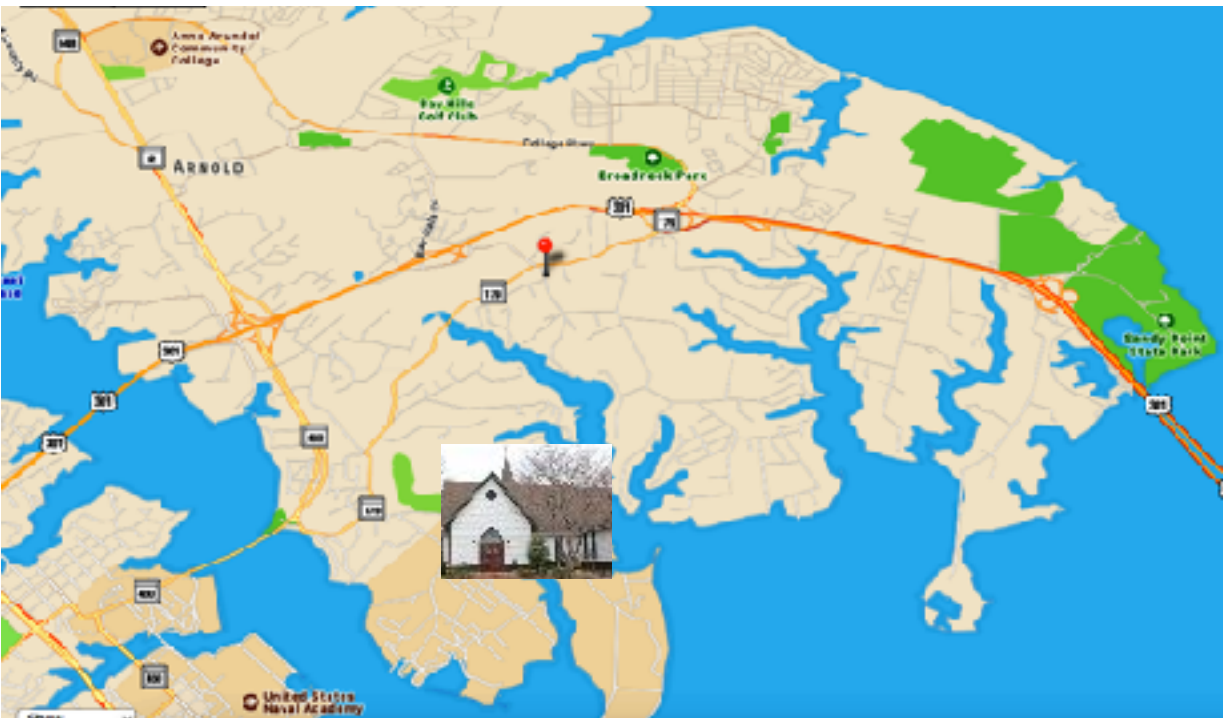




A TOUR OF OUR HOME ON THE BROADNECK PENINSULA



2017

PREPARED BY THE HISTORY & ARCHIVES PROJECT

FOR THE 325TH ANNIVERSARY

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, ANNAPOLIS

1692 - 2017

PHOTOS & MAPS & DIRECTIONS FOLLOW TEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Mack's Memories & The First Tours — 1996 - 1998

In 1996, Folger McKinsey (Mack) Ridout, Sr. (1925 - 2011) published his feature article *Driving Down St. Margaret's Road*, in the October & November 1996 issue of THE SPIRE, St. Margaret's Church then bi-monthly print newsletter.

Driving turned out to be part of a series that appeared throughout 1997 & 1998, becoming known simply as *Mack's Memories*.

Mack's writings were followed in 1997 & 1998 by a series of St. Margaret's Church driving tours that he and brother Orlando (Lanny Ridout) IV (1922 - 2017) led throughout the Broadneck Peninsula.

Mack's stories, the tours, and his love of the heritage where he grew up, encouraged present-day history and archival efforts at St. Margaret's Church. For St. Margaret's Church 325th anniversary in 2017, the tours started by Mack Ridout have been expanded and are available on a virtual basis. Actual driving tours can follow.

1. The 1895 Church — 1601 Pleasant Plains Road

The 1895 church was built for \$1,200 following the 1892 fire that destroyed significant portions of the 1852 church that had fallen into near total disrepair. It is the third church at the present location, the first built 1825—1827. The 1986 Enhanced Restoration enlarged and completely renovated the church. Significant interior renovations have been made since 1986 and loving care of the church continues.

Stained glass windows and the bell tower and bell would follow the 1895 dedication. The 1895 church was supposedly sited just south of the 1852 church with the areas surrounding the altar built atop the charred remains of the former church. The bell and bell tower were dedicated 1908. The first stained glass window sits high on the west wall of the sanctuary. Ten of the stained glass windows were dedicated March 1929.

The second church on this site was an 1852 rebuild after the first church on this site burned in 1851.

