

**K-274**  
**Wickliffe Site**  
**Eastern Neck Island**  
**1659; 1852**

Once the land on Kent Island was allocated to the new population, early English settlers had to find land on the mainland or smaller islands in the Bay to inhabit. Closest in proximity, Eastern Neck Island was a likely choice, as it lay just to the north. Wickliffe was the first tract patented there in 1659. It was held jointly by Joseph Wickes and Thomas Hynson, who together continued to acquire more land until they owned the island in its entirety. In 1680, after Hynson's death, Eastern Neck Island was divided between the two families, with the southern half remaining in possession of Joseph Wickes. There he built his home and while the house is gone today, the site of Wickcliffe is one of the most valuable historical archeological sites in the County.

Within a year of arriving in Maryland in 1650, Major Joseph Wickes was appointed Judge of the County Court, a position which he held for the next five years. Chosen as a burgess for Kent County in 1658, he continued to hold public office in various positions throughout the next thirty years (1). From the southeastern tip of his farm there was reputed to have been a custom check point for all vessels entering or leaving the Chester River.

The house which Joseph Wickes first built was probably a one-and-a-half-story dwelling. From the inventory of his estate taken after his death, the picture becomes a bit clearer, as the items are listed by room. Those rooms included:

“Inner Room, Little Chamber, Great Chamber, Outer Room  
and Store House”

Apparently the scribe who recorded the inventory in the County records omitted ‘kitchen’ from his notation. It is obvious, however, from the list of contents that a kitchen would have existed.

The curious entry “Chest stands on the stairs” may indicate either a wide corner stair or the presence of a stair tower or some other atypical arrangement.

Other items of interest in the inventory include many tools and guns which were listed as in the "storehouse". Also, two entire pages of the inventory listed books, mostly pertaining to religion. All four of the first floor windows were listed as fitted with curtains, a rare commodity in the new settlement. On Wickcliffe, 9 slaves and a "man to serve four years" were listed as well. The inventory, as appraised by Thomas Smyth and Hanes Hanson, totaled 1092.16.10 (2).

Joseph Wickes was an extraordinary person who amassed a fortune while aiding in the development of the Eastern Shore. He began a dynasty of men eager and able to serve their colony and state.

Upon his death, Wickcliffe was divided between his two sons, Joseph and Samuel. Samuel took the western half of the farm on which his father had built the house mentioned in the will. This farm remained in Samuel's possession, then passed to Samuel, Jr., Samuel, III, and then eventually to William. By 1852, it was listed in the estate of Col. William Wickes from which it passed to James Page Wickes and his wife, Charlotte A. Spencer. In The 1852 Tax Assessment there were 375 acres remaining in the farm and a "New Frame House & other Buildings in good repair" (3).

The farm remained in the Wickes family until 1902, after which it was purchased by James W. Stevens. During the latter's ownership the house was occupied by the Loller family. Mr. Horace Loller recalls that there was a wing behind the left half of the house in the photograph, which might have been earlier than the front. The house was demolished in 1935 to make way for a caretaker's residence for J. Edward Johnston.

Footnotes:

1. Pappenfuss.
2. Inventories: **(call Hall of Records)**
3. Wills:
4. Kent County Tax Assessment, 1st District, 1852.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "Wickliffe"

and/or common "Wickes Farm" or "Wickliffe"

## 2. Location

street & number Eastern Neck Island \_\_\_ not for publicationcity, town Rock Hall \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 1ststate Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service

street & number 300 Westgate Center Drive telephone no.:city, town Hadley state and zip code MA 01035-9589

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber WHG 77street & number Cross Street folio 709city, town Chestertown state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service Region 5- Historic Site

date 21 May 1990; 2 June 1993  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service

city, town 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, state MA 01035-9589

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-274

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input 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.

Standing on what is considered to be the oldest occupied site on the Island is a 1935 residence built for the caretaker of J. Edward Johnston's farm and gunning operation. The Johnstons also owned Ingleside farm at the northwestern tip of the Island. The house was built a little east of an earlier house and close to an earlier site.

The existing house is a 42' x 25' one and one-half story shingle-covered frame structure in a Colonial/vernacular style. It consists of two parts, a 1½ story 16 x 27 section with dormers in the middle of the cornice and another section 25 x 26 with the dormers in the middle of the 'A' roof, like Springfield and Hinchingham north of Rock Hall.

