

S M -1A MULBERRY FIELDS DEPENDENCY early 19th century  
Valley Lee  
Private

This handsome, substantial brick dependency, built in a late Georgian style, corresponds to the design of its counterpart across the courtyard. Both dependencies are replacements of frame structures and were most likely built at the turn of the 19th century. The second floor of each apparently housed a slave family and, as quarters, offered far more comfortable living conditions than the log houses occupied by most slaves.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STMA- 1 A  
 MACI # 19001A135

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
 BRICK DEPENDENCY AT MULBERRY FIELDS  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
 S. side of Rt. 244, 4.5 miles S. E. of Beauvue  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Beauvue  VICINITY OF  
 STATE  
 Maryland COUNTY  
 St. Mary's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
 Mr. Holger Jansson Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 Mulberry Fields, Beauvue  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Beauvue  VICINITY OF STATE, zip code  
 Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN  
 STATE  
 Liber #:  
 Folio #:

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
 Maryland Historic Sites Survey (STMA-1) (Survey description of main house and site)  
 DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Annapolis, STATE  
 Md.

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is the type of structure that house servants frequently occupied on Georgian plantations in the Tidewater South. No written records have been found to prove that house servants lived here, but plantation tradition maintains that they had. Several possibilities exist: That the structure was devoted exclusively to work and storage, was used as living quarters for either slaves or the overseer, or was used both as a work area and as living quarters for slaves whether servants or artisans. Based upon comparison with other plantations, the latter is more feasible.

The structure can best be seen as an integral member of the symmetrical Georgian plan of the site of the main house and its environs. This plan consists of the main house and two brick dependencies--this structure and the brick kitchen, both built in the Georgian style. The most striking feature on the site is the main house--a beautifully designed, spacious, late 18th century house of brick construction--is a classic example of the well-proportioned balance of Georgian architecture. Standing on the edge of a plateau, the main house looks out over a magnificent vista: a long allee of open fields bordered by trees extending a full mile to the Potomac River. On the opposite side of the main house stand this dependency and its near twin, the brick kitchen. They stand about fifty feet in front and to the sides of the corners of the main house. They face one another across an open yard and together with the main house form three sides of a large rectangle. The fourth side is made up of tall trees, large boxwood, and flowering, shrubbery. A small dairy and smokehouse are located in the space just between the kitchen and main house. Just north of the kitchen along a lane, a long brick slave quarters is known to have been located. On the slope of a hill to the east is the site of a multi-story brick "slave dormitory." The site is now overgrown; all that remains are the rows of brick foundations. This carefully designed environment of structures and landscape was the nucleus of the plantation.

This particular slave house under investigation is a one story brick structure with an "A" roof. It is larger and more substantially constructed than most slave houses and illustrates the improved living conditions of house servants, in comparison with those of field hands. It measures 22ft. 3in. in length, 27ft. 4in. in depth, and 9ft. in height. Its brick walls are 13in. thick. Its facade, which is oriented towards the east, is symmetrical: a central door flanked by two windows. Above the openings are segmental arches and the rear length has two smaller windows. A tall, brick outside end chimney rises along the northern gable end. Adjacent to the chimney on the east is another door, somewhat smaller than the one in the front. On the other side of the chimney is the entrance to a large root cellar, the massive brick walls of which form the foundations of the house. Also undergirding the house are large hewn sills and puncheon sleepers.

(See Attachment #1)

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>PERIOD</b> ___PREHISTORIC    ___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ___1400-1499    ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ___1500-1599    ___AGRICULTURE ___1600-1699    ___ARCHITECTURE ___1700-1799    ___ART ___1800-1899    ___COMMERCE ___1900-        ___COMMUNICATIONS		<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> ___COMMUNITY PLANNING    ___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ___CONSERVATION        ___LAW ___ECONOMICS            ___LITERATURE ___EDUCATION            ___MILITARY ___ENGINEERING        ___MUSIC ___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT    ___PHILOSOPHY ___INDUSTRY            ___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT ___INVENTION            ___OTHER (SPECIFY)			___RELIGION ___SCIENCE ___SCULPTURE ___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ___THEATER ___TRANSPORTATION
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

