

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received AUG 13 1986  
date entered SEP 11 1986**1. Name**

historic John and George Churchman House

and/or common Churchman, John, House (preferred)

**2. Location**

street &amp; number 115 Churchman Lane N/A not for publication

city, town Calvert X vicinity of First Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Cecil code 015

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	public	occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
X building(s)	X private	unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
structure	both	X work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> park
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
object	in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	X not applicable	no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Edward Clark Plumstead

street &amp; number 1416 Telegraph Road

city, town Rising Sun N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21911

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Courthouse

street &amp; number Main Street

city, town Elkton state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**Maryland Historical Trust  
title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate 1969 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

CE-187

<b>Condition</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<b>Check one</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<b>Check one</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
	<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: agricultural, residential

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The John Churchman House is located in a rural setting northeast of Calvert in Cecil County. It consists of two distinct sections: a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed brick house laid in Flemish bond with dark glazed headers on three sides and the date 1745 in glazed headers on the east facade; and a two-story, two-bay, gable-roofed house built in 1785 of uncoursed fieldstone. Although both halves suffered alterations in the early 1900s and some physical deterioration for many years thereafter, the house has been partially restored according to structural evidence and old photographs. Nonetheless the house retains most of its original appearance on both the exterior and interior.

## 8. Significance

CE-187

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	community planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/>	archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	law	<input type="checkbox"/>	science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	military	<input type="checkbox"/>	social/
X 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/>	art	<input type="checkbox"/>	engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	music	<input type="checkbox"/>	humanitarian
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	theater
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"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	other (specify)

Specific dates 1745; 1785      Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: B, C  
Applicable exceptions: none  
Significance evaluated: local

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The John Churchman house is significant for two reasons: architecturally it is a rare and important early example of the Pennsylvania Quaker tradition in eighteenth century Maryland architecture. Among the distinguishing features of this tradition are the remains of pent eaves, a second story door on the brick half and the elaborate use of Flemish bond with glazed headers. The brick half also contains a wealth of well-preserved original (1745) woodwork including a paneled stairwall, mantels and a corner cupboard. Although there are other examples of such early colonial woodwork in Cecil County, its appearance in a house of these modest proportions is highly unusual. Also noteworthy is its attribution to the carpenter Hezekiah Rowles whose work elsewhere in the immediate area is well-documented. Secondly, the house is important for its definite associations with several generations of the locally prominent Churchman family, a number of whose members were important in the religious and educational history of Maryland-Pennsylvania Quakers in the eighteenth century. John Churchman, Jr., the builder of the 1745 section and son of the original settlers of this area was a well-traveled Quaker minister whose published accounts of religious journeys in Britain and Europe were widely read. His son George, builder of the 1785 half was also a Quaker minister, clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and a founder of the Westtown Friends School near Philadelphia. His son John III was an internationally known geographer and scientist who published a map of the Delaware peninsula, explored the properties of magnetic north, and along with Benjamin Franklin, was one of the first Americans elected to the Imperial Russian Academy of Science.

## **9. Major Bibliographical Reference**

CE-187

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 35 acres

Quadrangle name Bay View, MD-PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### **UTM References**

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### **Verbal boundary description and justification**

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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## **11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Geoffrey B. Henry
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organization		date	May 1986
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street & number	1515 Rutledge Avenue	telephone	
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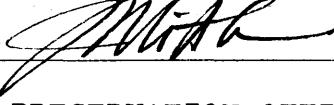
city or town	Charlottesville	state	Virginia
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## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  7-7-86

title	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	date
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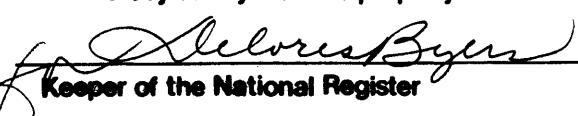
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the

National Register

date

9-11-86

 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

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

**Continuation sheet** Churchman, John, House  
Cecil County, Maryland

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The John Churchman House is situated in the middle of a 157 acre tract located in a rural section of Cecil County immediately south of the Pennsylvania state line and approximately one mile northeast of the crossroads village of Calvert. The surrounding topography is characterized by gently rolling terrain comprised of cropland, pasture and scattered woods. The house, which was built in two stages along an east-west axis, stands on a small rise and faces south toward Calvert. A two-bay-wide wagon shed, circa 1800, and foundation stonework of a bank barn stand to the east of the house.

