

— Capsule Summary  
SM-254  
Norris/Johnson House  
Leonardtwn  
Private

early-mid nineteenth century; 1908

The Norris/Johnson house represents a significant early to mid-nineteenth century dwelling extensively modified c. 1908. The original one-and-a-half story frame dwelling was totally incorporated into the present two story, center passage, double pile plan, three bay frame house. While the changes to the dwelling's exterior appearance and interior plan reflects an increased need for more domestic living space and more modern architectural associations in the early-twentieth century, the house also has significant associations with one of its first occupants. Charles J. and Rosa H. Norris, a captain of a coasting vessel and his wife, resided in the house for much of the mid to late-nineteenth century.

— A surveyors plat made by John F. Wathen in 1857 provides the first glimpse of the house and the surrounding property that bordered on Breton Bay and the Leonardtown wharf. The survey was part of a conveyance from H.G.S. and Maria Key to Charles J. Norris made in 1863. Notably, this same deed lists Charles J. Norris as already living in the house at the time of the transaction. Charles J. Norris died in the mid-1880s and his estate was sold as the result of a circuit court case involving Richard H. Miles versus Charles F. Norris, et al held on December 10, 1885. Frank N. Holmes purchased the property in 1887 and his wife Laura W. Holmes sold the property to Mamie H. and Daniel P. Johnson in 1908. During the Johnson ownership, the house was modified to its present appearance.

SM-254, Norris/Johnson House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870  
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

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Norris/Johnson House

and/or common Winnik House, 719 Washington Street

## 2. Location

street & number 719 Washington Street, nr Leonardtown Wharf  not for publication

city, town Leonardtown  vicinity of  congressional district 3

state Maryland  county St. Mary's

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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 Robert Charles Winnik

street & number PO Box 384  telephone no. (301) 475-2975

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 EWA 804 '399

street & number  folio 399

city, town Leonardtown  state Md

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title 719 Washington Street

date 1980s ?  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville  state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. SM-254

<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 Resources: 1

The Norris/Johnson House is located on the west side of Washington Street near Leonardtown wharf. Situated on a south sloping .77 acre lot, the dwelling is oriented on a north-south axis with the primary elevation facing Breton Bay. The property is bounded to the east by Washington Street, to the north by the Russell, Latham, Burris House (SM-522), to the west by a small stream, and to the south by the Johnson/McNey House (SM-536).

The Norris/Johnson dwelling is a two-story, three bay, frame house with a center-passage, double-pile plan and a gable end ell on the west elevation. While the exterior construction and interior details of the house suggests that the building was constructed c. 1908, the foundation and first floor joists and sills indicate that the present building engulfed an earlier c. 1800-1850 house. The foundation of the house is composed of smooth river stones placed in irregular courses coupled with reused, irregularly placed, reused bricks above--forming a series of leveling courses. The more modern sections of the house rests on brick piers. Aluminum siding currently covers the wood clapboard clad walls. This clapboard is nailed to the frame with fully formed cut nails. The gable roof, sheathed with asphalt shingles, is pierced by two chimney flues and also features a cross gable.

The south or primary elevation features a slightly assymetrical three bay main block and two bays on the west gable end ell. The main block's fenestration is shaded on the first floor by a shed roof porch that exhibits turned supports and a brick pier foundation with brick infill. The west side of the porch has been enclosed and three, six-over-six windows--probably replacing an earlier two-over-two, double-hung, sash window (each of the intact two-over-two windows have retained a pair of louvered shutters). The center bay is a four-panel door with sidelights and transom. On the east side of the entrance is a single, two-over-two window. The second floor fenestration features three, two-over-two windows directly above the bays below. Above the middle window is a central cross gable distinguished by the use of cornice returns and a tilted-square, fixed pane window that lights the attic story (the cornice returns are found on all elevations). The first floor of the ell consists of an enclosed, shed roof porch that has retained its turned supports and a brick pier foundation with brick infill. It features three modern windows and a panel door with sidelights. Two, two-over-two windows lie immediately above the first floor bays.

An important feature on the east elevation is the stone and brick foundation. Irregularly placed river stones fastened together with sloppily placed mortar cover the bottom of the foundation while irregularly placed brick laid in a series of rows and manners creates a leveling course above the stone. Each of the two floors of the east elevation feature two, two-over-two windows. Above these windows is another tilted-square fixed pane window.

