1 Rev. prf.

K-86

Radcliffe Cross
Quaker Neck
c. 1770, c. 1850

In 1659, a 500 acre tract known as Radcliffe Cross was patented to Mark Pensax. The next deed recorded is that of its sale from the estate of Peregrine Brown to Thomas Smyth (II) of Trumpington in 1717. When Brown had originally purchased it and how much he paid is a mystery, as there is no deed in available public records. There is reference, however, in the deed of 1717 to the sale being one to satisfy a portion of Brown's debts to Queen Anne. Apparently the title to all of Brown's lands had previously been transferred to the Queen's Surveyor General of Customs for such. Smith's purchase of Radcliffe Cross on the 8th of June 1717 included not only the usual appendages, but also four slaves and the stock of cattle, hogs, horses and sheep for @340.[1] In his will, dated 1741, he bequeathed Radcliffe Cross to be equally divided between his two daughters, Mary and Martha.[2]

Martha, who later married Emory Sudler, had the first choice of her half and chose the part bordering Radcliffe Creek and the Chester River. Mary took the other half bordering Muddy Creek (now the pond adjacent Chester River Yacht & Country Club) and the river.[3] In the 1783 Tax Assessment, Martha's farm is described as follows:
"One brick dwelling House & frame kitchen, 7 out Houses, one young orchard Near Chester Town & on the River"[4]
The appraisal at @1048 included 319 acres, stock and 14 blacks. As no whites were listed living on the farm, the Sudlers most likely resided at their property in Chestertown (the Buck-Bacchus Store).

The brick house mentioned in the Assessment probably included four of the five bays of the present structure, and measured 38' 8" x 24' 10". Its plan, judging from the stone foundation and first floor framing visible in the basement, appears to have been a three-room plan consisting of the large living room with a smaller dining room on the river side and a stair hall on the back. The frame kitchen could have been any form but was probably located off the south end, as it is today.

It is likely that the Sudlers first took up residence at the farm after they sold the Buck houses in town in 1785. They remained there until their deaths in the late 1790's. In Martha's will, she left Radcliffe Cross to her four daughters with the remainder to be divided between her four daughters and four sons. Martha's neighbors John Rowles of Airy Hill and Joseph Garnett of Cedar Hill witnessed her will.[5]

From the Sudler's daughters, Radcliffe Cross passed to their children, eventually being sold to Martha Sudler's grandson-in-law, Samuel W. Spencer in 1852.[6] By this time, however, his wife Harriett Chapman had died,[7] and he had remarried. The remodeling of Radcliffe Cross into the house as it is essentially known today was the work of Samuel Spencer. He gutted the building, with the exception of the first floor system and three of the old walls. The south wall with its chimney was completely dismantled to the first floor. The building was then lengthened by 12' 3" and heightened by about three feet which created a long five bay house with heavy Greek Revival frieze – typical of the mid 19th century architectural trends and seen in the Beck houses on Broad Neck. The alterations reoriented the house to the river and the road, which had been built since the Sudlers built

their house seventy or eighty years earlier. Beside the extra brick section, the kitchen was remodeled and brought to the form illustrated in the old photograph, a telescoping two part, two story frame wing.

After Samuel Spencer's death in 1869, his widow purchased the farm from the estate.[8] When Henrietta Spencer died two years later, the mortgage had not yet been satisfied. The farm (less 3 acres) was sold to William D. Burchinal.[9] Burchinal appears as the owner on the 1877 Atlas.

Arthur Merritt Brown purchased 1/2 interest in the farm from his step-father in 1881 [10] and the other half interest after W. D. Burchinal's death in 1899.[11] Radcliffe Cross is pictured with Mr. Brown's family around 1895. The photograph shows no porch, but the two frame wings on the south side of the house.

In 1919 A. M. Brown, a widower living in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, sold Radcliffe Cross to his oldest son A. Leon Brown.[12] It was the latter who altered the house once again. Leon and his wife Helen Thomsen installed a three bay hip roof porch on the facade of the house. They also lifted the two frame wings and moved them to the west side, behind the present dining room, creating a uniform facade without the telescoping wings detracting from its symmetry.

Dr. and Mrs. G. Howard Dana purchased the farm from Leon Brown in 1947 and again altered the building to suit their needs. The front porch was removed and the frame kitchen was moved to the back of the yard and incorporated into a tenant house. They built the present four bay brick

wing, which occupies the position of the original kitchen on the south gable.