The house consists of two easily recognizable halves: a brick section on the east built by John Churchman, Jr. in 1745 and a fieldstone section on the west built by his son George Churchman in 1785. A number of alterations were carried out in the early 1900s which included changing the roofline of the stone section and the removal of most of the original windows. The roof of the brick section was rebuilt, but its pitch and proportions were not changed. Otherwise, both the exterior and interior possess a high level of historical integrity, far more than is characteristic of other houses of comparable date elsewhere in Cecil County.

The 1745 half is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed, brick house built on a fieldstone foundation. The south, east, and west facades are laid almost entirely in Flemish bond with glazed headers. English bond is used on the south facade below the water table, and the bricks above the second story level on the east gable end are laid in common bond. The most significant feature of this gable end is the date 1745 picked out with dark glazed headers. Three-course common bond is used on the north facade. The stone wing built across the west facade of the older house obscures the Flemish bond brickwork of this facade. Segmental brick arches span the two windows on the cellar level. The brickwork of both gable-end chimneys dates to the early 1900s.

There is a door set in the center bay of both stories of the south (main) facade, a not uncommon feature of Delaware Valley architecture from the Colonial period. The second-story door was still visible in late nineteenth century photographs, shortly before it was altered to form a window in the early 1900s. The door frame has since been restored, using both the original outline and old photographs as a guide. This door formerly opened out to a small balcony; the holes in the brickwork which originally held the balcony railings are still visible. Another change occurred on the east facade, where the first-story window was changed to a door

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#### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)**

during the 1900 alterations. This has since been restored as a window. The frames of both first-floor doors (north and south) are original.

The mortised and pegged window and door frames are mostly original, although only two of the eighteenth century window sash have survived. Most were replaced in the early 1900s; these were taken out by the present owner and replaced with sash based on the surviving windows. Windows on the first story have 9/6 sash. On the second story they have 6/6 sash. There is a small window with 4/4 sash on the north facade which dates from the eighteenth century.

The 1745 portion of the Churchman house originally had a pent eave roof separating each story on the west, south and east facades. These were also visible in late nineteenth century photographs and probably were removed during the 1900 alterations when a wrap-around shed-roofed porch was built across three of the facades. Removal of this porch by the present owner revealed the perimeters of the original pent-roofs and the rectangular openings for the projecting joists. Two of these wooden supporting members are still visible on the attic level of the west facade. Pent roofs on both the south and east facades were restored according to this structural evidence and according to several old photographs.

There is evidence of a very deep cornice, possibly with plaster cove, at the roof eave on the south side and across each gable end.

The first floor interior of the brick house is an important survival of early colonial plan and woodwork. The main dining space, essentially a cross-passage, is the larger of the two rooms and has opposing front and back doors. The smaller room was usually reserved for more private use as a first floor chamber or parlor. The stair is located on the west wall of the cross passage and is encased by a fully paneled wall. This section of paneling, with its distinctive wrought hardware is original to the structure and quite rare in Cecil County. Such extensive paneling is more often seen in larger houses such as the Tom Mackie House (CE-70) near Cherry Hill or Great House (CE-65), on the National Register, south of Chesapeake City; its appearance in a house of modest size such as the Churchman House is thus particularly noteworthy. The adjacent mantel over the large fire place has been reproduced with the aid of the shelf profile found on the end of

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

the paneled wall. Nearly all of the chair-rail in both rooms is original. The parlor room still retains its fine early diagonal hearth with mantel shelf as well as a floor-to-ceiling built-in corner cupboard with original cornice and brass escutcheon. One noteworthy feature of the parlor mantel is the initials of the carpenter Hezekiah Rowles on the face. Rowles, who was also responsible for the paneling of the 1752 portion of the nearby Brick Meeting House (CE-82) and of the Mercer Brown House (CE- ) appeared as a joiner in the East Nottingham township tax assessments six times between 1764 and 1771.

The second floor, reached by the winder stairs located to the left of the downstairs fireplace, originally consisted of two rooms, an unheated chamber on the west side and a slightly smaller east room with a fireplace on the east wall and access to the second story balcony. The partition and door between the two rooms was removed in 1971 and has not yet been replaced, although the division is clearly visible on the floor boards. The open round-edged shelf to the left of the fireplace is original.

The stone addition is a two-story, two-bay gable-roofed house built of uncoursed local fieldstone on the west end of the brick portion. Like the earlier section, it has retained most of its original door and window frames although the sashes are all replacements. One original sash remains on the southwest corner of the west facade. Of the three doors, only the batten door leading to the cellar on the west facade is original to the house. There are large keystone lintels above the cellar windows and the south door.

There were originally pent roofs on the south and west facades of the stone portion; the one on the south facade has been partially restored and joist holes remain above the second story on the gable end below a projecting stone ledge.

