant house at Montpelier Farm (SM-526), the Tenant House near Barton Hall is a one story, two room main block with an earlier one room, one story kitchen wing. Like the slave dwellings that preceded it, the main block, erected c. 1910, is heated by a central stack and features two undecorated interior spaces. Interestingly, the kitchen wing appears to have preceded the main block. It is constructed of vertical board-and-batten siding attached to the frame with cut nails -- construction consistent with the late-nineteenth century. Overall, the house demonstrates how the housing of sharecroppers had only improved modestly over surviving, mid-nineteenth century slave quarters and tenant houses.

According to land records and the personal accounts of Tom Hodges, a resident of the Barton Hall Farm since he was born there in 1914, sharecroppers occupied the house up until about 10 years ago when the dwelling was abandoned.¹ Mr. Hodges remembers that members of the Graves family once lived there. The property, called "Part of Barton Hall" was part of a 152 acre tract that has been owned by members of the Dent family since 1904. In that year Dr. Walter B. Dent, the resident of the nearby Denton Farmhouse (SM-146) purchased the property.

¹ Telephone Conversation with Mr. Thomas Robert Hodges, June, 1998.

SM-636, Tenant House near Barton Hall
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: Rural
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-636

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Oakley Farm

and/or common Tenant House near Barton Hall (pref.)

2. Location

S side of Barton Hall Rd. approx. 0.2 of a mile east of intersection of Barton Hall and Oakley Rd. (Rt. 470)
street & number not for publication

city, town Oakley vicinity of congressional district 7

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-39, G-14, P-65

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 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 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 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 Dr. W. B. Dent Estate, c/o Peter D. Dent

street & number 7608 15th Ave. telephone no.:

city, town Takoma Park, state and zip code Md 20912

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 580

street & number folio 237

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-636

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 of move _____
<input checked="" 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: 2

The Tenant House at Barton Hall is situated on the south side of Hodges Road approximately 0.5 miles east of the intersection of Hodges and Oakley Roads near Oakley, Maryland. Oriented on a north/south axis and situated just above a creek bank, the building's primary or south elevation overlooks Deep Creek. Due to significant undergrowth it remains difficult to discern original circulation around the dwelling. No evidence for a dirt drive exists and only a small path presently leads to the water from the house. A ruinous privy is situated just west of the dwelling.

The Tenant House at Barton Hall is a one story, single-pile, dwelling with a gable roof. Constructed in the late-nineteenth or early twentieth century, the building consists of a two room main block and a one room kitchen wing that extends from the west gable end. The main block rests on a series of low-lying cedar blocks that form the foundation. The kitchen wing, however, rests on irregularly placed ironstone and brick piers. The main block's circular sawn frame is covered with horizontal clapboard fastened with wire nails. The kitchen is sheathed with board-and-batten siding attached to the hewn and circular sawn, braced-frame with mature cut nails. Both sections feature a boxed-cornice. Corrugated metal covers the main block's roof, while raised-seam metal covers the kitchen's roof. Both the main block and kitchen wing feature interior brick chimney flues.

The south elevation consists of the main block and kitchen. The main block is pierced by a six-over-six, double-hung sash window and a door. The door is shaded by a shed roof, screened-in porch. The kitchen is pierced only by a door. Another door is situated between the kitchen and main block. It permits access to a small breezeway that connects the two buildings together. The floor in this breezeway lays directly on the ground and does not feature any apparent underpinning.

The west elevation is comprised of the kitchen's gable end. It features a single window opening in the attic story. The elevation also exhibits an interior end brick chimney.

The north elevation of the main block is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. A centrally located brick chimney flue is situated approximately mid-way between these two bays. The kitchen is pierced by a single door entry.

The east elevation of the main block does not feature any decoration or openings.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the visit but its plan was visible through the windows. The main block consists of two rooms separated by a partition wall and chimney flue that serves both spaces. No decoration was apparent. A small breezeway connects the main block to the kitchen. The kitchen features only one room. It is entirely sheathed on the interior with flush circular sawn boards. A boxed winder stair is located in the southeast corner of the room.