Since Dr. Dana's death, Radcliffe Cross has had four subsequent owners. In 1984, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Brook operated Radcliffe Cross as a bed and breakfast. Most recently it has been returned to its former function as a single family dwelling.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC, fol. 295.

2. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 160.

3. Martha Sudler was the half sister of Thomas Smyth of Widehall. Her husband, Emory Sudler was a merchant and was in business with Smyth in the 1780's Emory had purchased the Buck houses in 1771 and lived in the building on the corner of Queen and High Street.

4. 1783 Tax Assessment.

5. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 31.

6. Land Records, Lib. JR 2, fol. 202.

7. c. 1871.

8. 12 Oct. 1869.

9. Land Records, Lib. DCB 1, fol. 598. The other three acres were sold to George A. Hansen.

10. W. D. Burchinal was the son of John Howard and Eliza Burchinal. He was born in Dover, Delaware in 1832 and served in the Civil War, earning the rank of Captain. He moved with his family to Chestertown around 1854 and became involved in many activities which contributed to the betterment of Chestertown and Kent County. He married Margaret A. Merritt widow of Captain William H. Brown in 1868. He held several positions in the office of Customs in Baltimore, between 1869-72, 1876-81 and 1890-94, each intervening time he returned to Kent County to resume

his real estate business and farming, at which time he purchased Radcliffe Cross. Between 1883-1890 he served in the Maryland Senate. In 1895 he assumed the position of Treasurer of Kent County which he held until his death in 1899, – Biographical Cyclopedia, p. 44.

11. Land Records, Lib. SB 2, fol. 100.

12. Land Records, Lib. JTD 3, fol. 83.

13. Land Records, Lib. APR 6, fol. 89.

14. Land Records, Lib. WHG 1, fol. 513.

K-86
Radcliffe Cross
Chestertown
Private

18th Century, mid-19th Century

Radcliffe Cross is architecturally important for its Greek Revival facade, an historical influence not common on the Eastern Shore. A portion of the house probably dates into the 18th century, the building having been enlarged two bays in the early 19th century. Inside is a stair with Tigers Eye maple balusters.

The name "Radcliffe" dates to the 17th century, when 500 acres were granted to Marks Pennox, Mariner, for transporting "persons" to the Colony from England.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-86

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Radcliffe Cross

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1 mile south of Chestertown on Quaker Neck Road

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. & Mrs Gene Kelly

Telephone #:(301) 778-1110

STREET & NUMBER
Radcliffe Cross

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: 50
Folio #: 620

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-86

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Radcliffe Cross is a five bay brick house with a central hall plan. It is two and one-half stories tall and one room deep. There are enclosed brick chimneys at each gable and three dormers in each roof slope. A two story, four bay brick wing to the west of the main house was constructed in the 1940's to replace two 19th century frame wings (which were arranged telescope fashion) that had deteriorated. The dwelling is about one mile west of Chestertown of Quaker Neck Road; it faces south overlooking the Chester River.

This dwelling has undergone several great changes in its history. It began as a three bay, a one and one-half , or more likely, a two and one-half story structure---the present three eastern most bays--with a stone basement and side hall plan. Subsequently, the two western bays were added, giving the building its central hall plan, and the roof was raised and made quite shallow. Whether the building was heightened and lenghtened at the same time is impossible to tell: Years of whitewashing have obscured all irregularities in the brick and have made even the bonding patterns disappear. All old interior detailing, however, dates from the middle of the 19th century, the probable time of both major changes.

There is a stepped water table on both long facades and gable. A double string course above the second story windows creates the impr - sion of a classical cornice and frieze, which appears to have been inspired by Greek Revival ideas.

Fenestration emphasizes the centrality of the plan organization. The central second story window has four-pane sidelights and the main entrance has four-pane sidelights, a three pane transom and heavy lintle. Double entrance door have louvered blinds. Other windows, on both front and rear elevations, have 6/6 sash, narrow trim and projecting wooden sills. Above each opening is a wooden lintle with square corner blocks. Louvered shutters are used on the main facade and the rear facade second floor. Paneled shutters appear on the first floor rear.

Shallow gable roofed dormers light upper story rooms. Here, too, the central dormer has side lights and is much wider than the side dormers, located between window bays. The roof is finished with a bracketted cornice and verge boards.

