Capsule Summary
SM-820
Tenant House on Newtowne Neck
Compton vicinity
Private circa 1900

Owned by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests since the seventeenth century, the 776 acre Newtowne Neck Peninsula served as an important source of income for this denomination. Continuously farmed since that period, the peninsula is marked by its relatively undeveloped flat topography consisting of flat cultivated fields of soybean and grain. Just prior to the Civil War most of the Jesuit farms in St. Mary's County relinquished the institution of slave labor in favor of tenant farming and sharecropping. The circa 1900 farmhouse located near the middle of the peninsula overlooking St. Clements Bay is one of last early twentieth century tenant houses remaining on the property. Although dilapidated, the house is nonetheless an important reminder of how the labor arrangements of Jesuit farms had changed by the early twentieth century. No further documentation is recommended.

# Maryland Historical Trust
# Maryland Inventory of
# Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-820

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

| | |
|---|---|
| historic | |
| other | Tenant House on Newtowne Neck |

## 2. Location

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| street and number | W side of Newtowne Neck Rd. approx. 2 miles S of its int. w/Bay Side Rd. | __ | not for publication |
| city, town | Compton | x | vicinity |
| county | St. Mary's | | |

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| name | Roman Catholic Clergy c/o Joseph M. Nilon | | | | |
| street and number | 5704 Roland Avenue | | | telephone | N/a |
| city, town | Baltimore | state | Md | zip code | 21210 |

## 4. Location of Legal Description

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. | St. Mary's County Courthouse | tax map and parcel | TM-47, P-1 |
| city, town | Leonardtown | liber EBA 12, JMM 6 | folio 253, 178 |

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

## 6. Classification

**Category**
_____district
__x__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

**Ownership**
_____public
__x__private
_____both

**Current Function**
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
__x__domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
__x__vacant/not in use
_____other:

**Resource Count**

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | _____ | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| 1 | _____ | Total |

**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**
0

# 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-820

**Condition**

___ excellent  x__ deteriorated
___ good  ___ ruins
___ fair  ___ altered

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

The Tenant House on Newtowne Neck is situated approximately 2 miles south of the intersection of Newtown Neck Road and Bay Side Road near the rural crossroads community of Compton, Maryland. The dwelling is oriented on a southeast/northwest axis and is approached via a dirt drive that extends to the northwest of Newtowne Neck Road. Constructed on an expansive 776.04 acre peninsula owned by the Jesuit Order, only about 10 acres around the house were surveyed. Much of the house's topographically flat surroundings is composed of cultivated fields. The peninsula is nearly encircled by Breton Bay, St. Clements Bay as well as the Potomac River. The north part of the property is bounded by residential lots.

The Tenant House itself is a dilapidated, circa 1900, two story, two bay, frame dwelling with one story wings to the north and south sides. The exterior appears to be covered with plywood and the roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. A single brick chimney flue protrudes from the roof of the main block.

The primary or southeast elevation is largely obscured by a screened-in porch that encloses portions of the south wing and main block. The second floor of the main block, however, is pierced by two windows which have been busted out. The north wing is lit by a single six-over-six, double-hung sash window.

No other elevations were investigated.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-820

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __ 1600-1699 | x agriculture | __ economics | __ health/medicine | __ performing arts |
| __ 1700-1799 | __ archeology | __ education | __ industry | __ philosophy |
| 1800-1899 | x architecture | __ engineering | __ invention | __ politics/government |
| x 1900-1999 | __ art | __ entertainment/ recreation | __ landscape architecture | __ religion |
| __ 2000- | __ commerce | __ ethnic heritage | __ law | __ science |
| | __ communications | __ exploration/ settlement | __ literature | __ social history |
| | __ community planning | | __ maritime history | __ transportation |
| | __ conservation | | __ military | __ other: |

**Specific dates** **Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Owned by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests since the seventeenth century, the 776 acre Newtowne Neck Peninsula served as an important source of income for this denomination. Continuously farmed since that period, the peninsula is marked by its relatively undeveloped flat topography consisting of flat cultivated fields of soybean and grain. Just prior to the Civil War most of the Jesuit farms in St. Mary's County relinquished the institution of slave labor in favor of tenant farming and sharecropping. The circa 1900 farmhouse located near the middle of the peninsula overlooking St. Clements Bay is one of last early twentieth century tenant houses remaining on the property. Although dilapidated, the house is nonetheless an important reminder of how the labor arrangements of Jesuit farms had changed by the early twentieth century. No further documentation is recommended.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-820

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

## 10. Geographical Data

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acreage of surveyed property | 10 acres | | |
| Acreage of historical setting | 776.04 acres | | |
| Quadrangle name | St. Clements Island | Quadrangle scale: | 1:24 000 |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The property is nearly encircled by Breton Bay, St. Clements Bay as well as the Potomac River. The north portion of the tract is bounded by residential lots. A more specific description of the property's boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EBA 12 and JMM 6 & Folio 253 and178.

