

WI-296
Betsey's Gift
Bivalve vicinity
Private

c. 1850, c. 1860-70

The six-part stepped frame house that stands on land known as "Betsey's Gift" dates from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. The oldest portions comprise the story-and-a-half center section and the single story one-room plan kitchen which share a brick chimney stack. The surviving original woodwork suggests that the center section and kitchen wing were erected around 1850. Attached to the west gable end of the center section is a two-story, side hall/parlor section added around 1860-70, and it retains a turned baluster staircase and a plain Greek Revival parlor mantel.

The portion of "Betsey's Gift" where this house is located was held by the Rencher family during the third quarter of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Alpheus Rencher purchased 71 3/4 acres of the tract in February 1875 for \$3,000, and he remained at this location until his death. He is designated at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, and he is listed in the atlas patron list as a farmer owning 88 acres. The property remained in family hands until Arthur M. and Helen H. Rencher sold the old house to Lawrence and Clara Mae Cartwright.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-296

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Betsey's Gift, Alpheus Rencher House

and/or common Rencher Farm

2. Location

street & number 20760 Cove Road not for publication

city, town Bivalve vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

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

name Fredericka Danielus/Mari Una Morrison

street & number 20760 Cove Road telephone no.:

city, town Bivalve state and zip code MD 21814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 29
liber 1179

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 720

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <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.

The two-story, six-part, frame house that stands on land known as "Betsey's Gift" has the modern address of 20760 Cove Road, located in the vicinity of Windsor Cove, south of Bivalve, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces south the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in stages, the six-part, stepped frame dwelling is supported by a low masonry foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The hip roof that covers the main block and the other gable roofs of the house are sheathed with asphalt shingles. The two-story main block follows a side hall/parlor plan and it dates around 1860-70, whereas the story-and-a-half center section and single story east end kitchen have one-room plans and appear to date around 1850. Attached to the back wall of the center section is a two-story, one-room plan rear wing. Extending from the rear of the kitchen wing is a single story hyphen (garage infill) that joins a former summer kitchen to the modern kitchen. The house has been generally remodeled over the course of the past twenty years.

The south facade of the main block is a three-bay elevation with a side entrance flanked by a pair of modern replacement windows. The four-panel front door is framed by a multi-pane transom and three-light sidelights, and the entrance bay is sheltered by a gable roofed portico. The second floor is lighted by three replacement windows.

The west side of the main block has a centrally positioned replacement brick chimney stack flanked by single-pane sash windows.

Defining the rear wall are replacement windows as well. The eastern first floor bay was formerly a rear doorway to the side hall.

The east wall of the main block is largely covered by the story-and-a-half, one-room plan center section. Sheltered by a shed roof porch on the south side, the front wall is pierced by a large slider door. The south slope of the roof is marked by a single gable roofed dormer. A chimney stack rises against the east gable end within the single-story kitchen. The chimney was built with two flues, one to serve the first floor center section and a second for the kitchen. The shared nature of the chimney stack indicates that the center section and kitchen were built in one period in the manner of many stepped or "telescope" houses.

The interior retains some of its nineteenth century finishes. Surviving in the main block is a c. 1860 turned baluster staircase anchored by a boldly turned newel post. Fixed against the west end wall is a plain Greek Revival mantel with undecorated pilasters rising to a plain frieze which is topped by a thick board shelf. A second quarter of the nineteenth century mantel survives in the center section. A square edge surround frames the firebox. Two plain frieze blocks are fixed atop the surround. The interior of the kitchen has a corner winder staircase with a beaded board-and-batten door.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-296

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

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.

The six-part stepped frame house that stands on land known as "Betsey's Gift" dates from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. The oldest portions comprise the story-and-a-half center section and the single story one-room plan kitchen which share a brick chimney stack. The surviving original woodwork suggests that the center section and kitchen wing were erected around 1850. Attached to the west gable end of the center section is a two-story, side hall/parlor section added around 1860-70, and it retains a turned baluster staircase and a plain Greek Revival parlor mantel.