The first floor of the north elevation has been altered by a modern carport with a shed roof. A modern door connects the main block to the carport. The first floor of the main block also features two, closely placed, two-over-two windows. The second floor exhibits three, two-over-two windows. Above these windows, this elevation features a cross-gable with a tilted-square window. The two story ell displays one, two-over-two window on the first floor and two windows on the second floor.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The Norris/Johnson house represents a significant early to mid-nineteenth century dwelling extensively modified c. 1910. While the changes to the dwelling's exterior appearance and interior plan reflect an increased need for more domestic living space and more modern architectural associations in the early-twentieth century, the house also has significant associations with one of its first occupants. Charles J. and Rosa H. Norris, a captain of a coasting vessel and his wife, resided in the house for much of the mid to late-nineteenth century.

A surveyors plat made by John F. Wathen in 1857 provides the first glimpse of the house and the surrounding property that bordered on Breton Bay and the Leonardtown wharf. While originally surveyed in 1857, the plat did not appear in the St. Mary's County Land Records until 1863. The survey was part of a conveyance from H.G.S. and Maria Key to Charles J. Norris made in 1863. This deed notes that Charles Norris was already living in the house at the time of the transaction. In the 1860 United States Census, Charles J. Norris (incorrectly listed as Charles I. Norris) is listed as being 29 years of age and a Captain of a Coasting Vessel. He and his 23 year old wife, Rosa H. Norris commanded a personal estate of \$2000 and real estate totalling \$2000. Together, the Norris' had four children--Mary E., E. Ida, C. N., and Rosa (they later had a fifth child named Edwina). Curiously, the household also included William H. Brown--a surveyor of customs, Somerset Norris--a sailor, M. E. Rau--a teacher from New York, and Attaway Bond--a housekeeper. By 1870, these individuals are no longer living in the household, but the family retained a mulatto servant named Frank Mattingly. By 1880 Charles Norris is listed as a widower and his 26 year old son Charles F. is classified as a "census enumerator."

Unfortunately, Charles J. Norris died in the mid-1880s and his estate was sold as the result of a circuit court case involving Richard H. Miles versus Charles F. Norris, et al held on December 10, 1885. Frank N. Holmes purchased the property in 1887 and his wife Laura W. Holmes sold the property to Mamie H. and Daniel P. Johnson in 1908. During the Johnson ownership, the house was extensively remodeled--totally incorporating the previous one-and-a-half story dwelling. The resulting building was a two story, center-passage, double-pile dwelling with a two story service ell attached to its west side.



SM-254, Norris/Johnson House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the ell and the main block. Neither section exhibits any doors or windows. The foundation of the ell is distinguished by a brick pier foundation later filled with modern brickwork. This contrasts sharply with the roughly laid stone and brick foundation of the main block.

The main block's interior is characterized by a formal center passage, double-pile plan. The centrally located door permits entry into the center passage. The passage contains a stair decorated with brackets, a turned newel, and matchstick wainscotting. All four rooms on the first floor of the main block may be entered via the passage. No apparant hierarchy of original finish could be seen in the four rooms. These first floor rooms were all originally plastered with circular sawn lathe and plaster and also exhibited modest door surrounds. The second floor also contains a center passage flanked by two rooms on either side. The second floor has been slightly altered to accomodate modern plumbing, bathrooms, and closet space. The first floor ell is now a modern kitchen and sunroom. It also features a small, enclosed, service stair to the second floor. The second floor contains a single bedroom and passage to the main block.

The crawlspace beneath the house was also investigated. The original outline of the house can be clearly seen not only by the brick and stone foundation, but also through evidence such as a surviving stone chimney base, hewn sills and intermediate framing members, skinned floor joists, and a brick foundation laid in an all stretcher bond for a later west side addition. No wrought nails could be seen, but several fully formed cut nails were found underneath the house. All of this evidence suggests that the original house was constructed sometime in the early to mid-nineteenth century.

SM-254, The Norris, Holmes, Johnson House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

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

Reference: Liber EWA 804, Folio 399

Grantee: Herbert Charles Winnik

Grantor: Herbert Charles and Florence Robin Winnik

Date: August 23, 1993

Note: This deed mentions two tracts involved in the transaction. The first being the lot that the Norris, Holmes, Johnson House rests on. It contains 22,445.022 sq ft. These lots were surveyed by J. R. McCrone on May 10, 1967.

