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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MANSION HOUSE
other names/site number Ocean View

2. Location

street & number Bayside Road N/A not for publication
city, town Public Landing N/A vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21863

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 12/2/94

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register 1/19/95
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

WO-36

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwellingDOMESTIC/Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FederalGreek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls WeatherboardAluminum sidingroof Woodother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Mansion House is a five-part early to mid-nineteenth century frame house built in two distinct stages. Dating to around 1835, the story-and-a-half side/double-pile frame house and stepped service wing predate a mid-nineteenth century two-story, center hall plan addition. The frame house is clad in plain weatherboards and covered with wood shingle gable roofs. The interior of the c.1835 house is trimmed with late Federal/Greek Revival woodwork, while the two-story addition displays purely Greek Revival finishes. The stepped service wing, which includes a pantry, colonnade, and kitchen, follows the distinctive stepped or telescope building tradition common to the region and found across the peninsula. The house is joined on the property with an early nineteenth century frame dairy and a mid-twentieth century frame garage.

8. Statement of Significance

WO-36

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/Recreation

Period of Significance

c.1835-1933

Significant Dates

c.1835
c.1850-1860
c.1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Mansion House has architectural importance. Dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the two-story main block and rear wing were erected in two principal stages. The initial house, a story-and-a-half, four-part stepped dwelling, was built around 1835, while a two-story, five-bay section was added around 1850-1860. The original house was designed in the vernacular stepped building tradition with a story-and-a-half side hall/double-pile main block extended to the south by a single-story hyphen, a single-story colonnade, and a story-and-a-half kitchen. This four-part section was conceived and erected in one building program, reflecting a distinctive regional solution to the interest in achieving an attached service wing, but at the same time maintaining a distinct separation from family slaves. The kitchen loft was built as a segregated space left without direct access to the second floor rooms of the main block.

The two-story 1850-1860 addition was designed with a center hall plan and a two-story porch. The addition reoriented the front of the house to face northeast and the adjacent landing. The interiors and exteriors of both sections have survived with much of the nineteenth century late Federal and Greek Revival woodwork intact. A nineteenth century outbuilding, a two-room dairy, is a relatively rare example with a divided, whitewashed interior and a wide overhanging south eave.

The property also has associative significance with its development as a late nineteenth century hotel, where visitors could stay before embarking on a trip to the barrier island. As a result, turn of the twentieth century, individual bathrooms were added to the two front bedrooms. During the early twentieth century, Public Landing was developed into a bayside resort for summertime recreation with a complex of amusements and concessions erected along the shoreline with piers, a boardwalk, and a public pavilion. The resort aspect of Public Landing ended in 1933 when most of the recreational buildings were destroyed during a hurricane. Mansion House is the most prominent of the resort buildings remaining.

See continuation sheet no. 6
for Historic Context and Maryland
Comprehensive Historic Preservation
Plan data.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet no. 12

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Worcester Co. Library, Snow Hill, MD

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 1 + acre

USGS quad: Public Landing, MD

UTM References

A

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4	2	2	2	1	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet no. 13

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet no. 14

11. Form Prepared By

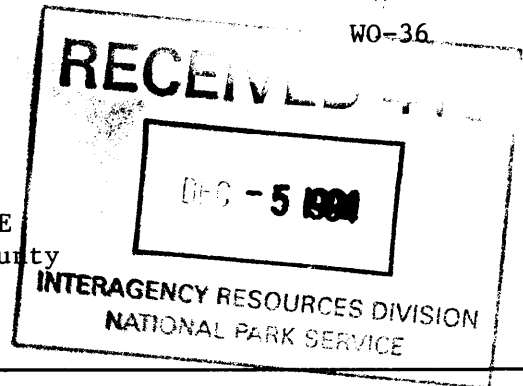
name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
 organization Private Consultant date 12/28/93
 street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094
 city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21871

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MANSION HOUSE
Worcester County
Maryland

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Mansion House is located on the western shore of Chincoteague Bay at Public Landing, Worcester County, Maryland. Public Landing is approximately 5 miles east of Snow Hill with Route 365 providing direct access. The front of the house faces the northeast and the public wharf.

