CAR-10
Louis Antal House
Mt. Zion
Private

First Quarter 19th Century

The Louis Antal House is located south of Mt. Zion on Melville Road. It is a representative example of a simple late Federal period brick farmhouse. Several dwellings of this type exist in Caroline County, one closely resembling this being on Steele Road a short distance away. Like most of the houses of the period, the facade is laid in Flemish bond and there is a classical size difference between the first and second story windows. Unfortunately, extensions have concealed the good lines of the building.

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

NR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Athol

other names/site number Antal, Louis, House; Thomas, Edmund, House; Wright House

CAR-10

2. Location

street & number Melville Road near Trunk Line Road [ ] not for publication

city, town Henderson [X] vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Caroline code 011 zip code 21640

3. Classification

Ownership of Property
[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date 5-4-89

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

CAR-10

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC-Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Metal
other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Athol is a two and-a-half-story, single-pile brick dwelling in northern Caroline County built about 1825. The three-bay-wide house is built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade and plain bond on the other three sides. Although neglect has permitted some deterioration, most of the original fabric of the house remains intact and its setting presents an unusually accurate picture and atmosphere of rural life a century and a half ago. Athol's graceful staircase, its two exterior end chimneys, central hall plan, and raised basement are all original features. Window frames, doors, rafters, floors, and hand-cut lath are among the original details that remain in the house. Other original interior features present include baseboards with beaded cap on the first floor and the original chair rail in the hall and ascending to the upper floors along the stair wall. There are three twentieth century out-buildings that do not contribute to the architectural significance of Athol.

[X] See continuation sheet for GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Athol stands at the end of a long driveway on the west side of Melville Road about half way between Mount Zion and Melville Crossroads in northern Caroline County. 240 acres of the original Athol patent surround this single family brick dwelling which dates from about 1825. The main facade of the house faces south and is highly visible across the flat farmland from Melville Road. The surrounding area has remained rural, making the view of Athol a scene from the early nineteenth century. An easement administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture prohibits any future development of these acres assuring that this atmosphere of an earlier day will not change in the future, even though the acreage is not included in the nomination.

Athol is rectangular in shape, has a three-bay-wide facade, and is two-and-a-half stories high. The ridgeline of its gable roof, now covered with metal, is parallel to the facade. The forty-foot-wide facade of brick laid in Flemish bond stands above a raised basement that is laid in plain bond. Although remnants of plaster from a modern addition to the house remain on portions of the facade, the original brick is intact. At the basement level horizontal wooden grills fill two rectangular openings. The main entrance is in the central bay on the first floor level, and its height above the ground indicates that the house originally had a porch or steps. The outline of what appears to have been a one-bay-wide entrance porch on the facade is the shadow of a late addition, probably similar to the one now on the rear of the house. Although the original front door is missing, its paneled reveals, four light transom, and flat-arched brick lintel remain.

There is a nine-over-six, wooden double-hung sash window on each side of the main entrance. The window frames and sills are wood, and remnants of shutter hardware remain on the exterior near all windows. Flat arches of guaged brick top the windows. The second floor windows have their original six-over-six double-hung wooden sash. A row of brick headers forms the lintels on these windows. The central window on this floor was altered in the twentieth century when earlier owners installed a bathroom. The house is currently untergoing restoration, and many elements which are missing in the photographs are in the hands of restorers.

Wooden shingles cover the main section of a a twentieth-century one-story addition on the east end of the house; raised-seam metal covers its low hip roof. The smaller section of this addition which is toward the rear of the house is cinder block with a shed roof. At this end of the main house a line showing where there was at one time a gable-roofed one-story wing is clearly visible. A slightly projecting chimney rises through the ridgeline

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.2

of the roof of the main block between a pair of small square window openings at the attic level. The brick at this end of the main block, like that on the north and west sides is laid in plain bond.

The rear of the house, which faces north, is similar to the front. However, there is a one-bay wide, hip-roofed, shingle-covered, one-story addition standing on concrete block piers in the central bay. The middle window on the second floor is set slightly lower than the two other second-floor windows and is not exactly in the center. This window is positioned to be at the stair landing between the second and third floors, rather than to achieve symmetry. Basement openings, window sash, and cornice match the facade.

A chimney on the west end of the house is slightly larger than the one on the east end and terminates in a corbelled cap. At its base the stack is sixty inches wide and projects nine inches from the exterior wall of the house; this projection is slightly less at the attic level where there is a small square window on each side of the chimney. The brick here as elsewhere is approximately 8 1/2"long x 2 1/2 inches thick.

A door at the north side of the stack leads to the basement which extends the full length of the main block. The basement walls are brick, the floor is dirt, and there is a small fireplace opening at the bottom of the west chimney stack. Heavy floor joists and a brick interior support wall cross the building from front to back. This wall actually rises up through the house to the level of the attic floor. At the basement level this wall contains a large opening in the middle. Although the wall divides the basement into two rooms, the main purpose of the wall seems to be structural.

Approaching the house from the facade, the main entrance leads to an eight-foot-wide central hall that extends to the rear door. A three-run, open-string staircase with open well ascends from south to north along the east side of the hall. Scrolled brackets trim the end of each six-inch-high step. Slender square wood balusters support a round handrail, and turned newells with small round caps trim each angle of the balustrade. A turned pendant drops from the ceiling below each angle of the staircase. A door trimmed with recessed panels provides access to a small closet beneath the stairs on the first floor.

A six-inch baseboard and a chair rail with moulded caps trim the central hall and follow the stairs. The rail following the stairs also has a double bead in the center. From the first floor hallway a panelled opening (the

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.3

door is missing) leads to the east room which is about 12 1/2' by 15 1/2 feet. This opening goes through the brick wall that starts in the basement. The mantel is missing from the fireplace opening in the west wall. The windows, as indicated in the description of the exterior, are nine-over-six double-hung sash; they have deep window sills and paneled reveals which are set at about a 110 degree angle to the window. Here, as elsewhere in the house, much of the original plaster remains, although some of the wooden boards which recently supported modern panelling are still in place over it. The wooden floor boards which vary in width are also in place as elsewhere in the house.

Another door with similar architrave moulding and panelled frame leads through the east wall of this room to the kitchen addition. Few architectural features of interest remain in the twentieth-century kitchen addition on the east end of the house. However, the exterior of the chimney stack is clearly visible here.

The interior features in the room on the west side of the central hall are similar to those in the east room. However, the entrance to this room holds a large six-panel door which still has the shadow of a large rim lock. Breaks in the plaster reveal that the lath is hand-cut. The windows are similar to those in the east room but are surrounded by nineteenth-century moulded frames with corner blocks. These were obviously added by one of the later owners, probably the Lumb family.

The second floor room arrangement is similar to that on the first floor. The windows are slightly smaller six-over-six double-hung sash, and the frames lack paneling on the reveals. There is also a fireplace opening without mantel in both of the main rooms. A small room added at the top of the stairs created what was once a bathroom in the front of the house, although no fixtures remain.

The staircase continues to the attic with two runs and a landing. The landing hangs across the window at the rear of the house bringing light into both the second floor and the attic. The ceiling above the stairs at the attic level was apparently finished in the nineteenth century for the lath here is machine cut. Otherwise the attic is not finished, and the exposed rafters joined with pegs and the purlins appear to be original to the house. A partition, partly wood and partly plaster, divides the attic into two rooms.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.4

Although Athol at one time had more outbuildings, there are three on the property today, none of which contribute to the significance of the nomination. Directly west of the house is a wooden granary which is about 60' by 60'and appears to date from the early twentieth century. It has a low-pitch gable roof and a vehicle door at each end through which a wagon could enter. Just north of the house is a early-twentieth-century four-bay-wide wooden vehicle storage shed with a low-pitch gable roof of raised-seam metal. One other small building is a small cinder block structure southwest of the building. It is of quite recent vintage, its use is unknown, and it is in a deteriorated condition.