The attic level of this half was altered in the early 1900s when the roof level was changed to line up with that of the brick portion. The present paired attic windows are restorations, as is the chimney.

By the late 1960s the entire southwest corner of this house had collapsed and had to be strengthened and rebuilt using the original stones.

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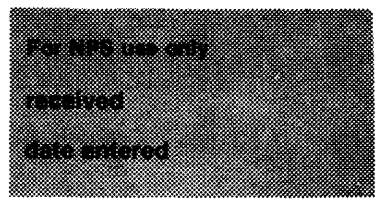
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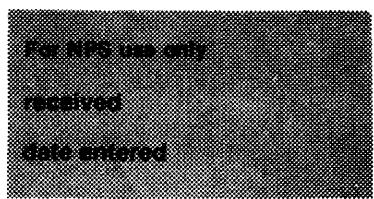
#### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)**

The floor plan of the stone section consists of two rooms arranged front to back on each floor with a stairway rising from the northeast corner of the back room. The two downstairs rooms have back to back corner fireplaces with surprisingly simple trim and have retained most of their original chair rail. Each fireplace wall has a small cupboard; one fireplace also has a small built-in drawer. The two upstairs rooms have simpler woodwork, although the door to the front room is from the original 1745 half of the house. The attic room was originally finished as a sleeping chamber but was considerably altered when the roof level was changed. There is a cellar with partial brick floor, as well as a cooking fireplace with its original crane, remains of a beehive oven, and a dumbwaiter to the first floor.



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## HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Architecturally the John Churchman House is significant for three reasons: It is an important survivor of the distinctive Pennsylvania Quaker building tradition in colonial Maryland; the brick half is an early dated building located in a section of Cecil County unusually rich in examples of eighteenth century architecture, thus giving important clues to the history of architecture in the county; and it retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity on both the exterior and interior, much more than is characteristic of most other houses of comparable age in the county.

The brick half built by John Churchman Jr. in 1745 possesses several important characteristics of Pennsylvania Quaker architecture. The house is located in the Nottingham Lots, an eighteen-thousand-acre land grant established by William Penn in contravention of Lord Baltimore's territorial claims. John Churchman's father was one of the original settlers of the Nottingham Lots; he and the other Quaker immigrants brought with them the building traditions they had known elsewhere in Pennsylvania. For this reason architecture from the northern section of Cecil County is in many ways completely different from that found elsewhere in the county, the majority of which was settled by Scottish and English immigrants.

Two of the most distinctive features of this Quaker tradition are the use of pent roof eaves and the placement of a door and balcony on the second-story facade. At one time pent roofs were a common sight in this section of Cecil County. Nearly all have been removed due to deterioration or changing tastes. Although this also occurred at the John Churchman House, the joist holes and one of the supporting joists are still visible. Originally, the John Churchman House had pent roofs on two levels, a variation which was often seen in Cecil County. Pent roofs are a distinctive badge of Quaker architecture in the Piedmont region of the county. Where they are found elsewhere in the county, such as at Great House (CE-65) near Chesapeake City, and the Veasy-Ford House (CE-186) on Elk Neck, it can be assumed that the builder had ties to the Piedmont area.

The placement of a door on the second story of the main facade is a less common feature of Pennsylvania Quaker architecture. There are no other standing unaltered examples of its use in Cecil County. The Jeremiah Brown House (CE-203) west of Calvert once had such a door, as did the now-demolished Miller-Sidwell House.

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**HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)**

(CE-215) built in 1761; both were stone houses. An important early example of this feature was also once present at Grumblethorpe near Germantown, Pennsylvania, a two-story brick house built in 1760. Its use continued into the early nineteenth century in Pennsylvania, as at the Lampeter Inn, built in 1815 in Lampeter and several brick houses in Smolietown. In all cases mentioned, the door led out to a small balcony. The two holes in the brick which held the balcony railings are still visible at the John Churchman House.

The John Churchman house is an important element in the Nottingham Lots, one of the most important collection of eighteenth century architecture in the county. It is one of eight early, definitely dated buildings in this area, thus providing important clues to the architectural history of the county. Most of these houses, although smaller and less pretentious than the Georgian mansions built by the English settlers to the south, are notable for their sophisticated construction, expert brick and stonework and their interior woodwork. The use of Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers can be found not only at the Churchman house but at the Mercer Brown House, Knightsfield (CE-205) and the Cross Keys Tavern (CE-83). The stone half, while not as unusual, is a well constructed stone house of the late eighteenth century built with pent eave roofs and a full sleeping room on the third floor.