Built in two principal stages, the two-story, five-bay, single-pile front block is a mid-nineteenth century (c.1835) four-part rear wing that follows a stepped or telescope profile. The entire house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of aluminum siding and plain weatherboards. The current owner, George Hogeboom, is in the process of removing the aluminum siding and repairing the weatherboards. The various gable roofs are covered with wood shingles. Standing adjacent to the house on the northwest side is a two-room frame dairy and a single-story two-bay garage.

The northeast (main) elevation of the house is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and two six-over-six sash windows to each side. The four-panel front door, fitted with ogee inset panel moldings, is flanked by four-light sidelights and an eight-pane transom. The glass retains a decorative etching. The door surrounds have wide Greek Revival fluting and shallow profile pyramidal corner blocks. The windows to each side are flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the entire front of the house is a two-story porch supported on the first floor by large tapered posts treated with corner chamfers that end with lamb's-tongue stops. The second floor is marked by plain square columns with an original lattice railing and circular profile handrail stretching between the supports. The second floor doorway has a seven-panel door flanked by four-light sidelights, and the door frame is finished with a widely fluted Greek molding and pyramidal corner blocks. An original brass door knob and accompanying box lock remain on the door. To each side of the door are two six-over-six sash windows.

The east and west gable ends of the front block are largely alike with two six-over-six sash windows on each floor to either side of interior end brick chimneys. The south side of the main block is covered largely by the c.1835 story-and-a-half rear wing.

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Six-over-six sash windows pierce the south side of the main block at the east and west ends of the house.

The story-and-a-half side hall/double-pile section of the rear wing, built around 1835, is a three-bay structure with a shed porch across the east elevation. A side entrance, marked by a four-panel door, is flanked on the south by a pair of nine-over-six sash windows. The east roof slope is defined by a pair of gable roofed dormers pierced by early twentieth century wooden casement windows. The dormer roofs have been rebuilt with extended eaves. On the west side of this section, the first floor is finished in a similar fashion with the exception of a replacement window in lieu of the rear hall door, and a single dormer marks the roof. Rising through the gable end are two brick chimneys.

Extending from the south side of the story-and-a-half section is a single-bay section that encloses a pantry and bathroom, and farther south is a single-story, two-bay colonnade that joins a story-and-a-half, one-room kitchen. An interior brick chimney rises within the kitchen to serve individual fireplaces in the kitchen as well as the colonnade. The one-room plan kitchen is lighted by nine-over-six sash windows, and access is provided by a board-and-batten door on the west side. The door on the east side has been blocked. To each side of the door openings are nine-over-six sash windows.

The interiors of most rooms retain large portions of the nineteenth century woodwork. The first floor of the c.1850 section, however has been altered with the removal of the hall partitions in order to create one large living space. At each end of the long room are mid-nineteenth century mantels characterized by plain pilasters, a plain frieze, and a molded mantel shelf highlighted by a row of modillion blocks. The windows and doors are framed by plain corner block surrounds. A large double-door opening with folding glazed doors allows access into the hall of the 1835 section. This door opening is distinguished by an arched fanlight.

The second floor of the c.1850 section includes a center hall with a bedroom to each side. Plain corner block surrounds frame the six-over-six sash windows, which have Gothic points to the

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muntin profile. The mantels have plain Greek Revival surfaces with smooth pilasters rising to an unadorned frieze topped by a molded shelf. Later bathrooms, probably added around 1900-1920, have been introduced into each room.

The interior of the 1835 section remains largely intact as well with late Federal/Greek Revival finishes. The side passage contains the staircase, and it features turned newel posts and balusters support a circular scroll decorated stringer. The newel posts and balusters support a circular profile handrail. Trimming the perimeter of the hallway are period chair rail and baseboard moldings, and ogee and astragal molded backband surrounds frame the raised six-panel doors that open into the adjacent living room and dining room.

The living room and dining room are finished in a like manner with a wide door opening joining the two spaces. Centered on the south wall of each room is a plastered brick chimney stack highlighted by a late Federal/Greek Revival mantel. Decorative ceramic tiles have been added to the outside surface of each firebox. The rooms are trimmed with early nineteenth century chair rail and baseboard moldings, and they retain yellow pine floors.

