

MSB 6/17/96

**K-537**  
**Greys Inn Point Farm**  
**Piney Neck, Rock Hall**  
**c.1790's**

Grey's Inn Point Farm is significant in two respects. First it is situated on part of what is possibly the earliest land patent in present day Kent County. And second, because it possesses the late-18th century farmhouse built by Thomas Gresham and in which three generations of Greshams lived.

In 1658, a 1500 acre tract was granted to John Langford by Lord Baltimore. Possibly this was an expression of gratitude for Langford's treatise in defense of Baltimore ~~and~~ in response to the Puritans views ~~in regard to~~ on Baltimore's position in the Colonies.

A large section (1040 acres) of the tract was resurveyed in 1735 for John Smithers who later sold parcels to Slippers, Hanson, and Gresham. In 1748, Richard Gresham, who lived at Gresham Hall on the bayside, advertised in the Maryland Gazette. The advertisement spoke of the baking business operated by William Ossen at Gresham's plantation which was described as being on "Grasing Creek, near the mouth of the Chester River" (1). This would have been the 18th century equivalent of food services which provide goods for public transportation today.

Richard Gresham died in 1773 and bequeathed "Grazen Point" and the remainder of Langford's Neck (as his parcel was called) to Thomas Gresham, "son of Sophia Whalon, dec'd and grandson of Edward Whalon, living, all of Langford's Neck" (2). Thomas Smyth, Richard's son-in-law was the executor of the estate.

After Thomas Gresham came of age in the 1790's, he built the brick house which remains on the land. He died in 1814 and left the farm to his son, Thomas P. Gresham, "the natural son of Susanna Wharton. . ." (a second generation of illegitimacy) (3).

Gresham's house was a three-bay, two-story brick structure with frame

K-537

kitchen wing | Laid in Flemish bond, its principal facade faced<sup>ing</sup> east to the Chester River. The central entry door had a rectangular transom which lined up with the tops of the flanking 12/12 sash windows. Three symmetrically placed windows on the second floor had 12/8 sash. There were no dormers originally. The west facade was similar with the exception of the central bay which was off-center and its door lacked a transom. Basement windows on both facades had horizontal bars in front of the sash. The south gable, which faced Greys Inn Creek, had windows flanking the chimney on each level, with 9/9, 9/6 and 4-pane casements respectively. The cornice had bold crown and bed moldings.

In its original state, the brick section had a central hall from which the stair ascended to the second floor. The stair itself had three separate runs, with the middle section being adjacent the west wall. The balustrade was walnut. Flanking the hall there were two rooms, each with tall mantels, splayed, un-paneled window jambs, chair rail and baseboard.

The second floor was similar, but the fireplaces were off-center and there was also a small room at the head of the stair. From this level, the stair to the attic rose three steps before being enclosed for the remainder of the flight.

The original kitchen may have been an existing structure, built to the north of the house. No other building remains from the Gresham period other than a small plank smokehouse.

In the 1852 Tax Assessment, Thomas P. Gresham is listed as "farmer" and his properties included "pt Greys Inn & Langford Neck 485 acres Brick House & other Buildings in Bad Repair . . ." His total worth at that time was assessed at \$9,910.00, a modest fortune (4). When he died in 1865, Gresham left everything to his wife Ann for her widowhood (5). After Ann's death, the estate was settled in an equity case between their children (1873). Consequently, the farm was sold to Edwin R. Hoffman of Baltimore in 1881 (6). For nearly ~~100~~ 100 years, the Hoffmans remained in possession of at least half of their original purchase.

*Hoffman*  
In 1906 Mr. ~~Strong~~ bequeathed the farm to his nephew's wife, Rose Strong.

*- Strong family*

During the Hoffman period the house was remodeled extensively, with the addition of porches on both facades, dormers on the roof and a new kitchen wing.

one and a half stories in height. The stair was rebuilt in the hall going in the opposite direction from the original. This necessitated changing <sup>the</sup> door to the living room to the west side. The stair to the attic remained in the same location, but the enclosure was removed. Only the window trim in the living room remained untouched; all other was renewed, including doors, mantels, etc.

The kitchen was built at the same level as the main house, over a full basement which had its own fireplace. The first floor plan of this part consisted of a kitchen, pantry and corridor with stairs to the separated rooms ~~above~~ located <sup>above</sup> ~~in~~ the kitchen and ~~corridor~~ <sup>pantry</sup>.

Around 1920, a wing was attached to the original front of the house. It contained a gun room on the first floor and a communal bathroom on the second, accessible from the landing. During this period <sup>part of</sup> the house was used as a lodge for a gun club.

In 1982, Greys Inn Point Farm was purchased by the present owners who undertook the sizable task of rehabilitating and enlarging the old brick house (7) (8).

