1st Revised Page proofs

K-99

Springfield Farm
Near Rock Hall
1770

Springfield Farm was first purchased by Benjamin Ricaud in 1674 from James Ringgold, the original patentee, ... "for a considerable quantity of Tobacco and three servants ... Middle Spring ... lying in Kent County on the Eastern side of Chesapeake bay and on the Eastern side of a Creek in the said bay called Swan Island Creek respecting the land of Thomas Hynson, Senr to the Northwest ... containing ... four hundred acres ..."[1] Benjamin survived only ten years on his Kent County lands before leaving them to his widow Elizabeth and then to his sons Benjamin and Thomas.[2]

Thomas Ricaud survived Benjamin and lived until 1722 when he bequeathed his father's land to his wife Mary and the farm adjoining to his young son Benjamin ... "on which Mary Davis now dwells ..."[3] the latter was part of the lands inherited from his brother, Benjamin.

It was Benjamin Ricaud, son of Thomas, who built the brick and frame house that has survived to this day bearing the date 1770 and his initials. His wife may have died by that time, for the usual arrangement, with surname initial above the couple's initials, was not followed. It is simply B R below the date. Benjamin's house while one-and-a-half stories tall with dormers on both slopes of the 'A' roof, had a plan similar to Piney Grove. It was two rooms deep. Springfield's facade and dated west gable are laid in Flemish bond above a champhered water table. Above the openings there are segmental arches of rubbed brick. Dentils used in the cornice are similar to the Violet Farm. The large chimney rises from the west gable and

possesses two withes and a sloping weathering. The back and east gable lack the refined details of the facade and west gable.

A longer one-and-a-half story frame wing extends to the east of the main brick section. Its 'A' roof also covers a narrow porch, a feature also found on the kitchen wing at Hinchingham. This section has been mistakenly dated 1698 in the past, but it appears to be contemporary with the brick section, as is the wing at Hinchingham. One of the clinchers of a contemporary date is the fact that the west wall of the frame wing is the brick gable. If it pre-existed the 1770 brick section, it should have a framed wall of its own.

The south wall of the wing is covered with riven oak clapboards secured with wrought head nails. The ceiling of the porch has original exposed whitewashed hewn joists. Where the porch abuts the brick house there is a basement entrance adjacent a door to the entry hall, like Airy Hill, another indication that the two sections were planned together.

Inside the brick section, the plan consists of an entry/stair hall, two living rooms on the west side with corner fireplaces and a small unheated room north of the stair. The latter acts as a back hall and connector to the service wing. There are two rooms in the service wing, a kitchen and dining room.

The interior of the brick house is well finished, with raised panel dado in both rooms. The living room has a relatively symmetrical raised panel chimney breast crowned with a five part dentil cornice. In one of the other corners of the room there is an arched cabinet said to be a

reproduction of an original. The back parlor or den also has a raised panel chimney breast with an unusual panel arrangement housing two small cabinets. There are also paneled window jambs. Originally there were two small bedrooms on the second floor separated by vertical board partitions. These were converted into one room in the 1950's remodeling. At that time a third space at the head of the stair was converted into a bath.

Both rooms in the wing were gutted and renewed during the remodeling. From the floor plan in Early Manor and Plantation Houses the stair to its second floor ascended from the dining room. That space, however, was converted into a cabinet, during the remodeling, to balance a second cabinet on the opposite side of the fireplace. The current stair was reversed and the kitchen was modernized.

A once detached brick smoke house has been incorporated into a large family room which extends from the kitchen to the garage.