The second floor of the c.1835 section has experienced few alterations. At the head of the stair a wide door opening into the front block is filled with a pair of six-panel doors that are hinged like double doors, probably in an effort to allow generous air circulation to the rear bedrooms. A small linen closet to the left of the staircase is entered through a beaded board and batten door. The closet is lighted on the stairwell side by a three-pane window. Board-and-batten doors, framed by a thumb molded surround, open into the two bedrooms and an upstairs bathroom. The bedrooms feature early nineteenth century mantels and wide pine floors.

The walls of the pantry have been modified with the introduction of wide, knotty pine vertical board paneling. The east end of the pantry space is partitioned with a small bathroom. Covered over joists in the attic of the pantry space retain a coat of whitewash, which suggests the walls and exposed joists were originally finished with a coat of whitewash, and board shelves provided storage space. Today the space serves much the same

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purpose as a storage space between the dining room and kitchen.

The interior of the colonnade, now the kitchen, retains a large, exposed brick chimney base with a corbeled shoulder and an iron stove insert placed in the firebox. A mid-nineteenth century mantel of undetermined origin frames the fireplace. The room retains some period chair rail and baseboard moldings. On the north and west walls mid-twentieth century cabinets have been added. A shallow profile four-panel door opens into the former kitchen.

The interior of the old kitchen, now used as a furnace room, is plainly finished with narrow board walls and a large cooking fireplace. A ladder type stair rises against the south wall to provide access to the kitchen loft, which retains a layer of plaster over hand split lath.

A nineteenth century outbuilding stands on the property. It is a single-story, two-room frame dairy, supported on a low brick foundation and sheathed with plain weatherboards. The medium pitched gable roof, covered with wood shingles, overhangs the south wall in order to provide some shelter from the sun. The south (front) wall is marked by two board-and-batten doors.

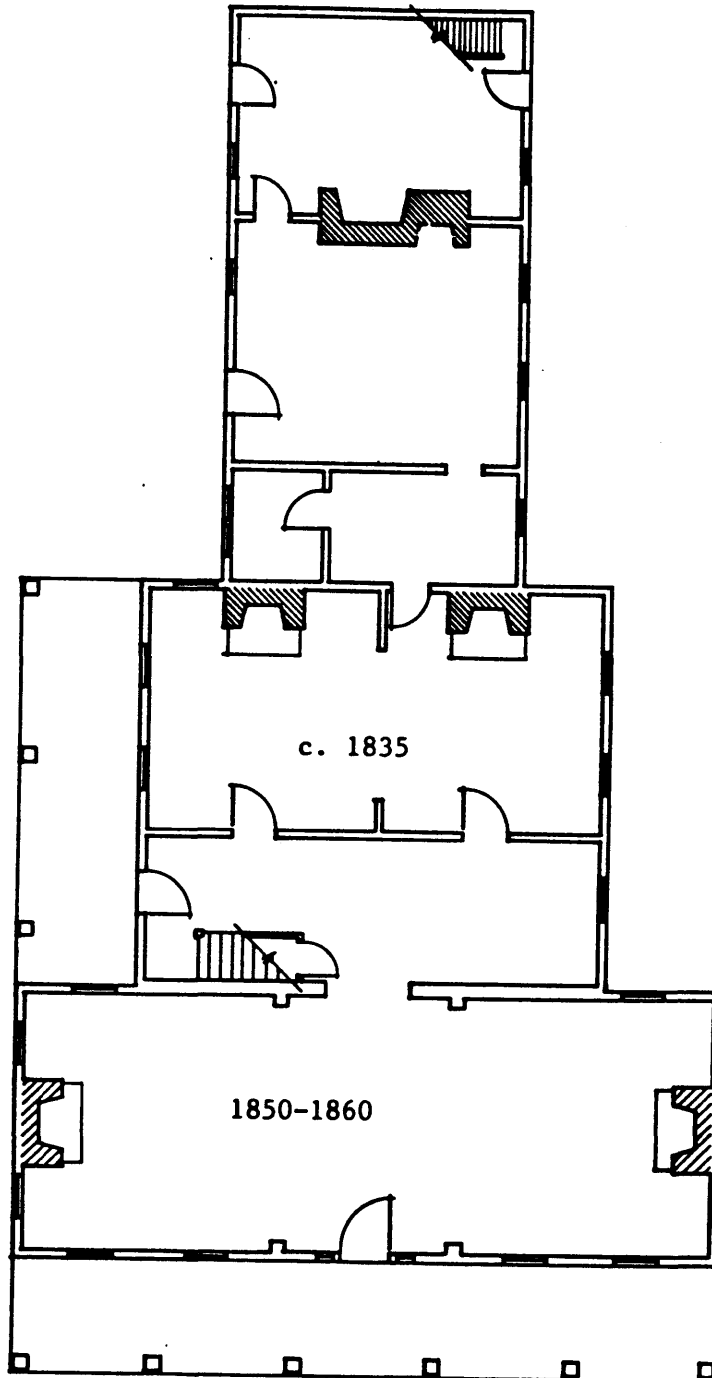
A single six-over-six sash window pierces the north wall, and a boarded over window opening is evident on the east wall. The interior is divided into two rooms with whitewashed walls and ceilings. A single-story mid-twentieth century frame garage covered by a medium sloped gable roof of asphalt shingles is also located on the property. The rafter feet remain exposed.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