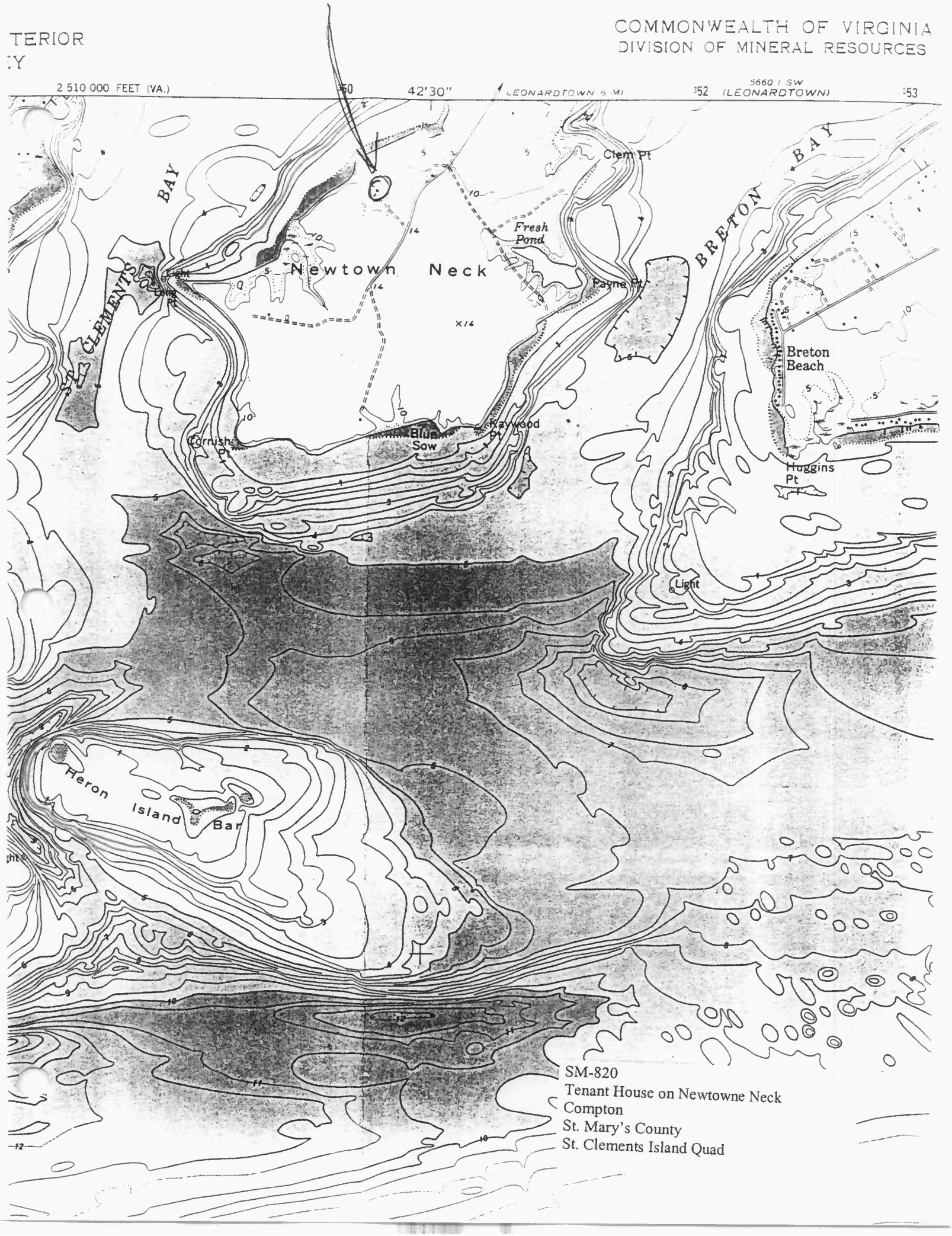
## 11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| name/title | Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor | | |
| organization | St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning | date | August, 2000 |
| street & number | 22740 Washington Street | telephone | 301-475-4662 |
| city or town | Leonardtown | state | Maryland |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600




SM-820
Tenant House on Newtowne Neck
Compton
St. Mary's County
St. Clements Island Quad

SM-820
Tenant House on Newtowne Neck

St Mary
Rich Ranzetti
[illegible]
Md SHPO
Looking NW
[illegible]