While the house displays an interesting architectural form common to the nineteenth century, the exterior and interior surfaces have been largely remodeled over the years. As a result, this house is listed in *Category C*, which signifies that further alterations should be considered carefully.

The portion of "Betsey's Gift" where this house is located was held by the Rencher family during the third quarter of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Alpheus Rencher purchased 71 3/4 acres of the tract in February 1875 for \$3,000, and he remained at this location until his death.(1) He is designated at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, and he is listed in the atlas patron list as a farmer owning 88 acres.(2) The property remained in family hands until Arthur M. and Helen H. Rencher sold the old house to Lawrence and Clara Mae Cartwright.(3)

1 Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 1/333, 2/20/1875, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Graham, John L. ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, 1976, p. 50.

3 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 322/532, 10/20/1950, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-296
Betsey's Gift
Alpheus Rencher House
Windsor Cove
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 29

1179/720

Walter D. Webster, Assignee

to

5/9/1989

Fredericka Danielus
Mariuna Morrison

.75 acres "Property of Arthur M. Rencher" Survey
filed JWTS 322/520

AS 1052/362

Raymond L. Poore, Attorney for Grace V. Poore

to

11/25/1985

Ricky W. Beach
Gwendolyn L Beach

JWTS 616/247

Lawrence E. Cartwright, et al.

to

7/30/1965

Roland L. Poore
Grace V. Poore

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Alpheus Rencher House
Windsor Cove
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 322/532

Arthur M. Rencher
Helen H. Rencher

to

10/20/1950

Lawrence E. Cartwright
Clara Mae Cartwright

Being in all respects part of hte same land conveyed unto Alpheus Rencher from Francis H. Evans, 2/20/1875, SPT 1/333, the title to the said property having been passed unto the heirs of the said Alpheus Rencher upon his death, intestate, the said Arthur M. Rencher having acquired a fee simple interest in said property by deed from Carrie E. Dashiell and Charles T. Dashiell, the other heirs of the said Alpheus Rencher, deceased, 6/4/1929, IDT 158/439

SPT 1/333

Francis H. Evans
Clementine Evans

to

2/20/1875

Alpheus Rencher

\$3,000 "Betsey's Gift" 71/ 3/4 acres

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Betsey's Gift
Alpheus Rencher House
Windsor Cove
Chain of title continued

