1st Revised Pages

K-97
The Violet Farm
Near Fairlee
1762

On the 15th of February 1659, The Mannour of Stephenheath, a 1000 acre tract, was patented to Samuel Pensax.[1] While the name of the patented land remained a constant in subsequent deeds, the property was broken up into several farms by the middle of the 18th century.

In 1756, "James Frisby, Gentleman" purchased 300 acres of the farm from Ann Scott, widow and executrix of Charles Scott.[2] Frisby, born in 1725, was the son of William and Jane Frisby. By the time he purchased the land, his first wife, Sarah Gresham, daughter of John and Hannah Hynson Gresham, had died and he had married again, this time Rebecca Ringgold, daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Wilmer Ringgold.[3] It was with Rebecca that James Frisby first settled on the part of the Mannour of Stephenheath bordering the upper reaches of the west branch of Langford Bay. The Frisbys built the house which survives to this day.

The house which James and Rebecca built is a five-bay, two-and-a-half story, brick building with a one-and-a-half story brick kitchen wing. It is similar to Bungay Hill in form and in the use of glazed headers on the gable which commemorate the date of construction and the initials of the builders (1762 IFR). It also possesses sloped weatherings and withes, features found on Comegys Bight (1769), Springfield (1770), and the Reward (c. 1745). Glazed headers are present on both facades, even on the kitchen, and like many houses in Chestertown, the water table rises up and over the basement windows. The ear, or north facade possesses a central door and a basement door at ground level, a feature also found at Comegys Bight in its

original form. Both facades have a three-brick string course and a plaster cornice. The latter can also be found at the Customs House which was owned by Rebecca Frisby's brother, Thomas Ringgold (IV).

The plan of the Violet Farm, as it was called in the 19th century, is very similar to the Murray House (later purchased by Rebecca's brother and in which her nephew, Thomas Ringgold V was to reside) – a central stairhall with one large room on one side and two rooms on the other. The chief difference in plan between the two is the placement of the fireplace. At the Frisby house it is located on the gable, where in the Murray House it is situated on the back wall. In both houses the two other rooms had corner fireplaces and both were supported on corbelled brick. Since the Murray House stair was removed in 1770, the stairs cannot be compared, but the one installed in the Frisby house is oddly vernacular. It is very wide and has a handsome turned, close-string balustrade. This treatment, however, continues only to the newel where the steps revert into a winder to the second floor.

Both first floor rooms open into a kitchen wing. On the east gable of the kitchen there is a large cooking fireplace. An enclosed stair to the servants' room located in the northwest corner of the kitchen is probably an indication that the kitchen was originally divided into pantry and kitchen. This theory is also suggested by the asymmetrical positions of the entry on the south facade.

The second floor plan is similar to the first, with a fourth room over the front entry. The narrow northeast bedroom was unheated and served a dual purpose as corridor to the servants' wing. An enclosed stair leads to an

unfinished third floor which is lighted by six original dormers.

The interior of the house was finished in a spectacular manner for 1762. The living room was fully paneled with glazed cabinets flanking the fireplace. The overmantel panel had a unique design with each of the four corners forming a separate triangular panel with the inner side being an arc of a circle. Pilasters flanked the fireplace, the cabinets, door, and windows (with window seats). The bases of the fluted pilasters were naive in design with a recessed panel base and fluted sub-base.

The two rooms across the hall had paneled window seats, baseboard and chair rail and paneling across the diagonal fireplace walls. Paneling was also used in the entry/stairhall and on the second floor.

The large living room chamber had a different wall treatment. The fireplace wall had paneling across the entire expanse with closets flanking the fireplace. There were pilasters only flanking the fireplace of this wall and the two-part bases were both fluted. The windows were treated like those below, but the walls were 'paneled' with plaster, i.e. there were stiles and rails with recessed areas of plaster, a rare treatment similar to some of the work at Fair Hope, a frame house on Stratford Manor and in several houses on the Western Shore.

