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SM-33
Brome-Howard House
St. Mary's City
St. Mary's County, Maryland

ca. 1840

The domestic complex at the Brome-Howard property includes a large Greek Revival-influenced house and a series of related outbuildings, located within a landscaped setting on the bank of the St. Mary's River. The house comprises a 2½-story, three-bay, side-passage double pile plan main block with a two-part service wing projecting from the southeast gable; the house appears to have achieved this "telescope" configuration in a single building campaign. Two pyramid-roofed frame outbuildings, a dairy and a meathouse, are located a short distance from the southeast gable end of the service wing. These outbuildings are oriented so that their northeast facades describe a continuous line with that of the service wing. Some fifty yards southeast of the house and outbuildings stands a 1½-story frame double slave quarter. All the above-described buildings appear contemporaneous with one another, with a construction date of ca. 1840. A frame carriage house located northeast of the house was built somewhat later in the nineteenth century. The domestic complex is set at the end of a long, tree-lined drive; the southwest elevation of the house faces the St. Mary's River from atop a high bluff. The setting remains essentially unchanged from the period of construction, and retains significant nineteenth-century landscape features.

The 19th-century domestic complex on the Brome-Howard property is significant as a well-preserved representative example of the type of domestic buildings and structures associated with a substantial tobacco plantation in the Western Shore region of Maryland during the period preceding the Civil War. The property derives additional significance from its retention of significant 19th-century landscape features, including a consciously symmetrical layout of areas devoted to agricultural and domestic uses; a formal driveway bordered by historic plantings; and evidence of terracing on the river side of the main house.

SM-33
Brome-Howard House
St. Mary's City
St. Mary's County, Maryland

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural/ Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Architecture: rural vernacular; standing structures

Category: Building(s)

Historic Environment: rural agricultural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic

Known Design Source: unknown

Survey No. SM-33

Magi No.

DOE __yes x no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Brome-Howard House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Md. Route 5 at intersection of Md. Route 584 ___ not for publication

city, town St. Mary's City ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
x district	x public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	x museum
___ building(s)	___ private	x unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland, c/o St. Mary's City Commission

street & number P. O. Box 39 telephone no. 301/86200962

city, town St. Mary's City state and zip code Maryland 20686

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 207

street & number folio 108

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title St. Mary's City National Historic Landmark District

date August 4, 1969 x federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records National Park Service

city, town ___ state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-33

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

The domestic complex at the Brome-Howard property includes a large Greek Revival-influenced house and a series of related outbuildings, located within a landscaped setting on the bank of the St. Mary's River. The house comprises a 2½-story, three-bay, side-passage double pile plan main block with a two-part service wing projecting from the southeast gable; the house appears to have achieved this "telescope" configuration in a single building campaign. Two pyramid-roofed frame outbuildings, a dairy and a meathouse, are located a short distance from the southeast gable end of the service wing. These outbuildings are oriented so that their northeast facades describe a continuous line with that of the service wing. Some fifty yards southeast of the house and outbuildings stands a 1½-story frame double slave quarter. All the above-described buildings appear contemporaneous with one another, with a construction date of ca. 1840. A frame carriage house located northeast of the house was built somewhat later in the nineteenth century. The domestic complex is set at the end of a long, tree-lined drive; the southwest elevation of the house faces the St. Mary's River from atop a high bluff. The setting remains essentially unchanged from the period of construction, and retains significant nineteenth-century landscape features.

The Brome-Howard House is a 2½-story, 3-bay, side-passage double pile plan dwelling with a single pile service wing projecting from the southeast gable end. The wing consists of two sections: a two-story portion abutting the main block which contains a secondary stair passage, dining room on the ground floor, and chamber above; and a 1½-story section at its eastern end, containing the kitchen and pantry, with a loft above. The building is of timber frame construction on a brick foundation; the foundation appears to be continuous, indicating that the house achieved its three-part "telescope" configuration in a single building campaign. The house is sheathed in narrow weatherboards.

