QA-371
Crane-Trenchard House circa 1850
Church Hill
Private

This 2 1/2 story frame dwelling stands on a lot purchased by Dr. Thomas H. Crane in 1848 for $50. Five years later, in 1853, Crane sold the lot "with the improvements thereon" to George A. Trenchard for $1000. There seems little doubt that the present house was built by Crane during that five year period. Though relatively plain in appearance from the exterior, the interior remains largely intact to the mid-19th century. The paneled stair, first and second floor mantels, and much of the interior trim are typical of the Greek Revival period.

QA-371

MAGI #1803715404

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Crane-Trenchard House

AND/OR COMMON
Mardean Miller house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
West side of old Maryland Route 213

CITY, TOWN
Church Hill

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mardean R. Miller II

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
24 Woodlawn Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Annapolis

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 112
Folio #: 251

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN
Centreville

STATE
Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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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

The Crane-Trenchard House is located on the west side of old Maryland Route 213 near the center of Church Hill. It is approximately two blocks north of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and is the first house south of the Helfenbein-Hubbard Funeral Home.

The house is of frame construction on a brick foundation, two-and-one-half stories high, five bays wide, and one room deep. Flush brick chimneys are centered at each end of a pitched gable roof, and a pair of gable roof dormers are symmetrically placed on the east or street facade. An early 20th century one story porch protects the center three bays on the street facade, and a two story frame addition projects from the north end of the rear facade, forming an L-plan house.

The entrance is located in the center bay of the street facade, flanked by a pair of six-over-six windows on each side. Five smaller six-over-six windows are ranged across the second floor. The dormer windows are also six-over-six, and are located in the second and fourth bays.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crane-Trenchard House is relatively plain from the exterior, and closely resembles a house type that proliferated in Tidewater Maryland throughout much of the 19th century. Pilastered dormer windows, a paneled Greek Revival door, and molded exterior surrounds on the doors and windows serve to distinguish this building as one of the earlier and more refined examples of its type.

Inside, two rooms have been partially renovated, but the majority of the interior remains original, probably dating to the 1840's or 1850's. The mantels, stair, and interior woodwork form an excellent ensemble of the styles and variations in use during that period, and have remained in an excellent state of preservation.

Architectural evidence suggests the house was built circa 1850, and documentary research appears to confirm this date. The earliest record of the lot of land on which the house stands occurs in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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
Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE
1/30/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Centreville

STATE
Maryland 21617

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

These have segmental arched upper sash and are embellished with a pedimented gable supported by pilasters and bullseye capital blocks. The window openings on the first and second floor are set off by molded surrounds, and the entrance is set off by a four-light transom, a reeded Greek Revival architrave with corner blocks, and the original Greek Revival paneled door. A box cornice with bold ovolo-astragal crown mold and bed mold is carried across the facade and terminates at each corner.

On the north gable, a single six-over-six window is located to the right (west) of the chimney on both the first and the second floor. There are no openings in the upper gable. A small four-light window in the foundation to the left of the chimney allows light to the cellar, but does not appear to be original. The gable eaves are finished with a tapered rakeboard with a molded edge.

There are no visible openings on the south gable, but a pair of small four-light windows in the upper gable have been covered up and are still visible from inside the attic. Irregularities in the wall surface on the first and second floor suggest that original

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

openings may have been covered up on the lower floors as well. The original molded and tapered rakeboards remain intact.

The two story frame wing covers the north half of the rear facade, leaving six-over-six windows exposed in the south bay on both floors and in the center bay on the second floor. The center window is offset slightly to the south and is lower than the south window to compensate for the interior stair. Both second floor windows are smaller than the first floor window. The original cornice remains where it has not been covered by the wing.

The interior is arranged in a typical center hall plan, with one modification. The door at the rear of the hall and an original door in the rear wall of the north chamber both lead to the rear addition. Although the existing wing is clearly late 19th or 20th century in date, it almost certainly replaced an original kitchen wing in the same location. It is not clear whether the original wing also covered the rear hall door or was smaller, projecting from the rear of the north parlour.

Aside from the changes to the rear wing, the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

interior of the main house has retained considerable original trim and detail. The house was partially renovated in the 1960's, but the south rooms on the first and second floor are the only part of the house that was affected.

On the first floor, the south parlour has been completely renovated and now has modern paneling on the walls and an exposed beam ceiling. The original mantel and all original trim are gone.

The north parlour is virtually intact, aside from a late 19th or 20th century closet added to the right of the fireplace, which has been blocked and fitted with a stove flue. The mantel is original, with reeded pilasters surmounted by geometric blocks and paired brackets that support a plain shelf. The fascia board between the brackets is decorated with flat bands of trim to form a bold geometric pattern. This same pattern is reflected in much of the interior trim, including the rabbeted baseboard and a wide chairrail with banding applied to the fascia board. The architraves in this room consist of a beaded board surround with a more traditional cavetto-ovolo molding applied to the outer edge.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

The stair rises against the south wall of the hall to a landing at the rear. It has an open-string carriage, turned newels, square ballusters, and a plain hand rail. The face of the carriage is decorated with applied bands of flat molding, and a flat strip of trim outlines the treads and risers. The space below the carriage is finished with narrow vertical recessed panels. The door to an original closet below the stairs remains in place, but the closet floor has been removed and an interior cellar stair installed. The baseboard and chairrail in the stair hall are identical to the trim in the north parlour. The door architraves are different, however, consisting of a beaded fascia board with two strips of ogee molding placed facing each other, leaving a flat panel between. A plain, square-section band of trim is set in the center of this panel, dividing it into two vertical recessed strips.

