

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1970-12-30

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC ST. JOHN'S AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Fisher Road West, just west of the College Health Center

CITY, TOWN St. Mary's City VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

Table with 4 columns: CATEGORY, OWNERSHIP, STATUS, PRESENT USE. Includes options like DISTRICT, BUILDING(S), SITE, PUBLIC ACQUISITION, OCCUPIED, UNOCCUPIED, WORK IN PROGRESS, ACCESSIBLE, AGRICULTURE, MUSEUM, PARK, EDUCATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT, GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL, MILITARY, PRIVATE RESIDENCE, RELIGIOUS, SCIENTIFIC, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME St. Mary's College of Maryland Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN St. Mary's City VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 20686

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER Washington Street and Courthouse Drive

CITY, TOWN Leonardtown STATE Maryland

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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 52' by 20'6" farmhouse was constructed in 1638. Although modest by English standards, it was one of early Maryland's largest dwellings. Its central chimney, hall and parlor plan, brick fireplaces, lofts, and glazed windows marked it as a product of the transformation of English rural housing in the late 16th and 17th centuries. Unlike many later Colonial buildings, St. John's was supported by stone foundations.

This dwelling was constructed for John Lewger, Maryland's first Secretary. During the 1640s and again in the early 1660s, when Governor Charles Calvert resided in the house, St. John's was one of the Capital's busiest meeting places. Its rooms were used by the Provincial Assembly, Council, and courts.

About 1678, Governor Charles Calvert rebuilt the house for use as an inn. The cellar was repaired, wooden flues replaced with brick, and a small jettied chamber added over the front door. [The central fireplace was moved a few feet north at this time, to accomodate a stairwell just inside the front door in the south facade.]

Like most other St. Mary's City structures, the building became obsolete when the capital was moved to Annapolis in 1695. It was torn down about 1720. (See SM-232).

The site has been excavated by Dr. Henry Chandlee Forman and the St. Mary's City Commission. gws

Today, St. John's survives only as an archeological site. The two chimney foundations (the one to the north being newer and cutting through the older one to the south) and the outer foundation are exposed, as is the stone-lined cellar hole to the east. The site is covered with an A-frame of translucent, corrugated fiberglass, with two viewing portals in the south and east sides. Signs tell the story of the house and its various occupants. jlk

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1638-1720 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