DOMESTIC/Hotel

Known Design Source: Unknown

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Continuation Sheet**MANSION HOUSE
Worcester County
MarylandSection number 8 Page 7**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

Mansion House has architectural importance. Dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the two-story main block and rear wing were erected in two principal stages. The initial house, a story-and-a-half, four-part stepped dwelling, was built around 1835, while a two-story, five-bay section was added around 1850-1860. The original house was designed in the vernacular stepped building tradition with a story-and-a-half side hall/double-pile main block extended to the south by a single-story hyphen, a single-story colonnade, and a story-and-a-half kitchen. This four-part section was conceived and erected in one building program, reflecting a distinctive regional solution to the interest in achieving an attached service wing, but at the same time maintaining a distinct separation from family slaves. The kitchen loft, undoubtedly occupied by Spence family servants, was built as a segregated space left without direct access to the second floor rooms of the main block.

Prior to the early nineteenth century, the cooking activities were accomplished in a detached building that stood in the plantation yard along with an array of other domestic outbuildings such as the smokehouse and dairy. The kitchen and its immediate yard was the daily environment of the household slave(s). In an effort to improve the domestic function of the plantation house, the kitchen was often attached to the main block by means of a colonnade, a single-story open or enclosed structure that provided extra work space but at the same time maintained a distinct separation from the main dwelling. The connecting colonnade often resulted in a stepped or telescope profile for the entire house. The distinctive resulting profiles, with rooflines of various heights became a common sight on plantations on the Eastern and Western Shores of Maryland, Virginia, and in adjacent Delaware.

The two-story 1850-1860 addition was designed with a center hall plan and a two-story porch. The addition reoriented the front of the house to face northeast and the adjacent landing. The interiors and exteriors of both sections have survived with much of the nineteenth century late Federal and Greek Revival woodwork intact. A nineteenth century outbuilding, a two-room dairy, is a relatively rare example with a divided, whitewashed interior and a

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wide overhanging south eave.

The property is also significant with its development as a late nineteenth century hotel, where visitors could stay before embarking on a trip to the barrier island. As a result turn of the twentieth century individual bathrooms were added to the two front bedrooms. During the early twentieth century, Public Landing was developed into a bayside resort for summertime recreation with a complex of amusements and concessions erected along the shoreline with piers, a boardwalk, and a public pavilion.

Mansion House was built as the country plantation residence for judge Ara Spence, who acquired portions of several tracts bordering Chincoteague Bay during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. His first purchase of land, recorded on August 11, 1834, comprised parts of tracts known as Mount Ephraim, Chance, and Bratten's Venture. In another deed, executed on April 10, 1845, Ara Spence purchased a 250 acre tract identified as Smith First Choice.

Ara Spence was married twice, first to Anna Maria Robins on September 31, 1818, and secondly to Priscilla A. Wilson on February 20, 1833. Both women died at young ages, Anna at 29, and Priscilla at 24. The occasion of Ara's second marriage to Priscilla Wilson coincides with the time of his initial acquisition of the bayside property in 1834. Fitted with late Federal woodwork, the story-and-a-half stepped frame house, assembled with mature cut nails and hand-split oak lath, comfortably dates the oldest portion to the mid 1830's.