The Frisbys were obviously people for whom design possessed a certain significance. Not only were they responsible for an aesthetically fine house, but also for the well-planned ground which surrounded it. A large rectangular grass terrace on the south side of the residence can still be traced. Similar terracing can be found at Rose Hill, Trumpington and the

Smith-Ringgold House in Chestertown.

Unfortunately for James, his second wife, Rebecca, died only a few years after the house was finished. Together, they had produced four children. Their first child, James, was committed to the care of the Pennsylvania Hospital before 1790 (his brother William asked his widow to pay half of James' care in his will).[4] Their fourth child, Anna Maria, was to marry John Rowles and build Airy Hill.

When James Frisby married a third time it was to Margaret Moore, daughter of James Moore of Arcadia. Together they built Hinchingham on the Bay in 1774 and probably resided there. James and Margaret produced two children, Sarah and Margaret. In 1777, after Margaret's death, James married, one last time, Ann Wilmer, daughter of William and Rose Wilmer and together they had another four children.[5]

In 1783, James Frisby owned 1674 acres of Kent County farmland. The tax assessment of that year lists 9 white inhabitants living on the home farm, referred to as "Stephen Heath Manor." Frisby owned 139 ounces of plate and was assessed @61 on his total worth of @4880.[6]

By the time of his death in 1807, the plantation was referred to as "Stephney Heath Manor" in Frisby's will.[7] To his daughters, Margaret, Mary and Rebecca, he left the plantations, with over 700 acres. When Samuel Beck and Robert Dunn assessed his personal estate, he owned 38 slaves, 9 beds and several pieces of silver including a silver teapot, totaling $9,508.54. At the sale which followed, $3,578.30 of the property was sold, the proceeds

being distributed to his children.[8]

After James Frisby's death, Dr. Morgan Brown and his wife, Margaret Frisby purchased her siblings' shares. Dr. Brown was a prominent physician in Kent County. It is not known if he and Margaret lived at the Violet Farm, but from the wording in his will, it seems probable.[9]

Violet Farm passed first to Dr. Brown's son, James F. Brown, before it was bequeathed just five years later to James' wife, Ann.[10] In the 1852 Tax Assessment, the following entry can be found:

"Brown Mrs. Ann
Lands Violet Farm 200 acres
Brick House & other Buildings
in good repair. Formerly to
Dr. Morgan Brown
etc."

After Ann E. Brown died in 1857, Richard Hynson, attorney, was appointed to sell her real estate. He sold Violet Farm to Alexander Willson in 1859, but the deed was not recorded. On the 1860 Map, Willson appears as owner and the wharf is referred to as "Brown's Landing." Apparently Willson mortgaged his farm to Richard Hynson, but defaulted on the payments. Richard Hynson then became the owner of the Violet Farm, though the date is uncertain. The 1877 Atlas does not help to pinpoint this transition since the house was omitted from the map, even though the road to the landing was dotted in.

Richard Hynson bequeathed everything he owned in 1893 to his wife Carolene,[11] who apparently was a very capable manager. After his death, the inventory of his estate included the contents of his office on Court Street, his horses, carriages, sleigh, and the produce from his six farms.[12] From the inventory it is not possible to determine who the tenant was on the Violet Farm.

In Carolene's will, written in 1908 and probated in 1917, the tenant on the Violet Farm was C. M. Brown, possibly a relative of the preceding owners. Since her daughter, Augusta E. Slay, who was a beneficiary in the will, died before 1917, Carolene bequeathed the Violet Farm to her grandchildren, Mary and R. Hynson Rogers.[13] Shortly thereafter R. Hynson Rogers purchased Mary's part of the farm.[14] It was Mr. Rogers who sold most of the interior of the house to Henry Francis duPont in the late 1920's.[15] Since then the house has continued to be tenanted. When Mr. Rogers died, he, like his grandmother, skipped a generation and left the farm to his grandson, the present owner.