Construction of the first church on this site started in 1825 after one acre of land was acquired in 1824. The wooden frame church building begun in 1825 burned before completion. Tradition has said that a brick church was finished for dedication in 1827. However research in 2017 shows that this church was wooden framework.

St. Margaret's Church had neither church nor location from 1803-1824. The addition of the Sunday School Building in 1958 altered the look of the church.

2. St. Margaret's Churchyard— 1601 Pleasant Plains Road

When St. Margaret's Church abandoned its two acre Severn Heights location in 1803 it also abandoned its cemetery at this site. Perhaps some burials continued at Severnside after 1803 and it is likely that there were some burial sites along the exterior of the 1825 and 1852 churches and at the the first rectory, east of the church on St. Margaret's Road. It is also likely that burials occurred on the land acquired by St. Margaret's Church in 1884 before and even after the land passed to the church.

When the land passed to St. Margaret's Church in 1884 the deed prohibited use of the land for burials — though burials began to take place. It was not until the 1950s that St. Margaret's Church and Ridout family descendants would agree to allow using the land for burials — though recorded burials sanctioned by the church occurred as early as the latter part of the 19th century.

Reportedly some remains were moved to the current church yard from Severnside and a body representing colonial governor Robert Eden was reportedly removed from Severnside to St. Anne's Parish (Annapolis) in the mid-1920s.

In 1972, a marker was placed in the cemetery *In memory of all those who have gone before us who are buried here and are only known to God. 1825-1895*. The historical accuracy of those dates is open to question — the marker appears to have been placed simply because several members of the vestry thought it was a good idea and were able to pay for the marker from private subscription.

No historical evidence exists that enslaved persons or free blacks were ever intentionally buried in the current churchyard with knowledge and approval of St. Margaret's Church in any funeral or burial service conducted by clergy of the parish. If enslaved persons or free blacks were buried at Severnside, they would have been buried with no markings or at best a wooden post that quickly decayed.

In 2003, following a bequest from Virginia Pettebone, a columbarium was constructed and a marker placed therein recalling colonial remains. However, there are no remains of any kind — colonial or otherwise — beneath that columbarium marker.

3. Second First Rectory— 1601 Pleasant Plains Road

The 1900 ca. rectory was a two story structure described by the late Folger McKinsey (Mack) Ridout, Sr. as similar to the house he built on Ridout Creek in the 1950s and occupied until 2017 by his widow Barbara Ridout. However, his brother Orlando (Lanny) Ridout IV reported that the rectory was similar to the farmhouse his parents owned on Whitehall Road and in 2017 was owned by Mack's son Folger McKinsey Ridout, Jr.

Rectors and their families occupied this rectory — often referred to in historical documents as *the first rectory* though it was at least the second rectory — from 1900 ca. until 1961 when it was razed and replaced.

The rectory was located at the southwestern edge of the 2016 parking lot, directly across from the entrance to 1612 Pleasant Plains Road. It was a large two-story wood frame house with an L-shaped design. The original exterior was clapboard, eventually replaced with asbestos shingles.

4. Pleasant Plains Road Houses — 1600 & 1604 Pleasant Plains Road

In 1946, parishioner William H. Labrot gave 1,000 shares of Socony Vacuum Oil Company stock (Standard Oil Company of New York) used in 1948 for construction of two simple houses on Pleasant Plains Road directly across from St. Margaret's Church. Until 1958, the two houses built on land owned by St. Margaret's Church since 1938 ca. were not to be sold and were not to be used for clergy housing, providing forever a steady stream of rental income for the parish.

Sale of both houses in 1961 provided funds to replace the existing two story rectory with a rectory that by 1997 became the administration building.

By covenant, no structures ever built on this property were to be used for consumption of alcohol except light wine and the sale of alcoholic beverages was forbidden. (Reportedly the land had been acquired in 1938 ca. to halt construction of a retail liquor store at the intersection of Pleasant Plains Road and St. Margaret's Road.) No person of color was to ever live in any house built on this property.

5. Dr. Zachariah Ridout House — 1615 St. Margaret's Road

Constructed 1830 ca., this house was rebuilt in the early 1900s into its present day square design. Zachariah Ridout, M.D. (Dr. Zach) was the nephew of the Rev. Samuel Ridout, M.D. The house sits just east of St. Margaret's Church, set back from St. Margaret's Road. It was originally an L-shaped frame house.

The property had once been part of a larger farm, including eight acres of land sold to Hesther Chase Ridout in 1883 for St. Margaret's Church. Dr. Zach was the long-time registrar of St. Margaret's Church. All archival records including parish register, vestry minutes, and other church records dating to at least 1708 and perhaps even earlier were stored on the second floor of his home.

In 1901 a disastrous fire destroyed every record except the register. Horace Ridout, his brother visiting from Frederick, Maryland, saved his aunt, then returning for the register, threw its writing desk from the window. Horace died when the second floor collapsed.