There is a lawn with a few small trees and shrubs near the house. The view from the house is across a large expanse of open land to the south with woods to the north. The Maryland Department of Agriculture holds an easement on the surrounding lands which restricts development. Despite some neglect in recent years most of the original character of Athol and its surroundings remains.

8. Statement of Significance

CAR-10

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1825	1825

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Athol, a two-and-a half story brick dwelling in rural Caroline County, is significant for its architecture. Built in about 1825 by William Jones, it embodies several characteristics common to the few remaining early-nineteenth-century brick three-bay-wide houses of modest size on Maryland's Eastern Shore: Flemish bond facade, plain bond on the sides and rear, chimneys at each end of a gable roof, entrance in the central bay, two-and-a-half-story height, and Federal stylistic influence. However, Athol is also one of two known houses in Caroline County that exhibit almost identical partially-protruding chimney stacks on each gable end. Athol is unique because, in addition, it retains most of its original window sash and many important interior elements such as base-boards, chair rails, and a staircase which crosses a rear window.

☒ See continuation sheet for HISTORICAL CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial-Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s)

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: Building (s)

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling/residence
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE/storage/granary
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding/wagon shed

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

HISTORIC SETTING

Athol was built during the first half century of Caroline County's existence. The General Assembly of Maryland created Caroline County in 1774, just before the Revolutionary War. Named for Lady Caroline Eden, sister of the sixth Lord Baltimore and wife of the proprietary governor, the new county included parts of what had previously been Queen Anne and Dorchester Counties. There was some reluctance to settle in this fertile area prior to the settlement of the Delaware/Maryland boundary dispute in 1761. Political stability after establishment of the Mason-Dixon Line brought people into the area which was an inconveniently long distance to the existing county seats in Cambridge and Queenstown. The establishment of Caroline County brought with it a new county seat where residents could establish a government and handle their legal affairs.[1]

None of the later alterations to the Caroline County borders affected the Upper District where Athol is located. A third of the county was under cultivation by the end of the Revolutionary War. Although there were some tobacco plantations during the early days, smaller farms with diverse crops soon became more plentiful. Immediately after the War of 1812, the overall population remained fairly stable, but a decline in slavery and an increase in the free black population signified a decline in the plantation culture here. For example, in 1790 there were 2,057 slaves and 421 free blacks, but in 1820 there were 1,574 slaves and 1,390 free blacks, and the ratio of free blacks to slaves increased proportionately in the next two decades.[2] In Maryland in general, this was the beginning of a period of transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy which lasted until about 1870 as outlined in the state historic preservation plan. In predominantly rural Caroline County, however, farming continued to dominate the economy. The arrival of the railroad in 1868 with improved transportation provided the impetus for opening a few small canneries that further encouraged agricultural production.

The early nineteenth century was a period of agricultural decline on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Soil depletion and loss of foreign markets made farmers abandon tobacco cultivation, and the Hessian fly and other blight

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[1] William N. Rairigh, "A Narrative History of Caroline County," *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia*, Vol III (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1951), 1095-97.

[2] Rairigh. ""A Narrative History of Caroline County," p. 1103.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.3

attacked the wheat they planted in its place. The War of 1812 and the depression of the 1820s exacerbated the situation. Nevertheless, real estate transfers continued, and William Jones was just one of several residents of the Upper District of Caroline County who continued to acquire acreage. By the time he died in 1838 he owned over 700 acres of land and six houses.

By 1879 the population of Caroline County had grown to about 13,000 and there were about 110,000 acres under cultivation. As could be expected there was very little manufacturing.[3] A directory of 1882 described the soil around Henderson, the Post Office nearest Athol, as being black and sandy, with some clay loam. Selling for prices from $5 to $15 per acre, the land produced about 10 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of potatoes, 20 bushels of corn, or 2 tons of hay per acre.[4]

Despite late-nineteenth century growth in the larger towns and railroad villages of Caroline County, much of the county remained rural. Today, as modern development spreads through the county, Athol, the main house in what was once a 500 acre plot, is one of the few brick houses of its type and date remaining in its original setting.

RESOURCE HISTORY

Athol was the name of the 500 acre property included in a 1753 patent to John Robertson when this section of Caroline County was still a part of Queen Anne County. It is not possible to positively trace details of subsequent transfers, but the property belonged to several members of the Nicols family, apparently the descendants of James Nicols, in 1825. In January of that year Charles Nicols, Charlotte Nicols, and Joseph Patterson sold 300 acres of the original Athol tract and 100 acres of a tract called Buck Range to George Reed for $700.[5] The Nicols and Patterson lived in Baltimore, but Reed was a merchant from Caroline County. On February 2, less than a month after he purchased the property, Reed sold the same land plus an additional 74 acres to William Jones for $1122.[6]

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3 *Directory of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland for 1876-77.* (Wilmington: Commercial Printing Company, 1876), 117.

4 *Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882.* (Wilmington: Ferris Brothers, 1882), 1

5 Caroline County (MD) Register of Deeds, Deed Record Liber J.R.O, Folio 451.

6 Caroline County (MD) Register of Deeds, Deed Record Liber J.R.O., Folio 496.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.4

Although there is no documented proof of the precise construction date of the Athol house, the building's fabric and available evidence indicate that it was built for William Jones in about 1825. William Jones (often referred to as the son of John)is said to have immigrated to Maryland from England, and according to the 1820 Census Jones lived in Caroline County before he purchased the Athol land.[7] Both the Levy Court Records of 1830 and the Census of the same year list William Jones as a resident of the Upper District of Caroline County. In addition to his land he owned personal property worth $641, and three female slaves.[8]

William Jones' son Richard was the administrator of his father's estate and became the owner of Athol. William Jones' estate papers contain the oldest plot plan that has come to light so far showing the present house. This plan is dated 1840, two years after William's death, and clearly shows the Athol house and property. It also shows another small house on the east s e of the main house, which may have been a kitchen. The estate, including twenty slaves, was divided among William's widow Allanora, his son Richard, his deceased daughter's husband John Downes, and his deceased son William's daughter Elizabeth Spencer. Without making statistical comparisons with others, the inventory of Jones' personal possessions, exclusive of real estate, gives some idea of the type of life he led. The most valuable of his many pieces of furniture was a mahogany sideboard. Although he owned a substantial amount of farm equipment and livestock, his new gig and harness worth $230 had a higher value than any of his horses, cattle, or oxen. Corn appeared to be the most plentiful of his crops and when he died he had 880 bushels to be delivered to market and another 1,000 bushels to be delivered on the farm with a combined value of $1310. 1800 pounds of pork "supposed to be in pickle" had a value of $180. However, William Jones' slaves were his most valuable possessions with a value of about $3000. Six slaves between the ages of 12 and 31 had values of $200 each; children between the ages of one and twelve were worth slightly less each.[9]

After his father's death Richard Jones, his wife Elizabeth, and their large family lived at Athol for many years. Like his father, Richard was a farmer who owned several hundred acres of land and some slaves. In 1850, for example, he had $450 worth of livestock, more than most farmers in the

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7 Edward F. Wright, *Caroline County 1820 Census*. (Silver Spring, Maryland: Family Line Publications). This is the 1820 census published in an easy reference form.

8 aroline County (MD) Levy Court Record, Assessment Record, 1830; and United States Census for Caroline County, Maryland, 1830.

