

Capsule Summary
SM-476
Joseph Brennan Norris House
California vicinity
Private

1933

The Joseph Brennan Norris House is significant as a typical example of those houses built by St. Mary's County farm families in the 1930s. While the interior of the modest house has been altered, the exterior configuration is little changed. Now owned by the state, the two-story, frame dwelling is occupied by tenants. The surrounding fields continue to be farmed by Norris family members.

The property on which the Norris House stands has been known variously as "Long Fields," "Long Old Fields," "Cecils land," and "Lusby's land." This property was first acquired by the Norris family in 1897. At that time, John F. A. Norris and William W. Norris purchased the 263 acre tract of "Long Old Fields" from Thomas and Mary Lynch for \$1800. In 1916, the Norris brothers divided the land equally between them.

In 1924, John Norris transferred a 65 acre portion to his son Joseph B. Norris. Following a fire that destroyed the dwelling house on the property, Joseph Norris built the current structure in 1933. He and his family continued to live on the property until 1976, when it was sold to the State Department of Natural Resources.

SM-476, Joseph Brennan Norris House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 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 476**

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Long Old Fields

and/or common Joseph Brennan Norris House (pref)

2. Location

street & number Norris Road not for publication

city, town California vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland 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	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 State Dept. of Natural Resources

street & number Taves Office Building telephone no.: (301) 475 9640

city, town Annapolis state and zip code Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber DBK 255

street & number folio 156

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM 476

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: 7

The Jo Norris House is located at the end of an unpaved road off of Norris Road in St. Mary's County, Maryland. There are a series of agricultural outbuildings on the property. Cultivated fields and woodland surround the house which is located on St. Mary's State Park property. The house faces south with the roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1933, the two-story, two-bay structure is sheathed with artificial siding. The roof is covered with seamed metal. The foundation, which probably consists of brick piers, is not visible.

The south (main) elevation consists of a four-light-over-three-panel entry door and a six-over-six sash window with molded, narrow surrounds. A shed roof screened porch extends across this first floor. The second floor of this gable end elevation is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. The eave is pierced by a louvered vent and is finished with cornice returns.

The east elevation is pierced by two pairs of six-over-six sash windows with molded, narrow surrounds on the first floor. Three six-over-six sash windows with wide, plain surrounds pierce the second floor.

The north elevation consists of one six-over-six sash window and one two-over-two sash window with molded narrow surrounds on the first floor. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. A louvered vent pierces the eave which is finished with cornice returns.

The west elevation consists of a one-story, projecting shed roof wing that extends across the full width of the first floor. The north end of this wing was originally an open stoop fitted with an entrance door. It was enclosed in 1968. The wing is now pierced by a modern door and two six-over-six sash windows with molded, narrow surrounds. Two six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds pierce the second floor. An interior brick chimney pierces this west roof slope of the house.

The interior of the house consists of one large parlor on the first floor. An open string stair with a square newel post and square balusters is located against the west wall. French doors originally opened from the parlor to the dining room in the northeast corner of the house. A single doorway provides access between the two rooms now. The kitchen is located in the northwest corner of the house. The second floor was not seen, but consists of three bedrooms and a bath.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1933 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

The Joseph Brennan Norris House is significant as a typical example of those houses built by St. Mary's County farm families in the 1930s. While the interior of the modest house has been altered, the exterior configuration is little changed. Now owned by the state, the two-story, frame dwelling is occupied by tenants. The surrounding fields continue to be farmed by Norris family members.

The property on which the Norris House stands has been known variously as "Long Fields," "Long Old Fields," "Cecil's land," and "Lusby's land." This property was first acquired by the Norris family in 1897. At that time, John F. A. Norris and William W. Norris purchased the 263 acre tract of "Long Old Fields" from Thomas and Mary Lynch for \$1800. In 1916, the Norris brothers divided the land equally between them.

In 1924, John Norris transferred a 65 acre portion to his son Joseph B. Norris. Following a fire that destroyed the dwelling house on the property, Joseph Norris built the current structure in 1933. He and his family continued to live on the property until 1976, when it was sold to the State Department of Natural Resources.

SM-476, Joseph Brennan Norris House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

Nine outbuildings stand on the property. Closest to the house stands a frame structure sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with corrugated metal. This building faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Two vertical panel doors pierce the south elevation. The interior is divided into two separate rooms. One room served as a meat house, while the other was used for storage.