The second George Norris family was the last of the Ridout family line to live in this house and live on this property — by 2017 separated into four properties.

6. Frank Duvall House — 1588 St. Margaret's Road

This house was likely built 1830 ca. at approximately the same time as the Dr. Zachariah Ridout House. Built in the same L-shaped design as other homes of that period, it too was later changed to a square plan. In 2017 it is painted yellow. St. Margaret's Church annual Labor Day jousts that began in the latter part of the nineteenth century were held on Duvall property immediately east of the house.

7. The First Rectory — 1579 St. Margaret's Road

St. Margaret's Church first rectory was built 1830, ca., just six years after the parish in 1824 acquired one acre of land at the site of the 1895 (present-day) church. St. Margaret's Church had been without a church since 1803. Church construction started in 1825 and apparently the rectory construction began after completion of the church. A rectory (parsonage, vestry house) was a relatively new concept in Maryland.

The rectory was a two-story frame house —originally two buildings joined as one. By 1901, the second *First Rectory* was constructed on property St. Margaret's Church acquired in 1884 situated directly across from the entrance to 1612 Pleasant Plains Road.

The rectory later became home to Horace Ridout with part of the house serving as a store and a post office. Conditions of sale of the first rectory and the amount of land included within the sale remain to be determined. The land on which the rectory stood was at one time a glebe of St. Margaret's Church and part of Felicity Plains. Felicity Plains in 1667 had consisted of 200-600 acres held by the Homewood family. Whitehall Creek was originally Homewood Creek.

8. John Small House/Walnut Hill — 1563 St. Margaret's Road

This house (now Walnut Hill) is located on the hill west of the entrance to Amberly. It was built in 1770 by John Small, Sr., on land that was part of the large patent called Felicity Plains. It was a small two-story frame house. The kitchen was originally separate, becoming part of the house after 1940.

When Dr. Oliver Tilghman Brice owned this house in the 1930s, it was much as it had been originally, including slave quarters and a barn. There was a very small graveyard behind the house.

9. The Meetinghouse — Meeting House Lane

The meeting house no longer stands at the top of the hill on Meetinghouse Lane. (This is not the Quaker meeting house built ca. 1648 at Westminster Towne —present-day Cape St. Claire — before that *Persimmon Pointe*.)

This meeting house was a small, rough, frame structure likely built by Puritans after 1648 and used as a community center. The earliest Anglican worship services on the Broadneck Peninsula may have occurred here. Legend tells us that St. Margaret's Church used this meeting house at times for worship between 1803 and 1825 when the parish was without a church following the fire that destroyed the second church located at Winchester Heights (Severnside).

Legend also tells us that in the early to mid 1800s African Americans including both enslaved and free persons met here for worship services before the first Asbury Broadneck AME church was built ca. 1851. Legends or facts? This meeting house or another?

10. Hollywood House —880 Holly Drive West

This house was built 1845 ca. on the west side of Ridout Creek. The builder of The Pleasant Plains House (Site 40) constructed the Hollywood House for his daughter. Connections with St. Margaret's Church are legion — the daughter married a Duvall, her daughter married a Pettebone, and the Tate family owns the house today.

11. Grist Mill & Miller's House

The Grist Mill (ca. 1765 and no longer standing) and the Miller's House (mid-1800s) were built by Governor Sharpe in 1765 to serve the needs of Whitehall Plantation.

Located at the head of Whitehall Creek, the mill dam is on the inside circle of the Route 50 exit to Cape St. Claire. The mill pond covered approximately 40 acres from the former Sandy Point Road — now Whitehall Road — to the present-day Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church. Maintaining a good strong sluice run from Cat Branch in dry weather proved to be a problem.

Nevertheless, grain was ground on a regular basis from corn and wheat grown at Whitehall and neighboring farms. Grain was even delivered by boat up Whitehall Creek. The mill was burned during the American Revolutionary War by thieves attempting to cover up a crime and rebuilt, operating until the early 1900s.

The miller's house was immediately across the road from the dam, on the south side of Whitehall Rd. The present house was apparently built in the mid-1800s. It is not a large house with small rooms and reportedly once most attractive inside and out.

Familiar families living in this house included Ridout, Duvall, and Boone. It later served as the site of Boone's store. RADM Hottell (USCG) and then his daughter Katherine (Kitty) Hottell occupied the miller's house ca. 1765 until the early 1960s. With the family in California, the property has become overgrown and the house is badly deteriorated.

12. St. Margaret's Hunt Club

The Hunt Club was started in 1933 by Oliver Brice, C. Carroll Lee, Robert (Bob) Zindorf, George Dawson, Orlando (Lan) Ridout III, and William (Bill) Labrot (owner of the horse race training track located where Revell Downs is situated today). They could be found at the Hunt Club for fox hunts each Sunday morning during spring and fall — before arriving at St. Margaret's Church in time for 11:00 worship — and perhaps even in time for the weekly 10:00 bible study.