9 Caroline County (MD) Registrar of Wills, Inventories, Liber W.A.F.B, Folio 275.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.5

district. During the year he had produced 1250 bushels of corn, 79 bushels of wheat, and 25 bushels of Irish potatoes. Neither Richard Jones nor any other farmers in the district grew any tobacco.[10] By 1860 the value of Jones' real estate had reached $11,500 and he owned seven slaves.[11]

The Civil War and the end of slavery seemed to have little effect on Richard Jones' overall wealth. The 1866 tax assessment of Caroline County shows Jones as the owner of Athol which then had 447 acres and a value of $6,705. Jones also owned the nearby tract, Mt. Washington, as well as railroad stock, furniture, and other personal possessions. He was one of eighteen people in the district who had a total assessment of more than $10,000.[12] It is unknown which railroad stock Jones owned, but it was very likely that of the Delaware and Chesapeake Railroad which started operation in 1868 and crossed through the upper district of Caroline County. The railroad would prove to be a boon to local farmers who previously found it difficult to ship crops because of their distance from navigable water. In addition to providing transportation, the railroad was the impetus for the formation of small towns, such as nearby Henderson, which grew up along the railroad line. Canneries opened in Henderson and other towns on the railroad line, providing another market for agricultural products.

When Richard Jones was 65 years old and most of his children had grown up, he sold Athol. He then owned considerably less land than he had owned twenty years earlier, and his agricultural production had diminished as well. However, Jones had been a Justice of the Peace for the First District of Caroline County for many years. In the year 1870 he produced 350 bushels of corn as opposed to 1250 bushels in 1850.[13] On July 24, 1871 Richard and Elizabeth Jones sold a 240 acre tract which included a portion of the tracts called Athol and Buck Range to William G. Lumb for $3,650 including the house. The Lumbs farmed Athol for over forty years, which included a period

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10 Agricultural and Manufacturing Census records of 1850 for Maryland, Caroline County, page 596. Taken from Microfilm Reel #144.

11 F. Edward Wright, Caroline County 1860 Census. (Silver Spring: Family Line Publications), #1943.

12 Caroline County (Maryland), Board of County Commissioners, Tax Assessments, 1866. no page numbers. The author counted the number of people with assessment of more than $10,000 and may have made an error of one or two people, but the error should not be significant.

13 Agricultural and Manufacturing Census for Maryland, Caroline County, Post offices of Greensboro and Henderson, Reel 148., Line 8, page 7.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.6

around the turn of the century when the canneries in Caroline County continued to profivde a market for locally-grown crops.

William G. Lumb, a native of Pennsylvania, was 33 years old when he purchased Athol in 1871. He and his wife Hannah lived there for the rest of their lives, farming and raising a family. The Agricultural Census of 1880 indicates that Lumb had a more diversified farm than his predecessors and attempted to improve their agricultural systems. When the census was taken, Lumb had 100 acres as improved or fallow and 140 acres of woodland. His livestock included horses, cows, lambs, and poultry. Crops included potatoes, corn, apples, and peaches.[14]

The executors for William Lumb's estate after his death in 1912 were his daughter Laura Lumb Gruwell and her husband. To settle the estate, Athol, then called the Lumb Farm, was sold at a trustees sale in front of the court house in Denton. The property still consisted of 240 acres and included a "two story brick dwelling, a granary, barn, new stable very nearly completed and other necessary outbuildings."[15] The Gruwells purchased the property at the trustee's sale by submitting the highest bid which was $5000.[16] Laura Gruwell, who outlived her husband, left the property to her heirs when she died in 1935. It was again sold at auction where W. Foster Clark purchased it for $3,425. This was, of course, during the Great Depression in America, and it is not surprising that the value of the property had dropped. On November 12, 1935, within a few days of having purchased it, Clark sold Athol to Louis and Elizabeth Antal who were the last to farm the property.[17] Today, the Maryland Department of Agriculture holds an easement on the Athol property so that it may not ever be developed. The Athol house, despite some changes and deterioration, is essentially the same house built for William Jones in about 1825.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Athol is representative of a Federal style single family dwellings of the mid-Eastern Shore of Maryland. Built by a moderately wealthy farmer in about 1825, it is one of three houses of its general type and age in rural Caroline

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14 1880 Agricultural Census, Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records, Maryland, page 2, Caroline County. Reel 149.

15 Caroline County (Maryland) Chancery Court Record 1547 includes a poster advertising the sale of the property.

16 Caroline County (Maryland) Register of Deeds, Liber 76, Folio 204

17 Caroline County (Maryland) Register of Deeds, Liber 95, Folio 346.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.7

County. It is architecturally significant because it is an excellent and rare example of a brick, three bay wide, single cell rural dwelling of the early nineteenth century in its original environment.

Athol's period of architectural significance is the date of constuction, 1825. Throughout its history the house was the principal dwelling on a Caroline County farm. Because an easement protects the surrounding 250 acres from any development in the future, it is a rare example of an early-nineteenth-century farm dwelling which is destined to be surrounded by farmland in perpetuity. Set well back from the road, Athol exhibits the primary characteristics of a property type which once undoubtedly existed in greater numbers on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory of Historic Sites in Caroline County makes it evident that there are no pre-Revolutionary buildings remaining there. This gives added stature to the few buildings in the county that survive from the immediate-post-Revolutionary period and the early nineteenth century. Athol is one of two houses in Caroline County that are very similar on the exterior. Like Athol, the House on Steele Road (Inventory #CAR-11) is a three bay wide, single pile house with raised basement and end chimneys that protrude from the exterior walls. These houses happen to be physically close, and future investigation may reveal that they were actually both on land owned by William Jones in 1825. Ervington, (Inventory #CAR-12)several miles to the northeast of Athol is quite similar in its brickwork, chimneys, and other exterior features, but has a hall parlor plan rather than a central hall plan. The House on Steele Road and Ervington should both probably be considered for National Register listing depending upon the integrity of their interiors, which is unknown at present. However, Athol appears to be the superior architectural example because it does retain its original windows, has a rear door at the end of its center hall, and has a deliberately asymmetrical second floor rear window which crosses the stair landing on the interior.

There are three other houses in Caroline County that are similar to Athol in date and style. The Ernest Bowman Brick House (Inventory # CAR-15) has a similar shape, but with its five bays is much larger. Big Branch Farm near Preston (Inventory # CAR-53) is a three-bay-wide brick house of similar shape, but without the protruding chimneys. The main block of the Dyott Farm (Inventory #CAR-77), also near Preston, is similar to Athol in size and design, but has neither the protruding chimneys nor central entrance. Nearby Talbot County also has some similar dwellings, of which Top Mark Farm in Trappe (Inventory #T-134) appears to be one with its three bay facade and

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.8

protruding end chimneys. However, its appearance at the time it was inventoried, was the result of an alteration from a gambrel-roofed house. Also in Trappe, the Gibson Wright Mill House (Inventory # T-126) dates from the same period and has a similar facade, but is larger and has windows in the end wall. Two other houses in Trappe, Castle Racket Farm (Inventory # T-139) and the Maynadier House (Inventory #T-136) have protruding end chimneys, Flemish bond facades, and some other similarities to Athol.[18]

Athol's architectural significance is enhanced by its pristine rural setting. Dwellings of this type seem to have had a lower survival rate than more elaborate dwellings and nearly all have eventually become farm tenant dwellings, often losing much of their integrity through removal of fabric and alterations. Athol did suffer by becoming a tenant dwelling in recent years, but despite alterations, most of the historic fabric of the house remains. This includes not only much of the original fabric, but some early alterations such as the late-nineteenth-century window frames in the main rooms on the first floor. For most of its existence, Athol was the residence of the owner who farmed the surrounding lands, and was intimately involved with the changing agricultural patterns in Caroline County.

While Athol may not have been unique at one time, it is a "representative Federal style house of the mid-Eastern Shore of Maryland."[19] Today the house is nearly unique because it not only retains much of its original fabric, but its original setting. Highly visible from some distance, Athol stands alone in the midst of its extensive acreage. The house conveys an accurate sense of early nineteenth century rural Caroline County which remained much the same for over a hundred years. An easement on the property assures that Athol and its setting will not change in the future.