Benjamin Ricaud's four daughters married into the Worrell, Hatcheson, Blackiston and Bradshaw families. At his death in 1774, they were bequeathed various beds, slaves, and cattle. His one son, Richard, was to receive the real estate and all that remained.[4] Apparently Richard prospered, for in 1783 he was taxed on 669 acres of land. In 1788 his holdings were resurveyed under the name of Spring Fields.[5] He was one of the financial supporters of Washington College in its founding year, contributing @12 to its establishment. He was a member of St. Paul's Church, of which his family had been members since its founding in the 17th century. In 1804 he acquired 371-1/2 acres from Benjamin Ricaud of

Baltimore, possibly his son. It consisted of two parcels, Springfield Resurveyed and Dean's Adventure. He also acquired, in the same deed, eight slaves and eight horses.[6]

After his death in 1813, the farm descended to his oldest son Benjamin,[7] but the inventory of personal belongings which had not been devised to his children was sold at public venue.[8]

Apparently Benjamin lived in Baltimore and maintained the family farm. Upon his death the farm was purchased from the estate by his son James Barroll Ricaud[9] who was to become the Judge of the local Circuit Court and who was to live at Stepney in the 1860's.

When the tax assessor visited Springfield in 1852, James B. Ricaud owned 620 acres with a "Brick House & other Buildings in Good repair." There were 29 slaves on the plantation at this time. His personal belongings were not listed. Apparently he was renting a house in Chestertown, as he had done in 1841.[10] Judge Ricaud served on the board of visitors and governors of Washington College and was a member of Emmanuel Church. He appears as the owner of the farm on the 1860 Martinet Map.

Just before his death in 1866, he sold half of Springfield farm with the house thereon to James Lamb, "... reserving the graveyard on said land ..."[11] He bequeathed the other half to his wife and daughter stipulating that they rent it out and pay his sister Sarah $100 every year until her death.[12] His daughter and finally granddaughter kept that half of the family farm until 1918 when it was sold out of the family.

James Lamb deeded his part of Springfield to George B. Westcott in 1877. Two days later George deeded it to his son Charles Westcott.[9] G. B. Westcott's name appears on the 1877 Atlas. Charles Tilden Westcott and his wife Mary sold Springfield in 1901 to James Bramble[13] of Kent County, who owned it until 1916. In 1918 both halves of the original Springfield were again purchased by a single owner.[14] From that time until 1951, the farm suffered two mortgage defaults and was tenanted throughout the period.

In 1951 the farm was acquired by Louisa d'Andelot Carpenter[15] who had previously lived at Fairlee Manor. Mrs. Carpenter restored the old house and later added a large wing. It was open on the Maryland House & Garden Tour in the 60's, and remains one of the show places of Kent County.

1. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. A, fol. 359.
2. Kent Co. Wills, Lib. 1, fol. 3.
3. Kent Co. Wills, Lib. 1, fol. 236.
4. Kent Co. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 139.
5. Patents, Lib. 1C#C, fol. 584.
6. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. TW 3, fol. 155.
7. Kent Co. Wills, Lib. 9, fol. 241.
8. Kent Co. Inventories, Lib. 13, fol. 144, 148.
9. Kent Co. Land records, Lib. DCB 3, fol. 84.
10. Kent Co. Tax Assessment, Chestertown, 1841, p. 43.
11. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. JKH 5, fol. 242.
12. Kent Co. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 334.

K-99

13. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. JTD 6, fol. 44.

14. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. APR 3, fol. 324, 325.

15. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. WHG 21, fol. 369.

K-99
Springfield
Rock Hall
Private

1770

Springfield is a two-part house of frame and brick. The brick portion, a two bay, one and one-half story building, has a date, 1770, and initials BR in the gable. The frame section, which also appears to date from the 18th century, has a steep gable roof which extends to cover a low front porch. Interior woodwork is quite attractive; the exterior denticulated cornice is an unusual detail.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-99

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Springfield

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Reese Corner 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
Springfield Farms of Kent County, Inc. Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Rock Hall

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21661

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: EHP 8
Folio #: 133

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

K-99

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Springfield is a two part house with one frame and one brick section. The brick part, a two bay, one and one-half story building, has a date, 1770, and initials B R in the gable. The frame section also appears to date from the 18th century, and has a steep gable roof which is extended to cover a low one story front porch. The house was recently restored and the frame section, especially, has several 20th century additions.

