

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 6 1978  
DATE ENTERED SEP 24 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ellerslie; Coates Retirement

AND/OR COMMON Ellerslie (Preferred)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Port Tobacco  
South side of Maryland Route 6, one mile west of NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Port Tobacco VICINITY OF First

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Charles CODE 017

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Watson M. Perrygo

STREET & NUMBER Ellerslie

CITY, TOWN Port Tobacco VICINITY OF Maryland 20677

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street

CITY, TOWN La Plata, STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

JFT 12/10/18

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the midst of gently rolling lawns, Ellerslie is a physically commanding, two-story house of basic Georgian styling. Of frame construction, the house is five bays wide on both side elevations and has two exterior chimneys at each end. At the west end of the house is a one-story, two-bay frame wing. The house and wing are sheathed with lapped clapboards, and all of the windows have louvered exterior blinds. The roof of both parts of the house is of painted tin, on the main block replacing the original wood shingles.

The principal facade of the main block faces north. The entrance door, which has a double, eight-pane transom, occupies the center bay and is flanked on each side by two windows of nine-over-nine sash. The five second floor windows, each aligned with the opening below, all frame sash of six-over-nine panes. The two first and second floor windows closest to the west end are positioned closer together than those at the opposite end of this elevation and define the area of an earlier structure that was extensively remodeled and extended to create the present house.

At the main entrance door is a Federal-style, one-story pedimented porch with balustrades, slender tapered posts, and a vaulted ceiling that extends through the tympanum of the pediment. Built by the present owners circa 1965, the porch is of a design appropriate to the date and architecture of the house. The rear elevation repeats the fenestration and door location of the front; however, there is no transom over the door and a shed-roofed porch with turned posts and balustrade is centered across the middle three bays of the first floor.

At the east end of the house are two windows of six-over-six pane sash in the gable and a single first floor door located between the chimneys. The door is fronted by a brick stoop and steps with a wood balustrade matching that of the front and rear porches.

At the west end of the house is one six-over-six gable window and a single second floor window between the chimneys. At this end the south-west chimney is larger than the others to accommodate an additional flue servicing a kitchen fireplace in the west wing. The other three chimneys each service two fireplaces. All four chimneys are of brick construction and have stepped weatherings.

On both side elevations the eave cornices have ogee crown and bed moldings with the end boards shaped in the same profile. The house sits on high brick foundation walls with five grilled window vents on the front. A door near the west end of the south elevation provides access to a partial cellar beneath the main house.

The west wing, built circa 1968 on the foundations of an earlier structure of similar styling, has two windows of nine-over-nine sash in the north wall, one nine-over-nine window in the west end wall, and on the north side,

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Attractively maintained, architecturally distinctive, and historically significant, Ellerslie is one of Charles County's most important historic landmarks. Built in the late Georgian style with Federal interior decorations, it is one of the best preserved examples of late 18th century architecture in lower Southern Maryland. Its long association with two of Southern Maryland's most political and socially prominent families serves to further establish its regional landmark status.

The existing fifty-two acres known as Ellerslie were originally part of a tract of land called Coates Retirement. The tract was surveyed several times and patented to Bartholomew Coates during the period 1661 to 1672. Coates died in about 1673, and in 1674 the patent was finally awarded to his widow, Mary Coates. Following her death the property passed into the ownership of her heirs, William and Thomas Coates.

By 1720 the property had been declared in escheat and a new warrant for resurvey, followed by a patent for 500 acres, was awarded to Dr. Daniel Jenifer, a prosperous and influential gentleman who amassed extensive landholdings throughout Charles County. For over 100 years Coates Retirement remained in the possession of the heirs and descendants of Dr. Jenifer, including his son, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, a nationally prominent political figure who served as a member of the Continental Congress from 1778 to 1782 and signed the Constitution of the United States for Maryland in 1787. Coates Retirement passed from the hands of the Jenifer family in 1835 when it was sold to Henry Brawner. It was during Brawner's ownership that the property was renamed Ellerslie. In 1854 the property was acquired by Walter H. J. Mitchell from the estate of Henry Brawner's widow. Mitchell, a Jenifer descendant who lived at Linden (NR) near Port Tobacco, was a locally prominent political figure who made an unsuccessful bid for Governor of Maryland in the late 1850s. A graduate of Yale College, he was actively involved in legal and political affairs and maintained close affiliations with many nationally important political figures until his death in 1869. Ellerslie, containing about 700 acres, remained in the Mitchell family until 1957 when it was sold to Howard N. Bowie. During Bowie's ownership the property was broken into smaller parcels that were sold off individually. The present owners purchased the house and remaining fifty-two acres from Bowie in 1958.