The main block features Greek Revival-influenced decorative detailing which is exceptional both for its elaboration (in a rural vernacular context) and its state of preservation. The landside facade faces north[1], spanned by a broad pedimented porch supported on pillars which are square in section with a Classical tapered profile. The tympanum of the pediment is sheathed in flush board siding; the

[1] The landside facade actually faces northeast, the waterside facade faces southwest, the service wing projects from the southeast gable, and the opposite gable faces northwest. For clarity, these directions are called north, south, east, and west respectively throughout this description.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-33

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates ca. 1840 **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The 19th-century domestic complex on the Brome-Howard property is significant as a well-preserved representative example of the type of domestic buildings and structures associated with a substantial tobacco plantation in the Western Shore region of Maryland during the period preceding the Civil War. The complex comprises a range of buildings and structures associated with domestic activities on such a plantation, including a large frame main house with outstanding Greek Revival decorative detailing; functional outbuildings including a meathouse, dairy, and carriage house; and a two-unit slave quarter. The property derives additional significance from its retention of significant 19th-century landscape features, including a consciously symmetrical layout of areas devoted to agricultural and domestic uses; a formal driveway bordered by historic plantings; and evidence of terracing on the river side of the main house.

The following history of the Brome-Howard property is extracted from the Facility Program developed by Historic St. Mary's City for the proposed relocation of the house and outbuildings:

> The Brome-Howard House sits upon a site whose history begins before the time of recorded history. Archaeological excavations near the house have uncovered prehistoric archaeological remains dating from the Archaic (7,500 BC - 1,000 BC) through the Woodland (1,000 BC to 1634) period. Beginning in 1634, the area was intensively occupied by European settlers with the founding of the Maryland colony. The first substantial house built in the colony was constructed adjacent to the current location of the Brome-Howard House by Leonard Calvert, the Second Lord Baltimore and First Lord Proprietor of Maryland. Calvert built the home for the use of his brother Cecil. Due to continuing political intrigue in England, Cecil never came to the Maryland Colony. The house initially built by Leonard was subsequently enlarged to nearly twice its original size. During the period of the English Civil War, the Maryland colony was seized by Parliamentary forces under the command

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-33

Vertical files, Historic St. Mary's City
Vertical files, Maryland Historical Trust

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10.673 acres
Quadrangle name St. Mary's City, MD **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian, with Gabrielle Lanier
organization (for) Historic St. Mary's City **date** August 26, 1993
street & number 109 Brandon Road **telephone** 410/296-7538
city or town Baltimore **state** MD 21212

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

horizontal cornice and raking cornices are treated with a stepped molding with Greek ovolo profile, and the horizontal cornice returns along the sides. The pillars have Roman ogee-molded bases and ovolo-and-fillet caps. The north porch rests on brick piers. Three brick steps ascend from a brick apron to the wood-floored deck, surrounded by a balustrade comprising narrow rectangular-section balusters with an oval handrail.

The entrance, located in the west bay of the north facade, comprises a single-leaf door flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. The entrance door has two vertical panels, with typical Greek Revival flattened-ogee panel molds. The sidelights and transom feature outstanding Classical geometric tracery. The spandrels below the sidelights have a single recessed panel with a lozenge-shaped central element in low relief. The frontispiece is set within a paneled jamb.

Windows on the ground floor are large 6/6 sash. Windows, and the frontispiece, are framed with architrave trim comprising a coved backband, a broad flat field, and a beaded inner edge; bull's-eye corner blocks have the same profile as the backband.

The second-floor fenestration comprises three 6/6 sash, slightly smaller than the ground-floor windows, with identical trim. Windows throughout the building retain much early glazing, and are fitted with louvered shutters which retain early hardware.

The building cornice is boxed, with a beaded lower edge, with a bed molding which repeats the configuration of the porch cornice, and a bold coved crown molding. The crown molding has short returns across the gable ends.