A clubhouse, stables, and show grounds were built on the four acre property, directly in front of Goshen Farm (Site 17). Fox hunts included hounds and hound-master and extended over large parts of Persimmon Point (Cape St. Claire) and across old Broadneck Road. The club was sold ca. 1950. The clubhouse situated at the far left rear of the property then became a home. One stable remains on the site.

13. First Church — 998 St. Margaret's Drive

Broade Necke Parish, established June 9, 1692 by the Maryland colonial assembly and the colonial governor, began setting up the trappings of a parish by 1694-1695, and likely completed its first church — and the first church on the *Broade Necke* Hundred — by 1697, the same year the Bishop of London named the Rev. Edward Topp, Jr. as first rector. By 1697 Broad Neck Parish was Westminster Parish, a parish in the Diocese of London (England). The name *St. Margaret's Church* joined Westminster Parish at a later time.

It is believed that the first church (more a chapel of perhaps 400 square feet), vestry house, and some glebe land were on 200 feet square of land (4,000 square feet, just less than one acre) located in today's Cape St. Claire at what was known as Deep Creek, near Lake Claire, the Magothy River and the Chesapeake Bay. Land was donated by Colonel John Hammond in 1695 for the express purpose of siting a church.

Later stories tell of a 20 x 20 brick foundation (400 square feet) found along St. Margaret's Drive, and once believed to be the foundation of what was likely a rough hewn, wooden floor structure with no need for a foundation. There was no churchyard. Two nearby tracts of land (glebes) totaling 155 acres of land were given by Edward Gibbs in 1707 to support a minister. This church would serve Broad Neck Parish, by 1697 Westminster Parish, until 1731 ca. Perhaps the name *St. Margaret's Church* was simultaneously appended to Westminster Parish and confirming records remain to be found.

Research has found that bricks included in the first church were deep red and iridescent header type of fine color brick made in Westminster Town after 1695.

14. American Indian Settlement

River Bay Road curves along Persimmon Point, an ancient American Indian seasonal encampment. Archeological evidence suggests that the Patuxent, Acquintanacsual, Mattapanient and later the Susquehannock tribes once occupied the Broadneck region. An old river crossing was established between here and Gibson Island at the mouth of the Magothy River. Artifacts were found here by Cape residents, including arrowheads on the main beach and a cache of stone tools discovered in the 1990s under a fallen oak tree on Broadview Drive.

15. Cape St. Claire Wharf & Baltimore Lighthouse

Sailing vessels once docked at the large wharf that once stood to the east of today's Cape St. Claire community swimming beach. Produce was loaded and shipped to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City. Stinchcomb family members lived in those cities and received and sold produce grown at the family farm located on Persimmon Point.

Situated in the Chesapeake Bay to the east is the Baltimore Light House — built in 1908. It was one of the country's most difficult lighthouses to build because of the 55-foot layer of very thin mud underneath the shoal. The lighthouse is automated and still in use. It sold at auction in 2006 to private citizens for \$260,000

16. Stinchcomb House & Cemetery — 1273 Swan Drive

For years, the Stinchcomb House, built in 1772, was the only home on Persimmon Point where the family owned about 1,000 acres of sandy loam farm. They were carpenters and farmers. Three generations of Stinchcombs built houses, barns, stores, and churches throughout the Broadneck Peninsula. The first generation built the Woody Farm house in 1857 (Site 32). The third generation built the Ridout family dairy farm barn in 1930.

On Persimmon Point, the farmers raised peaches and truck crops: sweet corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, cabbage, and strawberries. Produce from the Stinchcomb farm was shipped to the Marsh Market between Pratt and Light Streets in Baltimore, and was sometimes sold right off the boat. In the 1920s strawberries sold for five cents per quart.

The house has been altered and its original white board siding is now covered with brick veneer. At some point, the smaller section facing the street was attached for use as a kitchen. Note the very steep roof. Several feet from the house remains the thick foundations of the ice house. The corn crib, slave quarters and carriage house are gone. The house remained in the Stinchcomb family until the death of Sarah Stinchcomb in 1945.

Continuing along Swan Drive, the Stinchcomb family cemetery includes the graves of Henry Tydings & Margaret Stinchcomb Tydings, who owned Goshen House & Farm (17) during the Civil War. The cemetery is not active. When nearby Cape St. Claire houses were built, the graves of former workers buried here were removed from the site.

17. Goshen House & Farm— 1422 Cape St. Claire Road

Goshen Farm once was comprised of nearly 200 acres including land now occupied by Cape St. Claire Elementary School. In 1693 a patent had been taken on the land by Henry Woolchurch and named Leonard's Neck and the Woolchurch family retained the property for more than 100 years. Richard Pettebone Gardiner built Goshen House, the slave quarters, and the milk house. In 1798 they were recorded on tax records with a value of \$125. The original house included two rooms downstairs, two rooms upstairs.