#### Footnotes:

1. Maryland Gazette, 30 November 1748.
2. Wills: Lib.5, fol. 105.
3. Wills: Lib. 9, fol. 264.
4. Kent County Tax Assessment, 1st District, 1852.
5. Wills: Lib. JF 1, fol. 291.
6. Land Records: Lib. JF 1, fol. 291.
7. Land Records: Lib. EHP 131, fol. 251.
8. For more information on the history of Langford Neck, see K-268, Belle View.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-537

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Langford Neck

and/or common Grey's Inn Point Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 4532 Piney Neck Road  not for publication

city, town Rock Hall  vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Jeffrey and Alyse Colen

street & number 4532 Piney Neck Road telephone no.: 410-639-

city, town Rock Hall state and zip code MD 21661

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 131

street & number Cross Street folio 251

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Inventory of name only

date ?  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-537

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

Prior to the remodeling of the house in 1989, the old residence was composed of three distinct sections: the late 18th century 20x40, two 1/2 story brick house, the three-bay 19th century 1 1/2 story service wing, and a 1920's two-story frame wing on the original front of the house. The entire house was painted yellow with white trim and green shutters. The lane approached the house from the west facade, which was the original back of the building. To the north were a plank smokehouse, carriage shed and granary. It is said that the graveyard is near the granary.

In the process of rehabilitating the house, it was possible to conjecture the original appearance of the brick section, but the mystery of the kitchen wing was not readily revealed. The principal entry facade was the east side, facing the Chester River. That facade was laid in Flemish bond above an ovolo-molded water table. The entry was in the center bay of the symmetrical facade and had a door with transom. The windows had 12/12 sash on the 1st floor and 12/8 on the second. There were no dormers originally in the steep A roof. The west facade was similar with the exception of the center bay being off-center and the door lacking a transom. Both facades had basement windows with horizontal bars in front of the sash. The South gable had windows flanking the chimney on each level, with 9/9, 9/6 and 4 pane casements respectively. From these windows was the closer view to Greys Inn Creek and the protected landing for the farm.

In its original state, the house had a central stair hall with the three flights ascending along the living room wall to a landing on the west side. From that point it ascended three steps to a second landing above the back (west) door, and from there to the second floor. From the second floor there was a short flight of steps to a 4-panel attic door. The landing extended across the central window and had balusters in front to protect the window.

The living room, south of the hall was fit with beaded baseboard, three part chair rail, window and door trim. The windows had plain splayed jambs and the chimney breast had a tall mantel. The dining room was separated from the stair hall by a brick partition as opposed to the frame wall opposite. The dining room was trimmed similarly but was lighted by only two windows in contrast to four in the living room. West of the chimney breast there was a built-in cabinet. There was another tall mantel above a slightly-arched fireplace and to the east was the door to the service wing.

For houses of this period, c.1790's, the kitchen was frequently at or near grade. When the existing frame wing was removed, no trace of an earlier roof lines were visible on the gable. When the frame wing was added is conjectural. The millwork appeared to be from the the second quarter of the 19th century at the earliest, but it was obviously removed later in the century along with the brick house, probably in the 1880's after it was sold out of the Gresham family.

At this point, the windows were renewed, with narrow frames, louvered blinds and 2/2 sash. The old 8-pane sash were re-used in new dormers on both sides of the roof and full length porches were added to both front and rear facades. The interior was re-oriented to the west with the removal of the stair between the first and second floors. In its place a two flight stair was built ascending in the opposite direction to a landing above the east door and from the landing in a second flight to the second floor. The short flight to the attic was re-built, the attic door was removed, but the winder, landing and final flight remained from the first period. The attic door was re-used in a close on the third floor.

(continued on insert

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 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** 1700-1799 4th Quarter 18th Century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

Grays Inn Point Farm is significant because it is on part of the 17th century tract called Langfords Neck, a 1500 acre tract surveyed and patented to John Langford in 1658. It appears to be the earliest patent in present day Kent County. It is also significant for possessing a late 18th century brick farmhouse that was built by Thomas Gresham and in which three generations of Greshams resided.

John Langford was a favorite of Lord Baltimore due primarily to the fact that he wrote a treatise in refutation to the Puritan stance on Baltimore's position in the colony. As a result of this bond of friendship, Lord Baltimore granted Langford a 1500 acre tract 11 years after the Treatise was written.

A large section (1040 acres) of the tract was resurveyed in 1735 for John Smithers who later sold sections to Slippers, Hanson and Gresham. It was the Gresham section that pertains to Greys Inn Point. In 1748 Richard Gresham, who lived at Gresham Hall on the Bayside, advertised in the Maryland Gazette the baking business being pursued by Wm. Ossen at his plantation on "Grazing Creek, near the mouth of the Chester River." This was the 18th century equivalent of food services which supply to modern transportation.

Richard Gresham died in 1773 and bequeathed "Grazen Point" and the remainder of Langfords Neck to Thomas Gresham, "son of Sophia Whalon, dec'd and grandson of Edward Whalen, living, all of Langfords Neck." Thomas Smyth, his son-in-law, was the executor of the estate.