Around 1850-1860, Ara Spence decided to enlarge his story-and-a-half stepped house with a substantial two-story, center hall addition build to face north and the activity at the adjacent landing. Stretching across the front of the addition is a two-story porch that was part of the mid-century building program.

The land record research indicates that Ara Spence names his waterfront plantation, Ocean View and Spence's Landing appears on mid-nineteenth century maps. He is listed as the only resident in his household in the 1860 U.S. Census with personal property and real estate valued at \$55,000. In his will, probated in 1866, the

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Worcester County judge directed his executor, Ephraim King Wilson, to sell his lands and personal property, except for what was specifically stipulated. One of the more unusual items in his will was the future disposition of his slaves. He willed that,

I give to Ephraim K. Wilson of Worcester County all my negro slaves in trust that he the said Ephraim K. Wilson shall as soon as possible after my death transfer said negroes to Liberia in Africa under the care of the Maryland State Colonization Society or the American Colonization Society as to him may seem best.

In late November 1866, Ephraim King Wilson sold Ocean View to Mary E. Timmons of Baltimore for \$10,000, and he presumably made arrangements for the transport of the Spence slaves to Africa as well. After Judge Spence's death, Ocean View changed hands numerous times.

The recreational focus of Public Landing appears to have developed during the middle years of the nineteenth century at a time when local residents and businessmen looked increasingly to the bay and beach property as possible resort locations. By 1866 notices in the local paper announced transportation was available from Public Landing to the beach across the bay. The old Civil War sloop Fairfield, commanded by Captain Frederick Conner, made regular trips ferrying people across between the mainland and the beach. One of the principal destinations for many years was "Scott's Ocean House", located on a cove near Green Run inlet.

In 1877, E. P. Davis was designated on the Snow Hill district map of the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas as the proprietor of a summer resort at what was still known by many as Spence's Landing. The popularity of the bayside location increased towards the turn of the twentieth century with an annual gathering known as Foresters' Day. Public Landing, with its amusement pier and assorted recreational activities, reached its height of popularity during the early twentieth century with improved roads and the availability of private automobiles. During that time the old Spence house, renamed Mansion House was used as a bayside hotel joined with a number of additional cottages erected to house guests. During the severe August 1933 storm, Public Landing was

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hit hard with the piers and amusements swept into the bay, but despite the ferocity of the hurricane, the main house and the nearby cottages withstood the wind and high tides. The storm destruction coupled with the devastating financial repercussions of the Depression, along with competition from nearby Ocean City, ended thoughts of rebuilding Public Landing as it had been before. The property did remain a summertime resort until the mid 1930's. In 1936, the bay-front property was subdivided and Lot 9 with the old Spence house was transferred to Frank E. Hudson. His daughter, Bell Beach, and her husband William Hall Beach, Sr. occupied Mansion House and the land remained Beach family hands until 1983.