Judging from the architectural evidence it remains difficult to determine the different building periods for the dwelling. The board-and-batten siding fastened with mature cut nails on the kitchen suggests an earlier period, while the main block and its lap siding and wire nails was definitely constructed in the early-twentieth century. Whatever their date of construction, the breezeway connecting them was built after both buildings.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-636

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Constructed c.1880-1910, the Tenant House near Barton Hall is situated on an overgrown tract that overlooks the northern head of Deep Creek near present day Oakley, Maryland. The house is important for it reveals the similarities between slave quarters and late-nineteenth century tenant dwellings. Similar in form to the Bushwood Manor Duplex (SM-110A), Frame Duplex at Brome Farm (SM-33A), as well as the tenant house at Montpelier Farm (SM-526), the Tenant House near Barton Hall is a one story, main block with an earlier one room, one story kitchen wing. Like the slave dwellings that preceded it, the main block, erected c. 1910, is heated by a central stack and features two undecorated rooms. Interestingly, the kitchen wing appears to have preceded the main block. It is constructed of vertical board-and-batten siding attached to the frame with cut nails -- construction consistent with the late-nineteenth century. Overall, the house demonstrates how the housing of sharecroppers had only improved modestly over surviving, mid-nineteenth century slave quarters and tenant houses.

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¹ Telephone Conversation with Mr. Thomas Robert Hodges, June, 1998.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-636

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres around house

Quadrangle name Leonardtown

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

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 Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 6-16-98

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

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 HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

SM-636, Tenant House near Barton Hall

St. Mary's County

8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 167, Folio 390

Grantee: Marguerite R. Tugman

Grantor: Maysie D. Reaney, also known as Mary Lillia Reaney

Date: Decemeber 30, 1983

Notes: Following the death of Grace Blackistone Dent, numerous tracts of land were transferred to Walter B. Dent's Heirs. This particular conveyance covers Reaney's half interest in three tracts which include the 152 acre parcel called "Part of Barton Hall.

Reference: Liber JWG 1, Folio 259

Grantee: Grace Blackistone Dent

Grantor: Walter B. Dent

Date: February 12, 1946

Notes: Dr. Dent leaves his estate to his wife Grace Blackistone Dent and upon her death the estate is to revert to his six children which include Mary Lillia Reaney, Harriet Eleanor Burch, John Francis Dent, Richard D. Dent, Benjamin Blackistone Dent, and T. Hatch Dent.

Reference: Liber EBA 19, Folio 261

Grantee: Walter B. Dent

Grantor: Richard H. and Attaway T. Gaines

Date: March 12, 1904

Reference: Liber JFF 13, Folio 541

Grantee: Richard H. Garner

Grantor: Oscar and Eleanora Miles

Date: December 20, 1892

Notes: Here the tract is referred to as "Part of Barton Hall" and features 152 acres.

Reference: Liber JFF 11, Folio 514

Grantee: Oscar Miles

Grantor: Jennie and Edward A. Burch

Date: March 15, 1890

Reference: Liber JFF 8, Folio 9 & 10

Grantee: Edward A. Burch

Grantor: Ann M. Turner

Date: December 3, 1884

Notes: These deed describes the boundaries of the tract and relates that 144 acres of the parcel are located in the "Blackistone Purchase" near the head of the "back creek." Another eight acres was added to this parcel.

SM-636, Tenant House near Barton Hall
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