After Thomas Gresham came of age, he built the brick house in the 1790's which remains on the land. He died in 1814 and left the farm to his son Thomas P. Gresham, "the natural son of Susanna Wharton..." (a second generation of illegitimacy).

Thomas P. Gresham was a farmer and was listed on the tax assessment of 1852 with the following:

"Pt Greys Inn + Langford Neck 485 acres  
Brick House + other Buildings  
in Bad Repair...."

Gresham's total worth in 1852 was \$9,910, a modest fortune. When he died in 1865, he left everything to his wife Ann for her widowhood. After Ann died the estate was settled in an equity case between the children. Consequently, the farm was sold to Edwin R.

Man of Baltimore in 1881. Between 1881 and 1982 the farm remained in the family of Mr. Hoffman, with 1/2 interest being sold in 1916. In 1982 both half interests were purchased by the present owners, who undertook the task of rehabilitating and enlarging the old brick house.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-537

Kent County Land Records and Wills  
1852 Tax Assessment

# 10. Geographical Data

N/A

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Michael Bourne		
organization	Historical Society of Kent Co.Inc.	date	Feb. 1996
street & number	P. O. Box 665	telephone	410-778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland

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

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
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FBI - BALTIMORE  
514-7600

The service wing was composed of a pantry and corridor to the kitchen. Basement access was from the pantry. Above the basement stair was a narrow stair to the second story of the service wing. An enclosed winder was also located in the northwest corner of the kitchen. The kitchen was fit with only a flue for a cook stove and was apparently the product of the 1880's.

In later years, baths were added above the corridor in the service wing and on the second floor landing beneath the attic stair. In the 1930's, after half interest in the farm was sold for gunning purposes, a new gun room with bath above was added in the center of the original east facade, destroying the brickwork where it was let into the wall and breaking out the brickwork between the center window sill and the landing for access to the new bath.

The building remained in that condition, gradually deteriorating over the years until it was purchased in 1982 by Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey A. Colen. For the next six years the Colens planned and finally remodeled the house into a fine country house, keeping the original brick shell and restoring the exterior as it had been when built (with a few exceptions).

The interior was finished in a more polished manner than the original house and the new wing was considerably larger than its predecessors. The restoration/rehabilitation was designed and overseen by the surveyor of this farm.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Grays Inn Creek Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Piney Neck Road not for publication

city, town Rock Hall  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" 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 Jeffrey and Alyse Colen

street & number 617 Conshohocken State Road telephone no.: 635-7397  
215-642-1351

city, town Gladwyne state and zip code PA 19035

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber

street & number High Street folio

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory

date September 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

Grays Inn Creek Farm is located on Piney Neck, approximately four miles southeast of Rock Hall. The house and associated farm buildings are sited on a small rise along the east bank of Grays Inn Creek.

The original house on the farm is of brick construction, 2½ stories high, three bays wide and one room deep with flush brick chimneys at each end of the pitched gable roof. The front facade originally faced southeast toward the Chester River, but in the late 19th century the house was renovated and reoriented to the northwest, facing the driveway. A true story-and-a-half frame wing projects from the northeast gable of the main house.

The house was constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century; the wing is either original or an early addition. The house was renovated in the Victorian period, and in the 20th century a two story frame wing was added to the center of the southeast facade.

The principal facade of the main house faces southeast. The two story, 20th century wing now conceals the center portion of this facade. The original front entrance, with later 19th century trim, survives intact and now opens into the first floor of the wing. The entrance (and the later wing) is flanked by single 2/2 windows on both the first and second stories. The 2/2 sash, dating to the late 19th century, replaces earlier sash. The first floor openings measure 3'-0" by 5'-6", suggesting original 12/12 sash. The second floor openings measure 3'-0" by 4'-9", suggesting 12/8 sash. There are large dormer windows in the left and right bays on the roof. These dormers appear to be original; each retains one early 12 light sash. Three light cellar windows are located directly below the first floor window openings. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above an ovolo water table and a three-course common bond foundation. Patches in the wall indicate a one story open porch was removed when the wing was added. The eaves are boxed in, and trimmed with the original crown mold and handsome complex bed mold. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

On the southwest gable wall, there are paired 2/2 windows flanking the flush center chimney on the first and second story and two small four-light windows in the upper gable. A smaller cellar entrance has been cut in to the southeast end of the foundation. The first floor openings measure 2'-4" by 5'-6" and were originally fitted with 9/9 sash. The second floor openings measure 2'-4" by 4'-9" and were fitted with 9/6 sash. The four-light gable windows are original and set in the original pegged wood frames with exterior ovolo backband trim. The first and second story windows are set in late 19th century beaded frames and are fitted with louvered wood shutters with two varieties of late 19th century shutter dogs. The brickwork is laid in three-course common bond above an ovolo water table and three-course common bond foundation. The eaves are trimmed with plain tapered rakeboards.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. K-537

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The house at Grays Inn Creek Farm is a two story Federal period brick dwelling with a true story-and-a-half frame wing. Dating to the last decade of the 18th century or the first decades of the 19th century, this house was partially renovated in the latter part of the 19th century and was enlarged by a two story addition on the south facade in the 20th century. The late 19th century renovation included reorientation of the house from a south-facing plan directed toward the Chester River to a north-facing plan oriented to the land approach. This reorganization apparently included reversing the direction of the interior stair. Examples of this type of plan reversal are found in limited numbers throughout the Tidewater region and offer interesting insights to changes in cultural values in the 19th century.

