K-255

Maslin's Possession or Langcroft
Broad Neck
3rd Quarter 18th Century

It is difficult to pinpoint the location of this early house from the 1852 Tax Assessment since the tract of Maslin's Possession is divided between three members of the family. In all likelihood however, it was located on the 130 acre part belonging to Mrs. Eliza Maslin[1] for there is mention of an "Old frame House in Bad Repair."[2]

The house was a three-bay, one and a half story, frame structure with two shed-roof dormers on each side of the steeply pitched 'A' roof. Within each gable is a large brick chimney which has its back exposed to the level of the second floor joists. It originally had a hall-parlor plan with the central entrance opening into the hall which was on the east side of the building. This plan is now reversed since the paneled partition has been removed.

When the house was remodeled in the 1950's, the original hall fireplace was rebuilt outside the original gable in a late 19th century kitchen addition. Old paneling was rearranged to such an extent that it is difficult to determine the original configuration. Brick nogging in the south wall was exposed in the dining room, along with the ceiling joists. A leanto addition was also built on part of the south side of the house. In the 1877 Atlas the Maslin name does not appear on this tract of land; S. H. Thomas is assigned to the house.

1. Land Records, Lib. BC & GS 45, fol. 157; Lib. BC No. C, fol. 418.
2. 1852 Tax Assessment.

Survey No. K-255

Magi No. 1502555104

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Old Possession, Maslin's Possession, Old Plantation

and/or common Langcroft

2. Location

street & number Broad Neck, west of Chestertown, at eastern terminus of Lovely Lane and private lane, 1 mile east of Langford/Broad Neck Road (rt. 446) ___ not for publication

city, town Chestertown, x vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland 21620 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 not applicable	x no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Alice B. Nelson and Walter P. Bloecher, Jr.,

street & number R.D. 3 Box 276, Chestertown, telephone no.: 778-3686 778-2241

city, town Chestertown 21620 state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP 33

street & number folio 171

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-255

Condition		Check one	Check one
x excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	x original site
___ good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Dating from about 1750 or even earlier, the 1-1/2 story, mostly frame hall-and parlor main section is four bays wide (three originally) and two bays deep. The main entry is in the original central bay. Two shed-roofed dormers are in each slope of the gable roof A later narrow, true 1-1/2 story wing joins the main section on the east gable end, with the roof lines continuous. A one-story shed-roofed wing stands next on the east while a twentieth century shed-roofed one-story wing is to the rear of part of the main section and part of the gable-roofed wing.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-255

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 **Builder/Architect**

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.

Ideally located for water commerce and transportation atop a slope leading to a cove on the East Fork of Langford Creek, this mid-18th century or earlier house, despite additions and alterations, still has numerous original elements. Most interesting and unusual is the construction of the long south, rear wall of the original main section. Gunstock corner posts stand at each corner and together with one now exposed intermediate post and one (or perhaps two) enclosed in plaster (living room sectionof this rear wall)support an unbroken pla' the full length of the main section. Between these supports is a full-thickness wall inf. ., from the first story sill to the plate above and appearing to also support the long plate. The brick is laid in a totally random fashion (with headers and stretchers laid to fit). The brick work was repointed in the 1960's. This wall is said to be in marked contrast with the construction of the opposite long wall (now plastered), which is constructed with a more usual frame-only method (more vertical members), though with brick nogging. The reason for this rear wall construction is not known, yet the brickwork seems to have been more than just nogging. Surviving Kent County buildings with gunstock corner posts are rare and indicate an early building date. The combination of this type of corner-post framing with the frame and brick rear wall may be one-of-a-kind in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-255

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret Fallaw, Surveyor		
organization	County Commissioners of Kent County Historical Society of Kent County	date	June 12, 1981
street & number	The Court House Church Alley	telephone	778-4600 778-3499
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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

BUILDING FORM AND MATERIAL

1. Size
Main Section: 1-1/2 stories; now 4 bays wide on facade; the easternmost window is very close to the adjacent window and appears added; 2 bays (one room) deep
Wing A: true 1-1/2 stories (no dormers but small window under eaves); 1 bay wide; 2 bays (one room) deep.
Wing B: 1 story, 1 bay wide, 2 bays deep.
Wing C: 1 story, 2 broad bays wide, 2 bays deep

2. Plan type: Original section is hall-and-parlor in plan, with corner stairs. Later additions were to the east end and to the rear.

3. Roof type: Main section-gable; Wing A-gable; Wing B-shed; Wing C-shed

4. Chimneys:
Locations: 1) center of main section west gable end wall, within wall.
2) center of Wing A's east end, at intersection with main section.
Materials: brick; #2 appears quite new/recently rebuilt.
Decorative elements: #1-one-course band, 3 course corbelled cap; exterior fireback is full height of first story; #2-two-course band; three-course corbelled cap.