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18 Comments regarding other buildings in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory are taken from Christopher Weeks, *Where Land and Water Entwine - An Architectural History of Talbot County Maryland*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press and The Maryland Historical Trust, 1984) and Christopher Weeks, editor, *Inventory of Historic Sites in Caroline County*, (Annapolis: Maryland Historical Trust, 1980).

19 Maryland Historic Trust Inventory form prepared by Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, in January, 1977.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Agricultural and Manufacturing Census records of 1850-1880 for Maryland, Caroline County, page 596. Taken from Microfilm Reel #144.

Caroline County (MD) Chancery Court Record 1547.

Caroline County (MD) Levy Court Record, Assessment Record, 1830.

Caroline County (MD) Register of Deeds, Deed Record Liber J.R.O., Folio 451; J.R.O. Folio 496, Liber 76, Folio, 204, Liber 95, Folio 346.

Caroline County (MD) Register of Wills, Inventories, Liber W.A.F.B., Folio 275.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Caroline County (CAR-10), Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 9.1

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

creage of property Two acres

USGS quad: Goldsboro, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	431270	4326590
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are delineated on Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The boundary of the nominated property, Athol, as historically associated with the house, is defined by the landscaped lawn immediately surrounding the house. This area extends to the surrounding tilled fields and coincides with Caroline County Tax Assessor's parcel 230, Grid 13, Map 5 which is the extent of the land owned by the present owner of Athol.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Priscilla M. Thompson
organization The History Store
street & number 827 Tatnall Street
city or town Wilmington
date 5 February 1989
telephone (302) 654-1727
state Delaware zip code 19801

Caroline County (MD), Board of County Commissioners, Tax Assessments, 1866.

Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882. (Wilmington: Ferris Brothers, 1882) 163.

Directory of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland for 1876-77. (Wilmington: Commercial Printing Company, 1876).

Rairigh, William N., "A Narrative History of Caroline County," *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia*, Vol III. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1951).

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Wright, Edward F., *Caroline County 1820 Census.* (Silver Spring, Maryland: Family Line Publications).

..... *Caroline County 1860 Census* (Silver Spring: Family Line Publications) 1943.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAR-10

0600105304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Edmund Thomas House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Milville Rd., approximately .6 mile south of Mt. Zion

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Louis Antel, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 1, Box 90-A

CITY, TOWN

Greensboro

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21639

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 95

Folio #: 346

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Caroline County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CAR-10

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	X DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edmund Thomas house is located on a dirt lane that leads west from Melville Road, approximately six-tenths of a mile south of Mt. Zion, Caroline County, Maryland. It is a Federal style house constructed c. 1810-30. The structure is a residence with several small frame additions and is in a slightly deteriorated condition.

The two story brick house rests high over its basement, which has narrow windows with horizontal grills. The three bay south facade is Flemish bond with a central doorway and transom, 9/6 pane windows flank the doorway on the first floor, while 6/6 windows are on the second floor with an undersized window in the central bay. The window lintels are flat arches composed of vertical stretchers. The other three walls are common bond. The north facade has a fenestration similar to that of the south facade except for a large stair case window in the central bay between the floors. The brick cornice on these two facades is three rows of headers stepped out. The gable end chimney stacks partially protrude from the end walls; the west stack has a corbeled cap while the east stack is plain. The east gable wall shows evidence of once having a one and one-half story gable addition. The gable roof is presently tin covered.

The interior has a central passageway with a room to each side. The stair case, with a round rail, square balusters, and question mark stairends, is in the central hall. It has a paneled spandrel and is close string from the second floor to the attic. There are original doors, chair rails, and window trim with corner blocks (the trim resembles work in Gill's House, c. 1835, Worchester County). The fireplaces are presently closed off.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CAR-10

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edmund Thomas house depicts the representative Federal style house of the mid-Eastern Shore of Maryland. Built approximately 1810-30, the two room with central passageway floor plan, the gable end chimneys, the symmetrical fenestration, and the restrained ornamentation are the basic characteristics of this period. Details particular to this region are the high foundation, the partial protrusion of the chimney stack from the wall face, and the absence of first or second floor windows on the gable ends.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CAR-10

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, & Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE
January, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

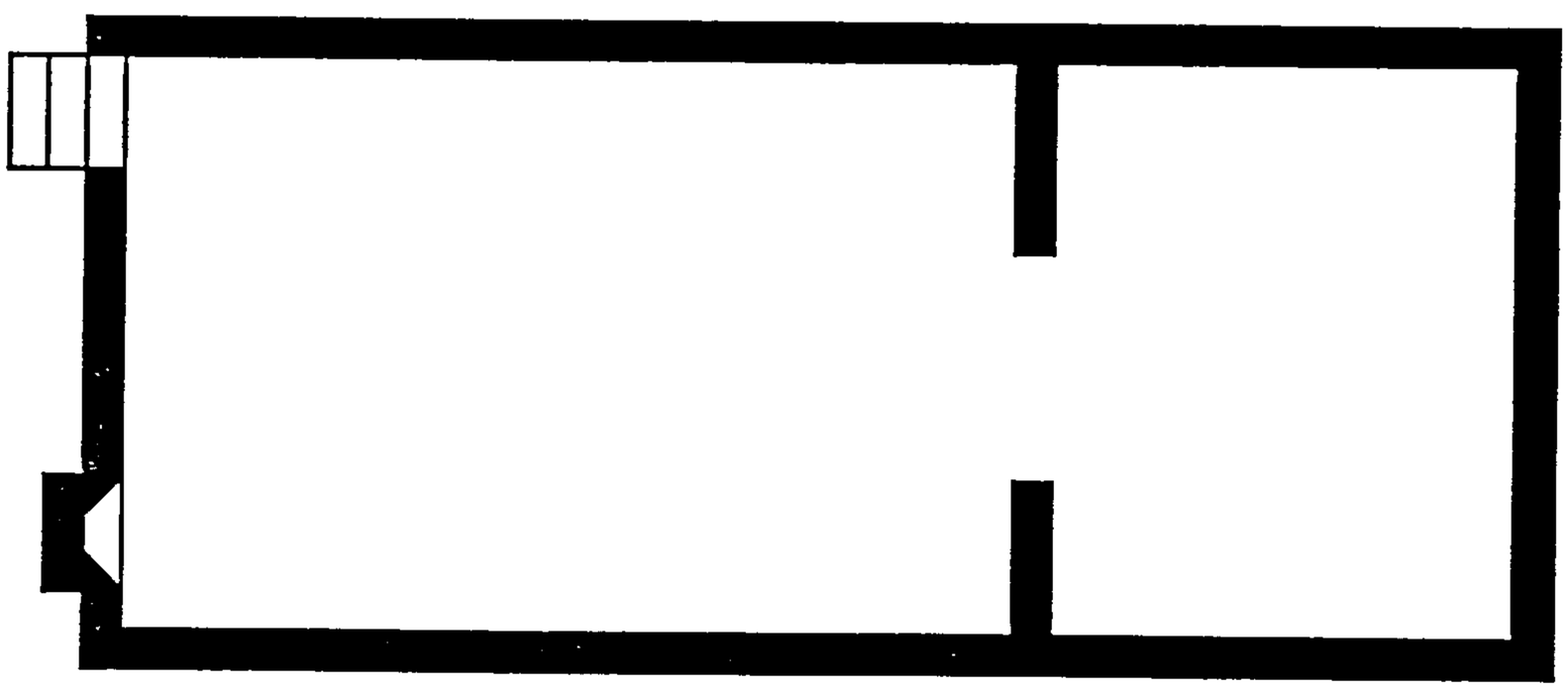
CITY OR TOWN
Annapolis

STATE
Maryland 21401

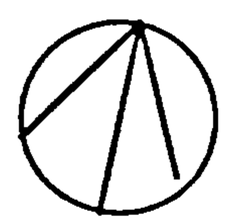
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