The 2½ story, three bay form and center passage plan of this house are representative of a house type widely favored by relatively prosperous farmers in the rural Tidewater. The house at Grays Inn Creek Farm is distinguished by the Flemish bond brickwork of the south facade, the ovolo water table on three facades, the finely molded exterior cornices, and evidence of twelve- and eight-light sash found on the facades combined with nine- and six-light sash found on the gable wall. The dormer windows with 8/8 sash are an unusual survival.

The interior of the house has been partially renovated on several occasions and exhibits a variety of woodwork from each period of construction. Original details include the Federal period architrave trim in the west room of the first floor, the upper portion of the original attic stair, two Federal period panel doors on the third floor, and a variety of beaded architrave trim and baseboard throughout the house. The trim and one door in the east room of the first floor is typical of the Greek Revival period, circa 1830-1850s. Much of the rest of the trim dates to the Victorian renovation. This includes a handsome open-string stair, several Eastlake mantel pieces and the majority of the interior and exterior paneled doors. Also of interest from this period is the evidence of painted and grained flooring in the west room of the first floor.

The segregated service quarters above the kitchen in the wing is a common



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Grays Inn Creek Farm  
Kent County, Maryland

<b>For NPS use only</b>
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

1

The northwest facade, facing down the driveway, now serves as the front of the house. This facade is not symmetrical, with the door offset significantly left of center, flanked by one 2/2 window on each side. The 2/2 second story windows repeat this same pattern. The openings are the same size as on the southeast facade and were originally fitted with 12/12 sash on the first floor and 12/8 sash on the second. There are dormer windows in the left and right bays. Both dormers retain 8/8 sash but have Victorian trim. The front door opening is trimmed with a simple Victorian surround and is fitted with double Victorian doors below a two-light transom. There are two cellar windows on this facade, one below each first floor window. The brickwork is laid in three-course common bond above an ovolo watertable and three-course foundation. The original cornice survives, including both crown mold and bed mold.

The lower portion of the northeast gable wall is concealed by the frame wing. The only visible openings on this facade are a pair of four-light windows in the upper gable, set in original pegged frames with ovolo backband trim. The plain tapered rakeboards match the southwest gable. The brickwork is laid in three-course common bond. The watertable is not carried across this gable end, suggesting that the kitchen wing is original or at least was planned from the beginning.

The frame wing is a true story-and-a-half high, three bays wide and one room deep, with a single flush brick chimney on the northeast gable end of the pitched gable roof.

The southeast facade of the wing is set flush with the main house. There is a door framed with sidelights and transom in the left or southwest bay, a second door opening with modern door in the center bay and a paired modern kitchen window in the right bay. Large 6/6 gable roof dormers with Victorian trim are located in the left and right bay on the upper floor. Two cellar windows pierce the high brick foundation. The brickwork is laid in six-course common bond; the walls are sheathed with plain horizontal weatherboards and beaded cornerboards. The eaves are boxed in; the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The only openings in the northeast gable wall of the wing are a pair of four-light windows in the upper gable, flanking the flush brick chimney. A bulkhead cellar entrance at the left end of the foundation is protected by a simple gable roofed shed with a batten door and corrugated metal roof. The foundation and siding match the southeast facade; the rakeboards are plain except for flared ends just above the facade cornice soffits.

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The northwest facade of the wing is approximately flush with the main house. The door is offset to left of center, flanked by a 2/2 window to the right and paired modern kitchen windows to the left. There are two pitched roof dormers with 6/6 sash and Victorian trim on the second story and two cellar windows. The foundation, siding, cornice and roof match the southeast facade.

The interior consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the stair passage. The interior partition between the passage and the east room is of brick construction while the west partition is stud-and-plaster. The stair rises against the west wall of the passage to an intermediate landing to the south. It is an open-string Victorian stair with large turned walnut newel posts, a continuous walnut rail and turned balusters. The carriage piece is beaded and decorated with applied scrollwork stair brackets. There is no closet under the stair; the stair soffit is plastered. The exterior door opening at the north end of the passage is fitted with a pair of two-panel Victorian doors below a two-light transom, framed with plain trim. The south door was originally the principal entrance but now opens into the 20th century wing. Hinge scars remain from a pair of doors that presumably matched the surviving Victorian doors to the north. Plain trim frames the opening and a two-light transom. The door opening to the east room retains beaded architrave trim with an ovolo backband; the west interior door has a simple narrow beaded architrave. The baseboard in the passage consists of a plain unbeaded board.