Reference: Liber DBK 180, Folio 298

Grantee: Herbert Charles and Florence Robin Winnik

Grantor: Charles Robert and Linnie Fay Moore

Date: July 28, 1972

Note: The two tracts are called "part of the Laura W. Holmes tract."

Reference: Liber MRF 135, Folio 364

Grantee: Charles Robert and Linnie Fay Moore

Grantor: Oliver R. Guyther, et ux

Date: August 4, 1967

Reference: Liber CBG 89, Folio 90

Grantee: Oliver R. Guyther

Grantor: Mamie H. Johnson

Date: May 12, 1960

Reference: Liber EBA 7, Folio 252

Grantee: Mamie Johnson

Grantor: Laura W. Homes

Date: August 3, 1908

Note: The tract now consists of one acre and was purchased by Mamie Johnson for \$750. The deed notes that the tract is known as "the Norris Lot upon which the late Charles J. Norris resided.

Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 147

Grantee: Frank N. Holmes

Grantor: B. Harris Camalier, trustee

Date: June 16, 1887

Note: In a circuit court case involving Richard H. Miles vs. Charles F. Norris, et al decided on December 10, 1882 it was agreed that the two houses and lots located near Leonardtown Wharf containing 4 1/4 acres including what is known as the Mary Foxwell lot (a house no longer extant) would be sold. Frank N. Holmes purchased the property from B. Harris Camalier, a trustee.