Radcliffe Cross's interior (including the third floor) is spacious and light. In the central hall the dogleg stair rises to the attic. Its balusters are round, tapered toward the top and made of unusual striped tiger maple. The rounded handrail is mahogany as is the large carved newel post. Foliated step bracketts are used on the open string stair. The stair detailing is nearly identical to that in both Stepney Manor nearby (K-85) and the Davis House (K-320).

In the present dining room and on the second floor, window and door trim is wide and flat, ornamented with two recessed fillets and corner-blocks with recessed circles. A simple mantle in the present living room probably dates from the 1840's. Four-panel doors and medium width pine flooring is used throughout. On the second floor are two mantle with arch shaped frieze, mantle shelves and plain pilasters. On the second stair landing, a small vaulted niche has been recessed into the rear brick wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-86

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) early history of Kent Co.
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1952 Sally Benn Sudler Whitehall researched the early history of the building. The earliest survey dates discovered were in 1655 and 1657 for "Ratcliffe." In 1659 (liber R, folio 1831) a grant of 500 acres was made to Marks Pennox, Mariner, for transporting persons to the Colony from England. The boundaries were the Chester River on the east and Radcliffe Cross Creek on the north.

In 1718 Ratcliff Crosse was purchased by one of Kent Counties earliest citizens, Thomas Smith, builder of Trumpington, for 340 pounds; this price included 500 acres, "all barns, stable, gardens, orchards, yards, backside proffits, commodities, hereditaments, and appurtenances.. also several negroes, hogs, horses, and sheep." It eventually passed to Martha, whose husband, Emory Sudler, was one of the subscribers to Washington College; this family is the first known to have lived on the property. The house and some of the land continued in the Sudler family until it was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. George H. Dana in January, 1947. The Dana's were responsible for construction of the present brick wing.

Architecturally, Radcliffe Cross is significant for its Greek Revival facade, which reflects an historical influence not commonly found on the Eastern Shore. It is also a handsome house with an especially fine stairway.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-86

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
Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Historical Society

DATE
Aug., 1977

STREET & NUMBER
Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland 21620

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

PS-1108

K-86

7 Continued

Early photographs of the earlier side wings show that both were two stories tall. Next to the brick house was a three bay wing with central entrance; the end wing was only two bays wide. Both have gable roofs and 6/6 sash windows. An old entrance porch on the front of the house had a hipped roof and round posts. A frame wing, two stories tall, originally behind the brick portion of the house was moved in the 1940's and converted into a tenant house which stands behind the main house.

1500865404

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY
STREET NO. Rt. 289, .8 miles south of Rt 213 (west)
ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER G.H. Dana
PRESENT USE dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
NO. OF STORIES 2½

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K - 86

2. NAME Radcliffe Cross
DATE OR PERIOD early 19th century
STYLE Greek Revival
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

