

Site of National SignificanceWye House, Maryland

Location: Talbot County, on Miles Neck River, 6.9 miles northwest of Easton, via U.S. 33, U.S. 370 and Bruffs Island Road.

Ownership: Mr. and Mrs. Morgan B. Schiller, R.D. 1, Easton, Maryland.

Statement of Significance

Wye House, built in 1781-84 and achieving its final form by 1799, is an outstanding example of a large Southern frame plantation house. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Roman Country House" composition and it illustrates the transition in style from late Georgian to Early Federal architecture.

History

Construction of Wye House, built for Edward Lloyd IV (1744-96), a wealthy Maryland planter,¹ began about 1781 and the central block and two detached dependencies were completed in 1784. Robert Key, a carpenter of Annapolis worked on the house between 1781 and 1798 and may have also been the designer of the plan. By 1799 the house had assumed its original and present seven-part form: the two detached pavilions had been connected to the central block by means of small one-story hyphens and two one-story end-units had been added to the sides of the pavilions. The portico on the south or front elevation and the large veranda on the north or garden facade had also been added by 1799. The plantation has been in the possession of the Lloyd family since 1658.

Condition

The Wye House is a seven-part composition 151 feet long and is comprised of a tall two-story central block 47 feet wide by 42 feet deep, with two flanking lower two-story symmetrical

¹Tax records for 1783 indicate that Edward Lloyd IV then owned 261 slaves, 11,884 acres of land, 579 hogs, 215,000 pounds of tobacco and 500 ounces of plate.

a narrow east-west cross hall that leads to the two wings. The east cross hall (to the right) is wider and beyond an elliptical arch, situated against the south cross hall wall; is a fine late Georgian stair. Also from the right side of the entrance hall--near the front--a door leads into a small office and across the hall is the small south parlor. The north (garden) front of the central block, beyond the east-west cross hall, is occupied by two large rooms: the north parlor to the left and the dining room to the right or east. In the office the wall over the chimney is paneled and the fireplace is flanked by cupboards. The high mantel is carved with a Greek key design. In the south parlor the paneling across the chimney is similar to that of the office. There is a small cupboard to the right of the fireplace and the left side has horizontal paneling of flat sheathing. An eared molding, designed to frame a portrait, outlines the space directly above the fireplace. The hall cornices are carved in Wall of Troy designs. Both the north parlor and dining room, which are connected by an elliptical arched opening with sliding doors, have light cornices and high carved mantels that are surmounted by paneling and eared molding. Both rooms also have "jib" windows--windows whose lower parts are hinged and can be opened for use as doors. The interior of Wye House has several similarities to the Chase-Lloyd House in Annapolis, which Edward Lloyd IV completed in 1774, notably the door escutchens, drop handles, and flat friezes with curved ends over some inner doors on the first floor. Some of the drop handles are of silver. These interiors are little-altered and are furnished with many original Lloyd 18th century pieces and paintings.

North of the house is a grass lawn about 50 feet wide and 100 yards long. At the northern end of this green is located the architecturally noteworthy Orangerie, a brick structure incorporating within its walls the remains of a earlier similar building. The Orangerie is $85\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, with a central two-story section flanked by lower wings, and in its present form dates from the 1790s. The two-story hipped-roofed central portion is four bays long and has very tall one-story rectangular windows on the first floor. The brick walls are covered with stucco that is rusticated in imitation of stonework and the second story windows are small and square. The flanking hipped-roof wings, each 26 feet and three bays long, are raised one step above grade, and have very tall one-story arched windows. The building was used to grow orange and lemon trees and the center second-story contained a 18th century billard room. The Orangerie still contains a rare example of an original 18th central heating system (hot air duct system). On both sides of the green are original 18th century formal gardens that cover between four and five acres. On the west side of the green stands the Captain's House, which is believed to have been an original dependency of the first Wye House, built by Edward

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL MONUMENT SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Wye House, Talbot County, Maryland

The transition from late-seventeenth to early Federal is exemplified in the Wye House, built 1781-1784 and achieving its final form by 1789. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a superb example of a large Southern Frame plantation house. It is an outstanding example of a large Southern Frame plantation house.