Sadly, the house has suffered lack of care for several years and is well on its way to dereliction. If the Violet Farm were to receive the care and respect its history warrants, a great piece of Kent County's architectural history could be preserved.

1. Patents, Lib. 4, fol. 528.
2. Land Records, Lib. JS 28, fol. 342.
3. Maryland Genealogies, Vol. I, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1980, p. 461.

K-97 7

4. Wills, Lib. 7, fol. 274.

5. Maryland Genealogies, Vol. I.

6. 1783 Tax Assessment, Lower Langford Bay Hundred, James Frisby.

7. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 366.

8. Inventories, Lib. 12, fol. 238.

9. Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 92.

10. Ibid, p. 225.

11. Wills, Lib. TRS 1, fol. 40.

12. Inventories, Lib. JCS a, fol. 561.

13. Wills, Lib. JRC 1, fol. 294.

14. Land Records, Lib. APR 6, fol. 369.

15. The elements of paneling were reworked and installed at "Chestertown House," duPont's summer home in South Hampton, New York. The house has since been demolished.

K-97
Ringgold's Fortune, Violet Grove 1762
Rock Hall
Private

Ringgold's Fortune is dated by the numerals 1762 in glazed brick in the gable. The house is protypical of Kent County buildings of its period: five bays wide and two and one-half stories tall, it has a central hall and a one and one-half story side kitchen wing. It has two rooms with corner fireplaces on one side. The exterior brick, with its pattern making in glazed headers, is outstanding. Most interior woodwork was sold in the 1920's.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-97

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Ringgold's Fortune, Violet Grove

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Near St. Paul's Church, down long lane off Ricaud's Branch Road

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hall

X 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. Phillip Skipp

Telephone #: (301) 778-3400

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: W4G 8

Folio #: 30

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-97

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ringgold's Fortune is located near old St. Paul's Church. It faces south across the west fork of Langford Creek surrounded by tall, old trees, the building has no formal landscaping.

The house is a five bay, two and one-half story rectangular brick structure with a gable roof and a later two bay, one and one-half story, brick kitchen wing. There are three single gable dormers with 6/6 sash in each roof slope of the main house; the attic of the wing is lite by a gable dormer in the south slope of its steep gable roof and by a shed dormer which extends from the roof ridge on the north slope.

A frame porch and pantry addition continues beneath the north roof slope of the wing. They are additions, probably late 19th or early 20th centuries, and of the simplest type.

The main house is set on a brick basement; the wing is above a crawl space only.

Main facades are evenly fenestrated and have central entrances. There are basement windows which are quite tall and as wide as windows above. Sash is 6/6 on both floors and appears to be a 19th century replacement. There are small second floor windows in the west gable; these have six panes and rowlock arches. In addition to the rear entrance, there is a basement entrance beside and below it. This door is batten and hung with strap hinges.

Numerals in the west gable date the house to 1762 and the building is typical stylistically and formally,of that period. The brick walls beautifully laid and very ornamental have glazed headers used on the front and rear facades to emphasize the Flemish bond pattern. A beveled water table provides a base for the entire house. It is laid in English bond and steps over the basement windows on the south front. A three-course belt course is used at the second floor level of the long facades; like those walls, it is in Flemish bond; gables are Liverpool bond. Another ornamental brick use is the gauged brick segmental arches on the river facade; at the rear of the house opening also have segmental arches but they are laid in alternate stretchers and double headers; the lower headers are glazed.

Chimneys are enclosed within the end walls but they are set in from the plane of the wall at the roof ridge. Sloped stretchers, set on a drip course, connect the wall plane with the chimney plane. Chimney caps are corbelled and banded, although, only the western is plastered. The west chimney is T-shaped in plan, the east cruciform.

