

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kirk, Elisha, House (PREFERRED)

and/or common Emery House

2. Location

street & number Old Post Road, east side, 1/2 mile SW of
intersection of MD. Rt. 272 and MD. Rt. 273. N/A not for publication

city, town Calvert vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Cecil code 015

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Charles Emery (Sharyne)

street & number 1212 Calvert Road

city, town North East vicinity of state Maryland 21901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Elkton state Maryland 21921

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

CE-84

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Located near the northeast corner of the intersection of Calvert and Church Roads, in Cecil County, Maryland, this two-story, federal-style brick house faces north and is five bays long and two deep with a new stone wing. It has a gable roof with a molded cornice and brick chimneys at both ends, an interior one on the west end and a new exterior one on the east end. The west end of the house is brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers. The north side and east ends are stuccoed and the south side is covered by the stone additions. The fenestration is different on all sides.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The front or north facade has a central door with a one-story, shed-roofed portico with four Doric columns across the front and latticework on the sides. This portico has a flat roof. The eight-panel front door has a transom with semi-circular muntins, reeded trim with roundels in the corner blocks, and a granite sill. The first story windows have 12/12 sash and three-panel shutters; the second story windows have 9/6 sash. All windows on this facade have reeded trim.

The west end has random glazed bricks and a belt course of alternating plain and glazed bricks. There are two 3/3 sash windows in the gable flanking the chimney and a 9/9 sash window with beaded trim in the south bay of the first and second stories. In the north bay below ground level basement is a window.

The east end has two windows in the gable flanking the chimney and two 9/9 sash windows on each floor.

The first floor plan now consists of a stair hall in the center north with an east room the full depth of the house, a west room the same depth as the stairhall; and a south room behind the stair hall and west room. Walls once divided both the east and south rooms in half, suggesting that the original plan either had three rooms on the south side of the house (as on the second floor) or a central hall with two rooms on either side. There are fireplaces in all rooms on this floor. Each with a different mantelpiece. The door and window trim, chairrail, and baseboard also vary from room to room.

In the entrance hall, the stair rises in a single flight against the east wall. Doors to the adjacent rooms open into the hall and a basement entrance is under the stairs. The door to the west room has molded trim and corner blocks with roundels, while the other doors have reeded trim with the same corner blocks; the front door also has a reeded jamb. The baseboard and chairrail with horizontal reeding continue up the stairs and around the second floor hall. The open-string stair has square balusters with a rounded railing and a tapered newel. At the top of the stairs, the railing curves down to the newel in an Empire-style flourish. The steps are outlined with triple-bead molding; a double-bead molding follows the incline with a flat section and astragal paralleling it.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #].

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 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 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 Early 19th century **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Elisha Kirk House is derived from its architecture. With its heavy missing, original center-hall-four-over-four room plan, and fully articulated Federal influenced decorative detailing, the Elisha Kirk House exemplified the type of rural domestic architecture that was built in the northeastern section of Maryland, particularly Cecil County, in the early decades of the 19th century. Among the important design features are the five bay symmetrical facade (north elevation), symetrically mouled interior trim, the interplay of shapes in the decoration (ovals against rectangles as seen particularly in the first floor north room mantel piece), and extensive use of reeding as a decorative element in the woodwork. A particularly interesting feature is the reeded window frames on the facade.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

No definitive records establish a construction date for the Elisha Kirk House. The house is situated on lot #30 of the Nottingham Lots. Construction and architectural details suggest the 1800 to 1820 period. Family tradition is that the house was constructed in 1813. The present owner's research supports a date between 1811 and 1816. The house is named for an early, if not the original, owner, Elisha Kirk.

Lot #30 of the Nottingham Lots contains the 40 acres granted by William Penn to the Society of Friends for the maintenance and support of the East Nottingham Friends Meeting. The remainder of the 500 lot was held in speculation by the Penn family until later in the 18th century. By 1763 Elisha Hughes owned the southern 322 acres. His father, Thomas, died in 1745 and had owned the same parcel, calling it "Hughes Endeavor." (Churchman Survey-Chester County Historical Society).