In the west room, a blocked fireplace is centered on the west gable wall flanked by one window on each side. These windows are fitted with 2/2 sash that replaces original 9/9 sash. The window openings have splayed jambs and are trimmed with Federal architrave trim that consists of a broken-field fascia with a fine beaded edge, an ogee center molding and ovolo backband. The facade windows are similar to the gable windows but were originally fitted with 12/12 sash. A Federal period chair rail survives as the sill piece below all four windows in this room. This chair rail consists of a half-round nosing between fillets above a cove/astragal molding applied to a beaded fascia. The chair rail presumably encircled the room originally but has been removed except where utilized as window sills. The original mantel in this room has been replaced with a Victorian Eastlake mantel; the molded baseboard appears to be original. The door to the stair passage is framed on this side with broken-field architrave trim.

A blocked fireplace is centered on the east gable wall of the east room; a door to the right of the chimney opens into the wing. The trim in this room is relatively plain and appears to date to the Greek Revival period, possibly as late as the 1850's. The flooring in this room has been patched extensively. One section of the floor, to the south of the passage door, is painted and grained. This finish probably dates to the late 19th century and was protected by a large piece of furniture.

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The center passage plan is repeated on the second floor. The north end of the passage is partitioned to form a modern bath, and the attic stair rises in the northwest corner of the passage. The lower portion of this stair is Victorian in detail, but the upper portion appears to be early if not original. The hand planed boards and part of a newel post contrast with the later Victorian materials.

In the west chamber, a blocked fireplace is centered on the west gable wall, flanked by windows. This fireplace is fitted with an Eastlake mantel. The window openings are not splayed and are framed with simple trim. The beaded baseboard trim and flooring appears to be original. A four-panel Victorian door set in a beaded frame opens into the passage.

A blocked fireplace with Eastlake mantel is offset to left of center on the east gable wall of the east chamber. A six-panel door to the right of the chimney opens to a shallow closet with a beaded coat rail; a batten door to the left opens onto a short flight of steps that lead down to the second floor of the wing.

The third floor is also partitioned in a center passage plan, with a pair of small closets at the head of the stair between the flanking chambers. The third story rooms are floored and the walls and ceilings are plastered. There are no fireplaces or hearths on this floor and the rooms were evidently not heated. Early details include six-panel interior doors with Federal panel molds, beaded door frames and plain baseboard.

The first floor of the early frame wing is partitioned to form three rooms: a large kitchen to the east, a passage connecting the kitchen with the main house to the southwest, and a pantry to the northwest. The first floor of the wing is level with the first floor of the main house. A stairway rises from the passage against the east gable wall of the main house to the second story of the wing. A cellar stairway descends under these stairs with access from the pantry. An original tight winder stair is also located in the northeast corner of the kitchen, but the first few steps have been removed and the stair blocked off. This stair presumably led up to segregated service quarters over the kitchen. The first floor of the wing has been renovated.

The second floor of the wing is similar to the first floor with one large room to the east and two small rooms to the west. It is likely that the east room was originally segregated and was not accessible from the west rooms on the second floor. Interesting features visible on the second floor are the exposed corner posts. The trim on this floor is plain rather than molded.

Meat House: To the east of the house is a meat house measuring 10 by 12 feet. This building is of post-and-plank construction, a form of building that seems to have gained considerable favor on the upper Eastern Shore in the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century.

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The building rests on brick piers and is covered with vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. The facade eaves are boxed in; the gable eaves oversail, a later feature probably dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. The pitched gable roof is oriented on a north-south axis; the only opening is a door in the center of the south gable wall. This batten door measures 3'-3" wide and only 4'-10" high. One hinge pintel and an iron latch staple survive on the interior face of the door posts; a hole marks the location of the missing pintel.

The building is constructed of log planks hand sawn from hewn logs and joined into hewn corner posts with mortise-and-tenon joints. A single intermediate post stabilizes three of the walls; two intermediate posts flank the door opening. These intermediate posts are laid against the interior face of the horizontal log planks and are pegged to each plank. The upper end of each intermediate post is beveled and pegged to the top plank. Five joists (including the gable tie beams) support flat false plates and five rafter pairs. The rafter pairs are joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints and are reinforced with collar beams that are half-dovetailed and pegged to the rafters. The building has a plank floor laid on log sleepers.

Building Site: Approximately 100 yards to the northeast of the house is a large grass covered depression that appears to mark a building site of possible archeological significance.