According to Cary Carson of the St. Mary's City Commission, the 1798 tax list records two dependencies with exactly measured dimensions that are different from those of the brick dependencies standing today. Since the brick ones have not been altered, they probably replaced the ones listed in 1798. A brick recently found in the kitchen had the date 1804 scratched on it; this may have been the date of the construction of that structure and the opposite "slave house." Research of later tax lists may reveal more conclusive evidence, but at this moment it appears that they were built in the early 1800's. It should also be mentioned that the upstairs chamber of the brick kitchen may have been occupied by slaves. Since the person living there was not at home, an investigation was postponed.

A reported slave cemetery (according to the Janssons and Howard Young) is located in a grove of cedars near the edge of fields about a half mile in front of the main house. According to Mr. Howard Young (whose house at Mulberry Fields was surveyed), large stones marked the graves (see form for the Howard Young House). These stones have been removed; no indications of the grave sites remain. In the possession of the owners are a number of plantation artifacts, which may have been made and used by the slaves: a spinning wheel, a cobbler's bench, and a shallow, hand-made trough similar to those described in the ex-slave narratives and out of which, the ex-slaves said, the slave children were fed. According to plantation tradition, this trough was used to "carry food out to the slaves working in the fields." In addition, plantation tradition maintains that the slaves made the bricks for the main house and dependencies. Slaves may also have crafted the set of Chippendale Chairs still used in the dining room, according to Elizabeth Blagojevum. Archaeological excavations might uncover more plantation and/or slave artifacts; especially productive might be excavations of the sites of the two former slave quarters. Lastly, it should be pointed out that the main house and associated structures, which are on the National Register, are all receiving the careful attention of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Holgen Jansson, and their two sons.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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

George W. McDaniel

2/76

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

12 W. Madison St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Md.

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.

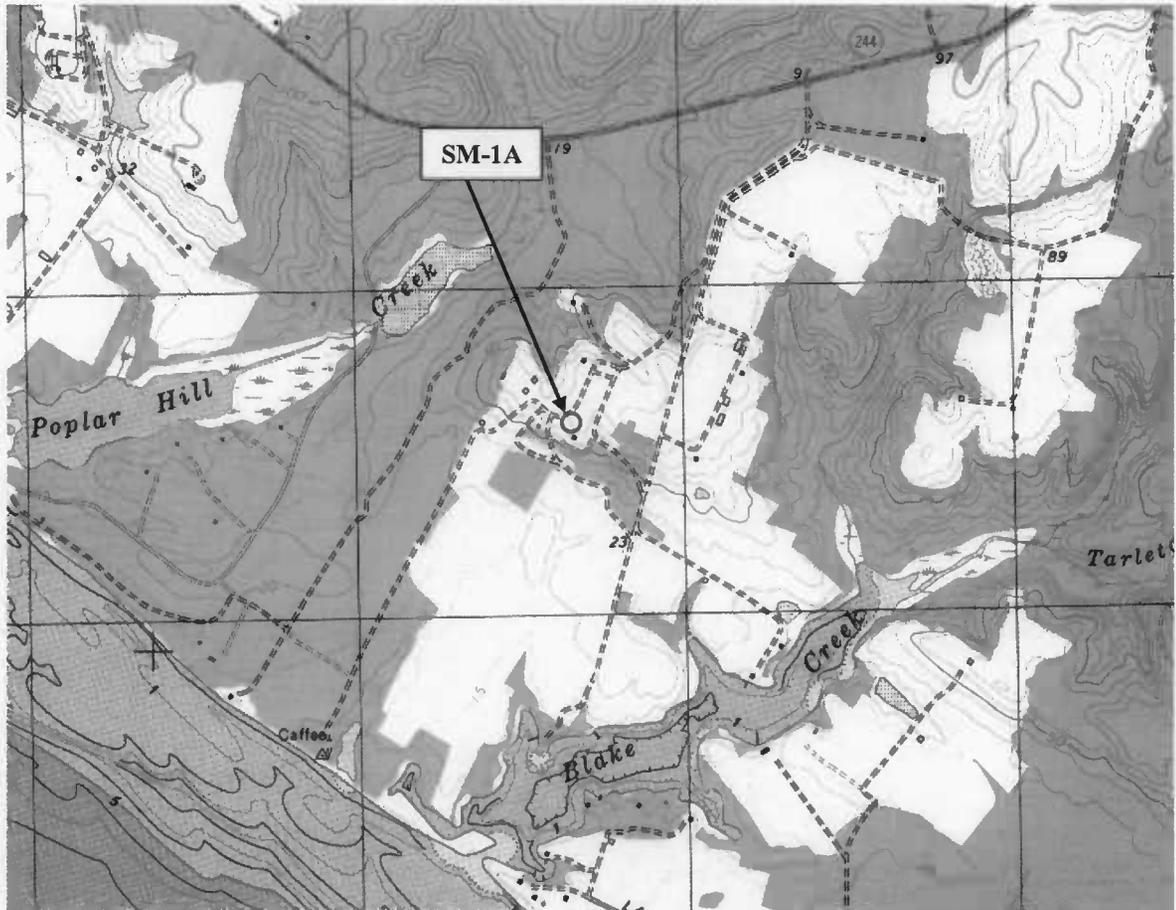
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Attachment #1  
Brick Dependency At Mulberry Fields - Description