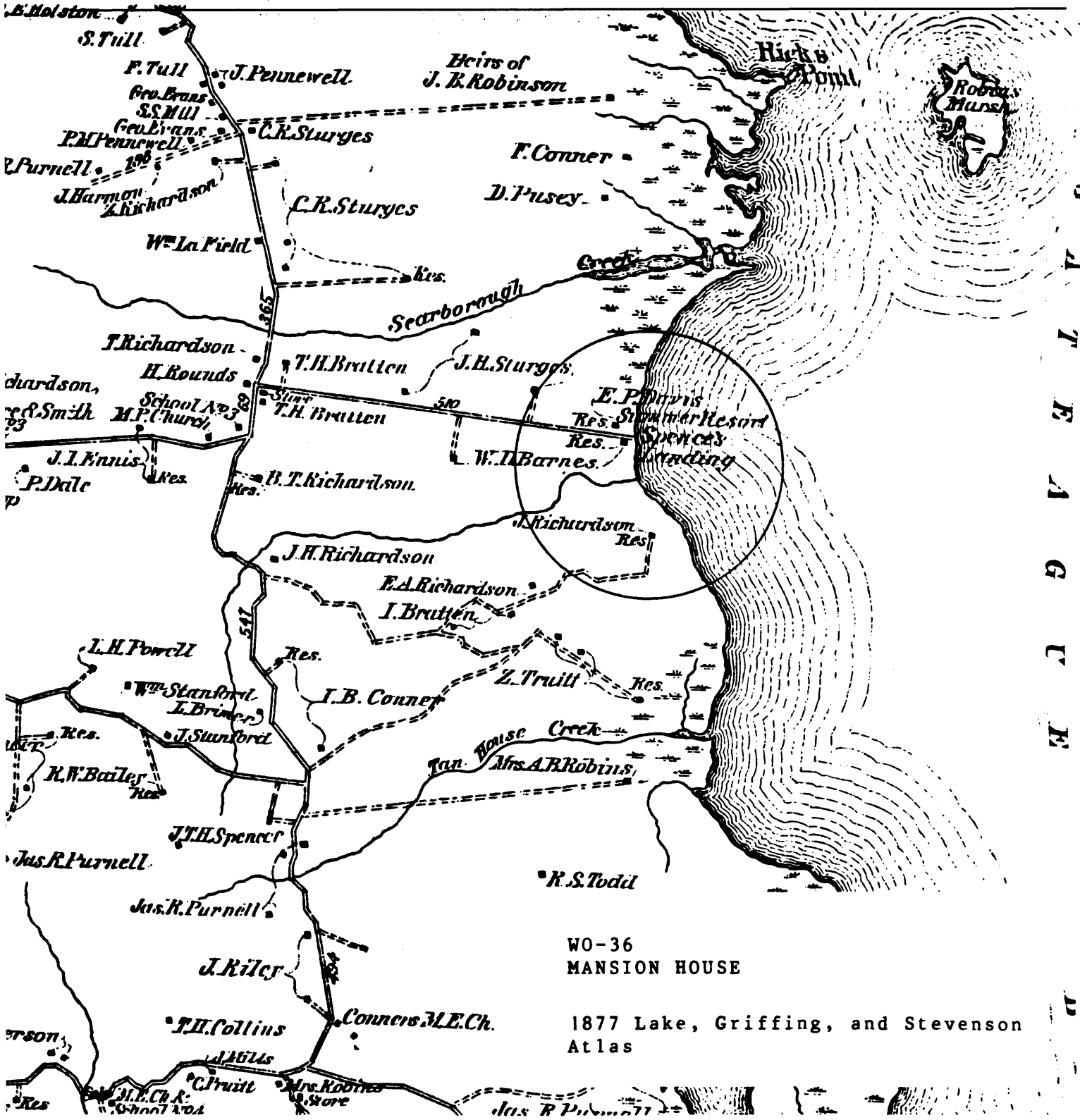
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MANSION HOUSE

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Democratic Messenger, various issues, Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Graham, John L. E., The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Peninsula Press, Reprint Edition, 1976.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Seventh Census of the United States, Worcester County Population Schedule as transcribed by John C. Barnes and published by Ruth T. Dryden, 1988.

Worcester County Land Records, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Marriage Records, Worcester County Clerk of Court, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Register of Wills, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester Shield, various issues, Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, Maryland.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Worcester County Land Record, BB 30/442

All that lot or parcel of land designated as Lot No. 9 on said "Mansion House Plat" beginning for the same at a point on the southwest side of said State Highway leading to Public Landing at letter "K" on said Plat, dated August 2, 1936, and at the Northeast corner of the above described Lot No. 7 as laid down on said plat, thence by and with the southwest side of said State Highway and the public property at Public Landing South 47 degrees East 255 minutes to Chincoteague Bay, thence by and with Chincoteague Bay South 30 degrees 30 minutes West 181.5 feet to the northeast side of right-of-way or roadway designated on said plat as "Right of Way 20' wide", thence by and with the Northeast side of said last named right of way North 56 degrees 36 minutes West 354 feet to the southeasterly line of said County road across Paw Paw Creek; thence by and with the southeasterly lines of said lots 8 and 7 above described North 41 degrees 15 minutes East 173 feet to the point of beginning.

The property is Parcel 80 on Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Worcester County 73.