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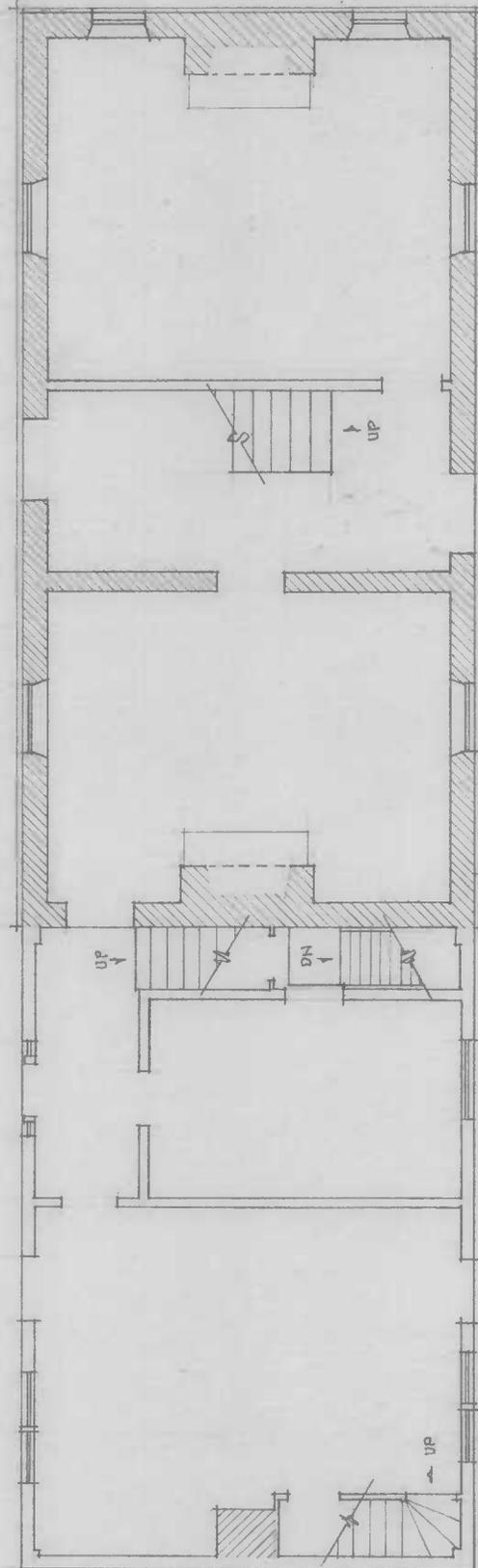
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feature for a house of this size and period in this region and offers physical evidence of how and where servants, farmhands and/or slaves were housed in antebellum Maryland.

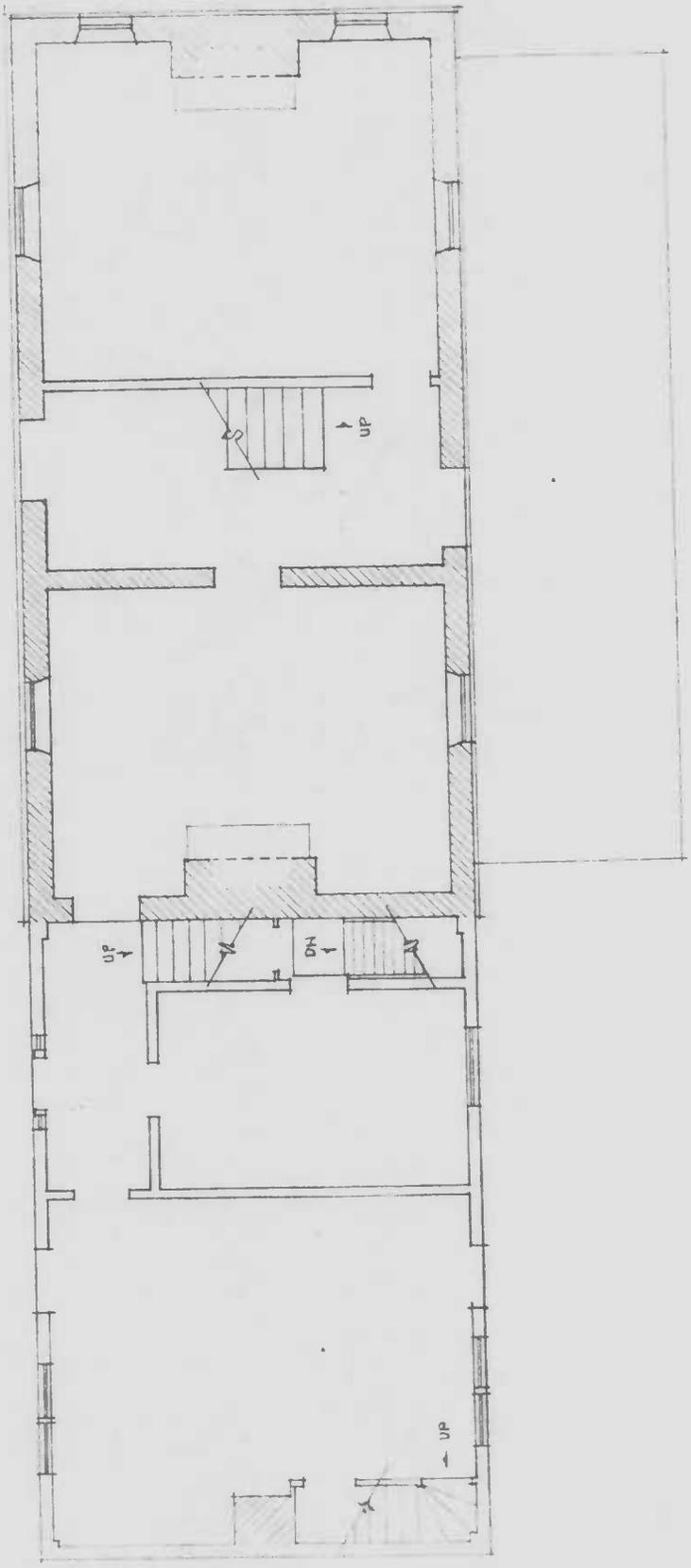
To the east of the house is a small meat house constructed of horizontal log planks mortised into vertical corner posts and reinforced with interior intermediate posts. This construction form was largely unrecorded until recent years, and of the approximately three dozen examples that have been identified, more than half have been found in the Chester River vicinity. Also worthy of interest is the evidence of a building site to the northeast of the house.