The outbuildings at Ellerslie include several that were moved here and

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brown, P. Dennis. History of Charles County, Maryland.  
 La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary Commission,  
 1958, pp. 93, 94.

Land and Probate records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Port Tobacco Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 2 2 2 3 0	4 2 6 4 0 8 0	B	1 8	3 2 2 0 6 0	4 2 6 3 3 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 8	3 2 1 7 7 0	4 2 6 3 3 3 0	D	1 8	3 2 1 9 0 0	4 2 6 4 0 0 0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

njm/lkm

J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 132

(301) 645-1144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

La Plata

Maryland 20646

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

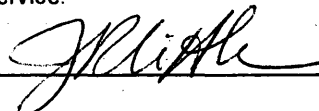
NATIONAL

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



10-30-78



TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest:   
 WILLIAM H. BRAUMAN  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 ATTEST:   
 EMMA JANE SAYLOR  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 8-24-79

DATE 9-21-79

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Ellerslie  
Charles County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

a window and door, the former with nine-over-nine sash and the latter a batten design hung on wrought strap hinges.

There is sufficient architectural evidence to indicate that Ellerslie began as a smaller structure, possibly built as early as the mid-eighteenth century, and was extensively altered and enlarged circa 1790-1820. The house as it exists today represents its plan and appearance following the completion of the alterations, although a few features of the original building can still be seen.

The north entrance door opens into a central hall that extends the full depth of the house. At the south end of the hall is an offset stair of rather unusual configuration. Approached from the middle of the hall, it begins for the first flight and landing in an area set back from the main side wall of the hall. The stair rises in three flights to the second floor and is completely enclosed. On the first floor to the left of the hall (facing south) is a spacious double parlor partitioned by a large doorway fitted with two folding, triple-leafed doors. To the right of the hall are two rooms, believed to be part of the original house. Although all of the first floor rooms are handsomely proportioned and detailed, the double parlors are particularly noteworthy. The two mantels have pilasters with fluted half-columns supporting a frieze with center and end panels decorated with bead-and-reel moldings. On the center block of each is a raised, molded urn with raised, molded swags decorating the frieze between the center and end blocks. Both mantels have a molded cornice shelf with beading (pearls) on the face trim. The remaining woodwork includes molded, one-piece window and door surrounds, beaded baseboards, and a molded, one-piece chairrail. When the house was restored in the late 1950s and early 1960s, pieces of elaborate plaster ceiling cornices were found in the walls and under the house. The existing cornices, installed during the restoration, are not as elaborate as their predecessors but are of an appropriate design and scale. The same ceiling cornice extends into the hall and two west rooms. In the hall the woodwork consists of wide door surrounds with two applied moldings, one positioned at the outer edge of the faceboard and the other closer in toward the door opening. Beaded baseboards and two-piece chairrails are essentially the same in the hall as in the two west rooms. The window and door surrounds in the west rooms are of two pieces and like the chairrails, are of a typical late 18th-early 19th century profile. The mantels in these rooms are fairly simple, with molded pilasters supporting a blocked frieze and molded cornice shelf. The only modern introductions to the first floor are kitchen facilities in the southwest room and a half-bath in a closet under the stair.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Ellerslie  
Charles County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

On the second floor, which has a center hall and four bedrooms, the wood-work is basically the same as that of the two first floor west rooms. A small room at the south end of the hall has been converted into a bathroom. A door at the south end opens onto a stair leading to a commodious but unfinished attic.

The one-room west wing is accessible from the first floor southwest room, and its floor level is several feet lower than that of the main block. At the east end is a large cooking fireplace remaining from the earlier wing that occupied this same location.

Immediately south of the house are several buildings of architectural significance, three of them moved here from other locations in the county. The most important of the dependencies is a small barn, formerly a combination granary and mill, known as the "Old Friendship Barn," believed to have been built on its original location in the late 17th century. It is the oldest known and recorded building of its type in the state. The other outbuildings include a smokehouse (now a tool shed) with a pedimented roof that extends out from the face of the front wall, and a pyramid-roofed dairy. Both are believed to date from the 18th century.

To the west of the north entrance drive is the site of what appears to have been a frame house with exterior chimneys. Believed to date from the 18th century and possibly the predecessor of the existing house, little surface (exposed) evidence remains to indicate its original appearance other than that it was a fairly substantial structure. Between this site and the main house are several graves marked by fieldstones. These are traditionally said to be Indian graves, but it is just as likely that they are the graves of the slaves who lived on and worked the property.