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The plantation has been in the possession of the Lloyd family since 1809. It is an operating plantation; the mansion is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

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Site of Edward Lloyd House

Wye House, Maryland

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pavilion, two connecting one-story hallways, and two one-story large end-units. The center block and pavilion are typical by wide low-pitched gable roofs which are brought out to the main facade as smooth beveled pilasters and treated as classical temple pediments. The entrance of both facades of the central block contain a large lunette window. These pediments are framed by four tall columns, two located on either side of the main house. The one-story hyghens, two located on either side of the main house, are covered by pent roofs which cannot be seen from the south or front side of the house. The two corresponding one-story end-units have hipped roofs and their ridge poles parallel the long axis. The west end-unit contained a large plantation office and the east unit a wash room and brick passageway. The west pavilion housed library of 1,000 books on the first floor and there were chambers above; the east pavilion contained the kitchen and servants' quarters.

Of frame construction, the walls are brick ragged and covered on the exterior by clapboards. The central block is five bays wide, the pavilions and end-units are each two, and the hyghens one-bay wide. The corners of the main block have broad unfluted colossal pilasters and those of the pavilions, narrow unfluted colossal pilasters. Small medallions embellish the main cornices as well as the pediments of the central block. First floor windows of the main house have nine over six light sash and those above, six over six sash. All windows have exterior blinds. The center door of the south (or front) facade has a fan transom window under a broken pediment and side windows. The door is flanked by engaged Doric columns and on the outside of the door's side windows are Doric pilasters. The entranceway is sheltered by a small one-story Palladian portico, added about 1799, with four slender columns. The north (rear or garden) elevation of the central block has a one-story covered porch extending across its entire front. This long veranda has jalousies on the sides, six fluted columns with delicate palm-leaf capitals in front, and a slender balustrade on the roof. Added in 1799, the north porch is Early Federal or Republican in style. In the period 1830-50, the door in the north elevation of each hyphen was retrimmed in Greek revival style and their pent roofs were extended out to cover these entries, but pitched at a lower angle, thereby giving the effect of a flattened half-gambrel. In 1914 the two pavilions had their gable roofs raised about a foot and a half to elevate the ceilings in the second floor bedrooms and also to raise the original three over three light sash second story windows above the floor level. The first floor 18th-century library of the west pavilion was also remodelled into a bedroom.

In plan a central entrance hall extends from the south (front) center door midway through the house, where it intersects

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View I show, 1953-54. This small brick cottage, originally of red brick with a half and half plan, was reroofed and altered in 1910. The Wye House and its grounds are in an excellent condition. Still a splendid plantation, the mansion is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

References: Henry C. Ferman, Old Buildings, Gardens and Furnishings of the Wye House, Maryland (Cambridge, Md., 1947), 51-61; J.H. Henshaw, Original Plantations of Maryland and Delaware (Philadelphia, 1914), 1-13; Wye House, A Guide to the Old Line State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1948), 299; Katherine Scarborough, Wives of the Cavaliers (New York, 1934), 323-333; Wayne Andrews, Architectural History of the Wye House (New York, 1955), 13, 22-23; J. Pennock Williams, "Bill for the Construction of the Chase House," Maryland Historical Magazine, March, 1923, 23; Roscoe R. Bairne, "The Chase House in Annapolis," Maryland Historical Magazine, September, 1954; McHenry Howard, "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine, December, 1923 (Vol. VIII, No. 4) 293-299; J. Donnell Triggman, "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine, (June, 1953), 90-101.

Large Photos: Lewis A. Coffin and A. C. Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia (New York, 1919), 13. Faith Garner, "Wye House in Talbot County - Having with Antiques on Maryland's Eastern Shore," Antiques, April 1960, 520-524. Historical American Building Survey; (14 photos, 1935, 1936). (Orangeburg, drawings of, 1963).