Henry Tydings purchased Goshen farm in 1853, attached the slave quarters to the house for a kitchen, and several other rooms. He also built a barn. Later a front porch was added. Dr. Oliver Tilghman Brice bought the house in 1933 and sold it shortly thereafter to purchase the John Small House (site 8). In 1933, Dr. Brice sold four acres of Goshen to the founders of St. Margaret's Hunt Club.

The view from the front of the house is east towards the Little Magothy River. Before the use of telephones, residents of the Goshen and Stinchcomb houses would hang bed sheets from upper story windows to signal the other household to come for a visit — a common practice in the area. The Goshen House is now owned by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and leased to the Goshen Farm Preservation Society. The society is in the process of restoring the house and grounds for public use.

18. Nike Missile Command & Control Site — 640-A Broadneck Road

This Nike Missile Base W-26 Maryland Command & Control Site was one of 21 Nike batteries established during the Cold War to defend the Washington-Baltimore area.

Operated between 1955 and 1968, the site is located near the end of Broadneck Road and can be viewed from the outside perimeter fence of Broadneck Park and from above in the parking lot of St. Andrew by the Bay Roman Catholic Church. It was the first Nike site in the United States operated by a National Guard Unit.

The Nike antiaircraft missile system was conceived to defend against Soviet Union bombers carrying air to ground nuclear weapons. The site in 2017 is held by the Maryland National Guard and serves as an Army Reserve Center.

19. Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church — 657 Broadneck Road

The first church was reportedly built only yards from the original meeting location at St. Margaret's Road and Meeting House Lane. On October 9, 1851 members of the church paid \$60 for land and the first church building. The purchase was made from Samuel Richardson.

During this same period and until 1851 when fire destroyed the church, nearby St. Margaret's Church was the site of every other Sunday afternoon colored worship services, held during good weather, for free and enslaved persons of African descent. No services were held at St. Margaret's Church after 1851 — perhaps because of the launch of the then-named Asbury Broadneck African Methodist Episcopal Church. Early on the church was referred to as Broadneck Church or Little Asbury and until 1873 the church was under the leadership of Asbury African Methodist Episcopal Church in Annapolis.

The pastors of Asbury African Methodist Episcopal Church (and from time to time the rector of St. Margaret's Church) ministered to the congregation at Little Asbury.

The second church was built on a piece of land purchased March 21, 1865. An organization within the church known as The Sons and Daughters of Joshua donated land where the current church is located. Asbury Broadneck Church has undertaken to preserve, document, and archive its records and history and has found that its churchyard may contain the remains of perhaps 1,800 persons, most not identified.

20. Haneke Farm and General Store

Maximillian Haneke, born in Germany in 1854, owned a 200 acre farm located at the corner of Jones Station and Church Roads. In addition to raising truck crops, the farm maintained pear and apple orchards. His grandson, Buck Haneke, became proprietor of Haneke's Store, located on the property. The store remained in operation until the 1960's. It was described as an old farm store that sold everything from meats and groceries, to animal feed, gasoline and kerosene.

Reportedly blacks and whites came there and during the depression years, Buck would keep tabs for the customers and they could pay by the end of the week or whenever they got paid. Other reports state that persons of color were generally not welcome at this store and that blacks preferred to shop at two informal stores in Yorktown and in the city of Annapolis. The store also served the growing summer population within the Shore Acres area.

Additional research will better describe the relationship between this Haneke farm and store and the Haneke farm and homestead situated where the Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church on Bay Dale Drive is located today. There was one Haneke family with a significant number of children in the Arnold area on the Broadneck Peninsula. The extended Haneke family's daughter Elizabeth (Libby) married into the James (Jimmy) Van Sant family and is interred with the extended Van Sant family within St. Margaret's Church cemetery.

21. Nike Missile Launch Site — 1661 Bay Head Road

This facility was one of several sites in the Washington-Baltimore defense area converted during 1960 and 1961 to accommodate the launch of Hercules missiles. The battery contained 30 Ajax missiles and 18 Hercules missiles. All missiles were removed after November 1968 deactivation. The location is now Anne Arundel County's Bay Head Park. Several of the original buildings on the site have been restored and are in use.

22. Rich Neck (ca. 1665; 1740)

Rich Neck and Bellefield (following) were adjacent parcels patented by two Homewood families in 1665, totaling approximately 1800 acres. Rich Neck was on both sides of Bay Head Road, extending from the Pettebone patent on the Magothy to Sandy Point Road (later Maryland Route 50). Rich Neck was one of the earliest houses constructed in the Broadneck Hundred. It was post and beam construction. Tall beams were placed in a hole in the ground, like fence posts. Then beams joined the posts together. The midsection was built first, followed by the west section, then the east section.

The midsection was one and one-half stories; the west end two and one-half stories; the east end also one and one-half stories. The midsection had a large room with a fireplace at the east end, a winding staircase, and a bedchamber above. A staircase led to the bedchamber. The east end formed a kitchen with fireplace for cooking and a loft overhead. The kitchen floor was of tamped clay that was renewed each year.