Exterior wooden detailing consists of cornice and trim. Windows have beaded frames with flattish ogee-and-fillet backband molding. The south door has a very weathered frame enriched with three-part moldings. (Within the old frame is a modern frame and door.) There is a five-light transom above. Shutters have been removed but several shutter dogs, some of them flat, cast iron with simple handles, remain. The cornice covered with dentils on its upper edge; crown and simple bed moldings complete the assembly.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-97

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
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1762 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Ringgold

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ringgold's Fortune is significant for its architecture and for its association with the Ringgolds, a prominent early Kent County family.

In form and detailing the structure resembles other fine Kent County houses: Trumpington (K-271), Thornton (K-195), Comegys Bight House (K-91); all two and one-half story, five bay structures and The Reward (K-90), in the fineness of its brick work, and Rose Hill (K-119) and the Ringgold House in Chestertown in the beautiful coved cornice. Fortunately the extraordinary exterior has survived for over 200 years without severe damage to its quality. The interior, however, has suffered removal of most original woodwork.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-97

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Henry Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, Easton, Maryland, 1934, p. 217, 231.

Rock Hall Historic Collection, 1951, p. 13.

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
August, 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

7 Continued

The wing is set on a low beveled water table. Its walls are Flemish bond with glazed headers front and rear; the gable wall, which contains an entrance and small attic windows. is an irregular bond with random glazed headers. The entrance is off-center but flanked by two 9/6 sash windows with segmental arch openings of headers and plain unbeaded frame and sill. Doors are batten.

The interior woodwork was sold in 1928 to Henry DuPont who installed it in a house built for it in Long Island. Faded snap shots of the rooms are enclosed.

Remaining in the house is a wall of feather-edged board wall on the second floor. There is also batten door with a wooden lock. The stair, a simple affair, may also be early.

Supporting the corner fireplaces and chimneys is an unusual corbelled brick "bracket" in the cellar.

Old photographs of the interior show that at least two rooms - the parlour and the parlour chamber were fully paneled. In the parlour is a denticulated cornice. The dentels appear to have been carved or decorated in some manner.

Pilasters flanking the mantle, the cupboards beside the mantle, window and door openings, and are used to emphasize the corners of the rooms. Tall narrow panels are used above the chairrail with short rectangular panels below. The fireplace has a round arch opening and denticulated mantle shelf. The overmantle panel has curved, cut-out corners. The cupboards beside the fireplace have paneled lower doors; Upper doors are rounded and have glass panes. The top of the cupboards appear to be shell-shaped.

Also paneled was the stair hall and parlour chamber. Paneling in both areas resembles that in the parlour with pilasters, window seats and denticulated cornice. The closets beside the fireplace in the parlour chamber were lit by the two small gable windows.

Ringgold's Fortune
or
Violet Grove K-97

March 16, 1970

Mr. Michael Bourne
Great Hopes
Sudlersville, Maryland 21668

Dear Michael:

It was very good to see you today, and I hope that I was able to give you some information that was helpful to you. I am listing below what information we have about the woodwork bought in Maryland for Mr. du Pont's house at Southampton. You may recognize the names of the houses. Most of this woodwork was bought through Mr. H. L. Lindsey, who lives somewhere near you in Maryland. It might be worth while talking with him.

1/21/24--Paneling and woodwork from old Wilmer house, Chestertown, Maryland. Bought through H. L. Lindsey (Pine Room).

--Woodwork, old house at Georgetown, Maryland, 1766. Also bought through Mr. Lindsey.

9/3/24 --Paneling, Chapman house, 1762.

K-97 7/20/24--Paneling from Brown house, Chesterown, Maryland. Bought through Mr. Lindsey. This house is further described as "Violet Grove on the road from Chestertown to St. Paul's Church." It was owned by a Mr. Hynson Rodgers, and the tenant was Charles M. Brown. (Thus there are references to two Brown houses in the files.)

12/4/24--Paneling from Fairlee Creek house. Bought through Mr. Lindsey.

6/18/25--Woodwork in house at Quaker Neck, Kent County, near Chestertown. Bought from Mrs. Harold Baker.