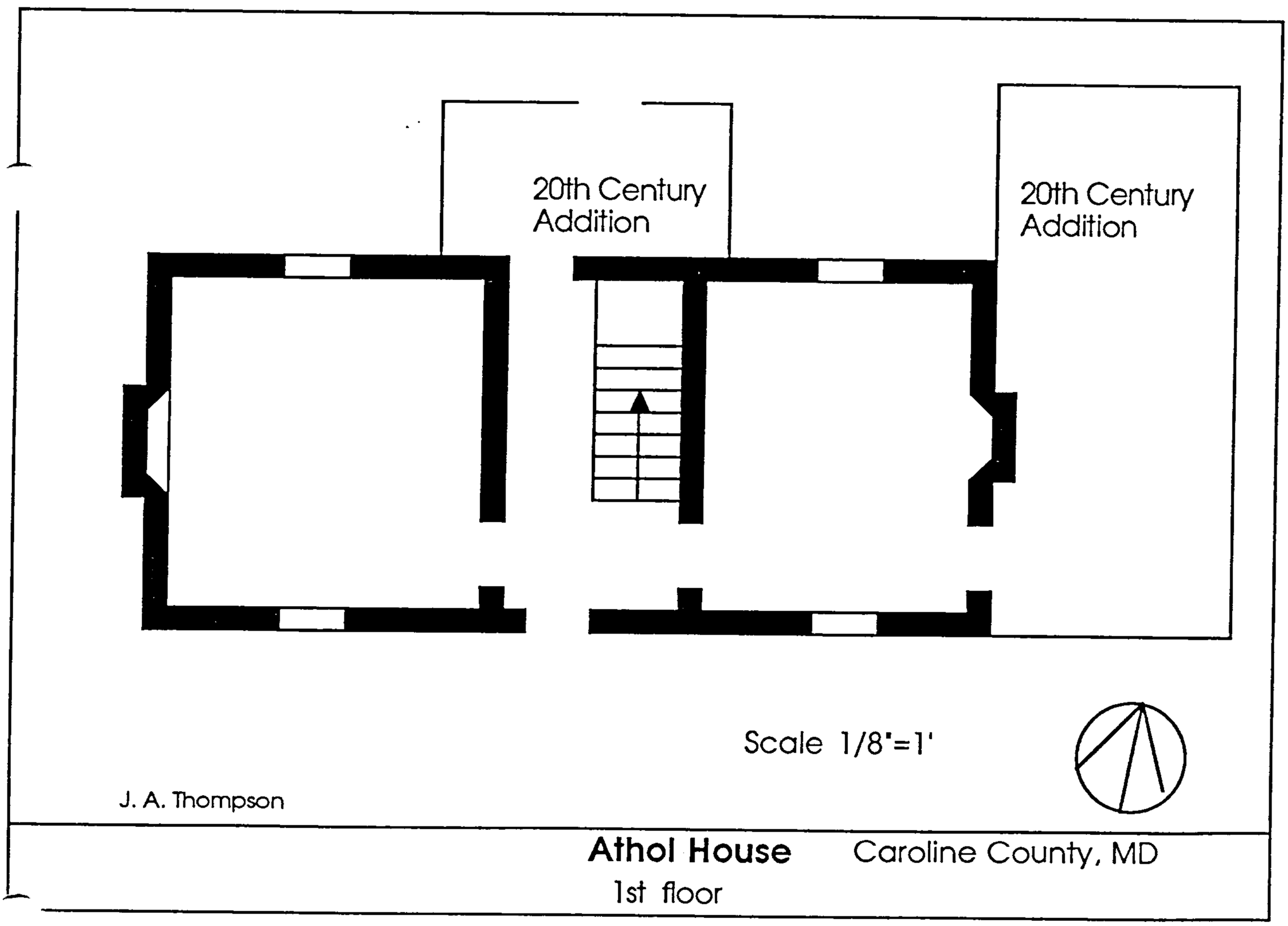


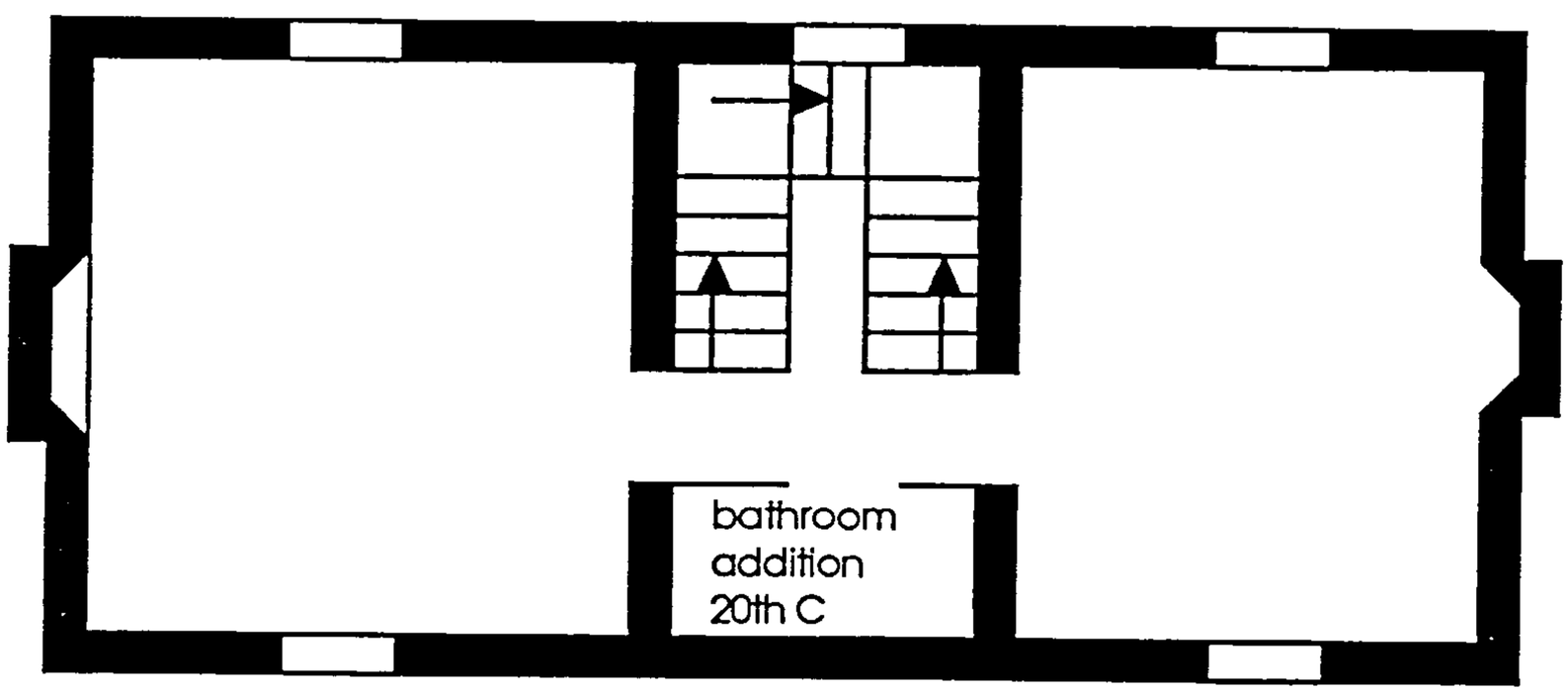
Scale 1/8"=1'