A wood shed is also located near the house. Sheathed with asphalt shingle siding and roofed with corrugated metal, this building is currently used for storage.

Three gambrel roof barns are located to the north and west of the house. These barns are sheathed with vertical siding and roofed with metal. The barn located closest to the house was used for the storage of tobacco machinery. The two barns located west of the house were used for the storage of tobacco. A fourth tobacco barn, located west of the house, has a gable roof.

Located next to the barns are three smaller structures. One is a shed used for the storage of hay. This building is sheathed with vertical siding and roofed with seamed metal. Next to the shed is a corn house, supported by concrete blocks. It is sheathed with vertical wood siding and roofed with corrugated metal. A small building sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with asphalt shingles, probably a pump house, stands nearby and is covered with overgrowth.

SM-476, Joseph Brennan Norris House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources
FROM: Joseph B. Norris, Sr.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber DBK 255, folio 156.
DATE: July 7, 1976.
NOTES: Transfer of part of JMM 2/238 and JMM 11/265, being 134.09044 acres.

TO: Joseph B. Norris
FROM: John F. A. Norris and Ada L. Norris
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 11, folio 265.
DATE: November 2, 1938.
NOTES: Transfer of the remaining portion of part of the tract "Long Old Fields" being 66 1/2 acres and part of EBA 14/450.

TO: Joseph B. Norris
FROM: John F. A. Norris and Ada L. Norris
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 2, folio 238.
DATE: May 3, 1924.
NOTES: Transfer of part of the tract "Long Old Fields" being 65 acres of EBA 14/450.

TO: John F. A. Norris
FROM: William W. Norris and Sarah Norris
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 14, folio 450.
DATE: January 31, 1916.
NOTES: John and William Norris wish to divide the tract "Long Old Fields" being 263 acres more or less equally between them "so far as they can and each retain the dwelling and outhouses they occupy at present time together with such land as they now work separately..."

TO: John F. A. Norris and William W. Norris
FROM: Thomas Lynch and Mary E. Lynch
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 4, folio 233.
DATE: February 17, 1897.
NOTES: Transfer of tract together with improvements known as "Long Old Fields" but formerly called and known as Cecils or Lurty's land being 263 acres. Price: \$1800.

TO: Thomas Lynch in Brown County, Texas.
FROM: Hiram G. Dudley and Mary O. Dudley and J. Walter Carpenter and Mary A. L. Carpenter trading under the name and style of Dudley and Carpenter.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 13, folio 156.
DATE: December 4, 1891.

SM-476, Joseph Brennan Norris House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

NOTES: Transfer of "Long Old Fields" formerly "Cecils" or "Lurty's land" being 263 acres. Price: \$1800

TO: Hiram G. Dudley and Mary O. Dudley and J. Walter Carpenter and Mary A. L. Carpenter trading under the name and style of Dudley and Carpenter.

FROM: Robert C. Combs and Walter J. Dawkins, Permanent Trustee

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 12, folio 204.

DATE: September 16, 1890.

NOTES: Sale of "Long Old Fields" formerly "Cecils" or "Lurty's land" being 263 acres as result of judgement in circuit court case Wilson Palmer and Co. vs. John T. Jarboe on June 3, 1889.

TO: John T. Jarboe

FROM: Thomas O. Spencer and Catharine M. Spencer

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 4, folio 59.