There is a further reference to correspondence with a Mrs. Lea Tomlinson Stine re Serena Smith property. Apparently this is a house near Georgetown, and a further note says that the woodwork was used in the reception room at Southampton.

Please let me know if you have any further questions about the graduate work, and I shall be glad to talk with you at any time.

Sincerely,

John A. H. Sweeney
Deputy Director
Collections and Interpretation

JAHS:mew

The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware 19735 Tel. 302 656-8591

1500973204

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K - 97

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Fairlee
STREET NO. Ricaud's Br. Rd., 1.3 miles west of Langford, (south) - long lane.
ORIGINAL OWNER James Ringgold
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Stephen Skipp
PRESENT USE tenant dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
NO. OF STORIES 2½

2. NAME RINGGOLD'S FORTUNE
or Violet Grove
DATE OR PERIOD 1762
STYLE Colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER ~~James Ringgold~~

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

has glazed headers in the segmental arches over facade windows.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered ? Interior Exterior poor

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Forman, H.C., Early Manor and plantation Houses of Maryland, 1934, p. 231.
Rock Hall Historical Collection, 1957, p13.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD March, 1969

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

Ringgold's Fortune is truly one of the most magnificent mid-18thcentury houses in Kent County. It has unfortunately been neglected for many years and stripped of its old woodwork, but the brick walls and fine glazed brick are among the finest of the type in Kent County.

It is a five bay long two and one half story brick dwelling with a three bay 1½ story brick kitchen. The main portion has a champhered water table which jogs above the arched basement windows of the south facade and continues on the three outer sides of the building. Above the water table, the brick is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers on the south and ~~west~~ north facades. Brick arches are above all windows and doors of the two facades and a three-brick belt course is only on south facade. All original sash have b en replaced with 6/6 sash, but original frames remain as do~~es~~ some of the shutter dogs. A porch of little import protects the central entrance of the south facade. There is a plaster cove cornice with dentils at its upper edge. Three dormers with steeply pitched "A" roof are on each side of the A"A roof of the main portion. These appear original but with wood shingles nailed to the cheeks thereof; they have 6/6 sash. On second story of both gables are small casement windows; those on east have segmental arches and those on west have flat arches (apparently they lighted the closets). The west gable has two small V's in glazed headers beneath the initials and date of the builder: 17 I F& R 62. Each of the two chimneys have 'T' plan and withes, as many other buildings in Kent County.

The center bay of the north facade has two doors, one at floor level leading into the center hall and one at ground level, leading to the basement. This latter arrangemtn was also found in Comegys Bight, but the latter has been bricked up.

The kitchen is also laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and has 9/6 sash , a champhered water table and segmental arches. The "A" roof has one dormer on each side. On north of the kitchen is a frame leanto porch in poor condition. On east gable is a tall narrow chimney.

The fields ~~in~~ south of the house slope down to the Langford Creek, where two branches meet and flow south. The effect is very beautiful!

The building and barns are in very poor condition and the surroundng farm yard a vast mud hole.

1500975204

Form 10-445 (5 62)

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

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Fairlee
STREET NO. Ricaud's Br.Rd., 1.3 miles west of Langford, (south)- long lane
ORIGINAL OWNER James Ringgold
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Stephen Skipp
PRESENT USE tenant dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
NO. OF STORIES 2½

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K-97

2. NAME RINGGOLD'S FORTUNE or Violet Grove
DATE OR PERIOD 1762
STYLE Colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER James Rinngold

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

Ringgold's Fortune is a five-bay-long, two-and-a-half-story, brick dwelling with a three-bay, one-and-a-half-story, brick kitchen. The main portion has a champhered water table which jogs above the arched basement windows of the south facade and continues on the three outer sides of the building. Above the water table, the brick is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers on the south and north facades. Brick arches are above all windows and doors of the two facades and a three-brick belt course is only on south facade. All original sash have been replaced with six over six sash, but original frames remain as do some of the shutter dogs. A porch of little import protects the central entrance of the south facade. There is a plaster cove cornice with dentils at its upper edge. Three dormers with steeply pitched "A" roof are on each side of the A"A roof of the main portion. These appear original but with wood shingles nailed to the cheeks thereof; they have six over six sash. On the second story of both gables are small casement windows; those on the east have segmental arches and those on west have flat arches (apparently they lighted the closets). The west gable has two small V's in glazed headers beneath the initials and date of the builder: 17 I F & R 62. Each of the two chimneys have 'T' plan and withes, as many other buildings in Kent County.

