Capsule Summary
SM-890
Buck Briscoe House
Compton vicinity
Private circa 1920

According to local oral history, the Buck Briscoe House originally served as a carriage house when it was initially constructed circa 1920. Sometime after it was built, the older house on the property was demolished, and the carriage house was converted into a dwelling. The odd massing and fenestration patterns of the building represent some suggestion as to the building's original purpose. The building is currently vacant and threatened by neglect. Further research, especially oral history, is critical to understanding how the building originally functioned and how it was later changed.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-890

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	
other	Buck Briscoe House

2. Location

street and number	39480 Buck Briscoe Road	__	not for publication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	Daniel S. Fitzgerald				
street and number	1409 Crockett Lane			telephone	N/a
city, town	Silver Spring	state	Md	zip code	20904-5479

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-39, P-58	
city, town	Leonardtown	liber	EWA 1060	folio 239

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
__x__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-890

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 Buck Briscoe House is located near the western terminus of Buck Briscoe Road near the rural community of Compton, Maryland. Oriented on a south/north axis, the building lies on a small 1.64 acre parcel but is situated in the middle of an expansive farm consisting of cultivated fields of corn and soybean. Unfortunately, the house is not oriented so as to fully take advantage of the expansive views of St. Clements Bay. Much of the property is topographically flat. The property is bounded to the north, east, and south by a large farm and to the west by St. Clements Bay.

The Buck Briscoe House is a circa 1920, two story, seven bay, frame dwelling with a gable roof and two wings located on opposite sides. The exterior is sheathed with artificial siding and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Two exterior end brick chimneys are present as is an exterior end flue which is located on the rear or north side of the building. The odd massing of the overall building in addition to oral tradition suggests that the building formerly served as a carriage barn for an earlier house that has since been demolished.

The first floor fenestration of the primary or south elevation consists of recessed entry largely hidden behind a screened-in porch. The porch is supported by four square columns interspersed by a balustrade. Protrusions on either side of the porch are each pierced by a two-over-two, double-hung sash window. On either side of the main block's gable ends are small one story wings. The west wing is pierced by a door, while the east wing is pierced by a window. The second floor of the recessed portion of the main block is pierced by a set of two two-over-two windows. Each of the protrusions, meanwhile, are pierced by a two-over-two window.

The west gable end of the wing features a set of paired two-over-two windows. The gable end of the main block's fenestration consists of a two-over-two window on the first floor, two two-over-two windows on the second floor, and a two-over-two window on the attic story.

The rear or north part of the house was only partially visible at the time of the site visit, but a rear shed addition is clearly visible.

No other elevations of the house were investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-890

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.)

According to local oral history, the Buck Briscoe House originally served as a carriage house when it was initially constructed circa 1920. Sometime after it was built, the older house on the property was demolished, and the carriage house was converted into a dwelling. The odd massing and fenestration patterns of the building represent some suggestion as to the building's original purpose. The building is currently vacant and threatened by neglect. Further research, especially oral history, is critical to understanding how the building originally functioned and how it was later changed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-890

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1.64 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	same		
Quadrangle name	Leonardtown	Quadrangle scale:	1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the north, east, and south by a large farm and to the west by St. Clements Bay. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 1060, Folio 239.

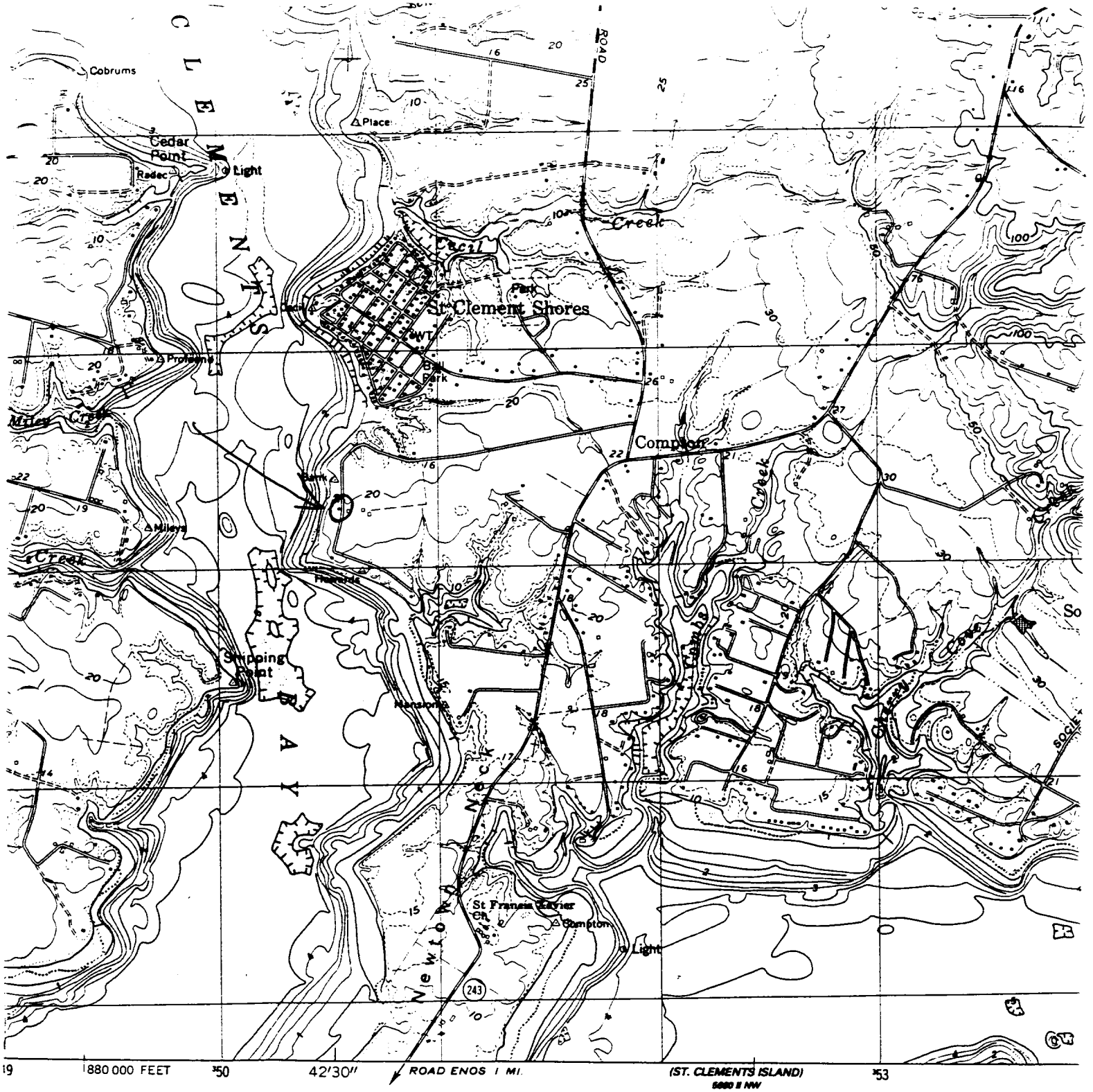
11. Form Prepared by

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



NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX

SCALE 1:24 000

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DASHED LINES REF
NATIONAL GEODETIC
BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTE
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THE RELATIONSHIP BETW
THE MEAN RANGE OF TI

SM-890
Buck Briscoe House
Compton
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad

H-8551

SM-890
Buck Briscoe House
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Sept/00
Md SHPO
Looking N
1 of 2

SM-890
Buck Briscoe House
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
Sept/00
Md SHPO
Looking SE
2 of 2