On the same farm, South of the caretaker's house, is a hunting lodge also built by Mr. Johnston in 1933. It is an extraordinary one-story structure stretching about 120 feet in length with two extensions on each side at right angles to the length of the structure. It is a frame building covered with wood shingles. Its entrance is located in the center section of the structure, deeper and taller than the rest, with flanking 12/12 sash windows. All of the remaining windows (about 26) have 6/6 sash. The interior has nine rooms and four baths, all of which are paneled with wood.

Prior to 1933, an early frame house existed in the location of the caretaker's house. That house consisted of a five-bay, three-story frame Italianate house attached to a four-bay two-and-one-half-story frame vernacular structure. According to Mr. Horace Loller, who lived there in the late 1920's, there was a wing behind the four-bay structure, possibly the earlier dwelling associated with the Islands first white inhabitant, Joseph Wickes.

Judging from the inventory taken after Joseph Wickes' death in 1692, the original house was a 1½ story hall-parlor plan structure with the following rooms names:

- "Inner Room" = parlor
- "Little Chamber" = room over parlor
- "Great Chamber" = room over hall
- "Over Room" = hall
- "Storehouse" = (seperate building)

Apparently the scribe who recorded the inventory from the original omitted "kitchen." It is obvious, however, in reading the contents. One curious entry is a "chest stands on the stairs." This must indicate more space than one would expect of a typical winder stair. Other materials were stored under the stair, but that doesn't have the impact of a chest on a stair. Could that mean that the stair was not in the usual place next to an end chimney but rather next to a central chimney, like New England houses or for that matter like Carvill Hall on Fairlee Creek?

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Once the land on Kent Island was allocated, early English settlers had to find land on the mainland or smaller Islands in the Bay to inhabit. Eastern Neck Island is the first step to the Kent mainland from the northern point of Kent Island. Wickliffe was the first tract patented on the Island in 1659. It was held jointly by Joseph Wickes and Thomas Hynson, who continued to acquire more land until they held the entire Island. In 1680, after the death of Thomas Hynson, the Island was divided between the two families, with the Southern half remaining in possession of Joseph Wickes. As the home plantation of Kent's first settler, Wickliffe site is one of the most valuable historical archeological sites in the County.

Within a year of arriving in Maryland in 1650, Major Joseph Wickes was appointed judge of County Court which position he held for five years. He was chosen a Burgess to represent Kent County in 1658 and continued to hold public office in various positions throughout the next thirty years. From the southeastern tip of his farm there was reputed to be a Custom check point for all vessels entering or leaving the Chester River.

The fact that Wickes had a storehouse filled with tools and guns at the time of his death is an indication that he was either a merchant or was very well equipped for the wilderness. His inventory included two pages of books, mostly pertaining to religion. All four of the first floor windows were fit with curtains, a rare commodity in the new settlement. The inventory totaled £ 1092.16.10 and was appraised by two of his contemporaries and equals, Thomas Smyth and Hans Hanson. On Wickliffe were nine slaves and a man to serve four years. There were also five other slaves across the river at "Poynt Love".

Joseph Wickes was an extraordinary person who amassed a fortune while aiding in the development of the Eastern Shore. He began a dynasty of men eager and able to serve their colony and state.

Upon his death Wickliffe was divided between his two sons Joseph and Samuel. Samuel took the western half of the farm on which his father had built the house mentioned in the will. This farm remained in Samuel's possession then passed to Samuel, Jr. and then to William. By 1852 it was listed in the estate of Col. William Wickes from which it passed to James Page Wickes and his wife Charlotte A. Spencer. In the 1852 Tax Assessment there were 375 acres remaining in the farm and a "New Frame House and Other Buildings in good repair". It was probably this mid 19th Century house that was removed from behind the present caretakers house in 1935.