5. Material/Walls
Main Section: Frame; painted wood shingles with about 7" exposure over horizontal lapped weatherboard. Wing A: same. Wing B: same but with ca. 5-1/2" exposure. Wing C: same, with 7" exposure (shingles only, no weatherboard beneath).

6. Material/Roofs
Main Section: asphalt shingles over wood shingles
Wing A: asphalt shingles.
Wing B: standing seam metal.
Wing C: asphalt shingles.

7. Material/Foundation
Main Section: brick, once whitewashed, cellar; one rear cellar window has old-looking vertical wood bars, of cedar?, square, set diagonally (horizontal section); rear windows closed with brick.
Wings A,B,C: brick (crawl space).

8. Age
Main section: mid-18th century or even somewhat earlier (date given by owner, heard from neighbors, is 1740, which is consistent with the evidence); in Kent County shed dormers are often indicative of an especially early date; gunstock corner post also indicates an early date.
Wing A: age could not be determined since 1st story room (kitchen) is completely modernized with all surfaces covered and replacement trim added; crawl space could not be viewed, nor could the area of unfinished framing above the remodeled upper story; this wing, however, definitely appears to be later than the main section; true story-and-one half construction in Kent County was common in the latter half of the 19th century and in the early 20th century; Wing A's first story is lower than and the second story higher than the adjacent main (original) section.
Wing B: 20th century.
Wing C: 1960's

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

9. Style: 18th century vernacular farmhouse, with later additions.

BUILDING ELEMENTS AND DETAILS

1. Doors
Main Entry: Central bay of north facade, main section. Architrave appears original-inside bead, 2" fillet, backband of ovolo with fillets. Opening measures 45-1/2" x 69" high. Door (recent)-two large lights over two tall vertical raised panels with no panel moldings.
Secondary Entries: Wing B-north corner of east side; wood sill, plain trim, vertical board and batten door. Wing C: (1960's)-9 lights over cross-buck panel doors.

2. Windows
Main Section: type-double hung; single attic casement (west end, south bay) other attic casement on west end has been removed. Lights-6/6; attic casement is 4-light. Storm windows throughout on 1st story. Details-frames appear to be replacements; thin (1-1/4") steeply sloping lower sills, same size but recessed second sill above first; plain, unmolded 3-1/2" trim; shutters-none, with no evidence of there having been any affixed to present frames.
Wings: type-double hung; Wing A has casement under eave in upper story wall. Lights- Wing A: 6/6; 6-light casement; Wing B: 6/6; 6-light casement; two sets of 8-light large fixed windows; 3/3 double-hung. Wing C- double-hung 6/6 in pairs. Details: plain trim, flush with shingles, wood sills. Shutters-none.

3. Dormers
Main Section only, two on front roof alope, two on rear; shed-roofed, from roof ridge. 6/6 double-hung windows; plain board pilasters; wood shingle cheeks.

4. Roof details
Main section: verge boards (not tapered) overlaying shingles appear to be fairly recent; plain box cornice (recent) with wide fascia (9-10"); c. 6-7" overhang.
Wings: Wing A- plain box cornice with same overhang as main section but with narrow fascia, indicating fairly recent, different roof construction. Wing B-plain small box cornice with slanted fascia (on rafters cut at 90 degree angle), 3-1/2" board overlaying shingles on sides. Wing C- beaded board overlaying shingles at sides, shaped at eaves ends (curved on lower edge) to make deeper cornice fascia; plain box cornice with 8" beaded fascia.

5. Porches
None. At main entry is mid-20th century brick stoop with three brick steps and modern metal rails and balusters. At the other three entries there are only modern brick steps. A shed-roofed front porch, about the width of the main section and perhaps a nineteenth century addition, has been removed.

6. Color: Current- white with white trim
Historic- unknown

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type: Main section is hall and parlor, with wings to one side.

2. Major stair:
living room corner stair (west gable end of main section, in southwest corner)-perhaps rebuilt and/or relocated. A two-panel door from the living room is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 Description (continued)

done in the same paneling style as the nearby end-wall paneling, a copy of the board wall paneling opposite.
Other Stairs: (does not appear original, or if original to Wing A, has been rebuilt and redirected) dining room corner stair (beyond southeast corner of main section, with access to present dining room, the east room of the main section) by reproduction beaded board and batten door to the south of the dining room fireplace; two steps leading to door are in the dining room. A gunstock corner post can be seen in this stair.

