

# Isle of Kent - 1631

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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FALL 1981

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On May 9, 1975, the Kent Island Heritage Society was formed to discover, identify, restore, and preserve the heritage of Kent Island. Since that time much has happened to realize some of the goals set forth in 1975. The outstanding celebration of Kent Island's 350th Anniversary caused State and national leaders to recognize Kent Island as the site of the first English settlement in what is now Maryland. Extensive documentation has been uncovered to attest to this fact. The news media has brought William Claiborne's settlement to the attention of the public.

The Kent Island Heritage Society now has acquired the Cray House and brought it from the vandallized state it was in a few years ago to the trim property we are now quite proud of today.

Much needs to be done to uncover more of our heritage, not only of William Claiborne's time, but since then - in records, buildings, photographs and even the implements of our ways of life.

We are members of this society because we love Kent Island and I hope we will continue to participate in achieving the goals of the Kent Island Heritage Society. We must keep alive the accomplishments made by past generations not only in buildings, but in the attitudes, values, dreams, and struggles which contribute so much to our values, our dreams and our struggles.

### ELECTIONS

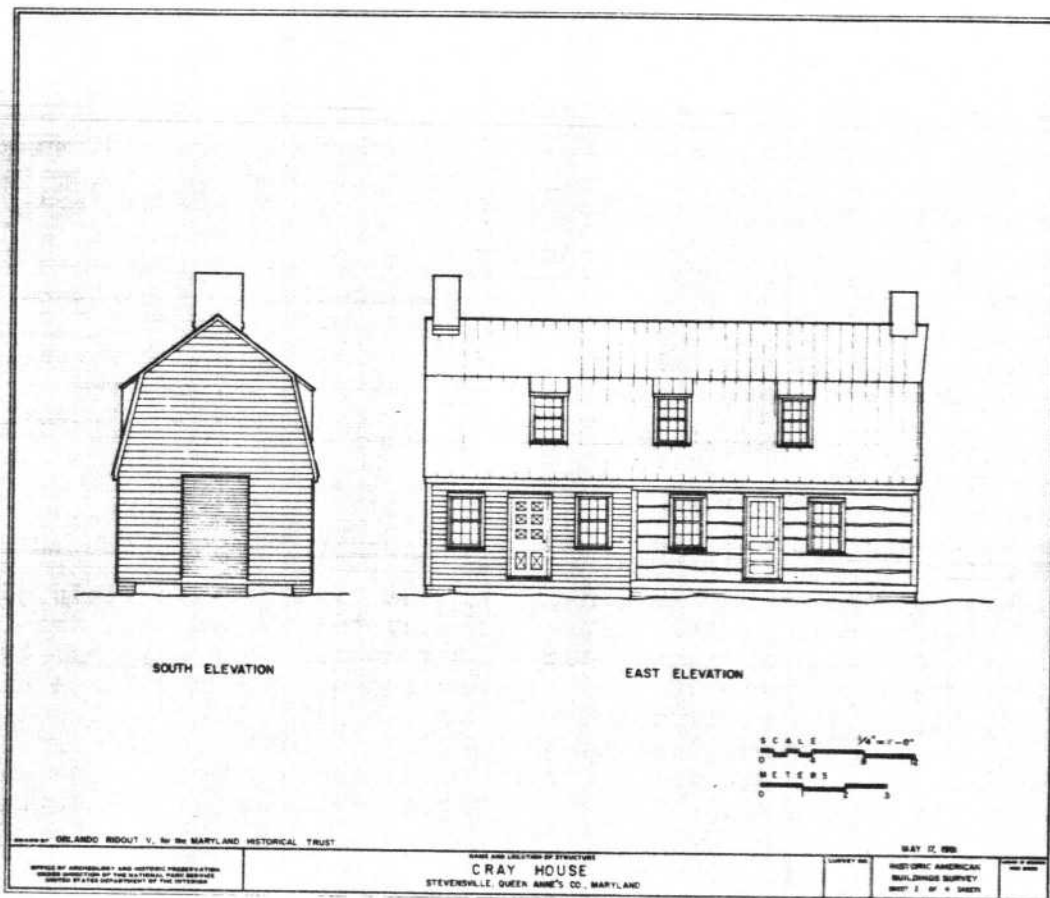
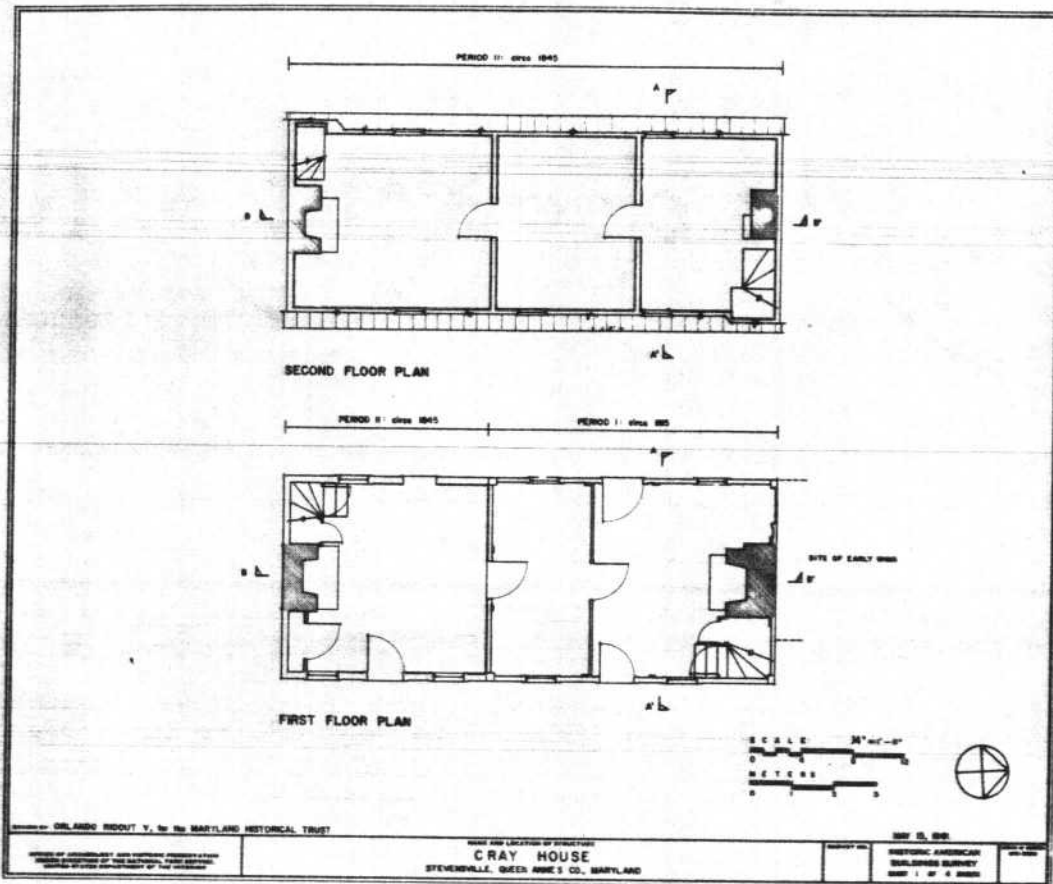
Mrs. Mary J. White was elected President of the Kent Island Heritage Society on June 19, 1981. Mrs. White, one of the founding members of the society, becomes the fourth president of the organization. Joining Mrs. White are Eva C. White as Vice President, Henrietta Grollman as Recording Secretary, Dolores Cockey as Corresponding Secretary and Marion P. Steuart as Treasurer.