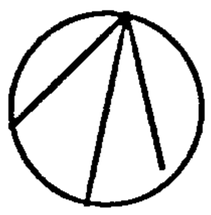
J. A. Thompson

Athol House Caroline County, MD
Basement


20th Century
Addition
20th Century
Addition
Scale 1/8"=1'
J. A. Thompson
Athol House
1st floor
Caroline County, MD

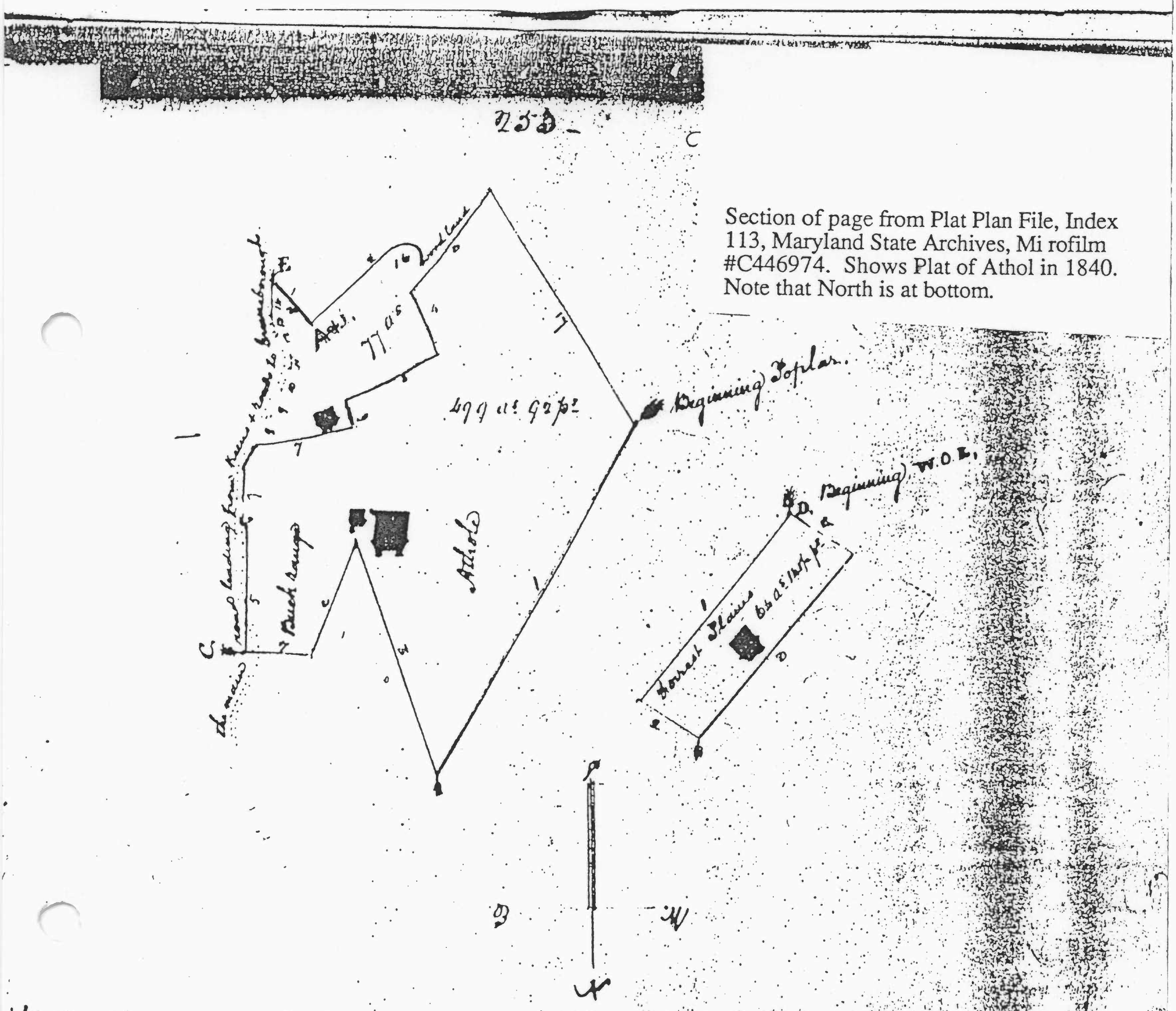


Scale 1/8"=1'



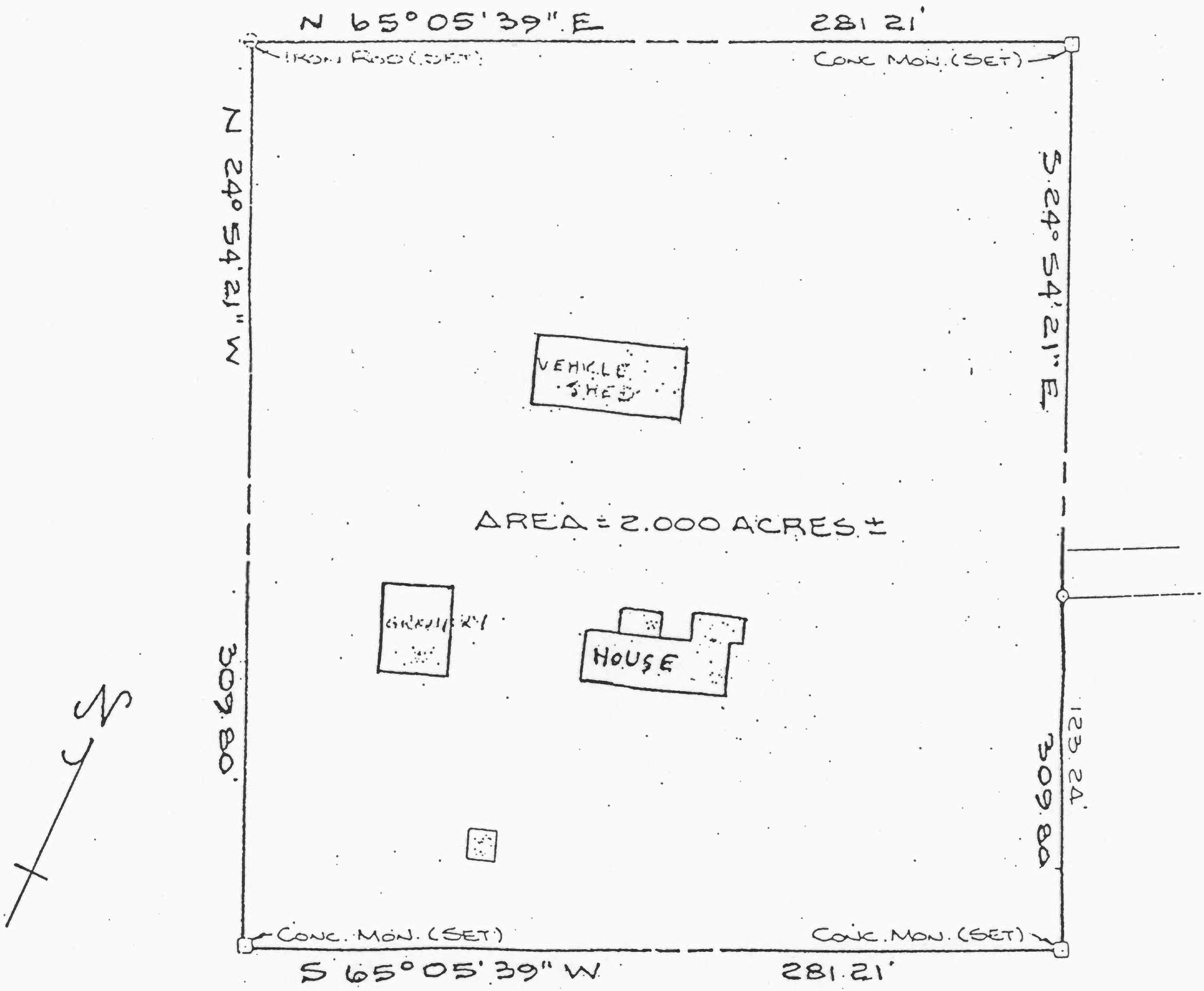
J. A. Thompson

Athol House Caroline County, MD
2nd floor



Section of page from Plat Plan File, Index 113, Maryland State Archives, Mi rofilm #C446974. Shows Plat of Athol in 1840. Note that North is at bottom.

