

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Guyther/Burroughs house

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Old Route 5 - approx. .10 mile east of Mechanicsville-Chaplico Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville

— VICINITY OF

5th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

St. Mary's

COUNTY

**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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME J. Roy Guyther, M.D.

Telephone #: unlisted

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 3, Box 272

Md. 20659

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: C.B.G. No. 24

Folio #: 72

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtwn

Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

SM-339

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Guyther/Burroughs house is a two-story framed dwelling of the bracketed Italianate style with a long southeast wing, and a basement under the main section. The front (NE) facade of the main section is two bays wide with a prostyle portico to the west of the bay window. On the NW facade, a one-story office was added sometime around 1955, enclosing a door and covering a window. The second story has two windows. Under the eaves is a double window. The back (SW) facade has an entrance on the west of a bay window on the first floor. The second story has two of an original three windows remaining, the most westerly one being enclosed during the 1955 remodelling. There are three gabled dormers on the back (SW) facade. The back bay window was added by the present owners during the remodelling period. The original sun-porch which ran along the back of the house was removed at that time.

The floor plan of the main section is that of a side hall-and-double parlours on the first floor. The main staircase in the hall descends along the SW and NW walls. Each tread has two turned balusters supporting the hand-rail. There is a turned newel post at the foot of the stairs, and quirk ogee mouldings along the string. The entrance to the basement is beneath the staircase. The front (NE) door has a transom, the back (SW) door does not. The renovations left untouched a full-length bay window in the front parlour. The fireplace on the SE wall is flanked by two alcoves which were converted to bookshelves during the 1955 remodelling. The back parlour originally had a fireplace in the SE wall, but that was enclosed and an entrance to the sun-porch replaced by a bay window in 1955. Both parlours open into the main hall and an original doorway connects them.

The second story originally had two heated rooms over the parlours and one unheated cubicle over the hall. The cubicle was converted to a bathroom and the fireplaces in the two rooms into closets. These two rooms open into the second story of the wing with side-by-side doors. Under the roof, there are two small cubicles that open onto a landing.

The first floor of the wing is connected to the main section of the house by an entrance to the back parlour. It was originally two rooms divided by an L-shaped staircase and backed by a porch. In the 1955 renovations, the dividing portion of the staircase was removed, leaving one large room and a straight flight of stairs enclosed along the NE wall. The porch was enclosed and divided into a sun-porch and a laundry room. The exterior framing remains on two walls of the laundry room. The second story has a landing and one room above the kitchen.

According to the current owners, the house was built in 1878 along the plans of Dela Brooke Manor (STMA-94), which is approximately five miles SW of Mechanicsville in the Chaptico district. The Guyther/Burroughs house sits on two and thirteen-thirtifourths acres of land. A garage, pool, and pool house are also located on the property.

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 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 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

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The bracketed Italianate features in the design of the Guyther/Burroughs house characterize a typical example of domestic architecture in St. Mary's County. This house exemplifies the ideals and motivations of an agrarian sector trying to connect with larger urban centers. The railroad which was to span the entire county and tie it to Washington, D.C., was built only as far as Mechanicsville. Located in the heart of Mechanicsville, the Guyther/Burroughs house reflects this community's position as both a rural center of trade and a promise of urban connections for the rest of the county. The use of Italianate features is indicative of a desire to unite tradition and progress, by using details, and yet presenting a building up-to-date in appearance.

In 1900, Laura W. Holmes bought the house from the heirs of Elizabeth Burroughs. Her husband, Frank Neale Holmes was the first editor and publisher of a local newspaper, the St. Mary's Enterprise. In 1879, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

The present owners, Dr. J. Roy Guyther and his wife Elizabeth bought the house from the devisees of Laura W. Holmes in 1950, and have made it their home since then.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Gowans, Alan. Images of American Living, Four centuries of Architecture and Furniture as Cultural Expression. (New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1976).

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County. (Ridge, Md.: Regina Combs Hammett, 1977).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Guyther/Burroughs house is situated on 2 and 13/34 acres of land on Old Route 5, .10 mile east of its intersection with the Mechanicsville-Chaptico Road.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE  
P. Erin Munday

5/2/80

ORGANIZATION St. Mary's College of Md.

DATE 373-8691

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 3, Box 529

TELEPHONE Md.