Thomas Smyth history
See: Dantm - Weeks research MOB - K-12

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior Exterior good

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

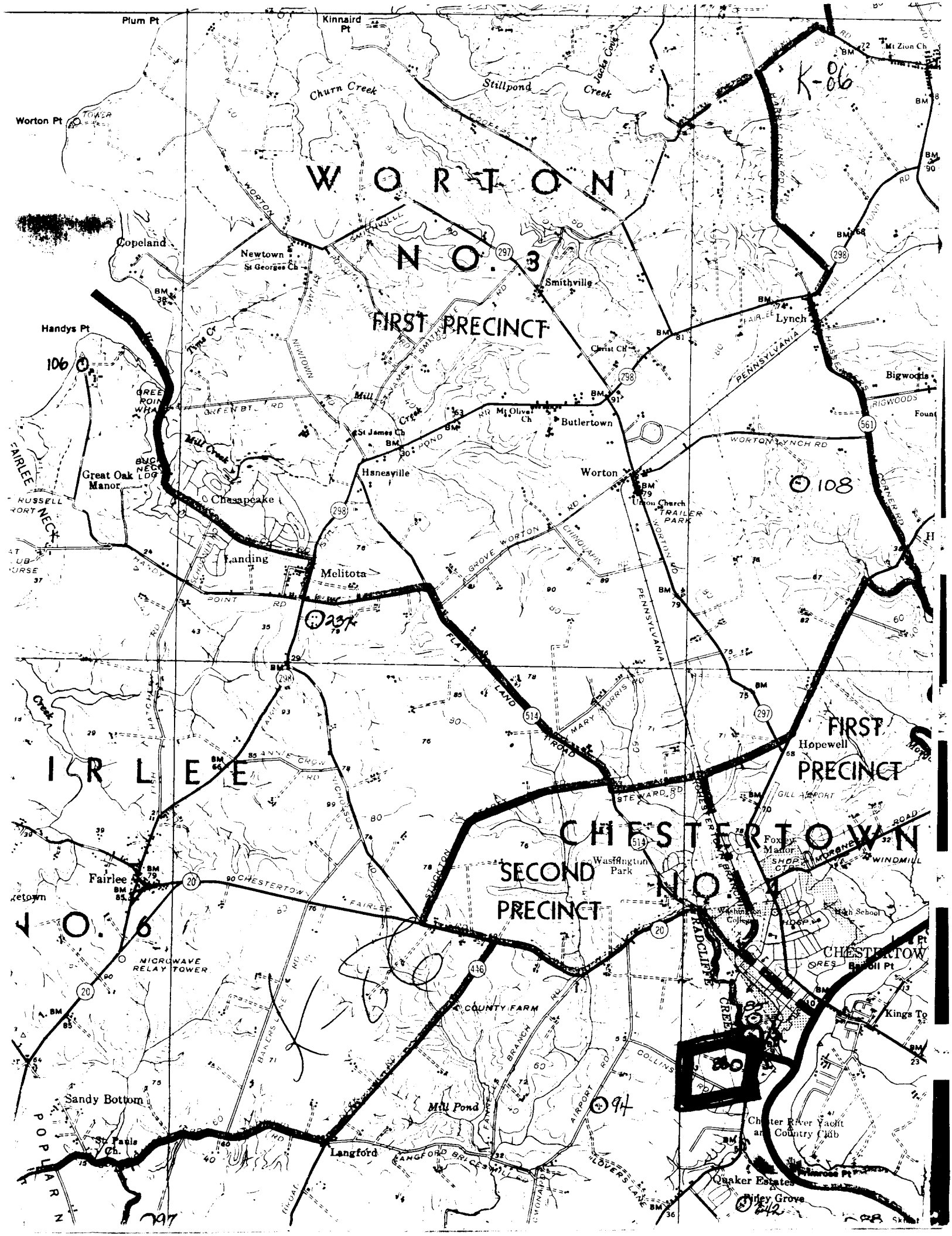
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD March 17, 1969

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Radcliffe Cross is one of the few houses around Chestertown of the Greek Revival style. It is remarkably similar to the earlier houses of the area and may have come to its present condition thru the addition of a heightened facia and cornice. It is built of brick, painted white and stands 2½ storys high above a stepped water table. It is five bays long and two bays deep with a three bay, two story kitchen wing built at a later date and of a different type brick than the main portion. Above all windows and doors are wood lintels with corner blocks. All central openings have side-lights even the dormers on each side of the "A" roof, and the east door has a transom. Sash throughout is 6/6 and there are louvered shutters on the east facade and batten shutters on west facade. The most unusual feature is the bracket cornice with two planes of brick facia beneath. This resembles the work done on Fairview, Talbot County, in the 19th century. At each gable is a brick chimney serving the fireplaces within.

East of the house are two huge clumps of English boxwood. The yard is kept in good condition.



Plum Pt
Kinnaird Pt
Churn Creek
Stillpond Creek
Jacks Cove
Worton Pt
K-86
WORTON
NO. 3
FIRST PRECINCT
Copeland
Newtown
St Georges Ch
Smithville
Handys Pt
106
Lynch
Christ Ch
Bigwoods
Mill Creek
Mt Olive Ch
Butlertown
St James Ch
Hanesville
Worton
Union Church
TRAILER PARK
108
Great Oak Manor
Chesapeake
Landing
Melitota
237
FAIRLEE NECK
FIRST PRECINCT
Hopewell
CHESTERTOWN
NO. 4
SECOND PRECINCT
Washington Park
Foxley Manor
Washington College
High School
CHESTERTOWN
Fairlee
NO. 6
MICROWAVE RELAY TOWER
COUNTY FARM
Kings To
Sandy Bottom
St Pauls Ch.
Mill Pond
94
Langford
Chester River Yacht and Country Club
Quaker Estates
Piney Grove
242

Radcliffe Cross . M. H. T. K 86
Quaker Neck Rd. Chestertown Md.
East Front.
C. Eng From - Aug 1977

K-86

RADCLIFFE CROSS MHT 86
QUAKER NECK RD
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

STAIRWAY

C. ENGSTROM AUG 1977