Unfortunately, this treasure has all but disintegrated. The land passed from Homewoods to John Hesselius (a famous early American portrait painter) to R. Duvall, to J. Kent, and then to the Pettebone family.

23. Pettebone's Rest (Waring/Fox House) — 1346 Bay Head Road

A patent for 280 acres was granted to Richard Pettebone in 1666. There was a frame house on the farm for many years immediately behind the present farmhouse. It is not known when the earlier house was built or when or how it was destroyed. That house sat back from both the Chesapeake Bay and the Little Magothy River. There is also a cemetery near the present house, all marked by stones laid flat on the ground. A number of these graves include very young children, which was typical of that period.

The property descended to the Stinchcomb family, the Waring family, and the George and Elizabeth Fox family. The house is a large, well-maintained, two-story frame dwelling. Since it is the same L-shaped plan as Woody, it was probably built around 1880.

St. Margaret's Church had its annual July 4th picnic at this site in the early 1900s with softball and swimming in the Chesapeake Bay.

24. Bellefield (Homewood's Lott) (ca. 1735)

In 1662, John Homewood patented 210 acres at the head of Whitehall Creek calling it Homewood's Lott. Eventually the Homewoods owned 1800 acres in the area. Thomas Homewood built a home at the head of the creek ca. 1735. Originally a two story frame house, it eventually became quite sizable. It was later renamed Bellefield by John Hesselius to honor his friend John Bartram, the renowned botanist, whose Philadelphia farm had the same name.

There were four rooms on each of the two stories. An unusual chimney was in the middle and served all eight rooms with fireplaces. Charles Hammond made an addition to the house in 1750 including two rooms, a hallway, and a porch. There were several significant outbuildings on the property: carriage house, corn crib, and milk house. These structures were still standing in the 1960s along with two dairy barns.

The house burned in 1939 and most of the outbuildings are gone. A small cemetery is on the property with poorly marked graves. Capt. Thomas Homewood, died 1737, is buried here.

25. Burle's Banks

In 1650 Robert Burle patented 450 acres near the Magothy River along what is today Log Inn Road. Burle eventually sold the land to John Homewood. Homewood's son Thomas married Anne Hammond. Thomas Homewood died leaving Anne Hammond Homewood a widow. When John Homewood died, Anne inherited widow's rights to several parcels including Burle's Banks.

Anne remarried William Govane in 1739 and divorced him 10 years later. She became the noteworthy Widow Govane who held up the transition of St. Margaret's Church Whitehall glebe and other land to Colonial Governor Sharpe when she took up residence in the house near Log Inn Road. The house was a small frame structure and stood about 50 yards from back of the road. The property was once a glebe of St. Margaret's Church — a story still to be told — and is part of Sandy Point State Park. Perhaps it was the property sold in 1811 at the time the parish had a chapel in poor repair, no church, and no rector or even a regular minister.

26. Log Inn (c. 1911) (no longer standing)

The Log Inn was a popular resort from 1911-1954, attracting many tourists to the area. It had two dining rooms and 21 guest rooms (there is a photo of it at the Broadneck Grill in Cape St. Claire).

27. Sandy Point Farm (1818) — 1100 East College Parkway

450 acres were first patented in 1652 by Ralph Hawkins and called Hawkin's Point. The property borders the Chesapeake Bay near its juncture with the Magothy River. At some point in time, it bore the name Rattlesnake Point, though rattlesnakes were never known in this area.

John Gibson owned the estate in 1818. He built the Sandy Point farmhouse known as Scotland. It is a two story brick house with two one-story gabled ends. It has a stair tower like that of the Paca House in Annapolis. In 1833, Capt. Thomas Mezick purchased the farm. His family owned the property until early 1900. Sylvester Labrot then bought it to add to his growing Holly Beach Farm. In 1949, his son William sold it to the State of Maryland to become the seashore park it is today. The house is now part of Maryland's Resident Curatorship Program, in which the occupant lives there rent-free for life, but is responsible for restoring and preserving the property.

28. Weedon House — 1800 Holly Beach Farm Road

In 1662, Edward Skidmore patented 200 acres on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay halfway between Sandy Point and Hackett's Point. Nothing is known about the family except that they were farmers and most likely also hunted and fished. They most certainly built a house or hut, but there is no record of it. They must have remained a considerable time because a nearby area bears the name and more recently a section of the Route 50 service road has been named Skidmore Road.

The next family to reside there has left more tangible evidence of its presence. The Weedons were there for a hundred years. Their daughter married into the Small, Boone, and Ridout families. There is a stained glass window in the church dedicated to another daughter. A small cemetery lies just south of the house on the very edge of the bay.