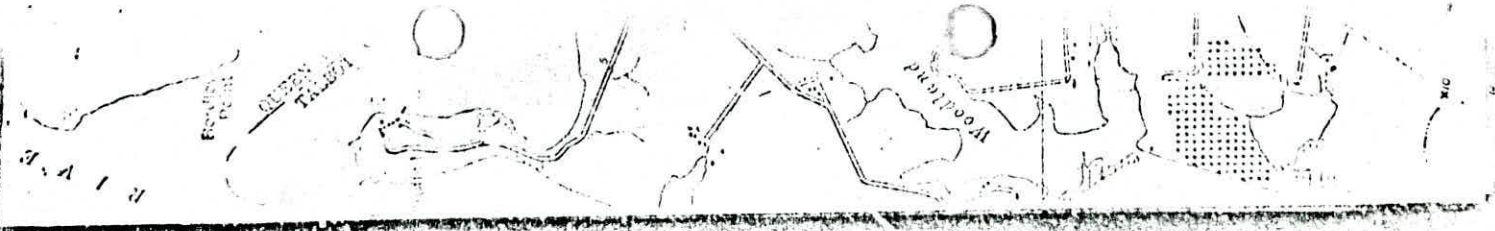
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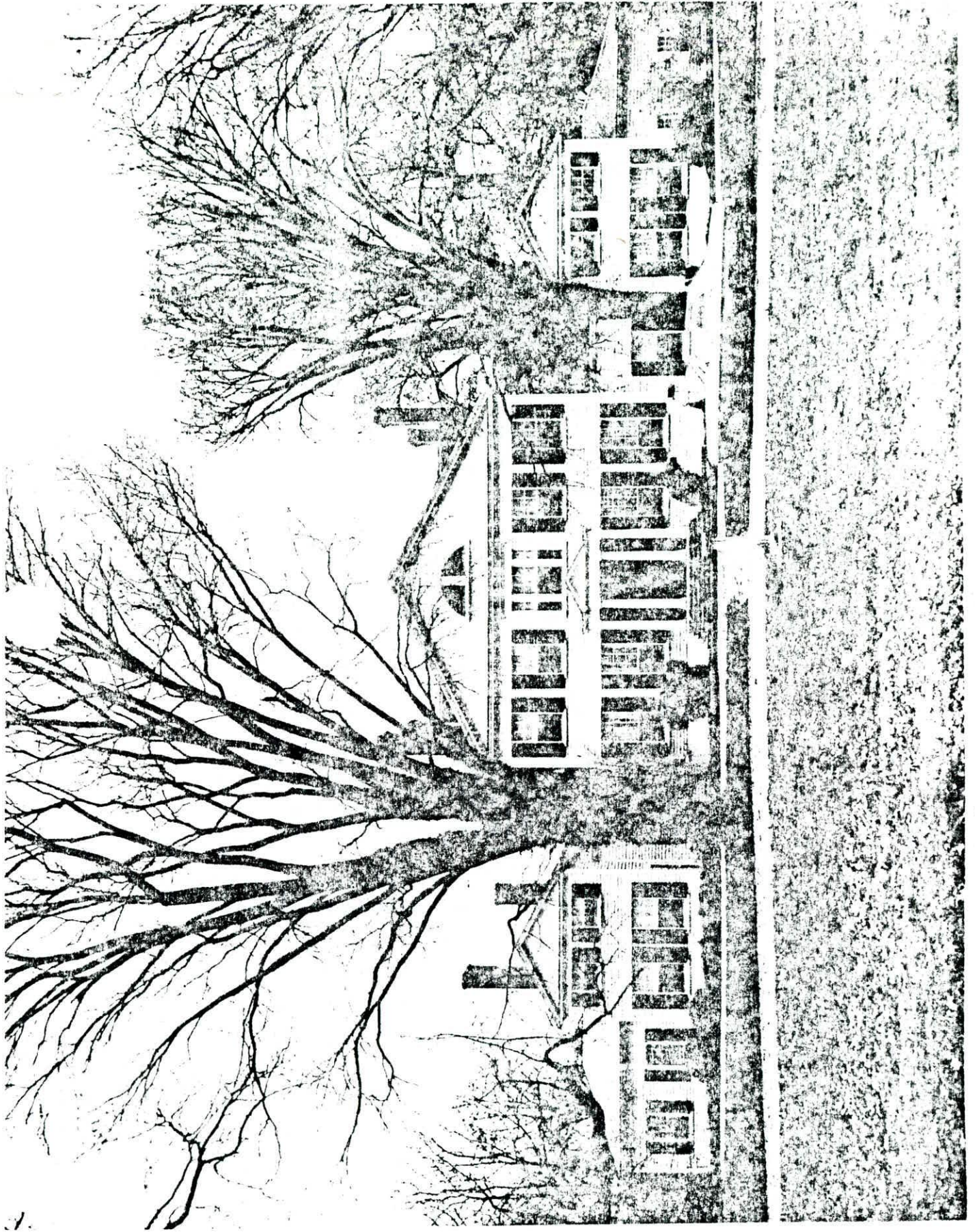
WYE HOUSE, THURSTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