SM-254, The Norris, Holmes, Johnson House

St. Mary's County

## 8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JTB 4, Folio 146

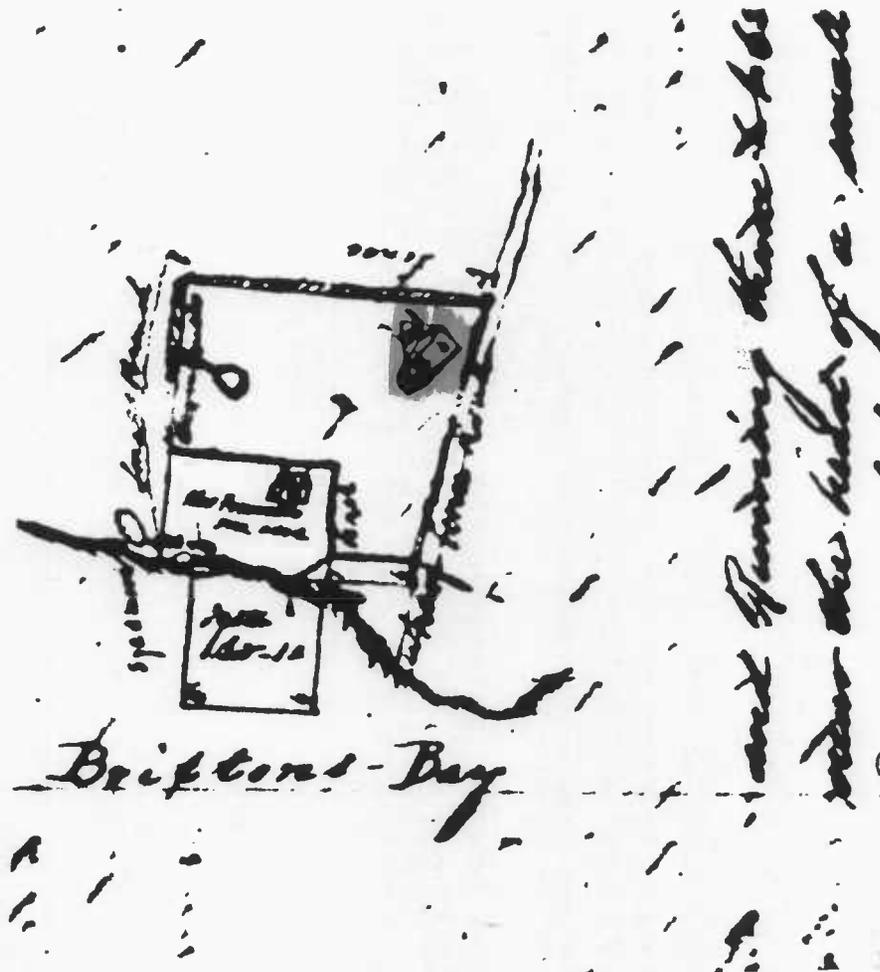
Grantee: Charles J. Norris

Grantor: H. G. S. and Maria L. Key

Date: May 11, 1863

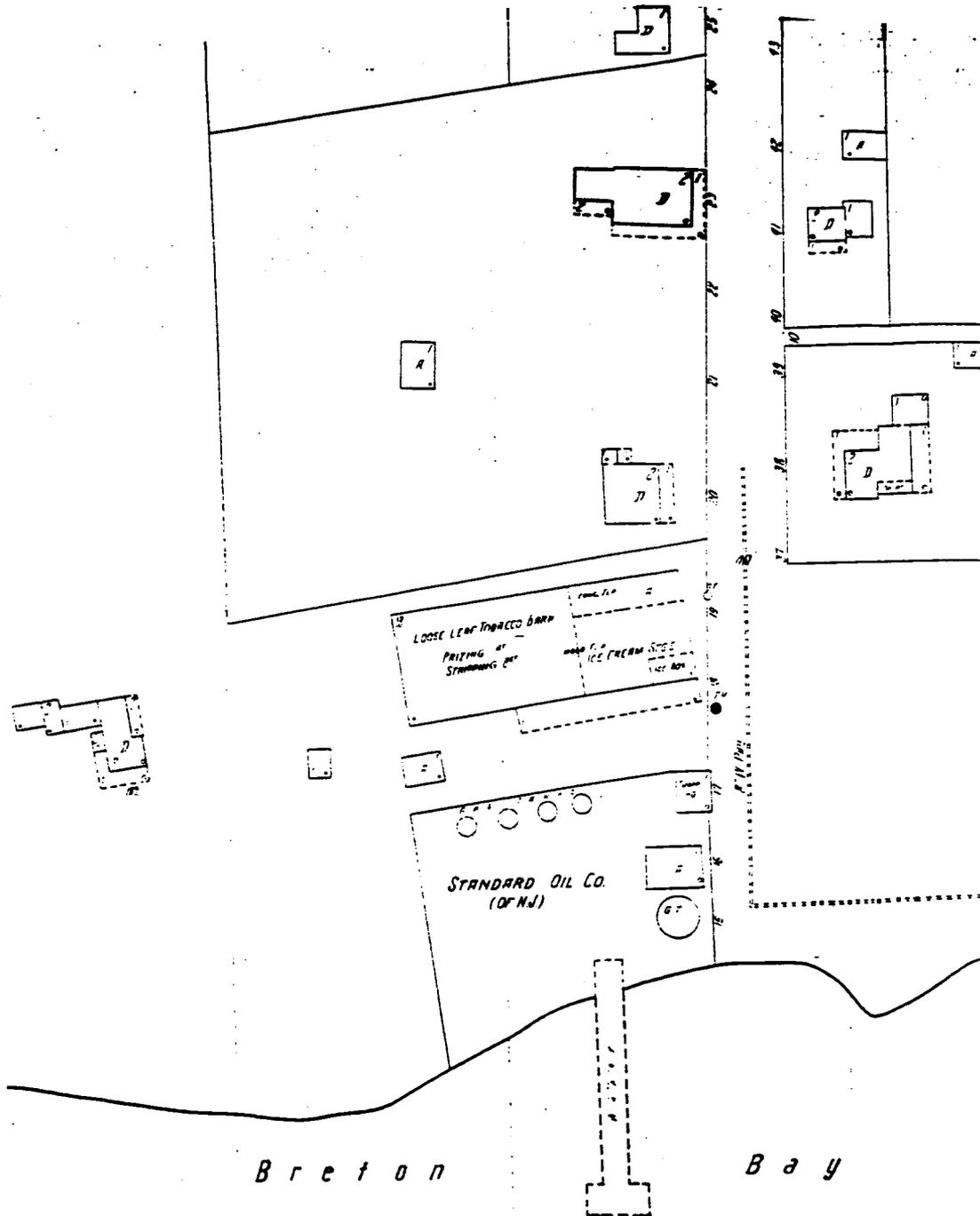
Note: Charles J. Norris purchases 4 1/4 acres of "America Felix Secundus" from the Keys for \$1,500. The actual plat surveyed by John F. Wathen on February 25, 1857 shows that there are two houses. Mary Foxwell's lot consists of one acre while Charles Norris's lot "upon which he now resides" is 3 1/4 acres. The survey also includes an oyster bed immediately along the shoreline of Breton Bay near the houses.