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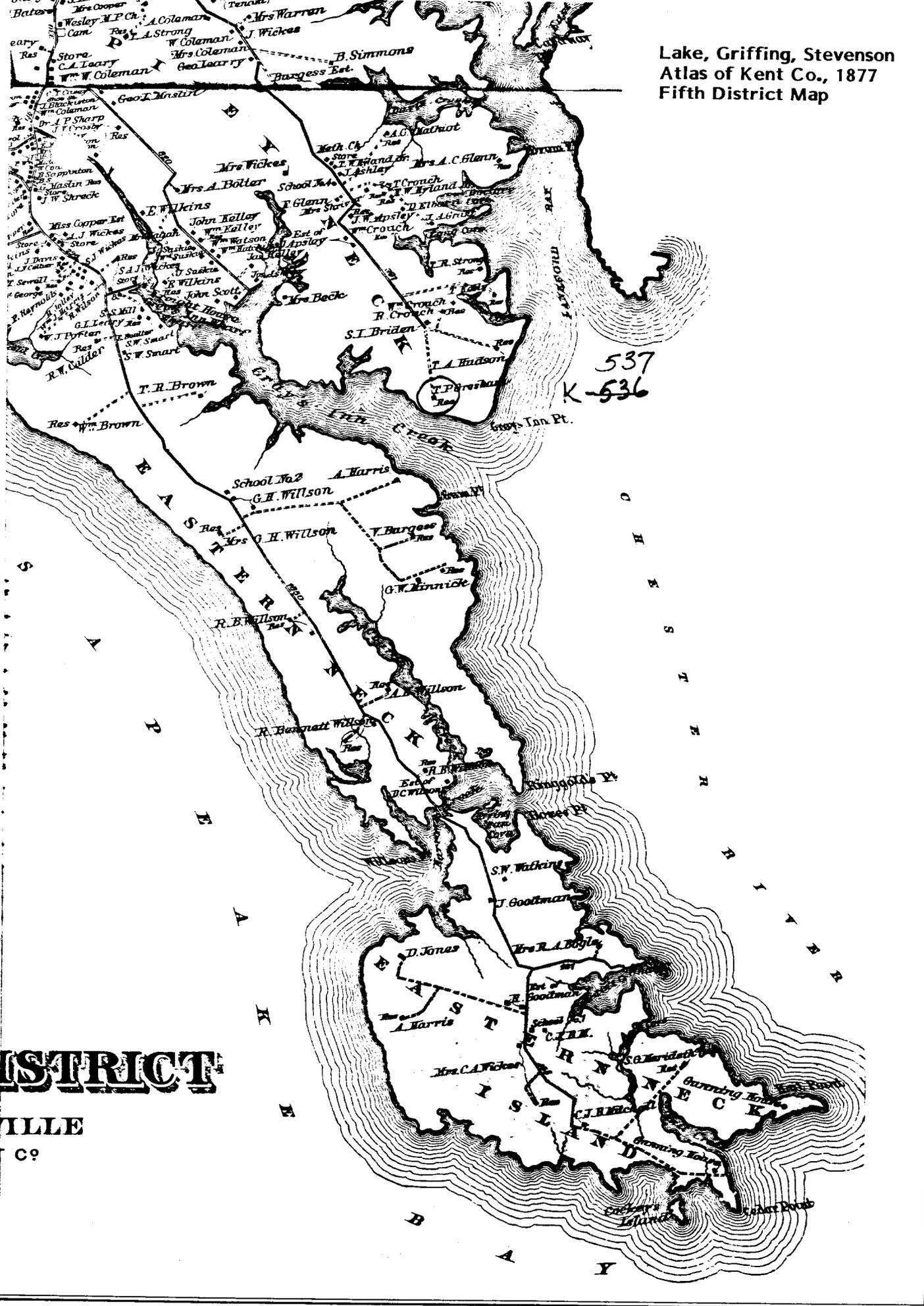