The center bay of the north facade has two doors, one at floor level leading into the center hall and one at ground level, leading to the basement. This latter arrangement was also

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered ? Interior Exterior POOR

[continued]

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

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

Forman, H.C., Early Manor & Plantation Houses of Maryland, 1934, pp 231.
Rock Hall Historical Collection, 1957, pp 13.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust
Box 1704, Annapolis, Md.

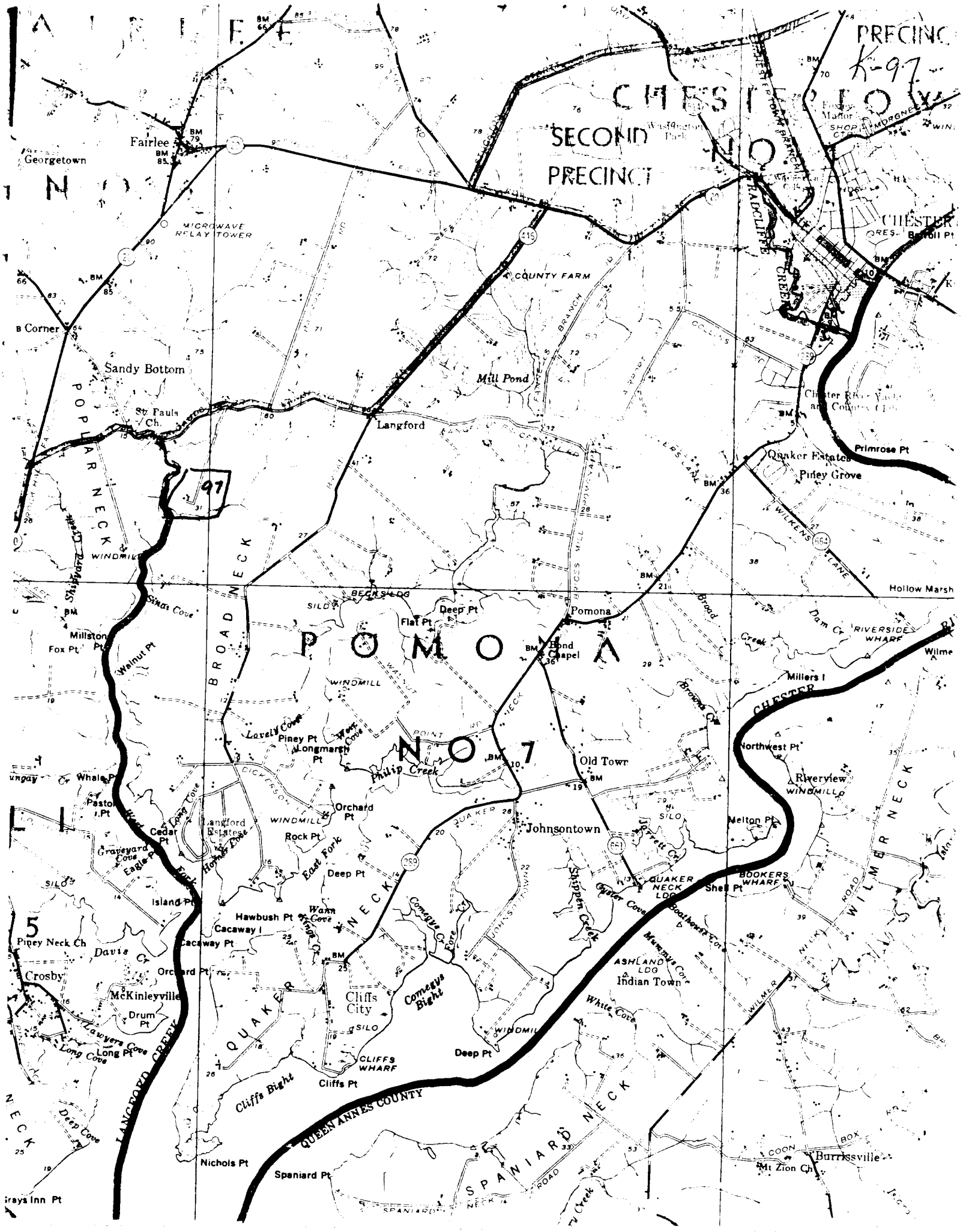
DATE OF RECORD March 1969

found in Comegys Bight, but the latter has been bricked up.

The kitchen is also laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and has nine over six sash, a champhered water table and segmental arches. The "A" roof has one dormer on each side. On north of the kitchen is a frame leanto porch in poor condition. On east gable is a tall narrow chimney.

The fields south of the house slope down to the Langford Creek, where two branches meet and flow south.

The building and barns are in very poor condition and the surrounding farm yard a vast mud hole.



PRECINC
K-97
SECOND PRECINCT
CHESTER
Fairlee
Georgetown
MICROWAVE RELAY TOWER
COUNTY FARM
Sandy Bottom
St Pauls Ch.
Langford