Boundaries of the Historic Site:

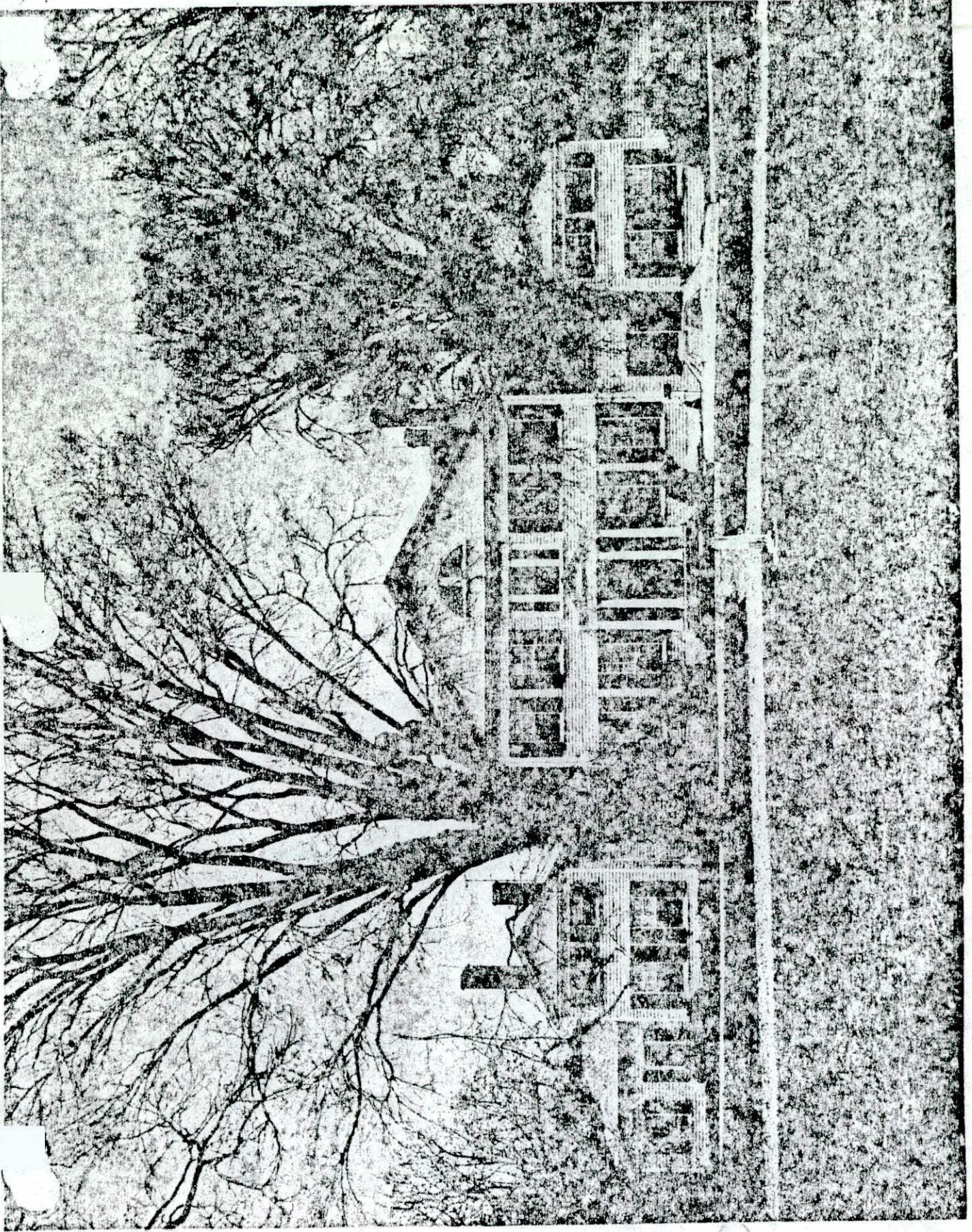
Approximately 127.64 acres of land in the shape of a rectangle, including the Wye House Plantation house and its dependencies, starting at the southwest corner at latitude $38^{\circ}50'46''$ N. - longitude $76^{\circ}10'30''$ W., proceeding about 4100 feet to the northeast to the northwest corner at lat. $38^{\circ}51'24''$ N. - long. $76^{\circ}10'14''$ W., then continuing to the southeast about 1600 feet to the northeast corner on the west bank of Lloyd Creek at lat. $38^{\circ}51'19''$ N. - long. $76^{\circ}09'56''$ W., then going southwest about 4100 feet to the southeast corner on the north edge of the county highway at lat. $38^{\circ}50'41''$ N. - long. $76^{\circ}10'13''$ W., then returning to the northeast about 1600 feet along the north edge of the county highway to the beginning, the southeast corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: St. Michaels Quadrangle, Maryland 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1942, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