All of the original interior doors and both exterior doors have also survived. The interior doors have tall, paired vertical panels with beveled surfaces held in the frame by a flat Greek Revival panel mold. The front door has six recessed panels on the exterior

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

face with square blocks in the center of each panel, set off by plain strips of trim forming striking geometric patterns. The interior face consists of two flush vertical panels set off by a thin bead. The entire interior face of the door is painted and grained.

The second floor is now a modified center hall plan. Single rooms flank the stair hall, and a small chamber, now used as a bathroom, has been added at the east end of the hall. Although it is not unusual to find this plan variation as an original feature, architectural evidence suggests that this partition was added in the 20th century. The door surround is plain, and the partition cuts across the original baseboard of the hall.

The south chamber on this floor has been partially renovated. The fireplace has been blocked, the mantel removed, and modern closets installed on either side of the chimney. The baseboard, chairrails, and the door and window architraves are all original, however.

In the north chamber, a closet has been inserted to the right of the chimney and the fireplace has

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

been blocked and fitted with a stove flue. Otherwise the room remains intact. The mantel is a wide board surround, with applied Greek moldings and a plain shelf supported by a heavy 3/4 bead molding. The fascia board has scrolled ends and a beaded edge. The baseboard is also beaded, while the chairrail is composed of a plain shelf supported by a beaded fascia board. The architraves are identical to those found in the north parlour on the first floor, and the interior doors also match the interior doors downstairs.

The stair continues up to the attic, but has been enclosed to conserve heat. The railing and ballusters have survived, however, and are unpainted where they enclose the stair opening in the attic. The newel that remains in the attic is different from those found on the lower floors. It is hexagonal in section and tapers. It has never been painted, and a number of the scribe lines used to lay it out are still visible.

The attic was probably never used as living space. Wide floor boards are nailed in place, but the walls and ceilings have never been plastered and

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

the rafters and roof boards are not whitewashed.

The roof is of common rafter construction, with 3 x 4 machine sawn rafters secured at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The rafter pairs rest on a flat false plate supported by the floor joists, and are not reinforced with collar beams. The front dormers are original, but there is no evidence to suggest there were ever dormers on the rear of the house.

One detail of possible importance is the name "N. E. Townsend" inscribed with white chalk in the attic, on the north sidewall of the south dormer. The age or significance of this inscription is not known.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1848, when Dr. Thomas H. Crane bought the one-half acre lot from his father, Dr. Jonathon Crane, for $50.(1) The deed describes the lot as being two roods or one-half acre of land, and makes no mention of improvements. Five years later, in 1853, Thomas Crane sold the half acre lot, "with the improvements thereon", to George A. Trenchard for $1000.(2) There seems little doubt that the house was built by Thomas Crane between 1848 and 1853, as suggested by the dramatic change in the price of the property.

The house remained in the possession of various members and descendents of the Trenchard family until 1905, when it was mortgaged to S. Earle Feddeman.(3) In 1912, Feddeman assigned the mortgage to Matilda G. Price, and in 1914 the executor of Matilda Price's estate sold the property to James W. Johns for $635.(4)

In 1925, Johns sold the land and house to Maurice E. Smith and Nellie M. Smith, his wife.(5) In 1976, Nellie M. Smith and M. Rogers Smith sold the property to Mardean Miller II, the present owner.(6)

Footnotes

(1) Deeds, JT 5, folio 410. Jan. 31, 1848.

A search of all acquisitions by members of the Crane family before 1848 was unsuccessful in determining how Jonathon Crane acquired the property. The family did own several farms adjoining the town, and it seems likely that the lot was part of one of the farms.

(2) Deeds, JP 2, folio 384. October 5, 1853.

(3) Refer to the following deeds:

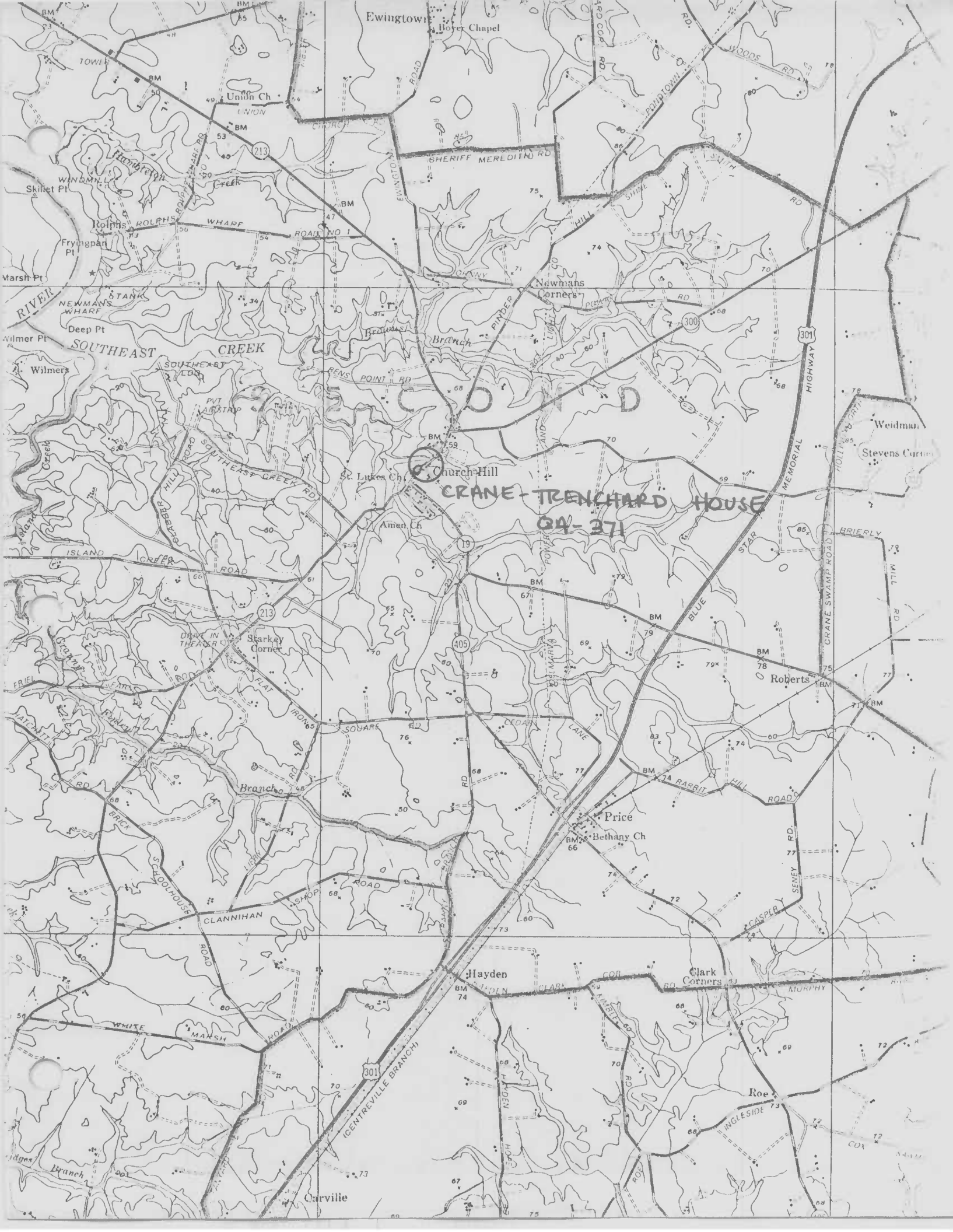
JW 11, folio 439. September 27, 1880.
JEG 2, folio 361. August 17, 1901.
JEG 7, folio 549. June 12, 1905.
JEG 8, folio 458. November 24, 1905.

(4) Deeds, WFW 5, folio 514. August 12, 1914.

(5) Deeds, BHT 3, folio 37. January 7, 1925.

(6) Refer to the following deeds:

ASG Jr. 19, folio 379-380 April 21, 1948.
CWC 7, folio 225-227 March 30, 1964.
CWC 112, folio 251 November 30, 1976.


CRANE-TRENCHARD HOUSE
QA-371
Ewingtown
Boyer Chapel
Union Ch
Rolphs
Skillet Pt
Fryingpan Pt
Marsh Pt
Newmans Corners
Deep Pt
Wilmer Pt
Wilmers
SOUTHEAST CREEK
Church Hill
St. Lukes Ch
Amen Ch
Starkey Corner
Roberts
Price
Bethany Ch
Hayden
Clark Corners
Roe
Carville
Weidman
Stevens Corner
SHERIFF MEREDITH RD
ROLPHS WHARF ROAD NO 1
NEWMANS WHARF
SOUTHEAST CREEK RD
ISLAND CREEK ROAD
BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
CRANE SWAMP ROAD
RABBIT HILL ROAD
CLANNIHAN SHOP ROAD
SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD
WHITE MARSH ROAD
(CENTREVILLE BRANCH)
INGLESIDE
MURPHY
SENEY RD
CASPER
BRIERLY
MILL RD
WOODS RD
PONDTOWN
SMITH RD
PINDER
BENS POINT RD
SQUARE RD
CEDAR LANE
FLAT IRON
BRICK
HATCHETT
FRIEL
Branch
Island Creek
Hambleton Creek
Browns Branch
213
19
405
300
301

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Church Hill, Md.

OR V 1978