Elisha Hughes died, intestate, in 1771, and "Hughes Endeavor" passed to his daughter, Rachel, the wife of Roger Kirk. (Roger Kirk established himself as a captain in the Revolutionary War). In 1809 Roger Kirk died, and Rachel deeded "Hughes Endeavor" to his heirs, her children. About 1811 Elisha Kirk (Rachel's eldest son; born 1775, died 1832) bought out the other heirs of his father's estate. (JS 5/305).

Stubb's Kirk Family History says "Elisha Kirk resided at the Brick Meeting House and was extensively known as a merchant. (Brick Meeting House is the traditional name for the village today called Calvert). Elisha died suddently in 1823, intestate. His wife, Hannah, had died in 1816. These dates are the basis for the belief that the 1811 to 1816 period is most likely the construction of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

CE-84

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.568 acre

Quadrangle name Bay View Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 8	4 1 5 6 0 0	4 3 9 4 5 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
---	--	--	--

E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property being nominated are delineated on the enclosed map labeled National Register Boundaries.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart

organization Cecil County Courthouse, Room 1 date April, 1981

street & number Main Street telephone (301) 398-0200

city or town Elkton state Maryland 21921

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] date 6/3/85

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 7/21/82

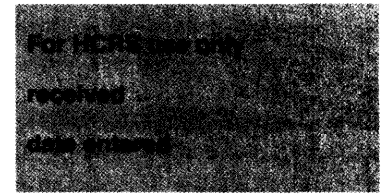
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Elisha Kirk House, Cecil County
 Continuation sheet Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

In the east room, the fireplace on the east wall is south of the ghost from the former wall. The mantel in this room is late Victorian with a plain shelf supported on heavy swelled end brackets with top and bottom bulls eye blocks. The mantel also has heavy moldings enframing the hearth. Its central shelf is decorated with a smaller replica of the larger brackets and corner block. The baseboard and window trim are different in the north and south ends of this room. The trim on the south windows is wider and more elaborate; however, the reeded chairrail is the same around the whole room and both doors have the same architrave trim.

In the south room, in the center of the south wall is an original door to a new bathroom flanked on the east by a window and on the west by a door to the new wing. The doors and windows have the same trim with a reeded strip down the center and plain corner blocks. The window trim is partly blocked on the east side by the east room wall. The fireplace in the west wall was originally walk-in; it now has a high mantelpiece with a plain shelf and torus cornice, reeded end blocks and center panel, and a shouldered architrave. The chairrail is beaded below and has a double beaded shelf. The baseboard along the north wall is different from the one on the other walls. The room has its original oak floor.

The fireplace in the north room is flanked on the south by a cupboard; another cupboard is located in the north side of the chimney breast. The mantelpiece consists of a molded en ressaute cornice; a plain frieze; raised end and center panels with recessed rectangles inset with ovals; an architrave with recessed pointed ovals separated by dots; pilasters with a pattern of alternating oval and diamond shaped surrounded by dots; and a beaded surround. Both cupboards have reeded molding with corner blocks. The room has a pine floor, a wide bolection chairrail, and a baseboard.

The second floor plan has two rooms on both sides of the central hall and one room at the south end of the hall. Except for the northeast room which does not have a fireplace, the rooms are similar.

The northeast room has poplar floor boards, a chairrail with a beaded shelf and a triple-beaded base, a baseboard, and door trim with plain corner blocks and a recessed beaded band down the center. There is a closet at the east end of the south wall.

The southeast room has a closet at the west end of the north wall. The fireplace, north of the window in the east wall, has a cupboard in the south side of the chimney breast. On the mantelpiece, the end panels, center panel, and pilasters are reeded and there is a stepped en ressaute cornice, and a plain plastered opening. The cupboard has reeded trim and three panels in the top door and one in the bottom. The windows and door have simple architrave trim with square-cut corners. The chairrail has a beaded shelf and there is a beaded baseboard.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Ce-84



Elisha Kirk House, Cecil County

Continuation sheet

Maryland

Item number

7

Page 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The room at the end of the hall is now a bathroom but still retains its original chairrail and window trim.

In the southwest room the mantelpiece has pilasters with a band of reeding down the center. A center panels with vertical reeding, a molded cornice, and a plain surround. The door has architrave trim with square-cut corners, and there is simple trim around the windows.

The northwest room fireplace is flanked on the south by a cupboard. The mantel is like the one in the southwest room except the center panel has a horizontal reeded diamond and the end panels and pilasters have a double row of beading down the center. The cupboard is like the one in the first floor north room. There is a plain baseboard and a chairrail with three beaded bands in the center.