SM-254, The Norris, Holmes, Johnson House  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

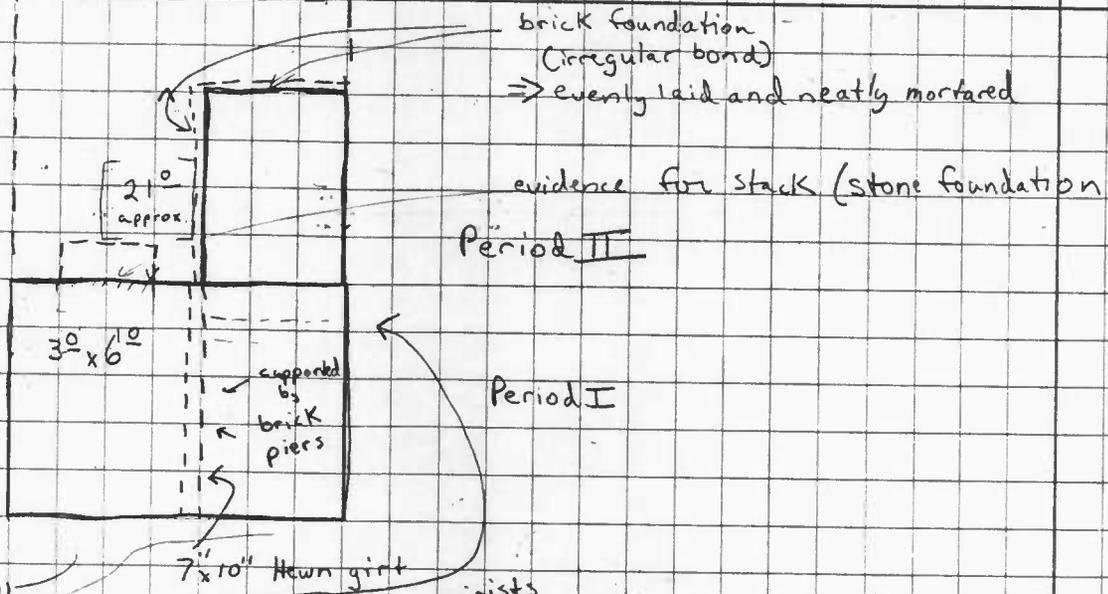


On February 25, 1857, John F. Wathen surveyed this 4 1/4 acre tract on the southern terminus of Washington Street near the Leonardtown wharf. The tract includes the original portion of the Norris/Johnson house on a 3 1/2 acre lot while another house occupied by a "Mrs. Foxwell" consisted of 3/4 of an acre. On May 11, 1863, the surveyors plat was entered into the St. Mary's County Land Records Office in Liber JTB 4, Folio 146. This particular deed notes the transfer of ownership from H. G. S. and Maria L. Key. The property is listed as "part of America Felix Secundus." The deed also notes that Charles J. Norris was occupying the house at the time of the transaction implying that either the Key's or Norris erected the house prior to 1863.

SM-254, The Norris, Holmes, Johnson House  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance



1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Leonardtown showing the Norris, Holmes, and Johnson house. Note the one story porch that once wrapped around the east elevation of the house.



Foundation of riverstones and reused brick from 18<sup>th</sup> c Chimney ⇒ extremely irregular bond with headers + stretchers, face bond

SE corner ⇒ larger stones form the foundation

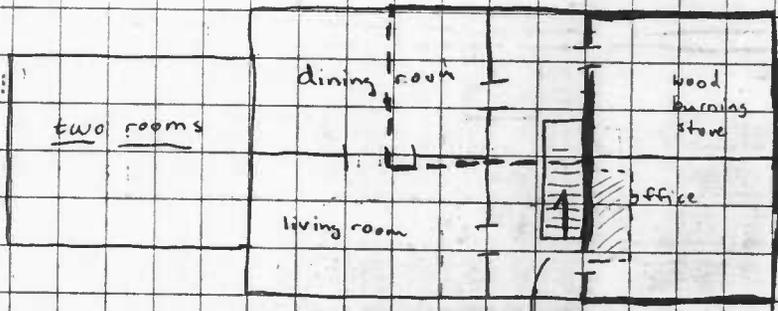
joists shalved, skinned log. were laid on top of the hewn girt

later addition w/ brick foundation

3 or 4 bedrooms above.

202 dhs

center passage double-pile plan



original section

open string stair w/ turned newel + matchboard staircase

28  
 m/f

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

S M -254  
719 WASHINGTON STREET  
Leonardtwn  
Private

... Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
...

In the basement of this late 19th century house are the foundations of an earlier structure. These stone footings show that the latter was a one-room structure with chimney at one end.