3. Major Mantels
dining room (east room of main section) fireplace has been entirely rebuilt; large rectangular opening (50" high x 47" wide); brick surround with flat splayed stretcher arch and one stretcher length exposed each side (pilasters); fireplace wall is surfaced with planks from almost same size and shape; reproduction paneling overmantle; remainder of wall paneling also copied from the board wall paneling (some of which is original of the wall dividing the hall and parlor. This board wall was moved several feet eastward from its original location; paneling is fully raised and beveled and has ovolo panel molding. The original paneling of the LR fireplace wall is said to have been sold and removed.

4. Major trim
Windows/doors: windows and LR door: 1/2" inside bead, 1-7/8" fillet, a flattened quarter-round with 5/8" fillet as backband--not original.
Baseboards: 3" board with 1/2" bead above (none original?); wider board and bevel in DR.
Cornices: 3" fillet with cove beneath (on panelled board wall only)
Chair rails: 2-1/2" fillet with 1-1/2" bead below and protruding cap with 3 part molded edge, stepped up 3-3/8" under the three living room windows to become aprons; may be original?

5. Major doors: In board wall of paneling are double doors (opening width of 44"); they are Victorian or were altered during the second half of the 19th century. On the DR side are raised panels (small panel in center, large at top and bottom) with Greek ogee and bevel panel molding. On LR side panels are raised but have wide composite bolection moldings (3-3/4" wide, including the outer bolection molding); altogether moldings have 6 elements, or shapes. Some 2nd story main section board and batten doors may be original.

6. Floors
Living room floor is double; the top, added floor is of medium to wide random pine; the original floor, seen in the cellar of the main , is of wide random pine. Also visible from the cellar are carefully fitted battens notched into the joists to cover the floor board joints, to prevent drafts and dirt from entering from the cellar. This is unusual in Kent County. Perhaps these boards were butt edged, not tongue-and-groove, making these battens a real necessity. However, the joints themselves cannot be seen. Wing A (kitchen)- resilient tile. Wing C-brick floor.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type: Main section is hall and parlor, with wings to one side.

7. Walls/ceiling finishes: most walls and ceilings: painted plaster or sheet rock. Rear (south) dining room wall of exposed brick and frame; this wall was originally an exterior wall; on the exterior it has three layers of surface material: horizontal lapped weatherboarding, wood shingles, and now visible the paneling for Wing C. The unusual brick and frame construction (not really merely nogging) true of the entire south wall, but in the west room (living room) it is not exposed. Paneled board wall divides hall from parlor. This board wall, with later double doors and arch, was moved 4-1/2 to 5' east of its original location, making the present living room (west room) larger and changing the room into which the main entry (unmoved) opened; the main entry formerly opened into the east room and now opens into the west room. The present panel board wall has only a remnant of the original; the rest was built using the remnant as a model.

8. Other
Substantial alteration has occurred at the main section's east gable end. The original fireplace and chimney were removed (and perhaps a stair where the passage is now from dining room to kitchen is now). Another fireplace was built to open into the same room (dining room), but it and its chimney are entirely within the later Wing A. A corner stair was also built entirely within Wing A, though access is from the dining room. Grooves in the brick wall (long south wall) next to the door to the present corner stair may have been for shelves running from the original fireplace projection to that south brick wall. In the cellar a chimney base arch remains (header arch); height of opening at center is 5'5"; opening width is 5'8". The arch for the west gable end chimney is shaped differently; the opening is rectangular and very deep (53-54").

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Major outbuildings: To the north are numerous early to mid-20th century farm outbuildings. One barn and a smaller building have walls of rock-faced concrete blocks on the first story and are probably early 20th century, when such blocks were popular in Kent County, though usually not for farm construction.

To the northeast, off the corner of the house, a windmill stands. It has steel blades and superstructure; there is a wooden storage tank half to two-thirds the distance up.

To the rear of Wing C there is an old, unusually large meathouse (13'-10" x 16'-3") of plank construction with gable roof and one room interior. The exterior is surfaced with wooden shingles over the earlier horizontal lapped weatherboard which originally covered the planks. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets over wooden shingles. The sole board and batten entry door has penny-end wrought strap hinges. One partial hinge pintel remains 4-5" to the outside of the present hinge pin. The structure is set on corner and intermediate concrete blocks Somewhat unusual in Kent County is the type of joinery at the corners and perhaps indicating a later rather than an early date in the history of local plank construction. Most Kent County plank outbuildings were constructed with corner posts; this one was not. The wide, heavy planks were notched together at the corners. A thin board plate, slightly slanted, is between ceiling joists and rafter ends; this roof construction duplicates that commonly found in local house construction of the 18th century and much of the 19th century, though for residential use the joists would be ceiled on their underside and entirely floored on the upper, the plate forming part of the flooring.