The north slope of the wood-shingled gable roof has two gable-roofed dormers which hold 6/6 windows framed by symmetrical, pilaster-like architraves comprising two half-round elements on a flat field, with plain plinths and square corner blocks; a stepped molding follows the raking cornice. The eaves of the dormers are finished with board trim with a bead at the bottom edge. The side walls of the dormers are sheathed in wood shingles.

The south (waterside) elevation is a mirror image of the north facade; all features and detailing are identical, except that the porch is enclosed with screening.

The west gable has three window openings on each level at the first and second stories, with 6/6 sash, detailed as on the facades; the central opening on the first floor is blank (the stair rises across this area). A single small 6/6 window is centered in the gable peak. The main block is trimmed with beaded cornerboards. The roofline is finished with tapered, beaded rakeboards with a narrow fillet applied at the verge, creating a stepped effect. The common bond brick foundation is exposed on this elevation, below a plain skirt board.

On the east gable, two brick interior chimneys with corbeled caps exit slightly above the midpoint of each slope of the roof. The single-pile "telescope" service wing is approximately centered on this gable. There is a single 6/6 window near the northern corner of this elevation on both the first and second stories; a pair of 6/6 sash light the attic, above the intersecting roof of the wing.

The main block and both sections of the service wing appear to have been constructed in a single building campaign. The wing comprises a two-story, two-bay portion abutting the main block, and a 1½-story, three-bay section to the east. Both sections are one room deep; the two-story section houses a dining room on the ground floor with chamber above, and the 1½-story portion comprises a kitchen on the ground floor, with an unheated space above. A shed-roofed porch spans the north elevation of the wing; part of this porch has been enclosed (probably late in the 19th century) to create a furnace room.

The western section of the porch is floored with a wooden deck supported on brick piers; the present deck is a replacement of an earlier floor system. The area below the porch roof outside the kitchen at the east end of the wing is paved with brick and screened with lattice. The porch enclosure has a foundation of concrete poured between brick piers; it is sheathed in narrow weatherboards secured with machine nails. A four-panel door is located in the west wall of the enclosure; there is a narrow horizontal 3-light window in its north side, and a glazed door
in the east wall.

The north facade of the dining room section has an entrance in the west bay, comprising a four-panel door surmounted by a four-pane transom with geometric tracery, framed with a heavy bullnose surround. The east bay holds a large 9/9 window (probably enlarged from a 6/6 sash; see below). The upper level is lighted by two 3/3 windows in bullnose frames. In the westernmost bay of the 1½-story kitchen section (concealed by the porch enclosure), an original entrance with four-panel door and traceried transom opens into a short passage which runs between the kitchen and dining room. A four-panel door with transom is located in the central bay, and a 6/6 window in the east. An exterior chimney of brick laid in 5-course common bond rises against the east gable; the stack stands away from the gable wall. Two 3/3 windows flank the stack, lighting the loft.

The south elevation of the dining room section essentially mirrors the north facade, except for the addition--in the late 19th or early 20th century--of a large three-sided bay window in the eastern bay. This bay window comprises three large 6/6 sash windows, each fitted with a pair of double-leaf louvered shutters. A Colonial Revival ogee-molded cornice caps the bay. An early photograph shows that a shed-roofed porch formerly spanned this elevation, and had an enclosure with a glazed door in the area now occupied by the bay window. This porch was removed when the bay window was installed, and the glazed door (and possibly other elements of the enclosure) was reused in the furnace

room on the north side of the wing. At the time the bay window was added on the south side, the opposite window in the north wall was lengthened to its present 9/9 configuration (these elements have matching interior trim in a profile which does not occur elsewhere in the house). The entrance in the west bay has a four-panel door and transom like those on the north facade of the wing; this entrance formerly was served by a wooden stoop.