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

**United States Department of the Interior
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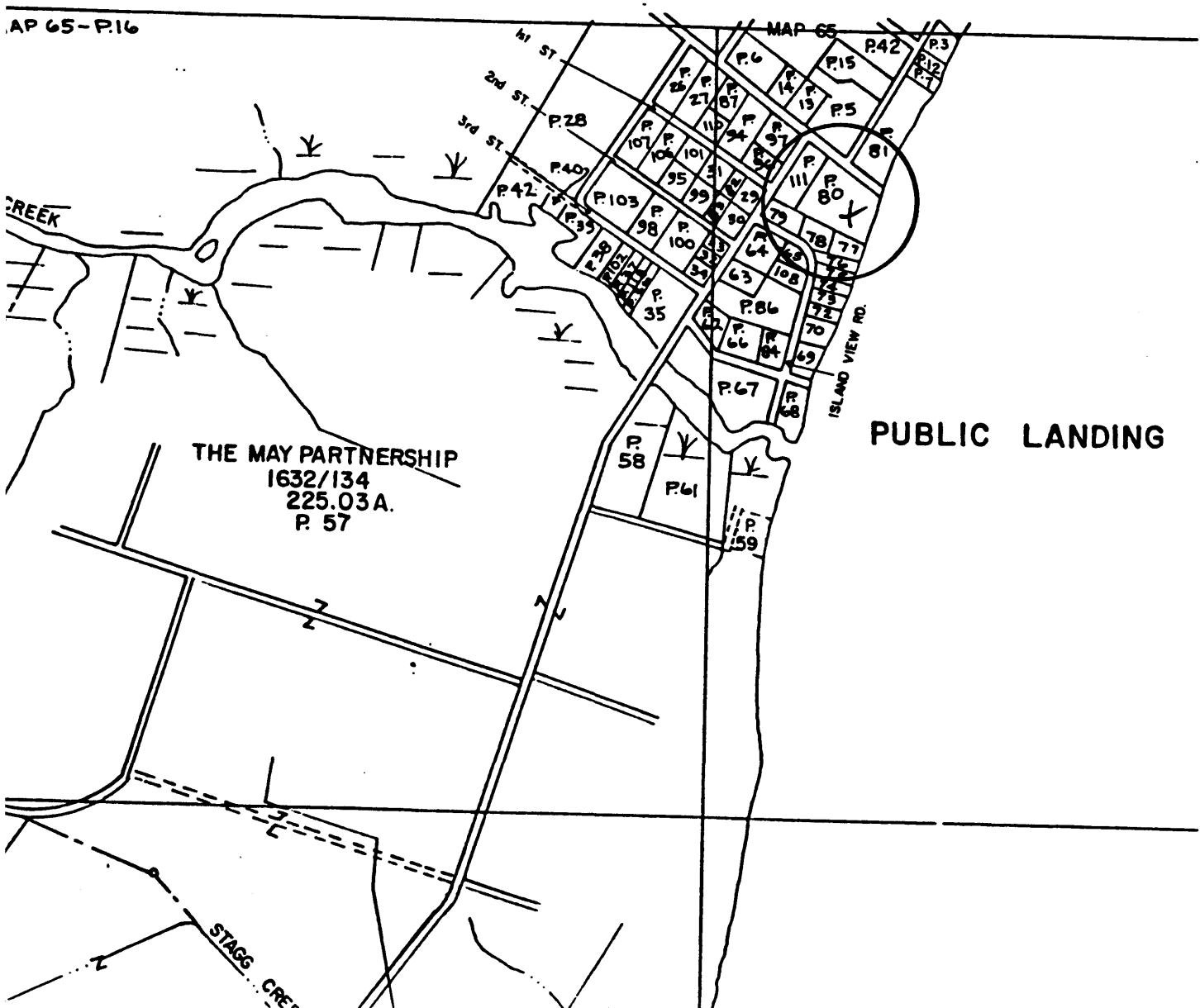
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Maryland Department of Assessments and
Taxation
Worcester County Map 73



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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The acre lot which joins this house in nomination is the property held by the current owner, which provides an uninterrupted view of Chincoteague Bay and the barrier island on the east side. the northern line is bounded by land held by Worcester County, which comprises the Public Landing, and the south and west boundaries follow adjacent property lines.