There is also a noteworthy house on a beautiful site at the edge of the shore. It is a two-story frame structure with a chimney at each end that identified the extent of the original house. Extensive changes were made when Sylvester Labrot, Sr. bought the property for his Holly Beach Farm project in about 1905. In order to accommodate his herd manager, Mr. Labrot added a two-story wing on the west end and enlarged the old second floor by adding semi-dormers. A two-story wing with a kitchen was added to the east end. The house was covered with attractive brown shingles. Since that time, a comfortable veranda has been added to the south side.

29. Hackett's Point

The southern tip of this easternmost peninsula of the Broadneck Hundred has come to be known as Hackett's Point. Thomas Cole and his brother secured a patent for 50 acres in 1665, naming it Cole's Poynt. They rented this to a man named Hackett who lived and worked there for many years and whose name has graced the place as Hackett's Point ever since.

Some years later James and Robert Moss bought the point and the 100 acres behind it. Robert established a house where Sylvester Labrot later built his beautiful brick home at the confluence of Whitehall Bay and Meredith Creek. James built a home on Hackett's Point that is now a garage and guesthouse. In about 1900, Sylvester Labrot bought these properties and the Weedon Farm as the basis for Holly Beach Farm. His granddaughter, Leonia Gately, lived there until recently, when the State of Maryland bought the remaining 300 acres for use as a natural resource preserve.

30. Racetrack

Ca. 1763, Whitehall Road was built as a straight one-mile racetrack with drainage ditches on either side (today's racetracks are oval). George Washington would attend the races here and enter his own horses. This racetrack is featured at the National Horse Racing Hall of Fame, Saratoga Springs, NY.

31. Whitehall — 1915 Whitehall Road

William Fuller, an important person in the early days of Providence and Broadneck Hundred, patented 150 acres in 1652 at the tip of the peninsula between Whitehall Creek and Meredith Creek, calling it Fuller's Survey. It is marked by stone tablets on each creek identified with the words "Here stood Wm Fullers Red Oak." In 1680, Col. Nicholas Greenberry bought the property from Capt. Fuller's son, William. He named the land Greenberry Forest. Neither Greenberry nor Fuller built a house there. Col. Greenberry's son, Charles, willed Greenberry Forest to St. Margaret's Church as a glebe to supply a minister for the Parish. The land was passed to the church in 1749 upon the death of Charles' widow.

In 1764, Gov. Horatio Sharpe secured the tract of land from St. Margaret's Church after a very complicated exchange. Gov. Sharpe, like Edward Lloyd many years earlier, admired Broadneck Hundred for its similarity to the English countryside. Gov. Sharpe built a beautiful summer home in the Georgian style and entertained lavishly until the Revolution forced him to return to England. He had hoped to return but was never able to. He left Whitehall in charge of his secretary, John Ridout. Later, when the Governor died, he left Whitehall to John in his will.

Whitehall at one time was comprised of hundreds of acres within and adjacent to the Homewood 2,000 acres and encompassed the entire bounds of Whitehall Creek. It was a genuine plantation. There was a large wharf on Whitehall Creek. Outbuildings included quarters for 100 enslaved persons.

There was a very large horse barn on the original estate, some 100 feet long, on Whitehall Road. This was struck by lightning and burned in 1922. Miraculously, a part was saved and still stands today as a frame and brick structure. The brick sections are two feet deep.

The Ridout Family Cemetery is on the grounds of Whitehall.

A brick factory was located on Meredith Creek where bricks were made from clay in the fields for Whitehall as well as for some Annapolis buildings.

Ice was collected on Whitehall Creek and stored in an ice cellar near the wharf. The cellar was a hole in the ground, much like a well, about 50 feet deep. Layers of ice covered with layers of straw kept the ice through the summer for cold drinks, ice cream, and food preservation.

32. Woodly (1857) — 1739 Whitehall Road

Orlando Ridout I and his brother Weems inherited a 200-acre portion of the Whitehall Estate. In 1857, Orlando built a house there and named it Woodly. This was the first of seven houses of the same design built between 1857 and 1895 in the Broadneck Hundred. They had wood frames on an L-shaped plan and were two stories. Woodly has seven rooms with three bedrooms upstairs and a parlor, living room, dining room, and kitchen downstairs. A central hallway includes a two-part stairway at the front and a covered stairway in the kitchen. Woodley has ten-foot ceilings, but the other six homes had only eight-foot ceilings. There are three chimneys in each house, with a fireplace both upstairs and down. At Woodly, the brick foundation and chimneys are mortared with ground shells and lime.

There is a full porch at the front of the house. Interestingly, the porch is not secured to the frame of the house; the rafters simply rest on the sheathing of the outer wall. Floors are yellow pine and the exterior finish is German clapboard siding.

Other homes having this L plan are: Edenlawn, built by Orlando Ridout II in 1895 on Whitehall Creek; Dr. Zach Ridout's house near the church; Frank Duvall's house east of the church; the old rectory that was near the church (now torn down), the Stinchcomb house at Persimmon Point; the Waring house on Bay Head Road; and the Zachariah Duvall house at Harmony Acres (no longer standing).