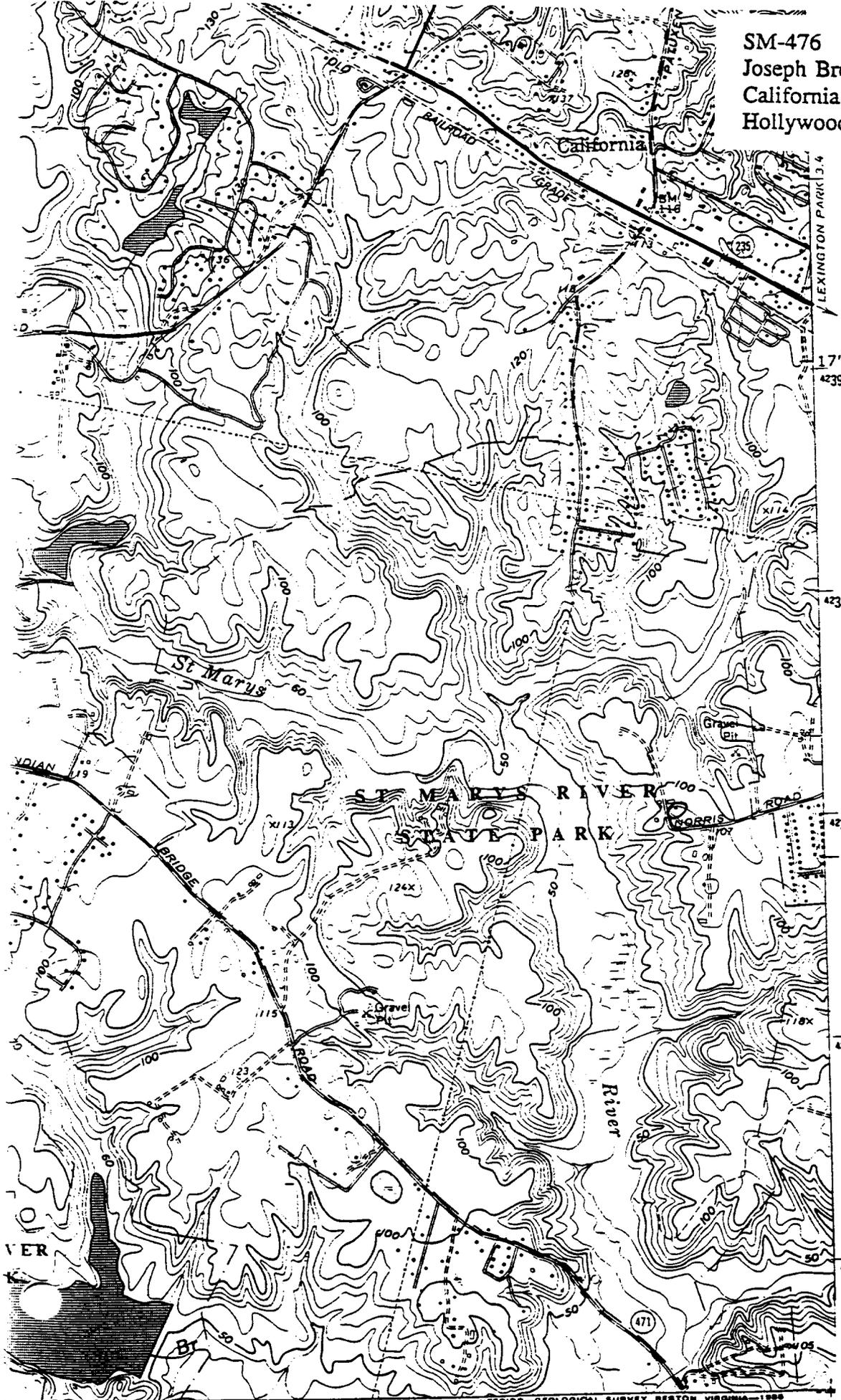
DATE: September 2, 1879.

NOTES: In 1869, Jarboe contracted with Spencer to purchase this land. Now that Jarboe has paid the full purchase price, Spencer transfers "Long Fields" formerly "Cecil" or "Lusby land" and owned by James E. Crane being 263 acres. Price: \$2000

It remains unclear how the Spencers acquired this property. There is no deed on record between Crane and Spencer, to Spencer, or to Crane that references this land under these tract names. Further, in James E. Crane's will of 1861 (JTMR 1/87), he divides all of his estate between his sons William Crane and James Crane. There is no deed from them in the land records that references these tracts.

Benjamin Tippet describes the metes and bounds of "Long Fields in Woolsey Manor" in his Surveyor Log Book (see page 276). He notes that it was originally surveyed for Col. Uriah Forrest on September 24, 1789 and patented to James Hopewell on November 18, 1796. He also notes that he resurveyed the land for John T. Jarboe on June 1, 1868.

SM-476
Joseph Brennan Norris House
California, vicinity
Hollywood Quad



HOLLYWOOD, MD.
SE4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C5-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 I SE-SERIES V833

30" 366 367 368 000 E 1 MI. TO MD. 5 78"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION



SM-476

Jos. B. Norris House

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

February 1995

MS 2425

1/3

SW Elevation



SM-476

Joseph B Harris House

St. Mary's County

E Hughes

February 1995

NO SPTD

$\frac{2}{3}$

NE elevation



SM 476

Joseph E. Norris House

St. Mary's County

B. Hughes

February 1995

MD 5440

3/3

D. B. Williams