PROPERTY NUMBER _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

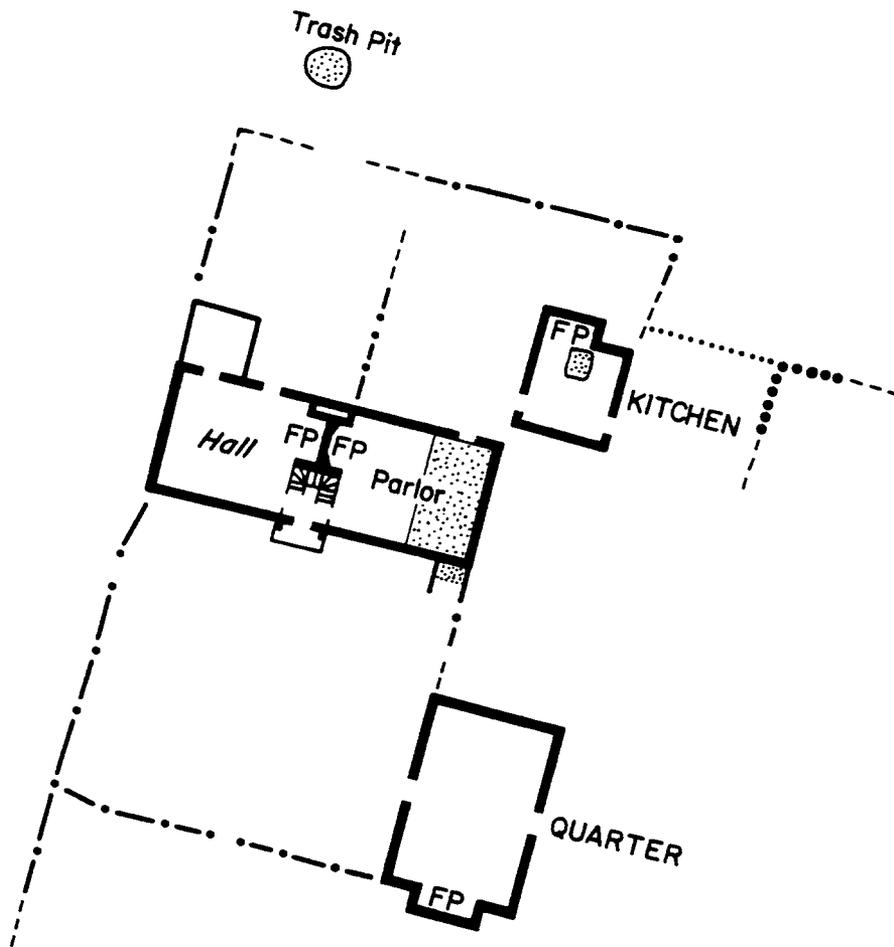
CITY OR TOWN

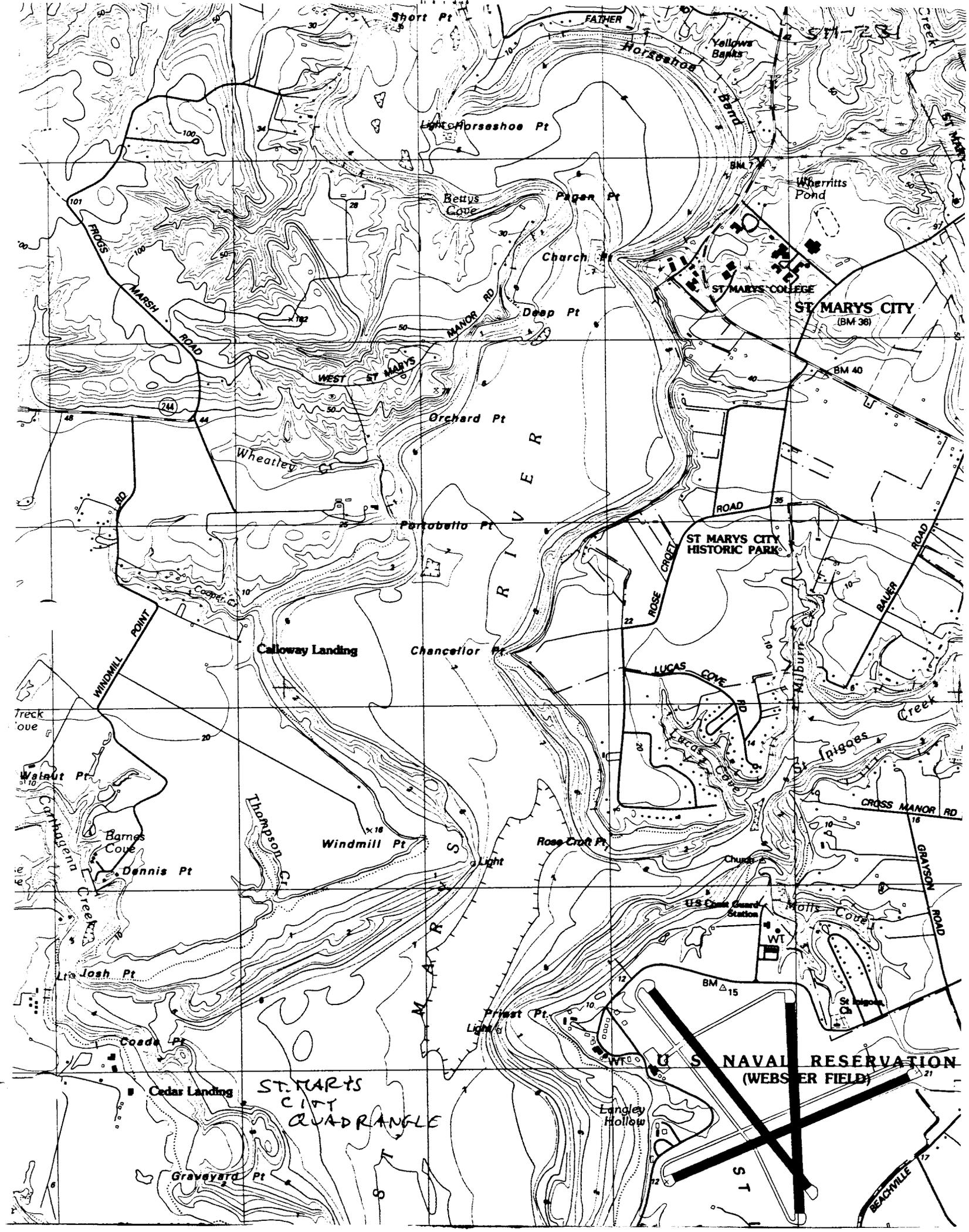
STATE

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





Short Pt

FATHER

Yellow Banks

Light Horseshoe Pt

Horseshoe Bend

ST. MARYS

Bettys Cove

Pagan Pt

Wherritts Pond

Church Pt

ST MARYS COLLEGE

ST MARYS CITY (BM 36)

Deep Pt

BM 40

WEST ST MARYS

Orchard Pt

R I V E R

Wheatley Cr

ROAD

Parabellio Pt

ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK

Calloway Landing

Chancellor Pt

LUCAS COVE

St Ignace Creek

WINDMILL POINT

Track oue

Walnut Pt

Barnes Cove

Dennis Pt

Thompson Cr

Windmill Pt

Rose Croft Pt

CROSS MANOR RD

Li's Josh Pt

Coads Pt

Cedar Landing

ST. MARYS CITY QUADRANGLE

Graveyard Pt

Priest Pt

Light

U S NAVAL RESERVATION (WEBER FIELD)

Langley Hollow

ST

BEACHVILLE