Total acreage in the Wye House Plantation is about 966 acres.

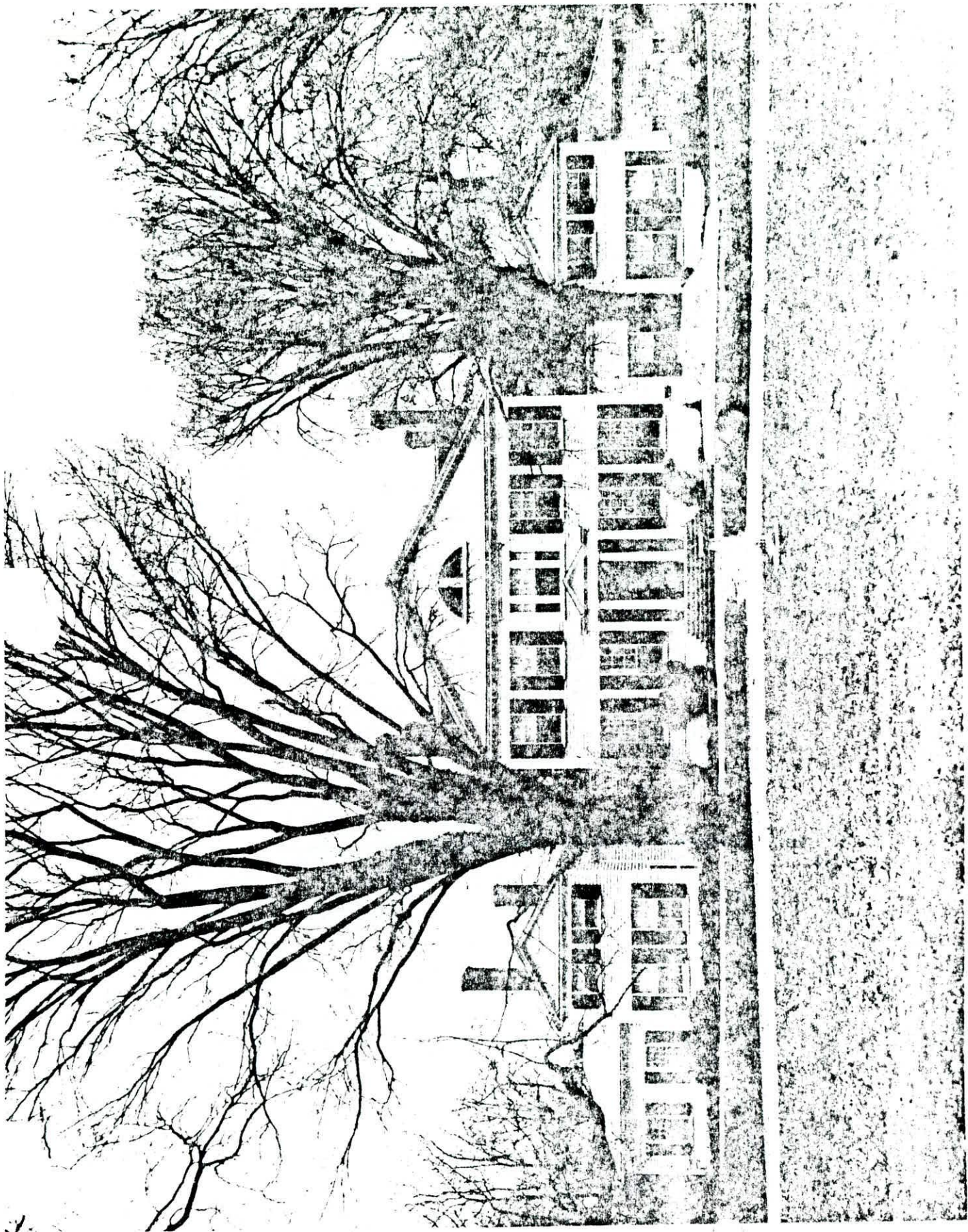




Wye House, Miles River Neck, Maryland
South or front elevation.