Ellerslie is a rectangular-shaped tract of land with the house and dependencies located toward the south end of the property. The house sits in the center of spacious lawns that gently fall toward the north, south, and west sides. The north, south, and west borders of the property are densely wooded, effectively shielding the house from the main road to the north and a subdivision flanking it on the south and west sides. A cleared area east of the house allows it to be clearly seen from the Port Tobacco Heights subdivision; however, cedars and other trees have been planted in this area that will eventually shield the house from view. The grounds proximate to the house are

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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Ellerslie  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

landscaped with a variety of flowering trees and shrubs. To the west and north sides are large shade trees, several of which are over 200 years old. Two magnificent Lombardy pines in front of the house rise to an extraordinary height, towering over the tall house.

ADDENDUM TO DESCRIPTION

On the sketch map accompanying the nomination the site of the reconstructed dairy is mistakenly identified as the smokehouse (#4). Building #4 is actually the reconstructed dairy, now used as a storage shed. Building #7 is a former smokehouse, now used to display the property owner's museum quality collection of early tools and farm implements. Corrections have been made to the map.

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Ellerslie  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 4

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

restored in recent years. All of them are noteworthy examples of early farm dependencies of which fewer and fewer representative examples remain. Of particular significance is a 17th century barn, believed to be the oldest structure of its type in Maryland.

The existing property encompasses several building sites, the most easily discernible being that of a frame house located several hundred yards northwest of the present house. It is believed by some that this house preceded the existing one and may have been the home of Dr. Daniel Jenifer. If so, it was possibly the boyhood home of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer. If such could be documented it would establish this as one of Maryland's more important historical archeological sites. It is also possible, however, that the oldest part of the existing house was built by either Dr. Jenifer or one of his sons including, conceivably, Daniel of St. Thomas. Since Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer spent most of his later life at his plantation, Stepney, in Annapolis and had disposed of most of his landholdings in Charles County before his death in 1790, it is unlikely that he had anything to do with the renovations which occurred here. Nevertheless, the association of the Jenifer family with the property and the architectural interest and integrity of the house and dependencies easily establish its significance on both a local and regional level.

ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE

The reconstructed outbuildings, although not historically related to this particular property, are nevertheless representative of the types of dependencies that undoubtedly surrounded the house in the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. The reconstruction of these buildings on their respective sites serves to represent the probable appearance of Ellerslie at the time construction of the existing house was completed. Each of the three main outbuildings (the dairy, smokehouse and barn) were meticulously reconstructed and restored. Inasmuch as few such buildings remain in the county, each can be considered an important if not unique survival, of value to any study of regional vernacular architecture, and relate well, physically and visually, to each other and the house in their new setting. The significance of the seventeenth century barn is illustrated by the fact that it has been recorded by both HABS and Colonial Williamsburg. This building alone is one of Maryland's only seventeenth century barn known to be standing in the State.



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Ellerslie  
Charles County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 5

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.

The 52 acres nominated is a rectangular shaped tract of land bounded on the north by Maryland Route 6, on the east by Howard Drive and the Port Tobacco Heights subdivision, and on the south and west sides by Port Tobacco Hills subdivision. The surveyed boundaries of the property as nominated are contained in a deed on file in the Land Records Office of the Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland (20646) under Liber 137, folio 260 (August 21, 1958).

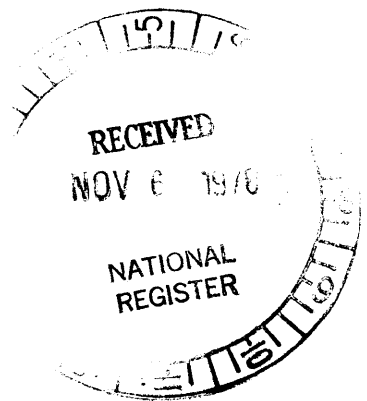
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property, including 52+ acres, constitutes all of the remaining acreage of the original Coate's Retirement-Ellerslie tract and comprises all of the land purchased with the house by the present owners. The north entrance drive is the original, eighteenth century approach to the house. The virgin woodland bordering the drive and surrounding the house, which includes many species of trees over two hundred years of age, serves to maintain the integrity of the property since it (the property) probably is much the same in appearance as it was circa 1800. Inclusion of the full 52 acres will also help to preserve the environment of the house from further encroachment by the surrounding developments. It seems appropriate to include the entire acreage to insure both the visual and historical integrity of this important property.