2. Site description
To the east of the house, whose facade faces north, down a broad grassy concave slope is the East Fork of Langford Creek, where there is a modern dock. This probably was the location of an early wharf since the cove is protected by

Orchard Point, a treed bluff just to the south on the property. To the north of the house, across the lane, is a cluster of early to mid-20th century farm outbuildings with a large, central service yard. There are three barns, two of them with concrete block 1st stories. A farm pond lies beyond the farm buildings to the north. Immediately to the northeast of the house is a metal windmill with a wooden storage tank. The area immediately surrounding the house is lawn, with tree and shrub plantings. To the south is the large meathouse.

3. Views to/from Site
Across the East Fork of Langford Creek the woods and open lands of Providence Plantation (K-84) can be seen. Beyond the west and south lawns are cultivated fields with a perimeter of trees visible in the distance.

USE OF BUILDING

1. Current - private residence

2. Historic - residence; agricultural products storage and possibly trade.

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

1. According to the present owner, when her husband in the 1950's dug the cellar one foot deeper, Indian relics were found. Pottery shards (perhaps from a colonial kitchen midden or Indian use) and Indian relics were also found to the northeast of the house, beyond the barns and quite close to the shore. From the site topography, it is quite clear that with the broad, sloped access to the creek, protected cove, and nearly flat land where the house stands about 20' above the creek level, the site would have been attractive to Indians for use as a landing and/or settlement as well as to English colonists.

2. A Maslin may have received the original grant for the property; this has not been researched, however. Maslins seem to have occupied Langcroft through most of the 18th and 19th centuries. Four gravestones were found by the present owner being used for entry stones to farm outbuildings, so there evidently was a family burial ground somewhere on the site. These appear to be for mid-19th century Maslin family members and now have been laid on the ground to the west of the house, near the edge of the lawn.

3. To the rear of the house, apparently attached to the south wall of the main section where Wing C now stands, there is said to have been a crudely built structure (a "store") for grain trading and storage. It was not possible to confirm or disprove this assertion. However, as late as the 1930's 2- and 3-masted commercial schooners still plied the creek as far as Beck's Wharf upstream (see K-254) to pick up grain and tomatoes, and it is not unlikely that Langcroft's Wharf was also an important calling point. Until well into the 20th century when the road was finally paved, reaching this southern, remote part of Broad Neck by road was difficult and long.

1502555 204

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Broad Neck
STREET NO. Dickerson Rd., to the end

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Mrs. Alice Nelson
PRESENT USE dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION frame
NO. OF STORIES $1\frac{1}{2}$

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K - 255

2. NAME Langcroft

DATE OR PERIOD 18th century
STYLE colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

Langcroft is a small $1\frac{1}{2}$ story frame house which was built around the third quarter of the 18th century. It is three bays long and one bay deep with two flat headed dormers on each side of the "A" roof. The dwelling stands on a brick foundation and has large brick chimneys at each end of the original dwelling, with exposed fireplace back on the west gable. To the east is a small addition of later date and finally a leanto enclosed porch. On the south side is also a leanto section, now used as a sitting room.

When the present owner remodeled the building some old brick and frame work and brick nogging were exposed. Between the two original first floor rooms was a raised panel partition, portions of which are still in place. Small winding stairs are enclosed on the south side of each fireplace. On the second story (or attic) the two rooms are divided by vertical board partition having a batten door.

The house is kept in good condition and has a beautiful view over the east fork of the Langford Bay and surrounding countryside. The farm and house have been rented for hunting as of this date.

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.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD October, 1968

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

K-255

Langcroft

Dickerson Rd.

(John)
Mrs. Alice Nelson

Langcroft is a small 1½ story frame house which was built ~~in~~ around the 3rd quarter of the 18th century. It is three bays long and one bay deep with 2 flat headed dormers on each side of the "A" roof. The dwelling stands on a brick foundation and has large brick chimneys at each end of the original dwelling, with exposed ~~brick~~ fireplace back on the west gable. To the east is a smaller addition of later date and finally a lean-to enclosed porch. On the south side is also a lean-to section, now used as a setting room.

When the present owner remodeled the building some old brick + frame work + brick nogging were exposed. Between the two original 1st floor rooms was a raised panel partition, portions of which are still in place. Small winding stairs ~~are~~ are enclosed on the south side of each chimney. On the second story (or attic) the 2 rooms are divided by vertical board partition having a batten door.

The house is kept in good condition and has a beautiful view over the east fork of Langford Bay and surrounding countryside. ~~It~~ The Farm & house are being rented [redacted] for hunting.

ROCK HALL QUADRANGLE

View to Southeast

LANGCROFT (K-255)

Broad Neck, Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. Q. Fallaw, June 1981