Wickcliffe K-274  
1502747027

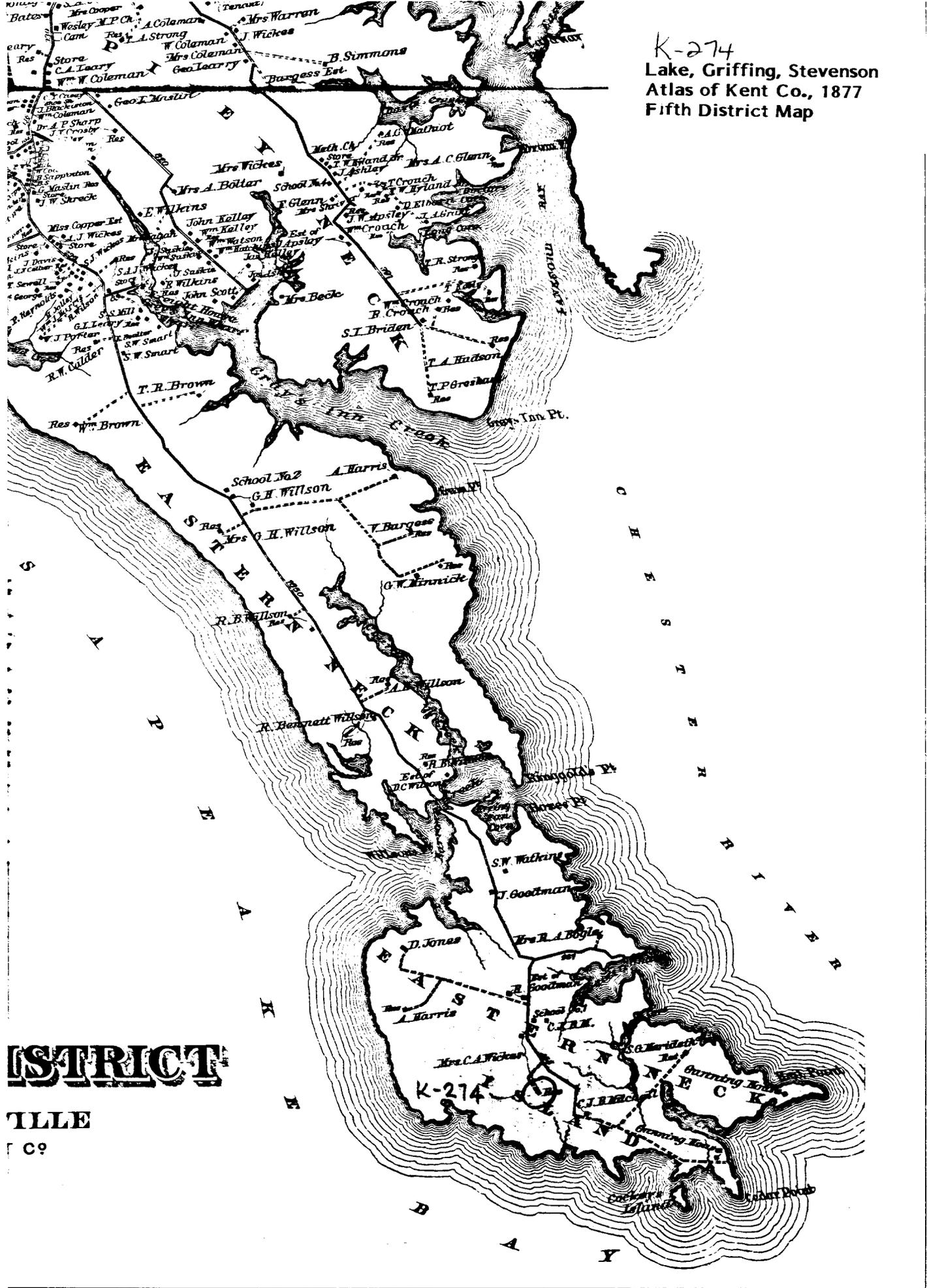
Wickes

"... Major Joe Wickes came here in Kent County -  
the middle 1600's. One of the  
Wickes boys, Lambert, carried Ben Franklin  
on his mission to France, around 1776.  
Later Lambert took his ship, the Reprisal,  
into the Irish Sea, ... went down with  
his ship ... Newfoundland in 1777. Ben  
Franklin said Lambert Wickes was a  
gallant officer, a worthy man."

Sat Eve Post Dec. 17, 1960 p 56

see also Kent County Guide (F 187. K4K4)  
p. 31

K-274  
Lake, Griffing, Stevenson  
Atlas of Kent Co., 1877  
Fifth District Map



**DISTRICT**

**TITLE**

C9

K-274

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Langford Creek Quad

B  
A  
Y

C  
H

E  
R

Wilson Pond

The Cedars

C  
R  
E  
E  
K

Baydush Pt

Ringgold Pt

445

Short Cove

BM 5

Neck Narrows

Wilson Pt

Fryingpan Cove

Boxes Pt

Tubby Cove

Belts Bar Pt

C  
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EASTERN NECK

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Bogle Cove

E  
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Overton

Durdin Cr

Wickes Beach

Cabin Cove

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K-274

x6

Baybush Pt

Hail Cr

Panhandle Pt

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Hail Pt

Narrows Pt

Cedar Pt

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1991

Wickcliffe - 1931

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Collection of Horace Lollar

MSA SC 4138-29