The front and date side of the brick section are laid in Flemish bond pattern brick. The other two sides are common bond. An unusual feature is the small dentil molding with approximate 1" dentils at the top of the cornice on the front of the brick section. No dentil molding is used on the rear cornice. Chamfered brick on the water table of the front does not occur in the rear. A new doorway has been cut in the rear of the brick section.

The front of the frame section is covered with narrow clapboard 3" to 4" wide in short lengths (approximately 4'); exposed nails appear to have hand made heads. The rear has wide clapboard siding approximately 12" wide but much replacement is evident. Window sash seem to be replacements also.

A chimney in the gable of the brick portion has two mullions and a sloping drip course. This detail appears in several other Kent County houses of the same period. The other chimneys have corbelled caps.

Panelled wainscot and panelled window surrounds are used in the front room with vertical board wainscot in the rear room. The enclosed photographs show fireplaces and cupboard in front room.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-99

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 1770 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Springfield is significant as an example of dated 18th century Kent County architecture. Contemporary with Ringgolds Fortune (K-97), it has similar detailing, but is simpler and smaller. Interior woodwork is quite attractive. The exterior denticulated cornice is an unusual detail.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-99

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
Karl Miller

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Historical Society

DATE
September, 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

150099 5204

Form 10-445
(5 62)

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

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Rock Hall VICINITY Edesville
STREET NO. Reeses Corner Road

ORIGINAL OWNER Benj. Ricaud
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Mrs. Louisa D'A
PRESENT USE dwelling Carpenter
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick and frame
NO. OF STORIES $1\frac{1}{2}$

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K - 99

2. NAME Springfield Farm
DATE OR PERIOD 1770 and earlier
STYLE colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER Benj. Ricaud (1770)

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

Springfield is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story house composed of two sections, one brick, the other frame. The frame section may be older. It is four bays long (three dormers) and one room and porch deep; the "A" roof covers both the rooms and proch. There is a central chimney and an end chimney, which had the back exposed until recent additions. The brick portion has a dated gable - 1770 - with lettees B R in glazed headers with a diamond between, as at St. Paul's vestry house. It is two bays long and two bays wide and is nearly square. There are two dormers on each side of the "A" roof and a ~~odd~~ mullion chimney which slopes back from the gable wall, typical of this section of Kent county. Above the door and windows of the living room there are segmental arches. There is a champhered water table and a wood dentil cornice.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior good Exterior good

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, Privately printed, 1934, p.230.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust

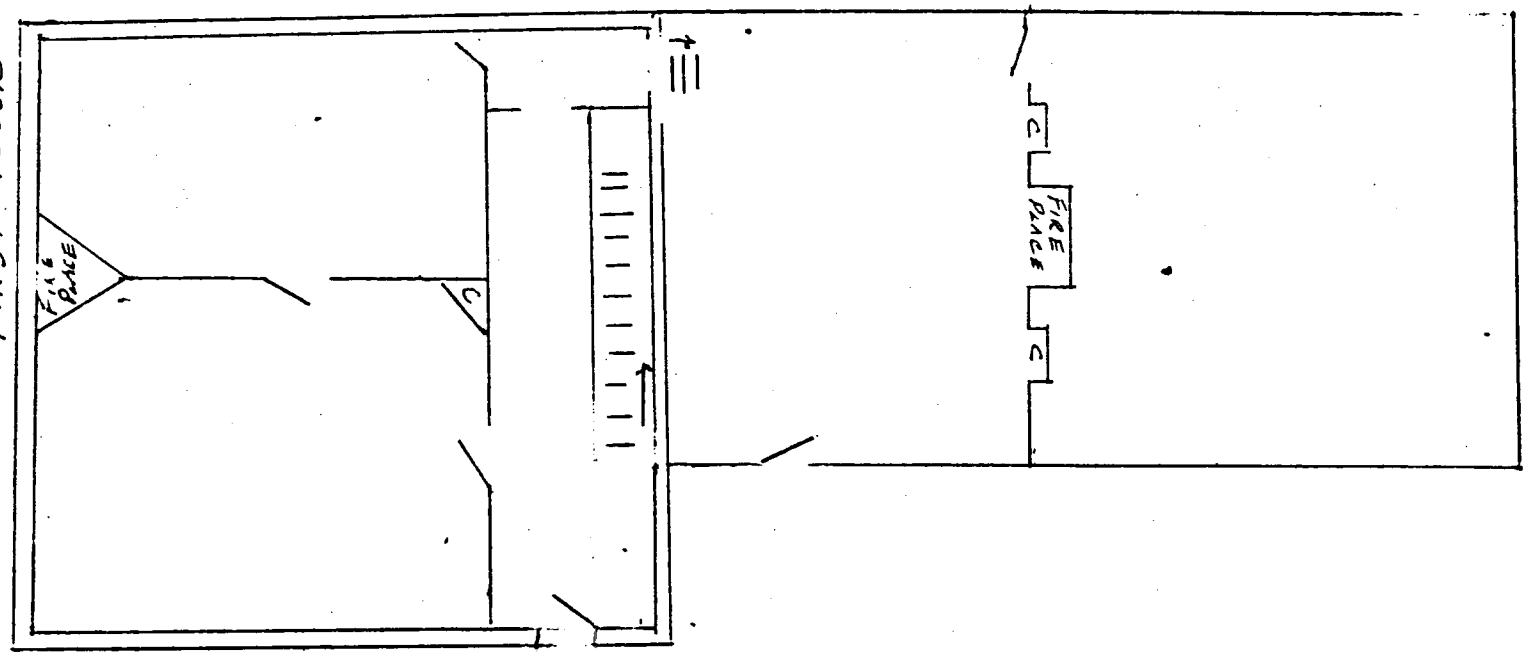
DATE OF RECORD May 11, 1968

Interior is divided into two rooms with corner fireplaces and two halls. The front hall has an open stair. The back hall connects with the dining room and kitchen in the frame section. Both rooms have paneled chimeny breasts with dog ear modling, a heavy cornice and chair rail. The living room corner cabinet was taken to the Chigago Museum of Art and is replaced by a replica. The older section is very simple, with brick floors, exposed beams, fireplaces and some modern woodwork which is in keeping with the spirit of the rest of the house. A very large additon has been attached to the east end of the old house and houses the brick walls of the old smoke house.