1968-1969

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

719 WASHINGTON STREET

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

719 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

SM-254

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED    DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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 19th Century (Late) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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

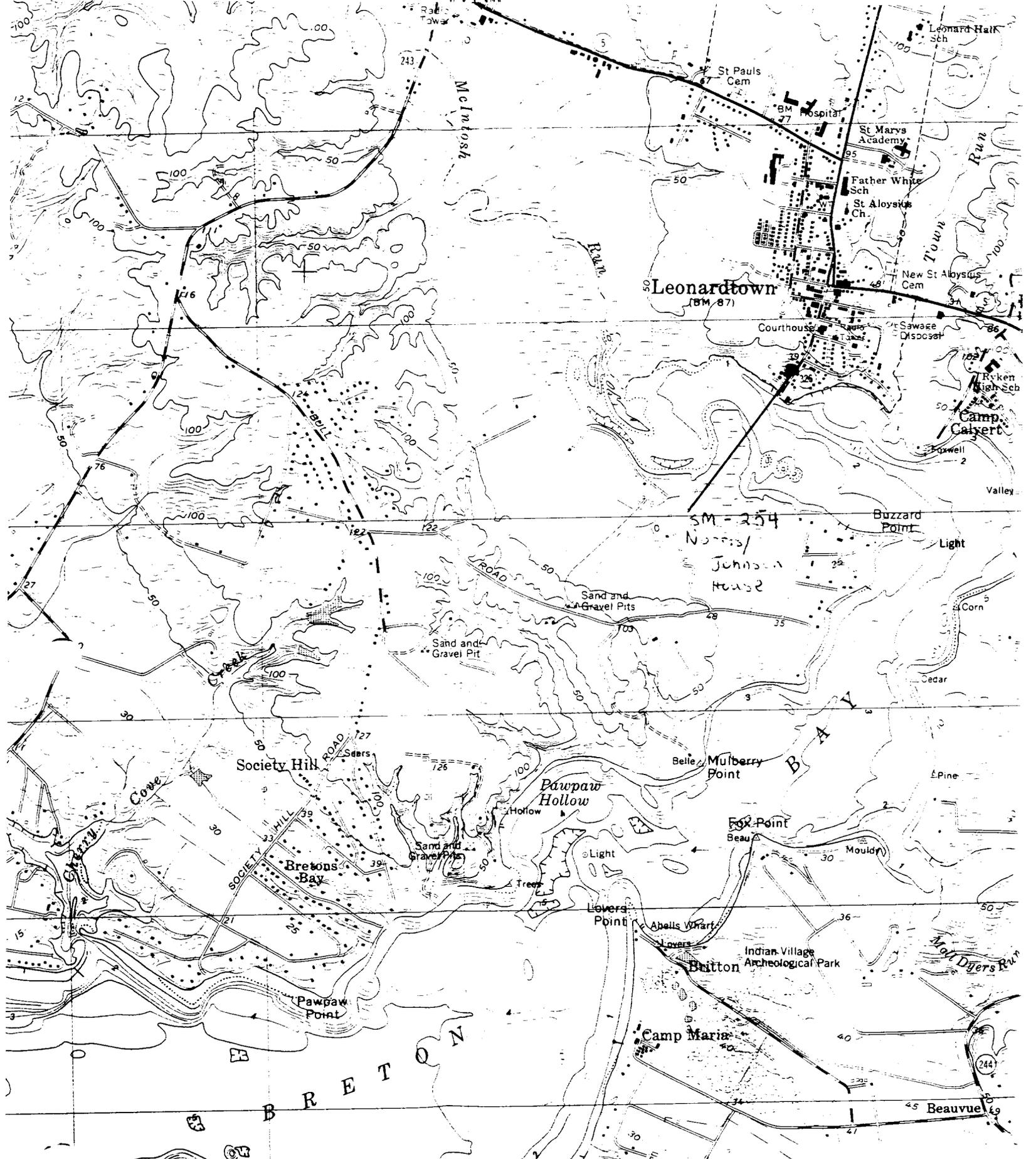
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

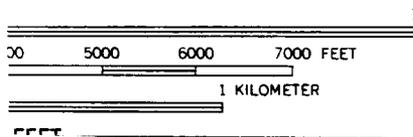
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



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



ROAD  
 Heavy-duty  
 Medium-duty  
 1963  
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
 PHOTOREVISED 1984  
 DMA 5660 I SW-SERIES V833

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL