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SPT 1/335

Julia H. Roberts
John R. Roberts

to

2/3/1875

Francis H. Evans

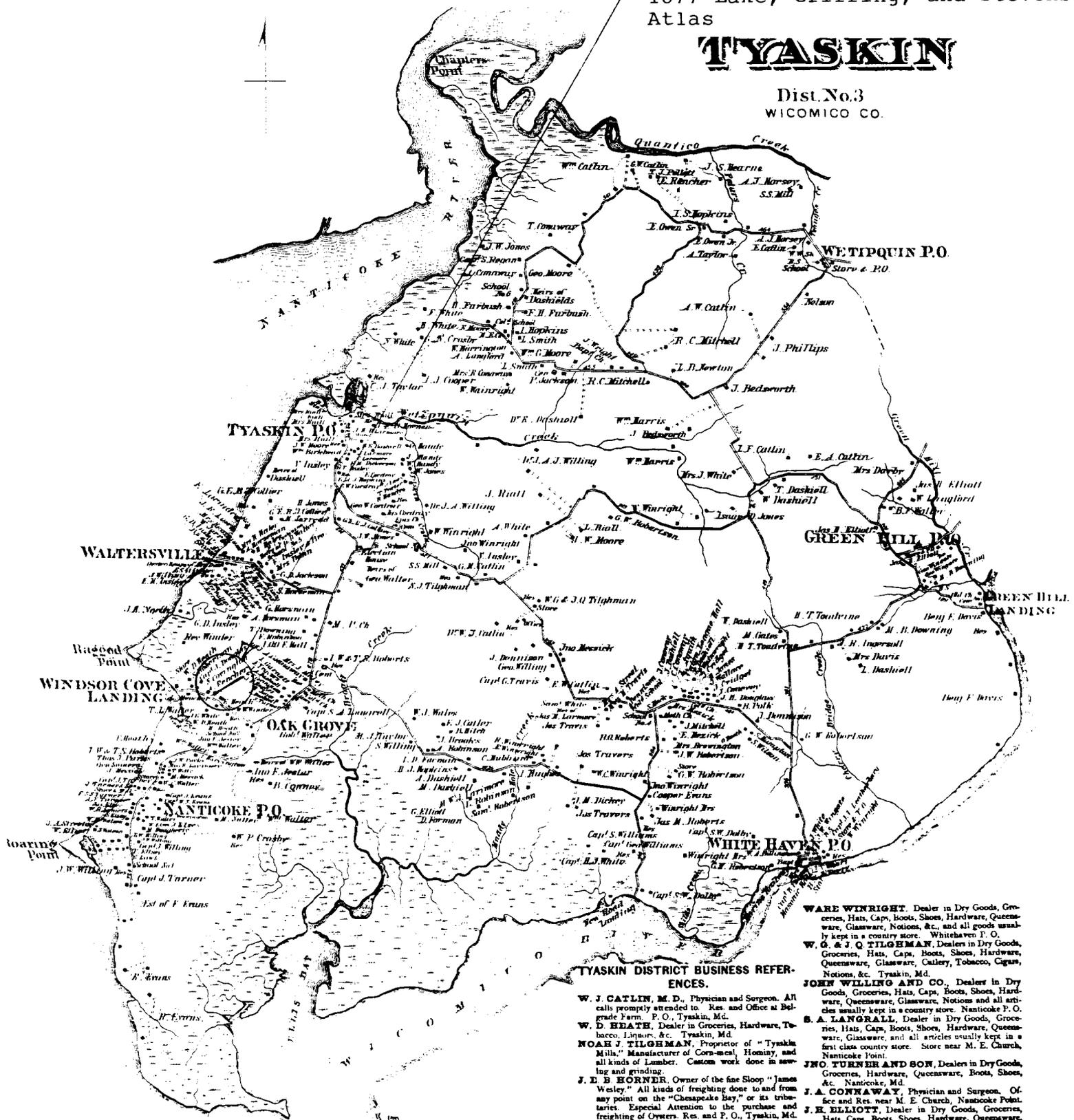
\$3,000 "Betsey's Gift" 70 3/4 acres

WI-296
 Betsey's Gift
 Alpheus Rencher House

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
 Atlas

TYASKIN

Dist. No. 3
 WICOMICO CO.



WARE WINRIGHT. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c., and all goods usually kept in a country store. Whitehaven P. O.

W. G. & J. Q. TILGHMAN. Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Cattery, Tobacco, Cigars, Notions, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

TYASKIN DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

W. J. CATLIN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. All calls promptly attended to. Res. and Office at Belgrade Farm, P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

W. D. HEATH, Dealer in Groceries, Hardware, Tobacco, Liquor, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

NOAH J. TILGHMAN, Proprietor of "Tyaskin Mills," Manufacturer of Corn-meal, Hominy, and all kinds of Lumber. Custom work done in sawing and grinding.

J. E. HORNBER, Owner of the fine Sloop "James Wesley." All kinds of freighting done to and from any point on the "Chesapeake Bay," or its tributaries. Especial Attention to the purchase and freighting of Owners. Res. and P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

J. W. WINGATE, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Confectionery, Wines, Whiskies, Brandy and Rum, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store, at Whitehaven.

JOHN WILLIAMS AND CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all articles usually kept in a country store. Nanticoke P. O.