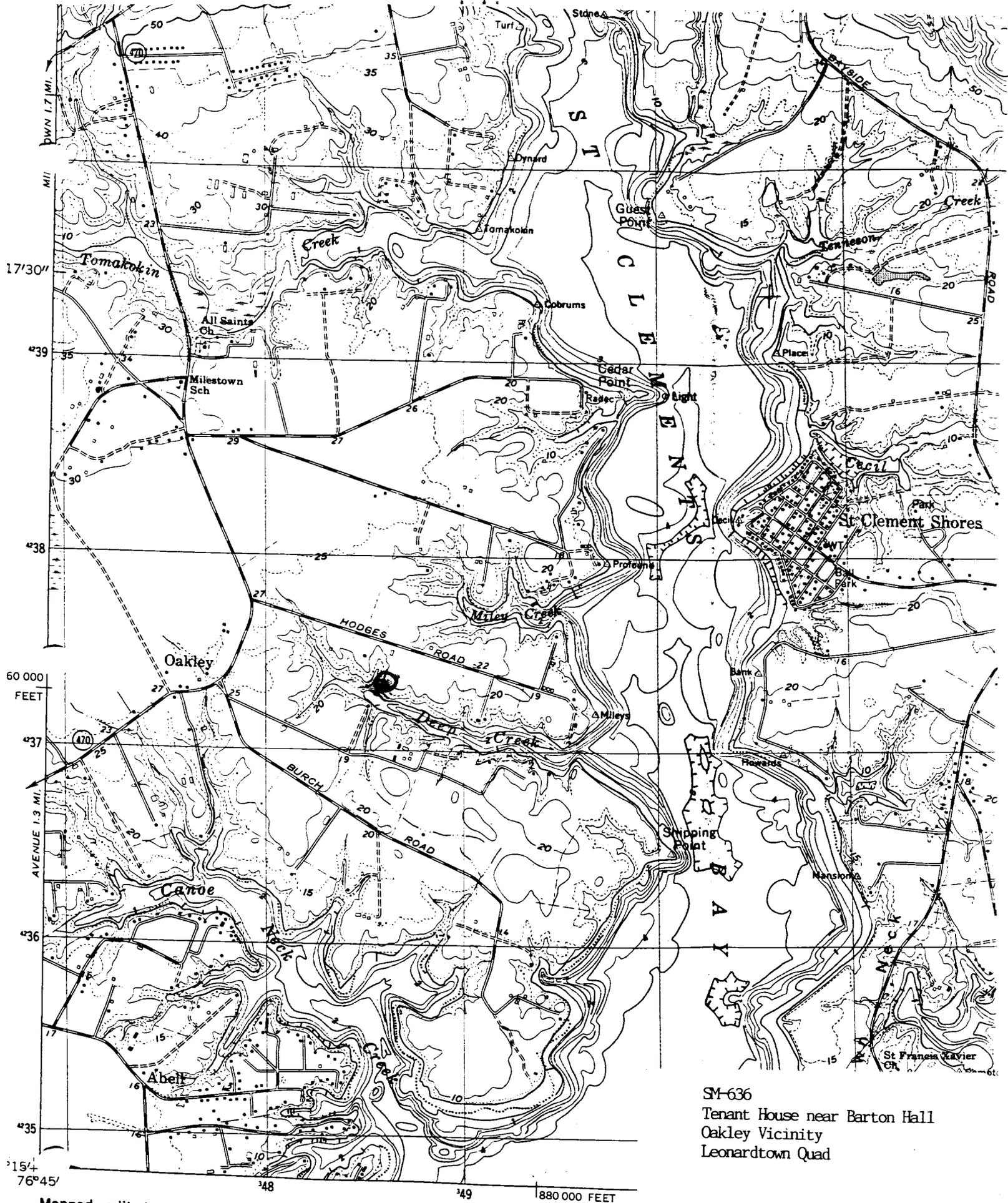
Reference: Liber JAC 6, Folio 200

Grantee: Emeline McWilliams

Grantor: Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs, trustees

Date: March 12, 1873

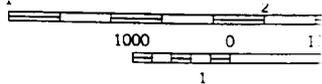
Notes: This deed refers to a circuit court case located in the St. Mary's County Execution Record (Liber JH 1, Folio 235). The case involved Emeline McWilliams v. R. Pickney Blackistone and the Circuit Court passed judgement on March 3, 1871. A search through St. Mary's County Land Records could not locate the case and resulting judgement.



SM-636
 Tenant House near Barton Hall
 Oakley Vicinity
 Leonardtown Quad

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 and the National Ocean Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
 1961. Field checked 1963
 Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated

NATIONAL OCEAN
 HYDROGRAPHIC SUR.





SM-636

Texas house near (location?)

St. Mary's County

King Ranzetta

Mar/72

Mid SHPO

2nd printing

1 of 2



SM-626

Tenant House near Barton Hall

St. Mary's County

Kirk Panzetta

Mar/98

4x SHFO

N + E elevations

2 of 2