The Churchman house is unusual for the quality of its interior decorative detailing, as well as for the original woodwork still present. The interior gives a good indication of the tastes of the prosperous farmers of the Piedmont. The brick half contains a fully paneled stair-wall as well as a corner cupboard. The quality and extent of original early eighteenth century paneling is equalled in Cecil County by only a handful of other houses: Great House near Chesapeake City, the Tom Mackie House (CE-70) near Cherry Hill, and Anchor and Hope Farm (CE-140) near Port Deposit.

The Churchman House is also significant for its associations with the locally prominent Churchman family, several of whose members were important in the religious history of Maryland-Pennsylvania Quakers in the eighteenth century.

John Churchman, Sr. (1666-1724) emigrated to Pennsylvania from England in 1683 and to the Nottingham Lots in 1704 where he built a log house. His son John Jr. (1705-1775) was born in this house and lived there until he and his wife Margaret built a frame house on

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### HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

this property in 1729. They built the present brick house in 1745. In 1730 he was made the first clerk of the East Nottingham Meeting and in 1733 became a minister. John Churchman, whose wife Margaret Churchman was also a Quaker minister, traveled widely in both the colonies and Europe. In 1743 he embarked on a preaching tour of New England and New York, which was followed by a tour of England, Scotland, Whales, and Holland between 1750 and 1754. An Account of the Gospel Labours and Christian Experiences of that Faithful Minister of Christ, John Churchman, Last of Nottingham in Pennsylvania, a popular account of his travels through Europe, was published posthumously.

George Churchman (1730-1814), only son of John Jr. and Margaret and builder of the stone half of the house, was also a prominent minister, as well as a surveyor. As Presiding Clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, he played host to numerous "weighty Friends" including the abolitionists John Woolman and Elias Hicks. Keenly interested in education, he opened a boarding school (possibly on the property) as early as 1764. A circular dated January 16, 1764 give the terms at the rate of "18 pounds per annum, and so for a quarter, half year, or more." Later he was instrumental in founding the Westtown Friends Boarding School near Philadelphia, still the oldest Friends school in the country.

His son John Churchman III (1753-1805) was perhaps the most talented and prominent member of the family. Trained as a surveyor and scientist, he published a map of the Delmarva peninsula in 1778 and "A Variation Chart or Magnetic Atlas with a Steriographic Projection of the Spheres on a Plane of the First Magnetic Meridian in 1790, th the latter a product of his lifetime interest in the properties of magnetic north. Although not generally recognized in his own country, Churchman maintained a frequent correspondence with the president of the Royal Society in England and the secretary of the Commission of Longitude. Between 1792 and 1796 he was engaged in research in England and France and was soon thereafter elected to the Russian Imperial Academy of Science, an honor only he and Benjamin Franklin shared as Americans. He died at sea in 1805 on a return voyage from St. Petersburg.

The house passed out of the Churchman family in 1837 and the surrounding property, rich in Chromium ore, was mined by the Tyson Mining Company during much of the nineteenth century. The house was acquired by the present owner in 1969.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Churchman, John, House  
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**Continuation sheet** Churchman, John, House  
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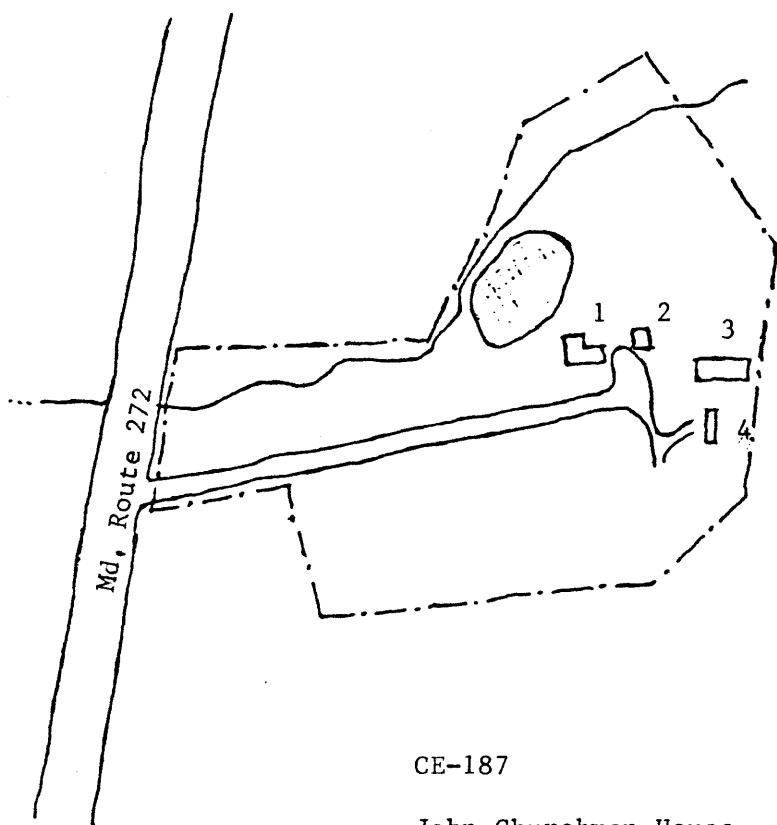
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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Boundaries are depicted on the attached map, drawn to scale 1" = 500' and labeled National Register Boundaries.