CITY OR TOWN Hollywood

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

SM-339

Guyther/Burroughs house,  
main floor

- A- alcoves added 1950
- B- bay window addition
- \*- enclosed fireplace



- window



- fireplace

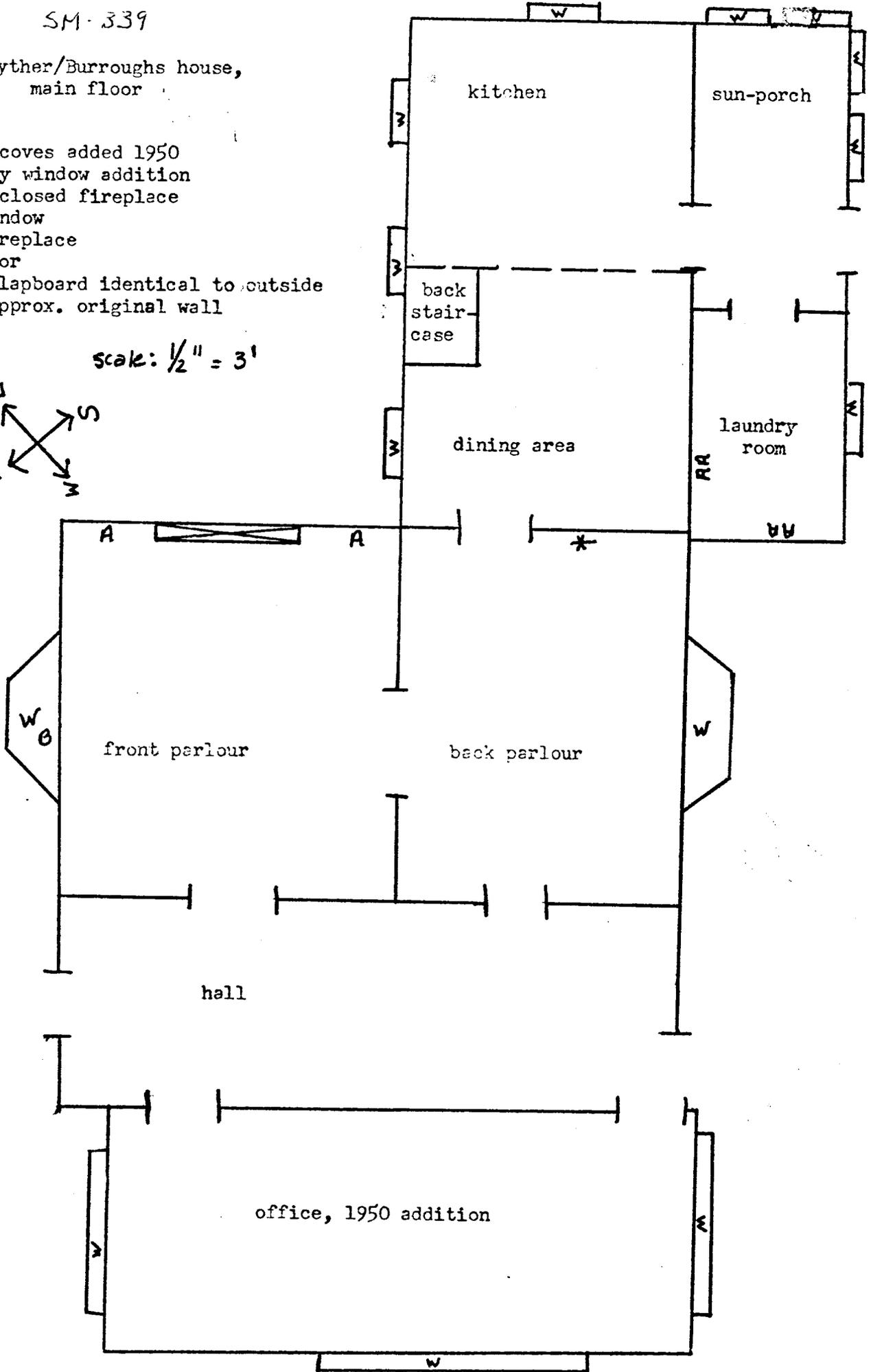
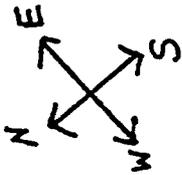


- door

AA- clapboard identical to outside

--- approx. original wall

scale: 1/2" = 3'



According to the current owners, the house was built in 1878 for Mrs. Guyther's maternal grandmother, Betty Locke.

Grantor: William L. Braddock, Ashby Burroughs, H. Bruce Burroughs, Laura J. Burroughs, his wife, and Virginia Burroughs

Grantee: Laura W. Holmes

Date of Deed: September 1, 1900

For consideration of \$2000 --for 2 and 13/34 acres; the home of the late Elizabeth S.S. Burroughs

Land Records of St. Mary's County, Liber E.B.A. No. 1, folio 390.