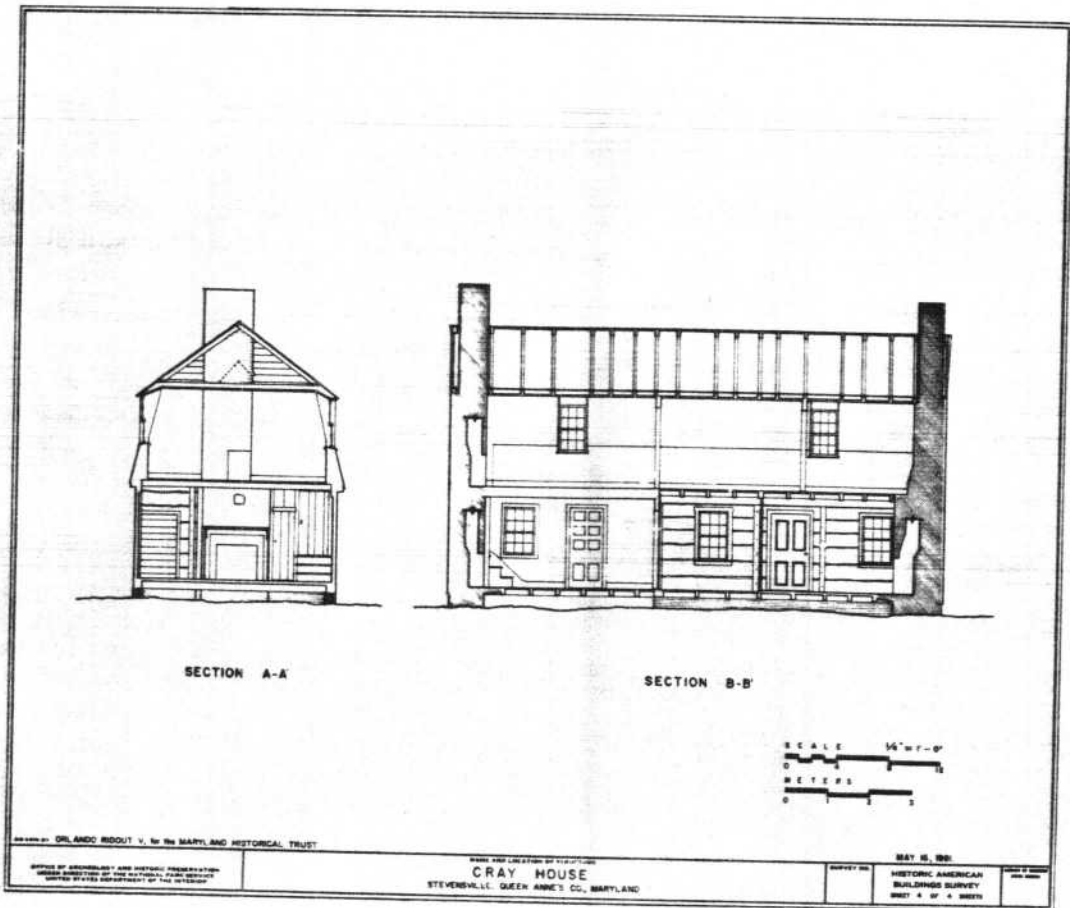
### THE ISLE OF KENT NEWSLETTER

This is the first issue of the Isle of Kent Newsletter. The editor hopes that members will suggest or contribute news items for future issues. It is the editor's intent that this newsletter be important, thorough, well written and well documented. It is the hope that members will save these issues in a three ring binder, and that periodic indexes will be prepared so that articles, names, and landmarks will be found quickly.

### CRAY HOUSE

The centerfold of this newsletter is devoted to measured drawings of the Cray House. The original two room section of the Cray House was probably built by John Denny between 1809 and 1817. A single room addition was made to the south gable of the house circa 1845, and, at that time, the





steeply pitched gable roof was replaced with the present gambrel roof. The outline of an early frame kitchen, now demolished, can be seen in the north gable of the main house.

Featured in SWAP Some Words About Preservation, the newsletter of the Maryland Historical Trust, these reductions of measured drawings illustrated an article pointing up the use of such drawings for the clearer understanding of the differences in construction techniques in historic buildings found in different regions in Maryland.

The Cray House of Stevensville was drawn by historic sites surveyor Orlando Ridout, V, as part of his continuing survey of Queen Anne's County. This highly important building is perhaps the finest surviving example of a regional framing system known as post-and-plank construction. This system employs hewn and pit-sawn horizontal planks, mortised into hewn corner posts and reinforced with light intermediate stabilizing posts.

The Editor wishes to thank Mark R. Edwards who made the original drawings available and whose words we have borrowed to describe the Cray House. It is the Editor's hope that each issue of this newsletter will feature a drawing or photograph of a Kent Island landmark.

#### ISLE OF KENT CALENDAR

November 21, 1981, Bazaar of Kent Island Heritage Society.

December 10, 1981, Dinner Meeting at the Kent Island Yacht Club with Christmas Music entertainment.

December 13, 1981, Cray House Open House.

March 19, 1982, at 7:30 PM in the Kent Island Elementary School Library, Speaker: Dr. Mary Matossias of the University of Maryland will talk on "A New Look at One's Past."

June 18, 1982, at 8:00 PM in the Kent Island Elementary School Library, Program: "The Past, The Present, The Future."

ISLE OF KENT is the quarterly newsletter of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666.

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Annual membership dues are \$5.00. Application for membership should be sent to:

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