ELLERSLIE  
CHARLES CO., MD.

PLOT PLAN

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
JKR/MAY, 1978



← PORT TOBACCO HILLS →

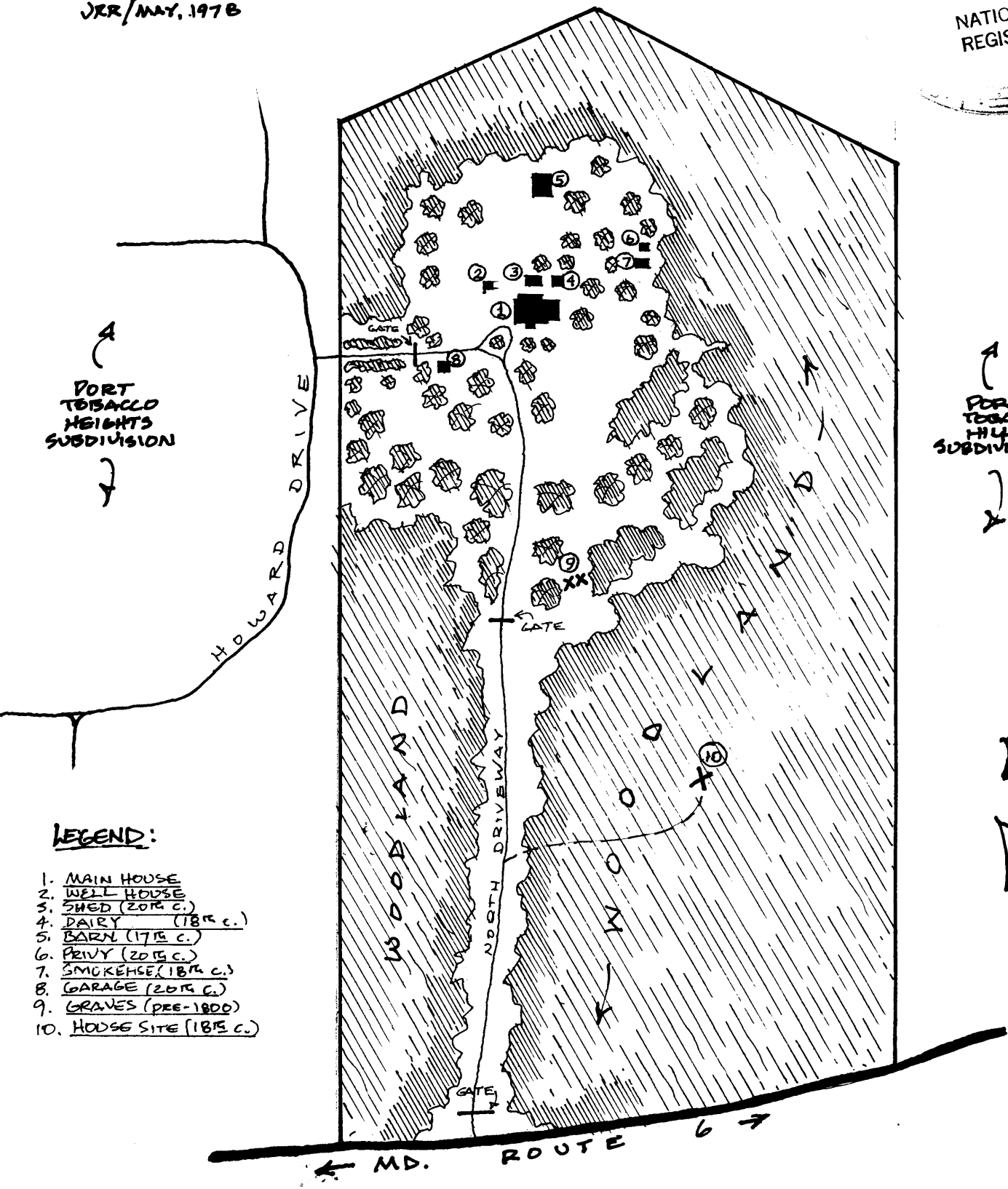
↑  
PORT  
TOBACCO  
HEIGHTS  
SUBDIVISION  
↓