In the attic the collar beams are tongue and grooved into the rafters which are lap jointed. The basement walls are of stone.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Elisha Kirk House, Cecil County

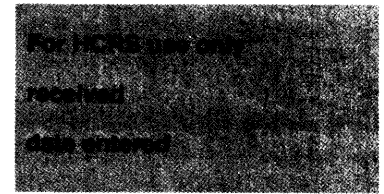
Continuation sheet

Maryland

Item number

8

Page 3



(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

In 1826 Peter Askew (court appointed executor of Elisha Kirk's estate) sold for \$2500 a lot "being part of a track called 'Hughes Endeavor', containing 212 acres, to Elisha Kirk's sister Mary, and her husband, Slater Brown. (JS 23/444). They lived in Fulton Township, Pennsylvania. Slater Brown sold 32 acres, 88 square perches to Joseph Haines for \$]400 in 1849. Records of this transaction refer to "a stone near the store house door", (GMC 13/45) which is now a private residence, but was probably built by Elisha Kirk as a store house. It operated as such until 1958.

Joseph Haines (born 1798, died 1866) was married to Harriet Kirk Haines, a first cousin to Mary Kirk Brown and Elisha Kirk. (Haines, p. 304). He was Judge of the Orphan's Court and Deputy Clerk of the Court. Charles, his son, who died the same day, was Clerk of the Court. (Haines, pp.373-374). The West Chester Pennsylvania Historical Society has a telegram sent to Courtland Chandlee in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania requesting him to attend their joint funeral at Brick Meeting House, January 26, 1866. (Chester County Historical Society) Other records indicate that Joseph was a merchant in Brick Meeting House. His daughter, Mary, was born in 1835 and married John Ireland in 1859. (Haines, p. 374) Mary Ireland has been called the "poetess of Cecil County", and her writings are included in Johnston's Poets and Poetry of Cecil County (1889). She was also the author of religious tracts and childrens' books. Johnston mentions in the preface to Mary Ireland's poetry that she now lives in the house in which she was born. In 1835, other sources show Mary Ireland living in the house in the 1870s. Supposition is that Harriet and Joseph Haines moved into the house and operated the previously mentioned store before finally purchasing the property in 1849. Then in 1859, when Mary and John Ireland were married, they moved into her father's home.

John and Mary Ireland purchased 33 acres, 2 roods, and 20 square perches in 1867 for \$5500 from the other heirs of her fathers estate. (CHH 1/635) Records indicate they they lived in the house and operated the store until the mid 1880s when they moved to Washington, D.C. John Ireland and Mary both died in Washington. (Haines, p. 374).

At this point, family recollections and records do not agree with Cecil County land records. Well substantiated tradition says that Deborah Ann Clayton purchased the property from her cousin, Mary Ireland, about 1885. A period picture shows four ladies, including Deborah, in front of their new house. A record of this transaction has not been found. In 1930 John Clayton, Deborah's son, purchased the property and owned it until 1946. A 1922 picture of the south side of the house shows John's daughter, Stella, in front of the two story wooden addition at the rear of the brick main structure. (this was torn down about 1930) The house passed out of the family in 1946, but in 1954 was purchased by a descendant of Deborah Ann Clayton's father, Issac England. Thus, except for the 1946 to 1954 period, the property was owned continuously by descendants of Thomas Hughes and their relatives, the Kirks, until purchased in 1970 by the present owners.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Elisha Kirk House, Cecil County,

Continuation sheet

Maryland

Item number

9

Page

4

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cecil County Historical Society, Main Street, Elkton, Maryland
(Files on Chandlee, Haines, and Kirk families).

Chester County Historical Society West Chester, Pennsylvania. (Files
on Chandlee, Haines, and Kirk families).

Cecil County Land Records, Courthouse, Elkton, Maryland.

Haines, John W. Richard Haines and His Descendants. Vols. 1,2, Carr
Publishing Co., Inc. Boyle, Virginia 1961, 1962.

Johnston, George. Poets and Poetry of Cecil County. Elkton, 1887.

North American, Philadelphia paper, June 26, 1907.