The south elevation of the kitchen is three irregular bays wide, with a batten-door entrance in the central bay, flanked by 6/6 windows. The area outside the kitchen on this side is shaded by a trellis and paved with brick; access to the former laundry yard south of the meathouse was through this area. It now contains mechanical equipment.

The interior of the house underwent a thorough rehabilitation in the mid-1980s, in preparation for the then-envisioned reuse as a public exhibit/meeting facility with staff offices on the upper floors. Modern HVAC systems were installed with care to minimize the effects both on historic architectural fabric and on the visual aspect of the building interior. New kitchen equipment and cabinetry were installed in the historic kitchen area and the former pantry was remodeled as a lavatory. Wall finishes were repaired as needed; on the third floor, extensive deterioration required the removal of the plaster and installation of drywall over the historic lath.

The principal landside entrance features a two-vertical-panel door, whose panel configuration and detailing is characteristic of Greek Revival designs published in popular pattern books of the period. Panels are treated with a Greek ogee panel mold; the same panel mold is found on interior doors throughout the first and second stories. The door is hung on 5-knuckle hinges, and has a Carpenter patent box lock.

The entrance opens into a broad stair passage. The stair rises against the west gable wall. The stair has a Classical turned newel with a mushroom cap; slender, rectangular balusters (two per tread) support an ovoid handrail. All elements of the balustrade are fashioned of walnut. The stair treads have bullnosed leading edges and ends, above small cove-molded trim. The stringer is undecorated. The area below the stair is enclosed with flush vertical boards; the space is outlined with a wide baseboard and trim boards, and is treated as a recessed panel. A closet under the stair is ventilated by a louvered panel above the door at the rear of the stair carriage. All the openings in the stair hall, including two windows in the west gable, the north and south entrance surrounds, and two doorways in the east partition wall, are framed with symmetrically-molded, stepped architrave trim with a narrow flat field and a beaded inner edge. Architraves are treated with "bull's-eye" corner blocks with the same profile. The windows have heavy, projecting bullnosed sills above cove molding, and unusual rectangular aprons comprising broad flat pegged stiles and rails framing a narrow horizontal panel with a flat field and Greek ogee panel mold. Door frames have stepped plinths. The baseboard is capped with a Greek ovolo and fillet.

Two four-panel doors in the east partition wall open into a double parlor. The door and window frames and baseboards in both the north and south parlors are trimmed in the same manner as the stair passage. A fireplace projects into each room on the east wall, with a black marble mantel in the abstract geometric style typical of Greek Revival work; variations in the materials used for the different elements of the mantel design are exploited to create a subtle polychrome effect. The pilasters and frieze are of dark gray marble with gold veining; the firebox is framed by highly polished jet-black marble, and a monochrome (i. e., not veined) dark gray/black material is employed for the plinths, caps, mantel shelf, and hearth. The mantel in the south parlor is intact, while that in the north parlor has lost some of its smaller elements; broken pieces of black marble found in various locations in the house may belong to this mantel.

A broad opening in the partition wall separating the two parlors allows the two spaces to be thrown together. A tall triple-leaf door is mounted in this opening; each leaf comprises six panels. The center leaf is hinged to the west leaf, allowing the opened door to fold back against the limited wall area. These doors, and the inside face of the door between the stair passage and the south parlor, retain a late 19th/early 20th century grained finish imitating golden oak. The south parlor door retains an early mortise lock and associated hardware; the north parlor door has a Carpenter-type box lock.

The north parlor has a window in the east wall, to the left of the chimney breast, and a doorway to the right, opening into a secondary stair passage. The opposing exterior doors in the west bay of the north and south elevations of the dining room wing serve this passage. Both are four-panel doors hung on 5-knuckle hinges. The north door has a Carpenter-type box lock and an early slide bolt, as well as a spring closing device probably of late 19th or early 20th century manufacture; the south door has an early slide bolt and a (broken) keyhole-shaped spring latch. The decorative detailing in this area marks a transition from the formal areas of the house; rather than the bold, symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks seen in the main block, openings in this secondary space are trimmed with a simpler cove-and-fillet molding and a plain backband. This profile is seen throughout the secondary areas of the house, on both the first and second floors. The baseboard is plain, lacking the Greek ovolo element seen in the main block.