Grantor: Leonard Locke Holmes, Dorothy P. Holmes, Alexander B. Holmes, Frank N. Holmes, Nancy I'anson, Robert I'anson, Elizabeth I'anson, Laura H. Burkholder; devisees of Laura W. Holmes

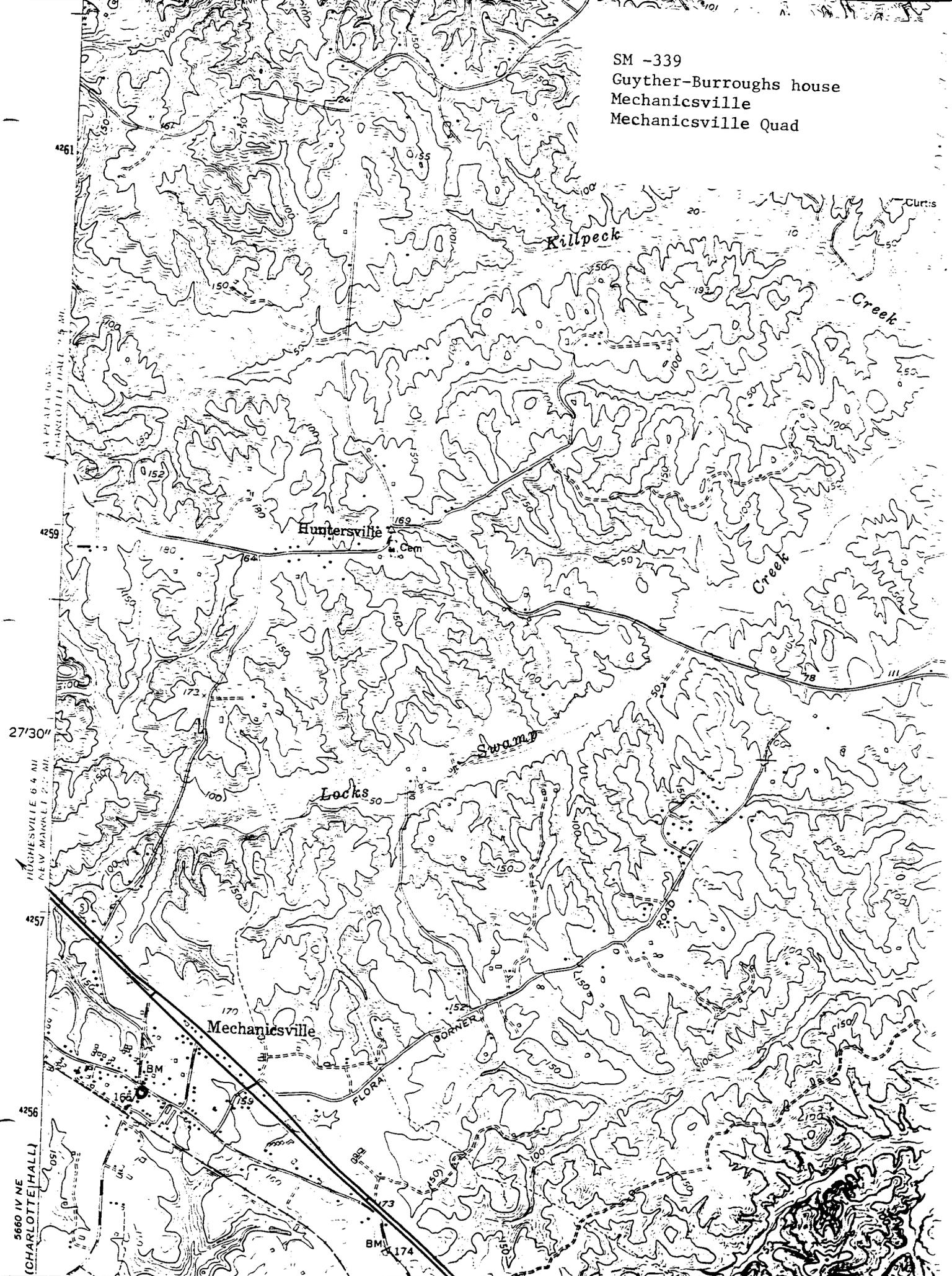
Grantee: J. Roy Guyther and Elizabeth T. Guyther

Date of Deed: October 29, 1949

For consideration of \$10 and good and valuable considerations

Land Records of St. Mary's County, Liber C.B.G. No. 24, folio 72.

SM -339  
Guyther-Burroughs house  
Mechanicsville  
Mechanicsville Quad



4261

4259

27°30''

4257

4256

5660 IV NE  
(CHARLOTTE HALL)

A PLATA TO N.  
MECHANICVILLE DISTRICT

Killpeck

Creek

Huntersville

Locks

Mechanicsville

GORNER

Swamp

FLORA

BM 174

Clarks

Creek

78

111

169

Cam

152

172

177

152

173

174

150

180

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177

159

173

174

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SM-339

Guyton - Burroughs horse  
Mechanicsville Quad



SM-339

Guyther/Burroughs House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov/99

Looking NW

1 of 1