Stubbs, Charels H. M.D. Historic Genealogy of the Kirk Family as Established
by Roger Kirk. Lancaster: Wylie and Griest, Inquirer Printing Co.
Inc. 1872.

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey. Cecil County (CE-84).
Annapolis, Maryland.

Kirk, Elisha, House

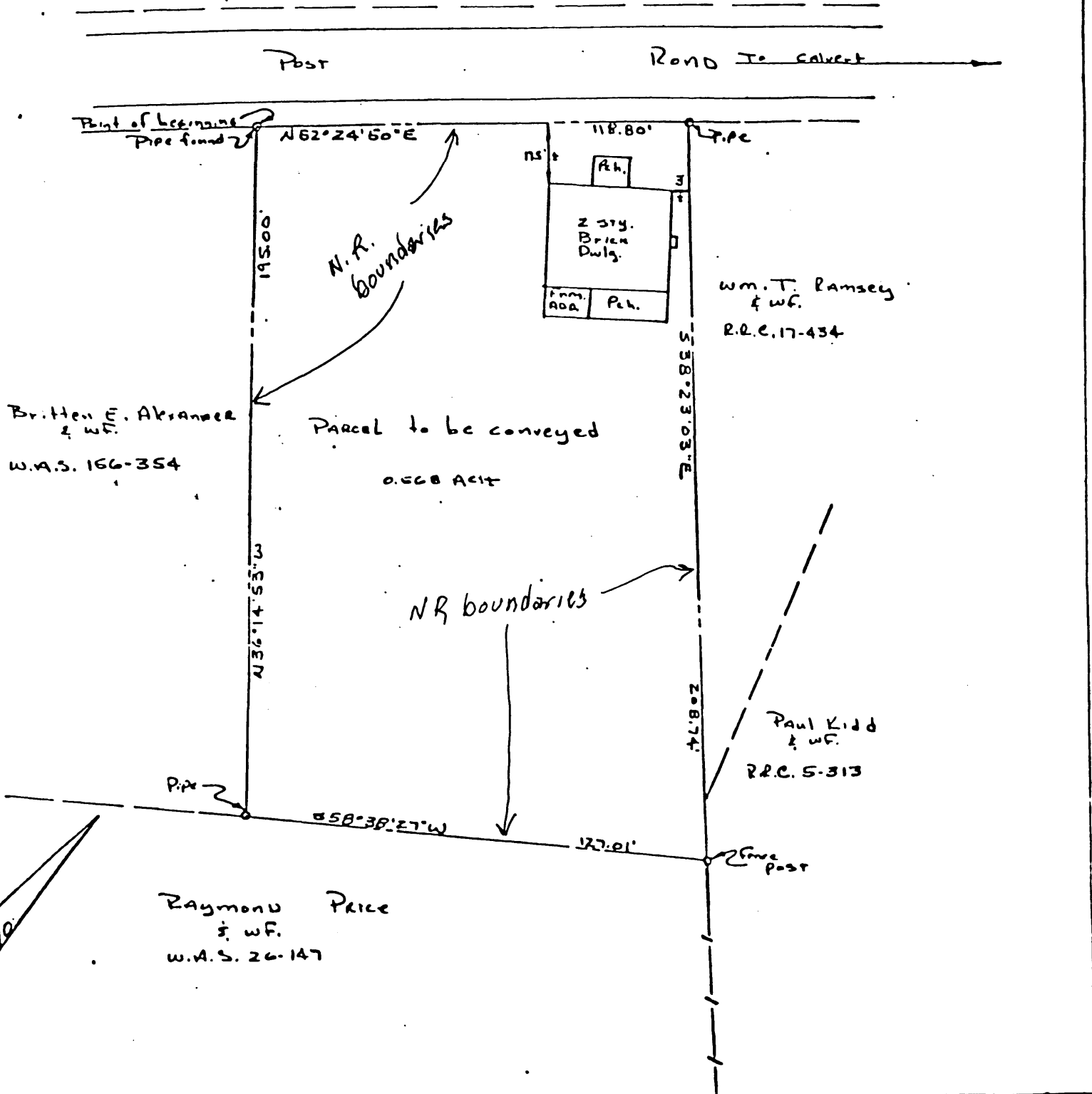
Cecil County

Maryland

National Register boundaries

1982

scale: 1"=40'



A plat of the residue of the