The service stair rises against the west wall of the passage (i. e., the east gable end of the main block) in a fairly steep, straight flight, and turns with three winding steps at the top. It features an unusual newel: square in section, it tapers as it rises to a coved pyramid cap which supports the end of an ovoid handrail. The newel, slender rectangular balusters, and rail are walnut. A 20th-century, stock Colonial-style chair rail molding has been applied to the wall opposite the handrail. The area below the stair is treated as five recessed panels, separated by vertical stiles; at the south end of the passage, a four-panel door opens into this area, which now houses a modern powder room. A doorway at the north end of the east partition

wall opens into the dining room; a peg rail is located to the south of this opening.

The door opening into the dining room is fitted with an unmarked box lock. As noted above, the trim throughout the dining room is consistent with that in the service stair passage, with the exception of that around the bay window in the south wall and the large 9/9 sash in the north wall. These latter openings are trimmed with heavy late 19th/early 20th century Victorian architraves comprising a plain backband, exaggerated Classical ovolo, flat field, and large beaded edge, and have bulls-eye corner blocks. A beaded board is applied below the window sills, apparently in imitation of the paneled aprons which appear below the windows in the main block. The 9/9 sash in the north window opening appears to be early, but the frame has a late 19th/early 20th century profile; the opening probably originally held 6/6 sash, and was enlarged to accept reused 9/9 sash at the time the bay window was installed in the south wall. The matching interior trim suggests that the alteration of the north window opening and installation of the bay window occurred at the same time. Chair rail in the dining room, a common Colonial-style stock type, also may have been installed at that time, or later.

The dining room is heated by a fireplace in the east wall. The hearth is brick, and the face of the firebox is plastered. The fireplace is framed by a wooden mantel comprising a stylish combination of Greek Revival motifs. Symmetrically molded pilasters rest on stepped plinths; the frieze is decorated with a symmetrical molding which is related to that of the pilasters, but with additional elements. A Greek ovolo bed mold runs below a plain shelf.

On the upper level of the dining room wing, a passage runs across the full depth of the wing at the west. The passage is lighted by a 3/3 window in both the north and south walls. Near the north end of the passage, a door opens to the west into the north chamber of the main block; another door in the opposite wall gives access to the room above the dining room. This room was completely replastered following the installation of wall and ceiling insulation in the early 1970s. The space is lighted by four 3/3 windows, one in each long wall and two flanking the fireplace centered in the east gable. The fireplace has a brick hearth and plastered face, and is framed by a simple board mantel, with a Greek ovolo bed mold. The four-panel door to this room, which has a Carpenter-type box lock, lacks panel molds on either side. Otherwise, the trim throughout this area is identical to that elsewhere in the service wing, with cove-plus-fillet backband and a plain baseboard.

On the ground floor, to the left of the dining room fireplace, a door opens into a short passage to the kitchen. The side of the door facing the dining room has molded panels, as seen elsewhere; the other side, facing the kitchen passage, is not molded, and has only slightly-raised panels. The passage has a transomed entrance in the north wall; originally an exterior door, it now provides access to the furnace room

which was created by partially enclosing the north porch. A short peg rail survives to the west of this door. In the south wall, two original cabinets with plastered interiors and early shelving back onto the chimney. To the east, a former pantry recently has been remodeled to a modern lavatory.