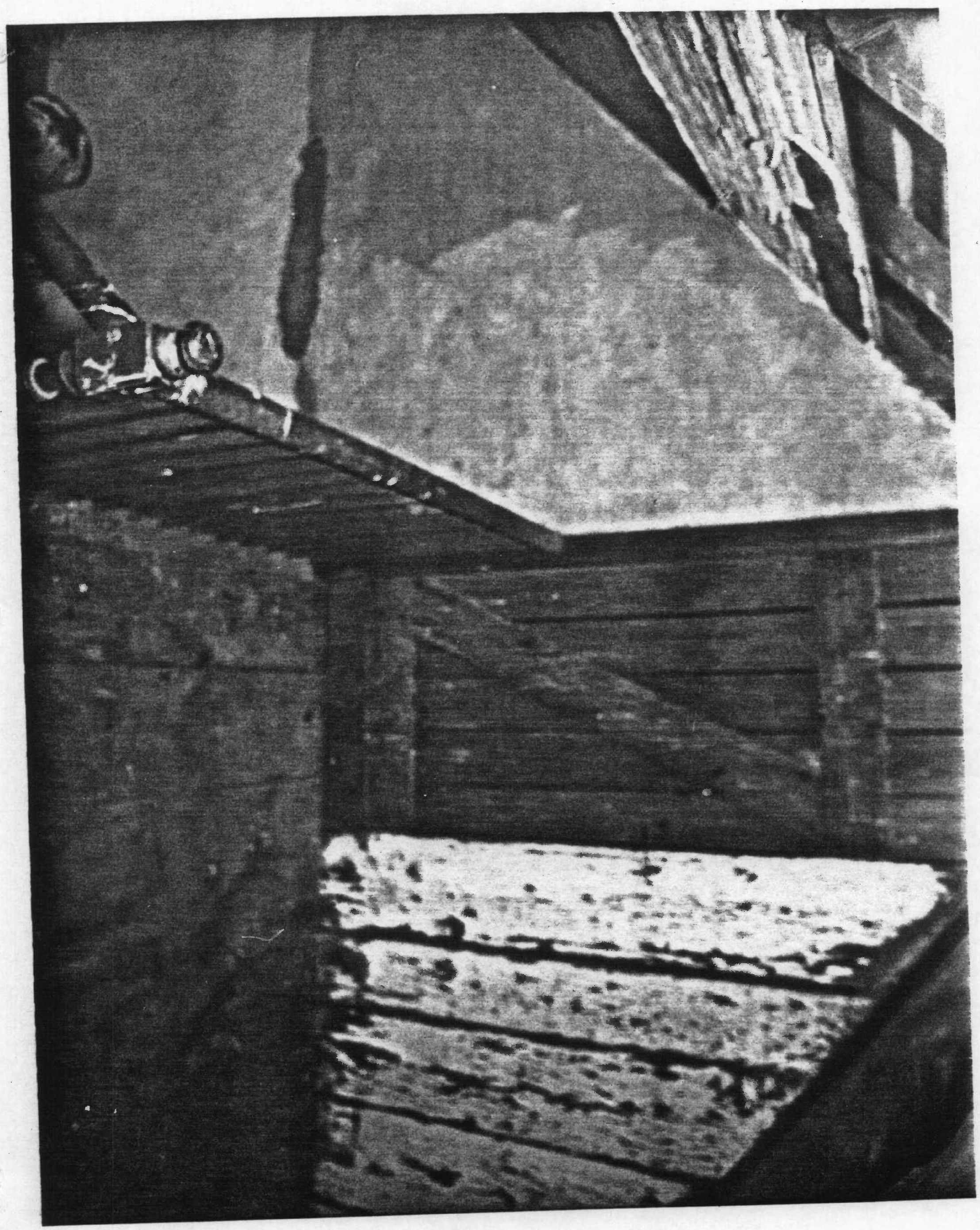
No. 2. Assigned to Emeline Downes wife of a certain John Downes of Queen Anns County which said allotment of land of several tracts or parts of tracts of land to wit, Long marsh Ridge Enlarged part of a tract called Forest Plains an



boundary and resource sketch map, 1989
scale 1"=60'

Athol
Car-10
Caroline Co.
Maryland

18/431270/4326590



CAR-10

ATHOL CAR-10

CAROLINE CO, MD

J. A. THOMPSON

NOV. 1988

MARYLAND SHPO

S. ELEVATION OF HOUSE

PHOTO #1 OF 19

ATHOL, CAR-10

CAROLINE CO. MD.

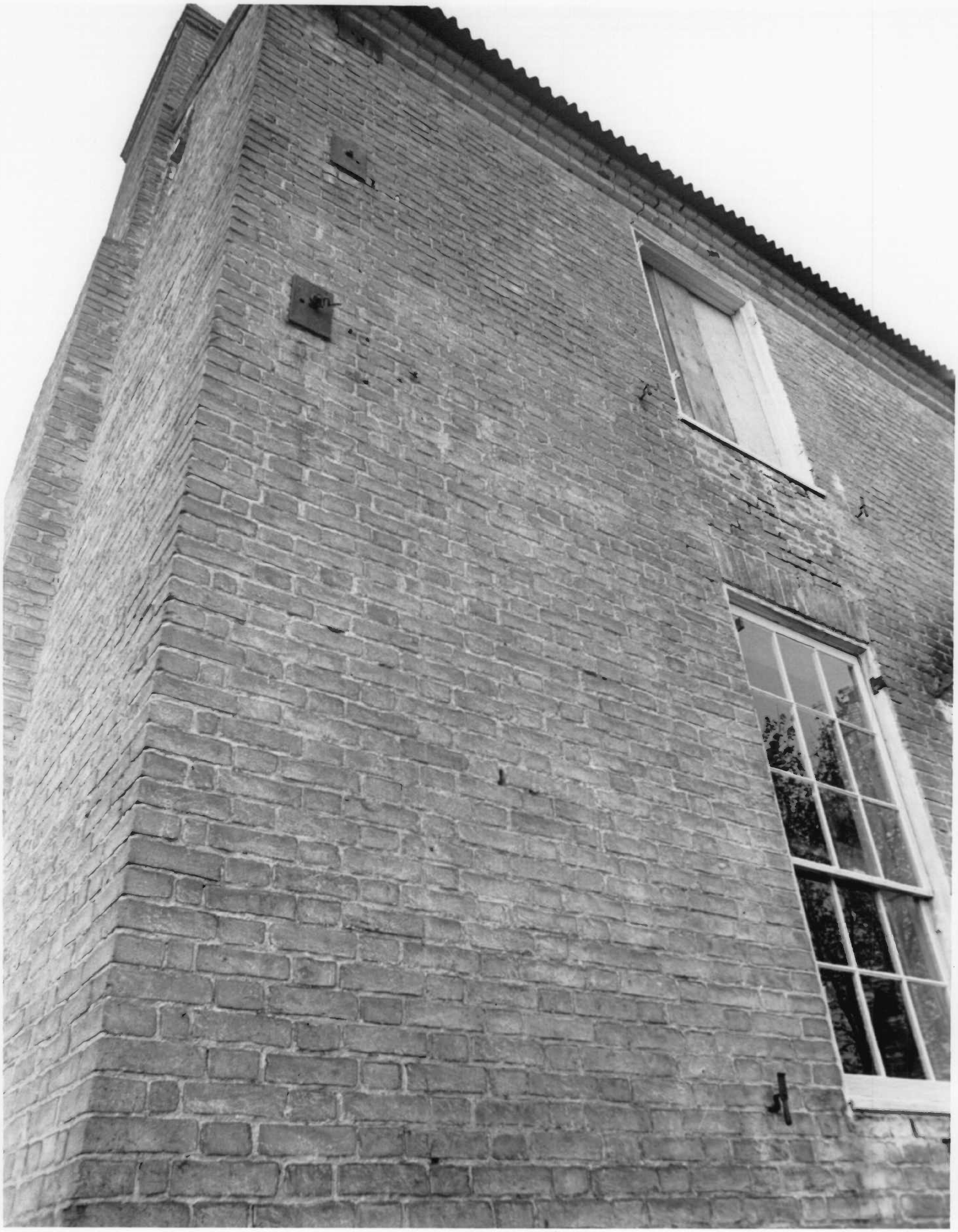
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON

NOV. 1988

NEG. MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING NW AT E & S. ELEVATIONS
PHOTO #2 OF 19

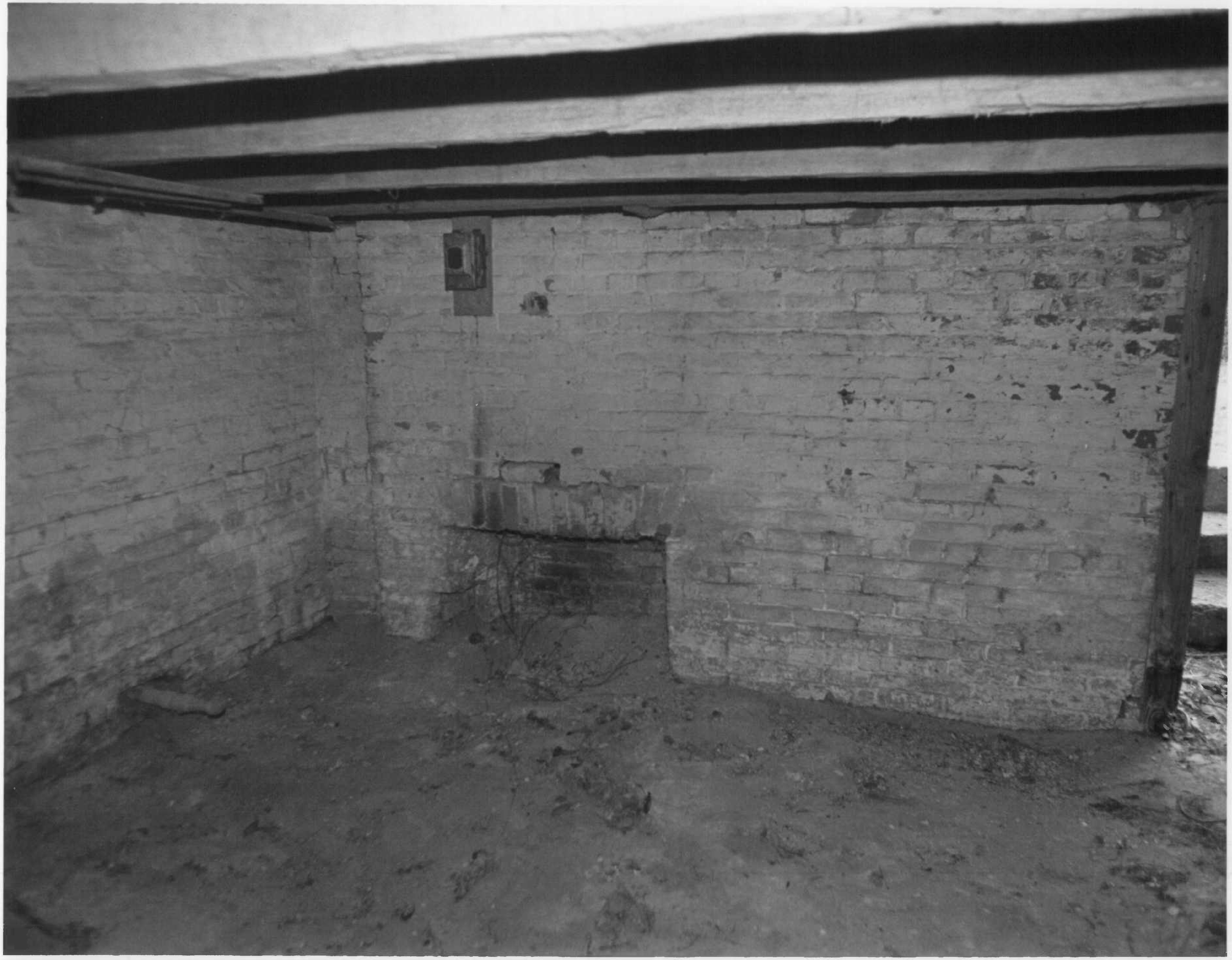
ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO, MD.
PHOTO BY. J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING SE AT W. + N. ELEVATIONS
PHOTO #3 OF 19

ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG. MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION
PHOTO #4 OF 19



ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
BRICK DETAIL, S.W. CORNER
PHOTO #5 OF 19

ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO, MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
BASEMENT WINDOW WITH WOOD GRILLS
PHOTO #6 OF 19



ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J. A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG.: MARYLAND SHPO
W. END OF BASEMENT SHOWING CHIMNEY BASE
PHOTO #7 OF 19

ATHOL, — CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING INTO W. ROOM FROM 1ST FLOOR
ENTRY HALL—MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR IS AT L.
PHOTO #8 OF 19

ATHOL — CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J. A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING N. TOWARD REAR OF HOUSE IN FIRST
FLOOR ENTRY HALL SHOWING STAIRCASE
PHOTO #9 OF 19

ATHOL- CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J. A. THOMPSON
NOV, 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING INTO E. ROOM FROM 1ST FLOOR
ENTRY HALL
PHOTO #10 OF 19

ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J. A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING E. INTO 20TH C. ADDITION
FROM E. ROOM, FIRST FLOOR
PHOTO #11 OF 19

ATHOL, CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG. MARYLAND SHPO
ENTRANCE TO FIRST FLOOR HALL
ON NORTH SIDE (REAR)

PHOTO #12 OF 19

ATHOL - CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
UPPER SECTIONS OF STAIRS
FROM 1ST TO 2ND FLOOR - LOOKING NE

PHOTO #13 OF 19

ATHOL — CAR.-10
CAROLINE CO. MD
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
2nd FLOOR - LOOKING E AT STAIRS
FROM WEST ROOM SHOWING
DOOR FRAME & LATH
PHOTO #14 OF 19

ATHOL, - CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
STAIRS FROM 2ND FLOOR TO ATTIC
CROSSING WINDOW IN NORTH WALL
PHOTO #15 OF 19

ATHOL, - CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
TOP OF STAIRS AT ATTIC LEVEL
LOOKING EAST AT WALL AND
DOOR TO EAST SECTION OF ATTIC

PHOTO # 16 OF 19

ATHOL, - CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING EAST INTO EAST
SECTION OF ATTIC

PHOTO #17 OF 19

ATHOL, - CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
NON-CONTRIBUTING OUTBUILDING
CAMERA FACING SW.
PHOTO #18 OF 19

ONALD N. TRICE

ATHOL, - CAR-10
CAROLINE CO., MD.
PHOTO BY J.A. THOMPSON
NOV. 1988
NEG: MARYLAND SHPO
NON-CONTRIBUTING OUTBUILDING
CAMERA FACING NE
PHOTO #19 OF 19