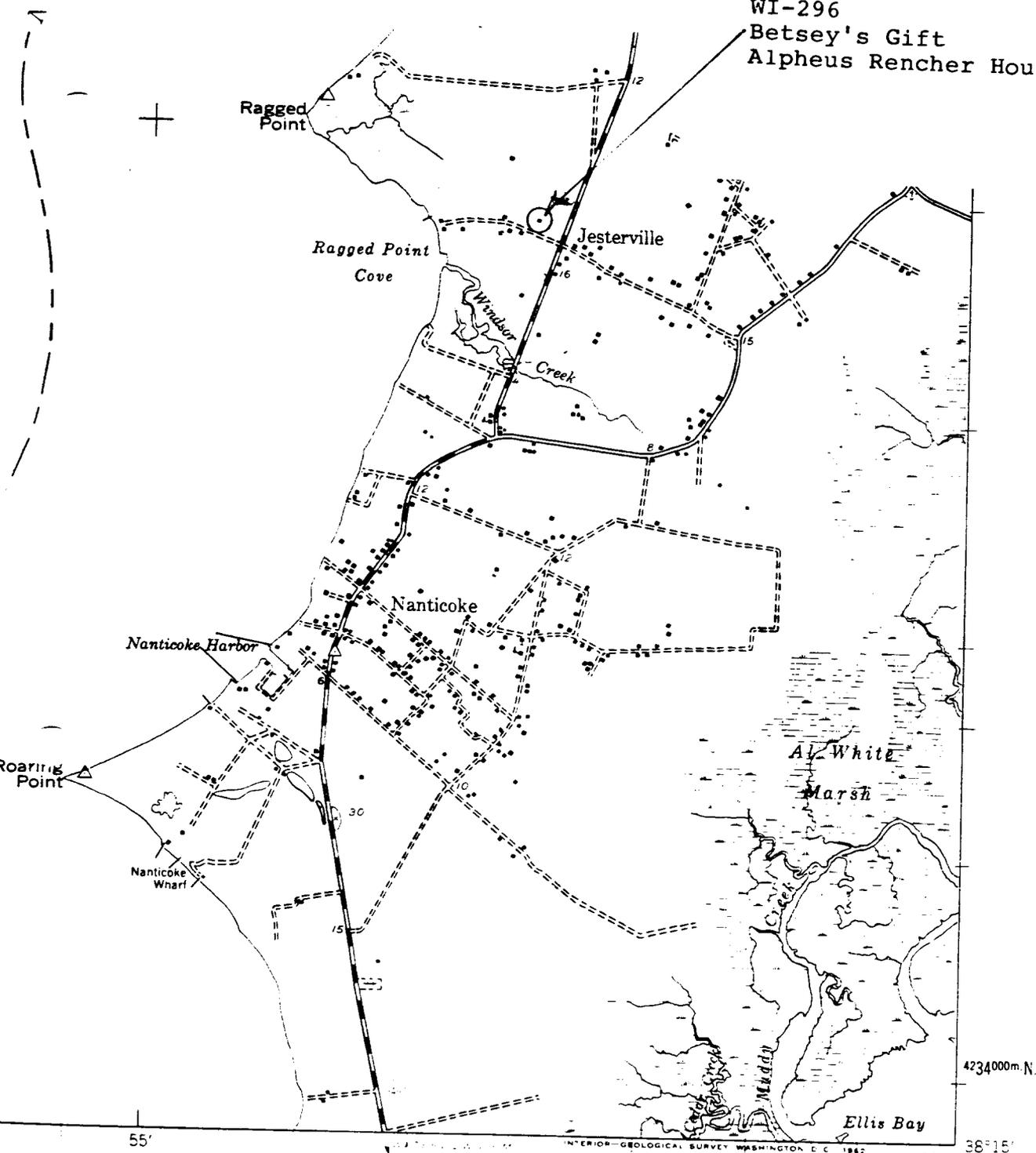
B. A. LANGRALL, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. Store near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

JNO. TURNER AND SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes, &c. Nanticoke, Md.

J. A. CONWAY, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res. near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

J. H. ELLIOTT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Extracts, Patent Medicines, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a first class country store. Store at Green Hill.

WI-296
Betsey's Gift
Alpheus Rencher House



55'

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 1962
MA 2331

4234000m. N.

38°15'

423000m. E.

75°52'30"

1 MILE

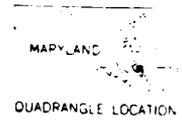
100 FEET
100 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———

Unimproved dirt - - - - -

State Route ———



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NANTICOKE, MD.
SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942