The interior of the downstairs is divided north-south about 10 ft. from the back wall by an intriguing partition of overlapping beaded weatherboards attached by wrought nails. The space behind the partition is bisected by another partition of similar materials. The boards of the partition were whitewashed, had been exposed to the weather, and were probably removed from an earlier structure, perhaps from the dependencies indicated in the 1798 tax list, which these brick structures replaced. Each of the two rooms behind the partition had a door leading into the main body of the downstairs, but the door in the southwestern corner swings on large, hand-carved wooden hinges, a feature that is quite rare among surviving structures. A firebox, the low height of which suggests that it was used more for heating than cooking, opens into the main body of the room on the northern gable end. The walls of the downstairs as well as the exposed hewn joists retain traces of whitewash.

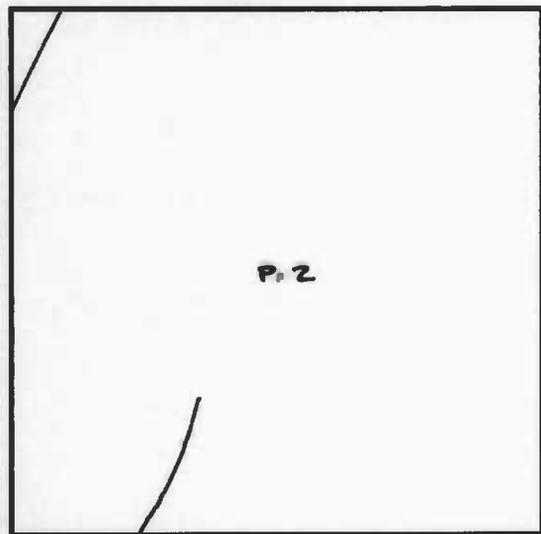
The stairway along the southern gable wall is larger than those in most slave houses and is enclosed by beaded pine boards which rise diagonally from the stairs to the ceiling. The interior of the stairway has been recast with modern materials. The upstairs chamber consists of one open room which was heated by a small firebox. The ceiling now in place is of modern, narrow boards. Through a small trap door can be seen the hewn rafters that were mortised, tenoned, and pegged. The roof is covered with modern wood shingles.

SM-1A  
Mulberry Fields Brick Dependency  
19700 Mulberry Fields Road  
Piney Point Quadrangle



1993 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 56













George W M David

FIG 30.  
D 54%

SAC-1A

MULBERRY FIELDS WEGUNG HOUSE

SEE SAC-1A



SM-1A

Mulberry Fields

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Feb/00

Weaving house - looking N

2 of 8