Mill Pond
POPLAR NECK
97
BROAD NECK
Quaker Estates
Piney Grove
Primrose Pt
Hollow Marsh
Pomona
Deep Pt
Flat Pt
Bond Chapel
POMONA
NO 7
Millston Pt
Fox Pt
Walnut Pt
Lovely Cove
Piney Pt
Longmarsh Pt
Philip Creek
Old Town
Northwest Pt
Riverview
Millers I
Whale Pt
Pastor Pt
Cedar Pt
Langford Estates
Orchard Pt
Rock Pt
Johnsontown
Melton Pt
Graveyard Cove
Eagle Pt
East Fork
Deep Pt
Island Pt
Hawbush Pt
Cacaway I
Cacaway Pt
Piney Neck Ch
Davis Cr
Crosby
Orchard Pt
McKinleyville
Drum Pt
Lawyers Cove
Long Pt
Long Cove
Cliffs City
Comegys Bight
Cliffs Pt
Cliffs Bight
Deep Pt
Indian Town
Shell Pt
Nichols Pt
Spaniard Pt
Burrissville
Mt Zion Ch
Grays Inn Pt
QUEEN ANNES COUNTY
SPANIARD NECK
LANGFORD CREEK
QUAKER NECK
WILMER NECK
CHESTER
RADCLIFFE CREEK

Ringgold, Fortune M H T. K. 97

Ricards R. Chestertown

Mich.

C. Engstrom. Aug 1977

B. 11-1

RINGGOLDS FORTUNE MHT- K-97

RICAUDS RD.

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

SMALL FIREPLACE TYPICAL OF THOSE IN SECONDARY ROOMS OF RURAL DWELLINGS. WOODWORK MISSING

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977

Ringgold's Fortune M & T - K97

Ricaud's Rd.

Reproduction of an early picture done before woodwork told to Mr. Du Pont.

C. Engstrom

Aug 1977

B-11-3

Ringgolds Fortune MHT-K 97

Recands Rd

Reproduction of an early picture before Mr Du Pont bought woodwork.