**Boundary Description:** The boundaries of the John Churchman property enclose approximately 35 acres. On the west, the boundary terminates at Route 272, the road from Calvert, and parts of the north and south boundaries have been drawn to include the historic approach to the house from this road. In addition, the boundaries include features essential to the rural character of the property, including the early wagon shed east of the house, a pond and stream on the northwest, and pasture land to the south of the driveway.

△  
North



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John Churchman House  
Cecil County, Maryland

National Register Boundaries - - - -

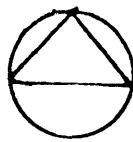
Scale: 1"=500'

- 1--Churchman House
- 2--c. 1800 wagon shed
- 3--bank barn foundations
- 4--20th century foaling shed

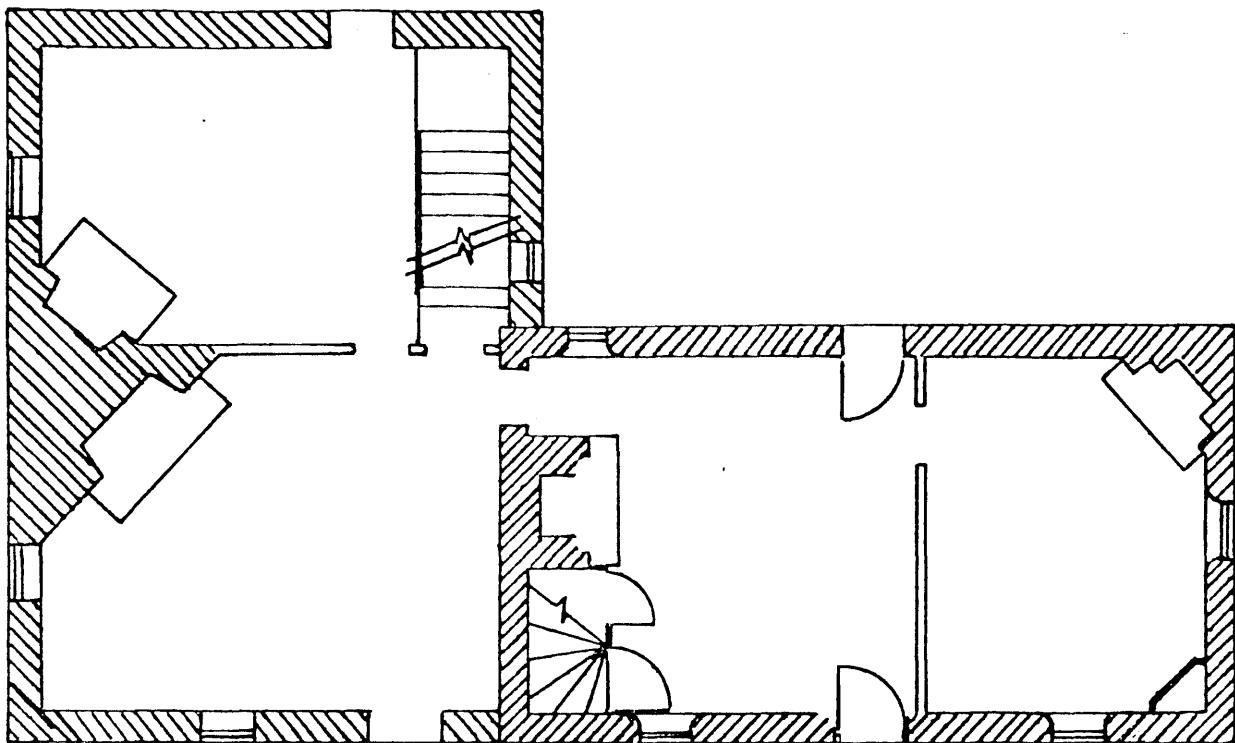
(improvements not to scale)

May 1986

JOHN CHURCHMAN HOUSE  
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND



1745



BRICK

STONE

Plan by Paul Touart, Building Traditions of the  
Nottingham, Cecil County, Maryland Historical Trust,  
May 9, 1981.

1st Floor