33. Overseer's House (c. 1767) — 1520 Ridout Lane

An overseer's house was built ca. 1767 at the end of Ridout Lane near Whitehall Creek for the Whitehall Plantation farm manager. It was a frame structure in two parts, with one section having two stories. There was also a separate kitchen and nearby quarters for enslaved persons. Much later the three parts were joined together. This house has passed down through numerous generations of Francis and Horatio Ridout's descendants. Lois Downey, a granddaughter of Frank Ridout, and her husband have beautifully remodeled the house. One former slave-quarter is still standing and is used as a storage garage.

34. St. Margaret's School House (c. 1850)

The old one-room school house was located in the triangle of land immediately east of the millpond and dam on Whitehall Road — diagonally across the street from and to the west of McDonald's. The school house stood under the huge old oak tree still standing beside Route 50. There is a recently constructed office building on the site today. Originally one room, it was enlarged to two in 1911. It was probably built before 1850. It was no longer used but was still standing in the early 1930s. Nancy Ridout taught there in the early 1900s. Among those pictured: Orlando Ridout III, Polly Ridout Dow, Elise Ridout, George Davidson, Isabel Davidson, George Tilghman, Oswald Tilghman (Tilghman Jewelers), Sam Mackey, Agnes Mackey, Anne Tilghman, Jim Duvall, Laura Duvall.

35. Old Mill Bottom Road and Sawmill

In 1887, George Macey, an immigrant from England, acquired land on both sides of Old Mill Bottom Road, establishing a large sawmill where the greenhouse now stands on the east side of the road.

George Macey and his brother, Albert, each built a house to the west of the sawmill. One was sold some years ago; the other sold fairly recently after the death of Albert's son, Ralph. Ralph is buried in St. Margaret's Cemetery. One of Ralph's children still lives in a house behind the old house. Margaret Macey used to ride a horse and buggy to church in the early 1930s.

36. Cannery

Across the road on the west side, George Macey built a large cannery. It processed tomatoes, corn, various fruits, and berries of all kinds. Farmers throughout the area brought their produce to the cannery. Wagons took the finished goods to Annapolis and Baltimore for sale. About forty people worked the cannery during the high season. The foundation of the cannery is still there. Agnes Macey Carter, once president of St. Margaret's Ladies Guild, built a house beside the cannery in later years. Her grandchildren still live there

37. Dr. Phillip Pettebone Farm

Dr. Phillip Pettebone had a farm on the south side of Old Mill Bottom Road and the west side of Jones Station Road (now Bay Dale Road at the BMW dealership). In the late 1800s Dr. Pettebone was a medical doctor and sold truck crops in Annapolis. He also had several cows and sold milk. His store location along the farm on Jones Station Road is lost to history. Dr. Pettebone was Elliott Pettebone's grandfather. Elliott's wife was Virginia Pettebone, benefactor of St. Margaret's Church columbarium.

38. St. Margaret's Church at Severn Heights (1731-1825)

On the other side of old Route 2, where Old Mill Bottom entered the highway, was Winchester Road. Just on the north side of Winchester is where the second St. Margaret's Church and cemetery were located at Severn Heights.

St. Margaret's Westminster Parish extended from the Magothy River on the east to the Chesapeake, to the Patapsco on the north, to Howard County on the west, and across the Severn River to the south. The little church on Deep Creek could hardly serve such a far-flung congregation. In 1731, the vestry requested permission to build a new church at Severn Heights, now known as Winchester. The Assembly of Maryland granted approval. Two acres of land were purchased from Patrick Oglevie who operated a school on the west side of the road to Baltimore (now under the interchange for Ritchie Highway and Route 50). Reportedly a brick church was built.

39. Maidenstone — 1806 Pleasant Plains Road

Maidenstone is at the head of Burle Creek. Elizabeth Strong first patented 100-250 acres in 1659 on the east side of Burle's Creek. That eventually became Maidenstone. In 1878, Mrs. Elizabeth Merriken owned the property. By marriage, C. Duvall came to own the farm and had fourteen children. The house that stands today was built as an exact replica of an earlier house on the site that burned about 1870. The most recent owner is John Duvall. There is a cemetery immediately in front of the house that includes Duvall and Merriken family members

40. The Pleasant Plains House (1820)

Built in 1820 by John Ridout, Pleasant Plains overlooks Ridout Creek. It is a large two-story brick house with a basement and an attic. It is on 200 acres. Ralph Hawkinson made the original patent in 1663 for 100 acres. There are two chimneys and a wing on the east end that contains the kitchen and large fireplace. The main house has an elegant entry opening to a central hall with two rooms on either side. There are dormer windows on the roof. There is also a smoke house in the yard.

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Carolyn Surrick, Trio Galilei, Ensemble Galilei

Dedicated to the memory of Mack Ridout

PHOTOS & MAPS & DIRECTIONS FOLLOW
