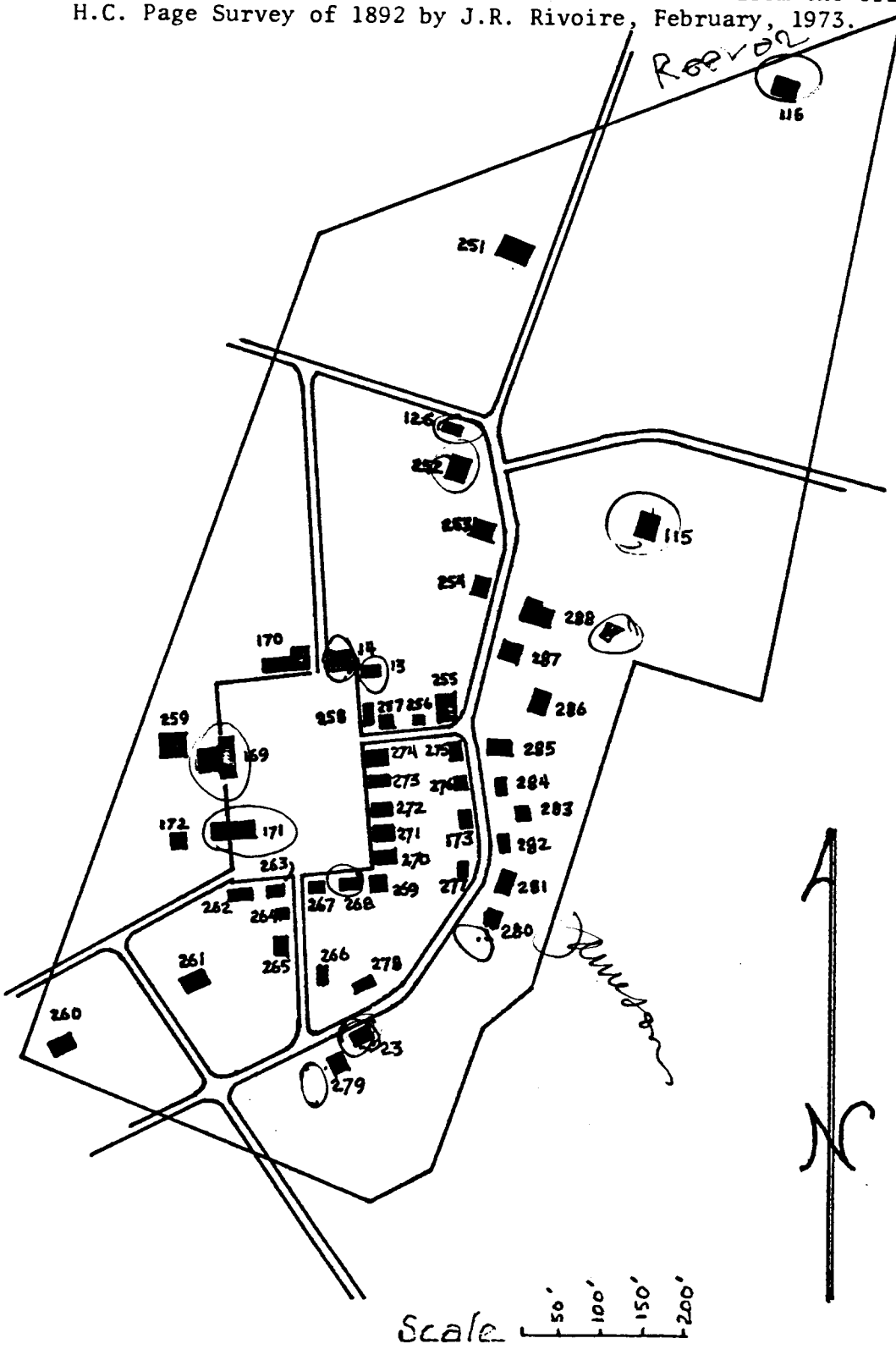
CH-171
Christ Church, site
Port Tobacco

c. 1818

The site of the original Protestant church built by Michael Ashford and completed by 1684 is not known. It was likely a frame structure inasmuch as it was replaced by 1709. The brick foundations of an apsidal-shaped building found beneath the foundations of the 1818-21 courthouse may have been those of the 1709 church. The relatively modest dimensions of the foundations, however, suggest that it was not the "large" and "elegant" church noted in eighteenth and early nineteenth century descriptions of the town. By 1818 a stone church had been built on this specific site, and it is possible that the materials used in its construction were salvaged from an earlier church that was located elsewhere in the town.. The stone is believed to have originated from Virginia's Aquia Creek quarries. In 1884 the church was remodeled in the Victorian-Gothic style. In 1904 it was dismantled, moved to La Plata, and reerected adjacent to the new courthouse. The foundations of the church have been outlined in brick, and there is a small cemetery adjacent to the site associated with the Baptist Chapel that formerly occupied the south wing of the courthouse early in this century. Port Tobacco Parish was one of the original parishes established in Maryland in 1692.

1892 Boundaries of the Village of Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, Showing the Locations of Buildings, Sites, and Areas (Aboriginal and Colonial) of Archaeological Significance, that Exist Within the Settlement. Reduced and Drawn from the Original H.C. Page Survey of 1892 by J.R. Rivoire, February, 1973.



Village of Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland, about 1890

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By Rosemary Coyle Warner, April, 1970 (?)