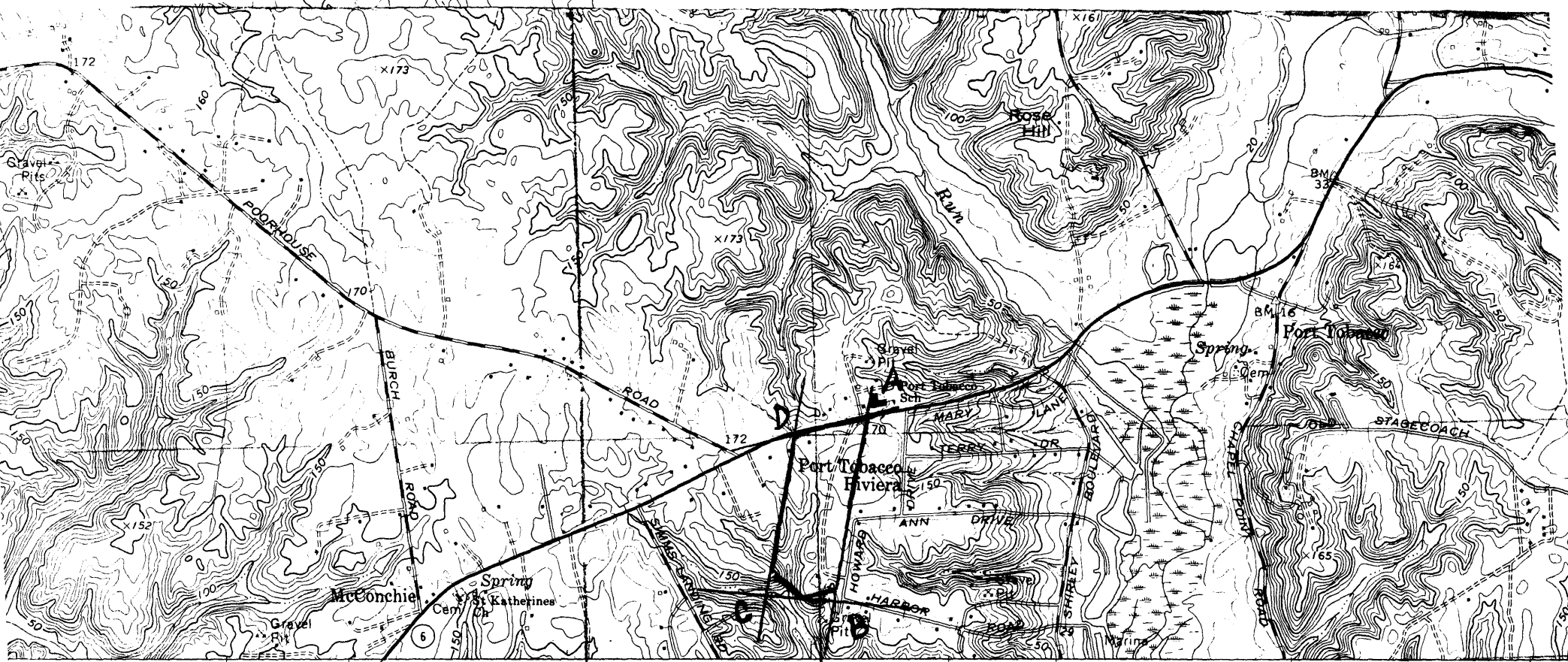
↑  
PORT  
TOBACCO  
HILLS  
SUBDIVISION  
↓



LEGEND:

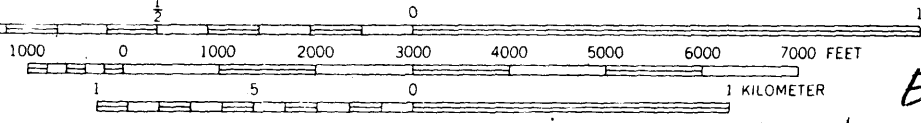
- 1. MAIN HOUSE
- 2. WELL HOUSE
- 3. SHED (20th c.)
- 4. DAIRY (18th c.)
- 5. BARN (17th c.)
- 6. PRIVY (20th c.)
- 7. SMOKEHOUSE (18th c.)
- 8. GARAGE (20th c.)
- 9. GRAVES (PRE-1800)
- 10. HOUSE SITE (18th c.)





(MATHIAS POINT) WELCOME 2.9 MI.  
5560.1 NE NANJEMOY 13 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

*Ellerslie*

A. 18/322230  
4264080  
B. 18/322060/  
4263300  
C. 18/321770/  
4263330  
D. 18/321900  
4264000



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- State Route

**PORT TOBACCO**  
SE/4 INDIAN HEAD 15'  
N3830—W770

1966

AMS 5561 II SE—SE