The kitchen space has been completely remodeled in two recent campaigns. In the early 1970s, all the plaster and lath were removed to permit the installation of insulation, and the walls and ceiling were replastered. In the late 1980s, the space was reconfigured to house a modern kitchen and mechanical equipment, and the flooring was replaced. The room retains early doors and windows and their associated trim. The north entrance door retains an early slide bolt and a Victorian-period latch. The south door has beaded battens and an exceptional handwrought bolt; it is hung on modern hinges. Windows are framed with cove-plus-fillet architraves, with a bullnose sill and a plain, flat apron. A frame partition has been inserted across the east end, creating a series of closets to house mechanical equipment; a large cooking fireplace with a crane survives behind this partition. The fireplace has been repaired extensively, and the brick hearth has been reconstructed.

An enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner of the kitchen provides access to the loft. The stair closet has a batten door hung on HL hinges with an early wooden box lock as well as a small cast iron lock marked "B. L. W." The stairwell is sheathed in flush horizontal boards; the knee-walls in the loft have the same treatment. Two small 3/3 sash in the east gable are fitted with the same trim as the windows in the kitchen below. The gable ends and ceiling historically were plastered; most of the lath has been removed, but surviving lath in the stair area and flanking the chimney at the west end of the room is circular-sawn and secured with mature machine nails. The knee-walls and flooring provide evidence of a former board partition which bisected this space transversely. Roof framing consists of common rafters half-lapped at the ridge (with the exception of two pairs which are mitered) and secured with mature machine nails. The rafter feet rest on a flat false plate.

On the second floor of the main block, there is a small, unheated room at each end of the stair passage, and two chambers corresponding to the locations of the parlors below. This area is characterized by a simplified architrave trim consisting of a large, bold Greek ogee with a square backband. Windows have projecting bullnosed sills above a cove molding and a flat apron. Baseboards are plain. Doors are four-panel type, as on the first floor; doors throughout the second story have Carpenter-type box locks and modern hinges.

The north chamber has a fireplace on its east wall, with a simple wooden mantel whose flat elements are arranged in an abstract representation of plinth, pilaster, capital, and frieze. The plain shelf has a Greek-ovolo-plus-fillet bed mold. The hearth is brick, and the face of the firebox is plastered. There is a 6/6 window to the

north of the fireplace. A door located to the right south of the fireplace opens into the passage on the upper level of the dining room wing.

The south chamber has a fireplace on the east wall, with a mantel identical to that in the north chamber. In this room, the fireplace is flanked by closets with four-panel doors. Evidence of early shelving survives in the south closet.

From the second-floor hallway, the stair turns with four winding steps and rises against the west wall, cutting across a window in a straight flight to the attic. The attic level has a small room at the north end of the stair passage, and two larger rooms to the east; a door in the partition separating the two eastern rooms allows communication between them. All are unheated. Each of the four spaces is lighted by a dormer window and a window in the respective gable. The detailing of the gable windows is similar to that of the second-floor windows, with the omission of the cove and apron. The dormer windows are treated with a simple beaded board. On the side facing the passage, the doors are framed with Greek-ovolo-plus-bead backband trim; on the side facing the interior of the rooms, the door frames have a less bold version of this trim. The four-panel doors lack panel molds, and have slightly-raised panels only on the side facing the passage; the door between the north and south rooms has slightly-raised panels on both sides. This area has been extensively refinished in recent years. The roof framing is inaccessible.

The domestic complex also includes two pyramid-roofed timber frame outbuildings located adjacent to the house. They stand about ten feet east of the east gable end, and their north facades are aligned with that of the kitchen, creating a carefully-planned ensemble. Both are sided in narrow weatherboards. Of the two, the closer to the house is the dairy, measuring approximately 10 feet wide by 14 feet deep, with the entrance located in the narrower (north) side. This structure has been rather extensively reworked in the mid-20th century, when it was converted for use as an office. The batten door is hung on 5-knuckle hinges; two square panes of glass have been inserted in the door. There is a rectangular window opening covered by a weatherboard shutter in the east wall, and a 6/6 sash centered in the south end. All openings have plain board surrounds. The structure retains a dirt floor, three steps below grade, encircled by a recent concrete enclosure. The interior walls are sheathed in modern drywall above the level of the south window sill; the framing is exposed below this treatment, revealing typical timber frame construction of the period in the region, with extensive repairs to the sills and lower portions of the vertical members. Plaster marks and lath nails surviving on the framing members indicate an early plaster finish.