K-99

C = BUILT-IN CUPBOARD

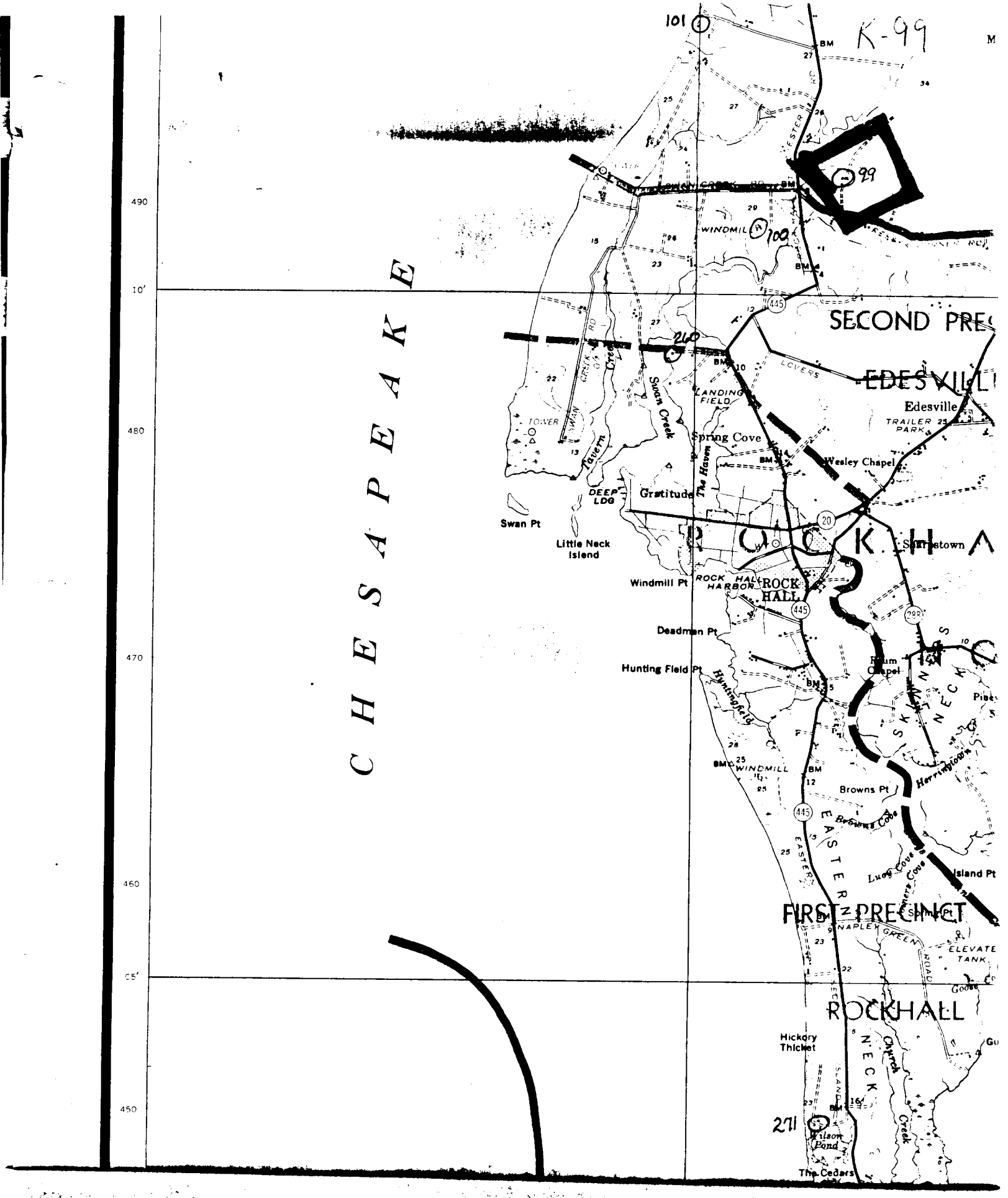
SPRINGFIELD No. 99
FIRST FLOOR



ADDITIONS

ADDITIONS

ADDITIONS


K-99
101
99
100
260
271
490
10'
480
470
460
05'
450
CHESAPEAKE
SECOND PRE
EDESVILL
Edesville
TRAILER PARK
Spring Cove
Wesley Chapel
Gratitude
Swan Pt
Little Neck Island
Windmill Pt
ROCK HALL HARBOR
ROCK HALL
Deadman Pt
Hunting Field Pt
Browns Pt
Island Pt
FIRST PRECINCT
ROCKHALL
Hickory Thicket
Wilson Pond
The Cedars
Swan Creek
Tavern Creek
Huntingfield Cr
Church Creek
LANDING FIELD
DEEP LDG
TOWER
WINDMILL
LOVERS
EASTERN NECK
SKINNERS NECK
Herringtown
Brown Cove
Luoy Cove
NAPLEY GREEN ROAD
ELEVATE TANK
445
20
288

Springfield MAT- K-99
Reeses Corner Rd
Rock Hall Md
C. Engstrom Aug 1977
Dated 1770 BR

Springfield UMAT R-99
Reeser Corner Rd
Rock Hall Md.
Corner Cupboard
Drawing Room
C. Engstrom Aug. 1977