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Corridor Area 90

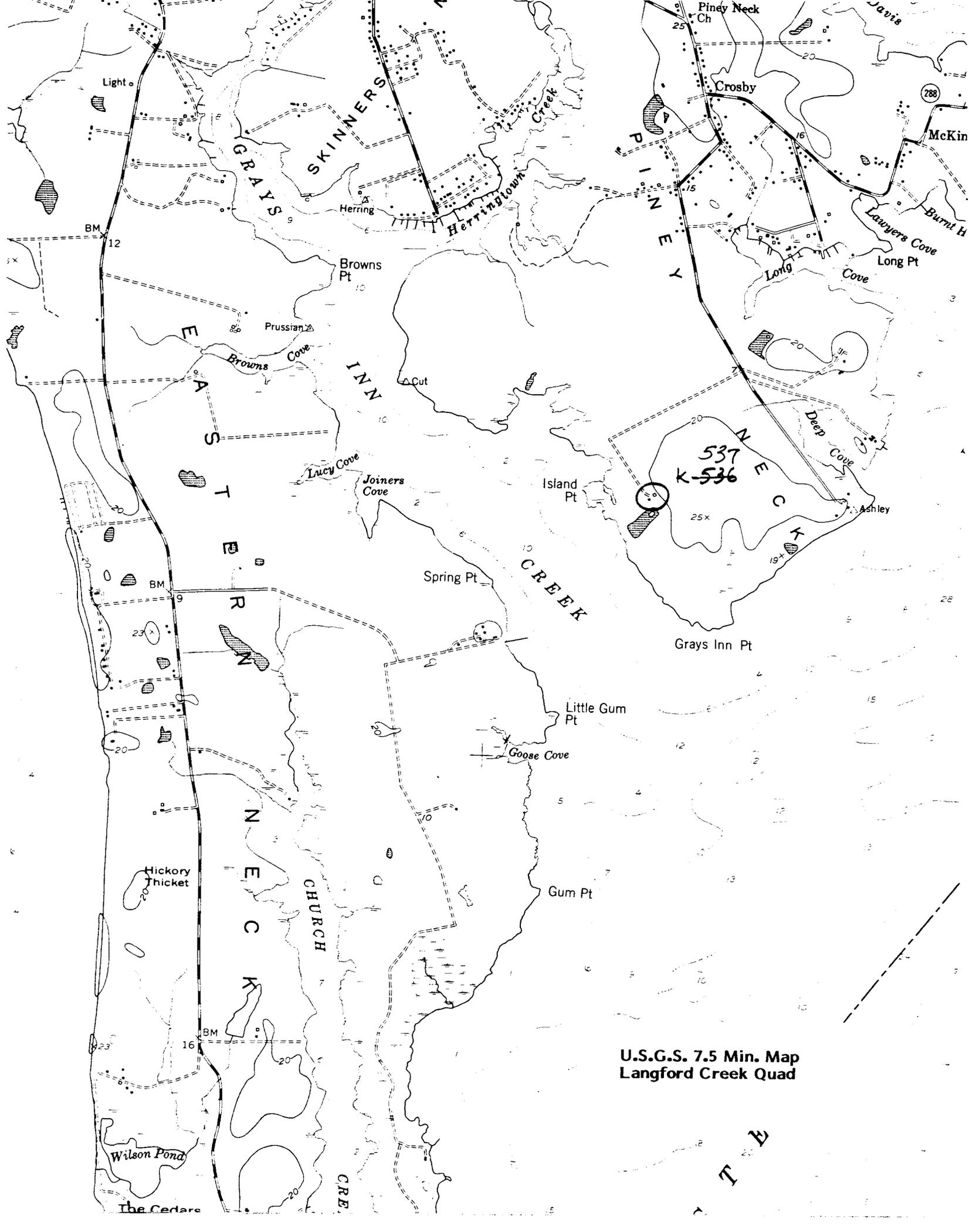


Lake, Griffing, Stevenson  
Atlas of Kent Co., 1877  
Fifth District Map



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DISTRICT  
VILLE  
CO



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



Greys Inn Point Farm - K-537

Nr. Rock Hall

From the South

Michael Bourne

March 1996

$\frac{1}{2}$



Greys Inn Point Farm K-537

West Facade

Michael Bourne

March 1996

2/2



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Rock Hall vicinity

Orlando Ridout V, May 8, 1982

Northwest Facade



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Gray's Inn Creek Farm

Rock Hall vicinity

Orlando Ridout V, May 8, 1982

Northwest Facade, from north



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Gray's Inn Creek Farm

Rock Hall vicinity

Orlando Ridout V, May 8, 1982

Southeast Facade, with wings



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Gray's Inn Creek Farm

Rock Hall vicinity

Orlando Ridout V, May 8, 1982

Frame wing, from southeast



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Gray's Inn Creek Farm

Rock Hall vicinity

Orlando Ridout V, May 8, 1982

Meathouse, Northeast of house