The meathouse stands some 7 feet east of the dairy; a frame curtain, the surviving portion of a coal shed which was constructed between the two outbuildings, carries the facade plane across this space. The 14-foot-square meathouse retains considerable integrity.

Its framing is exposed, comprising 7" x 4" corner posts and 3" x 4" studs on 20" centers, mortised into the sill and plate. Downbraces run from the corner posts to the sills, and are dovetailed and pegged at top and bottom. The original sill survives on the east side, measuring 8" wide by 6½" deep. The posts framing the entrance have the same dimensions as the studs, but are turned so their wider face is parallel to the sill. Three tie beams run from front to rear; the central beam carries a post which supports the rafter ends of the pyramidal roof. This post is tapered to create a finial where it emerges from the roof. The eastern half of the structure retains a brick-paved floor; the western half of the floor was excavated to receive a large tank within a concrete-walled trench. An open woodshed was constructed against the east wall of the meathouse, probably early in the 20th century; early siding is preserved within this shed. East of the woodshed are the remains of a well and pumphouse.

A mid-19th century frame carriage house stands about 50 yards to the northeast. This building is one story high with a loft. A wide double-leaf batten door is hung on strap hinges in the west gable end; a smaller batten door is located in each long side, offset to the east of center. The structural system comprises a timber frame with four-foot bays. Two tiers of horizontal rails are lapped into the posts to provide nailers for vertical-board sheathing; original sheathing survives under the present weatherboard siding. The posts are notched to receive a 1" x 6" ribbon plate, supporting the loft floor joists. The roof framing was completely replaced ca. 1973; the original framing consisted of common rafters, mitered and nailed at the apex, with collars bracing alternate pairs. The building originally was bisected by a transverse partition; tradition, supported by surviving evidence, holds that the carriage was stored in the west end, and the horses stabled in the east.

At the carriage house, a lane runs about 200 feet to the southwest, leading to a two-unit slave quarter and the site of a second, single quarter which vanished early in the 20th century. The surviving quarter was recorded by Orlando Ridout V on November 7, 1990; his report, which is abstracted in the following paragraphs, identified it as "an excellent example of a two-unit slave house with fully segregated living quarters, clear evidence of a dirt floor with grade-level hearths, and little evidence of interior finish:"

> The Brome-Howard Farm slave quarter is a one-story frame structure measuring 17 feet 8 inches deep and 36 feet 9 inches long. It is a two-unit quarter, with a brick chimney centered on the pitched gable roof. The building is oriented parallel to the nearby riverbank, with a pair of doors on the land facade and four window openings ranged across the water facade. A single small window opening is centered in the upper gable of both end walls.
>
> This building was in poor condition and was stabilized by Historic Saint Mary's City in 1980 or 1981. The building

rests on a low brick foundation that rises only two courses above grade. This foundation is crudely constructed and appears to be original or an early replacement feature rather than rebuilt. With the exception of repair and replacement of sections of the sill, the original hewn and pit sawn frame remains intact, but is now sheathed with modern horizontal siding. This siding consists of nominal one-by-ten boards with the edges beveled to reproduce historic flush siding. The siding has been nailed to the frame with galvanized reproduction wrought nails, and the entire exterior of the building has been heavily coated with whitewash. . . . The gable eaves are finished with plain, untapered modern rakeboards; the facade eaves are sealed with a plain one-by-ten.

The common rafter roof and early shingle nailers survive in place; the wood shingles were replaced circa 1981. The brick center chimney has had minor repairs and paired flue liners have been added extending to the throat of each fireplace.