C. Engstrom Aug 1977

B-11-4

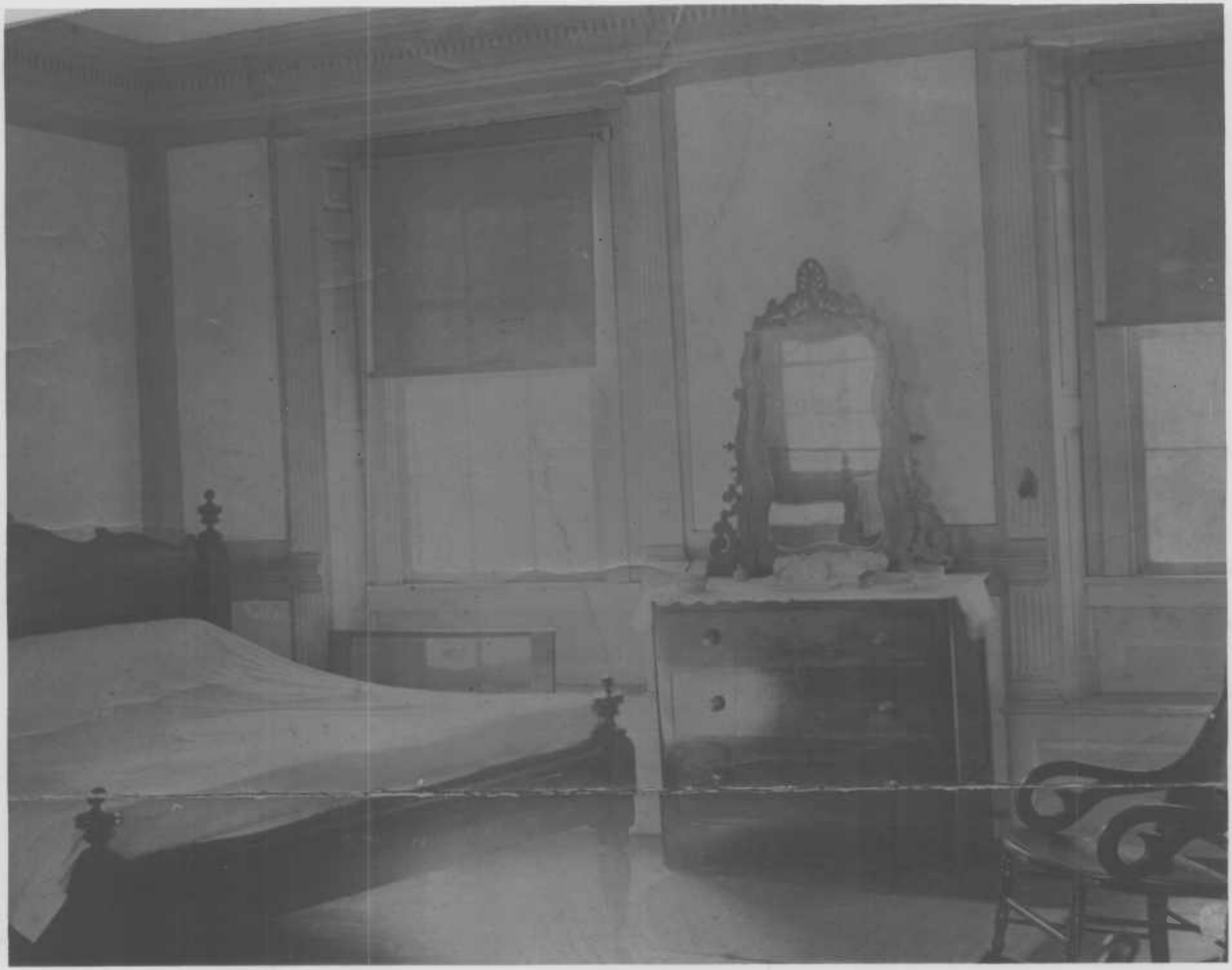
Ringyalds Fortune M & T - K 97

Ricaud's Rd.

Reproduction of a picture done before Mr. DuPont bought woodmark

C. Engstrom Aug 1977

B-11-5



Ringgold's Fortune M H T. K 97
Ricaud's Rd
Reproduction of picture before
woodwork sold to Mr Du Pont.
C. Engstrom Aug 1977

B-11-6