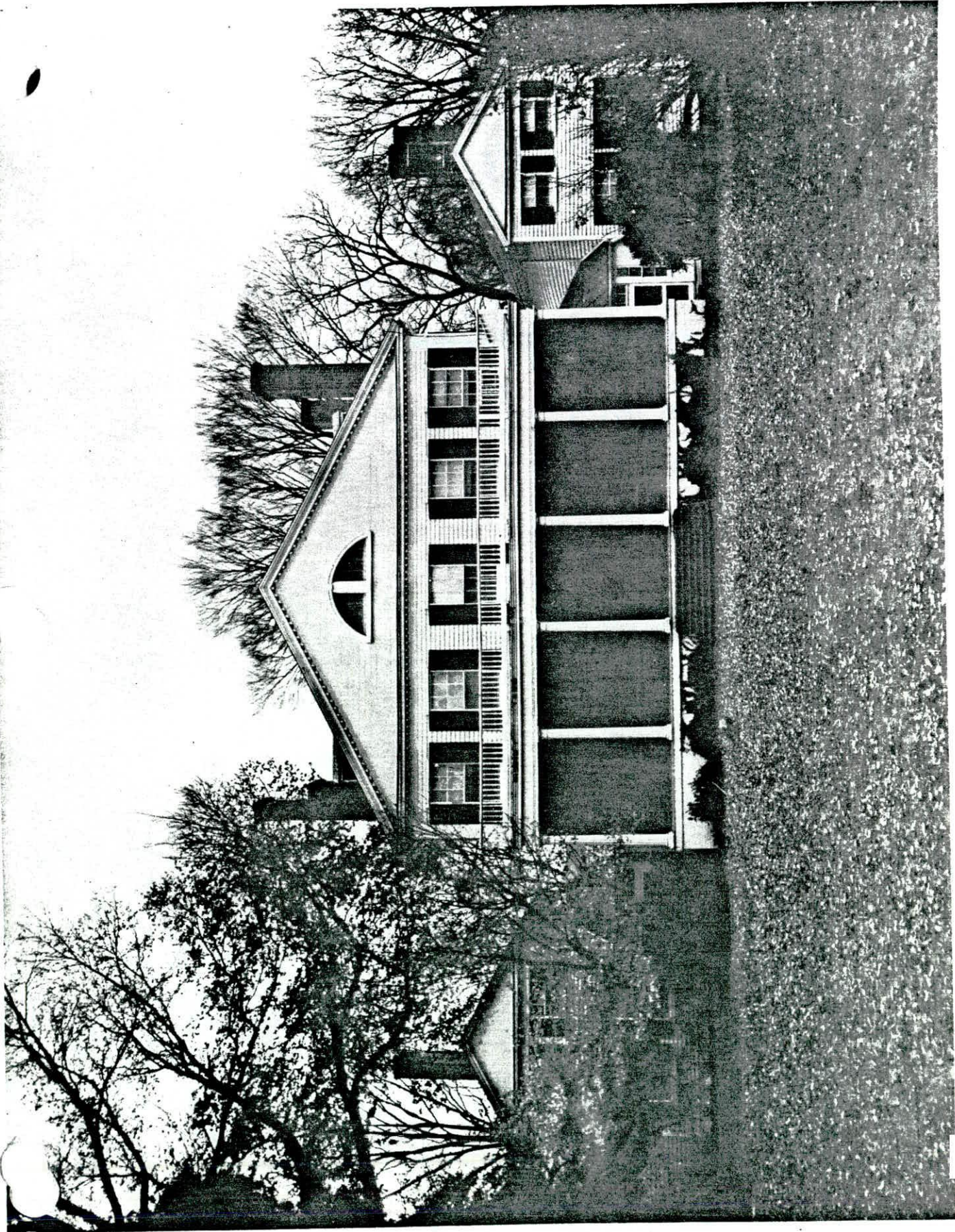
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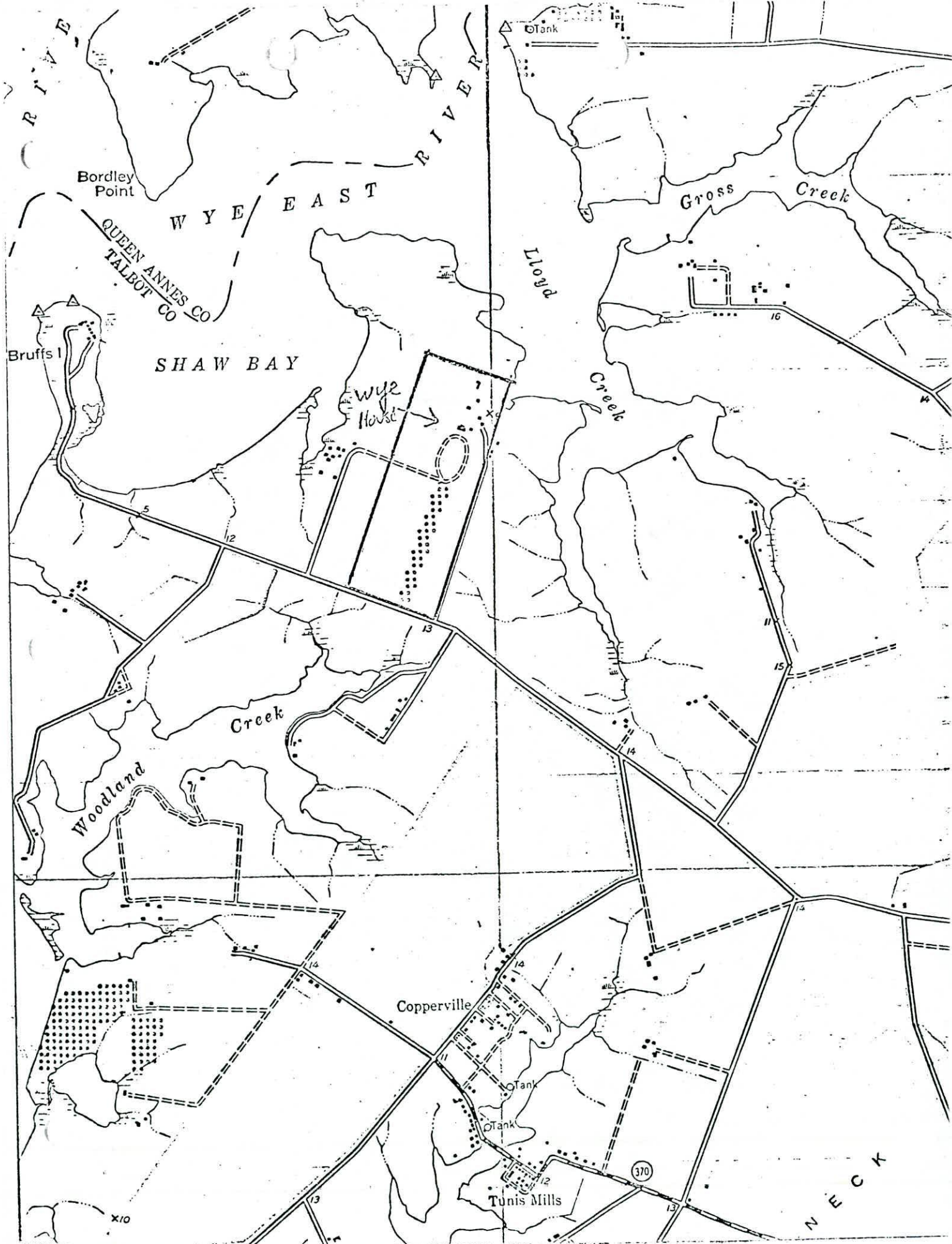


W. cuse, Miles River Neck, Maryland
Mouth on main floor elevation

WYE HOUSE, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLANDBoundaries of the Historic Site:

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ST MARGARET ROAD

Wye House
T-57

National Historic Landmark 5/10/70

National Register

13. Wye House, on Miles Neck River 6.9 miles northwest of Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. The transition from late-Georgian to early Federal is illustrated in the Wye House, built 1781-1784 and achieving its final form by 1799. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Roman Country House" composition. It is an outstanding example of a large Southern frame plantation house. Still an operating plantation, the mansion is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

Dept of Int. 5/10/70

News Release

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