The interior of the first floor is divided into two units by the central chimney and a cross sill. Studs framed into the cross sill suggest that there was no internal access between the two units on the first floor. All first floor framing is fully exposed, but has been heavily whitewashed, making analysis difficult. It appears that a significant portion of the sills, several door posts, a small number of studs and possibly a portion of one false top plate required replacement in 1980. Evidence of reused material in the original construction makes analysis more difficult.

The fireplaces are large and the hearths are at grade level, leaving little doubt that the floor was originally of packed earth at grade. A wood floor may have been inserted at a later date, but no evidence has survived that is readily apparent. The fireplaces have moderately large wood lintels and there are sockets in the sidewalls of each chimney throat to indicate trammel bar locations.

Each unit had a steep ladder stair positioned against the chimney stack and the interior partition, immediately behind the exterior doors. The loft is also partitioned with reused, undercut flooring installed vertically with mature machine made nails. The loft flooring remains in place; the loft is otherwise unfinished.

The roof consists of pairs of relatively light common rafters joined at the ridge with half-lap joints nailed with three machine made nails. About half of the rafter pairs are reinforced with one-by-three collars scabbed and nailed with cut nails. The rafters are mitered and nailed to the

> outermost flooring board on each side; which rest on the ceiling joists that are in turn notched over the top plates of the facade walls. The shingle nailers are random boards, some salvaged from this or another construction site. Of particular interest are scraps of feather-edge siding, possibly left over from sheathing this building, [and] a piece of trim with a very large, bold 3/4 bead, perhaps traceable to the Brome-Howard House. A board partition in the loft originally segregated the two spaces. One piece of feather-edge siding and numerous pieces of gauged and undercut flooring are evident, all nailed with mature machine nails. . . .

The landscaped setting of the house and outbuildings retains significant features dating from before the Civil War period. The house is set at the focus of a formal driveway in an elongated teardrop shape which is lined by mature trees. On either side of the drive lie productive agricultural fields. The south end of the drive intersects a farm lane leading east toward the agricultural complex associated with the house; this lane is the remnant of the 17th-century "Chapel Road," an important east-west route in the early capital. The formal garden northwest of the house marks the approximate location of the former western extension of this route. The landscape surrounding the house reflects a consciousness of symmetry, with the drive bisecting agricultural fields and the area beyond the south end of the drive, below the line of the intersecting lane, treated as domesticated space with a cultivated lawn and garden. On the south side of the house, archeological investigations of terracing on the riverbank suggest that considerable labor was expended in the mid-19th century in an apparent effort to improve the view of the river. The formal garden, which was apparently begun as early as the 19th century, was restored and dedicated to Margaret Brent in 1984. According to interviews with former residents, the present boxwood hedge was installed in the late 1930s, replacing an earlier hedge of rose of Sharon; geometric flower beds were in place by that time. The present brick gate piers replaced wooden posts, probably in the second quarter of the 20th century. A recent gazebo is located on the riverbank, south of the garden.

On the east side of the house, the dairy, meathouse, and woodshed are conveniently located next to the kitchen, their north facades precisely aligned with that of the kitchen wing. The carriage house is located at a greater distance, and marks a transition between domestic and agricultural space. The slave quarter is sited so that it is not readily visible from the house.

of Richard Ingle (the Calvert family were considered Royalist sympathizers). Under the direction of Nathaniel Pope, the house built by Calvert was fortified as a Parliamentary stronghold. The resulting archaeological remains constitute the only English Civil War fort built in America. In 1647 Leonard Calvert reconquered the colony and died shortly thereafter. The government of the province purchased the house from the Calvert estate for use as Maryland's first State House, known as the Countrys House. The structure served double duty during this period as both a State House and as a tavern. After the construction of the brick State House in 1676, the Countrys House served only as a tavern and residence. The structure appears to have remained standing into the early 18th century after the capital had been removed from St. Mary's City to Annapolis. It eventually fell into disrepair and was torn down.

Little if any activity appears to have occurred at the site in the 18th and early 19th centuries. In about 1840, John Mackall Brome built the Brome-Howard House on property he had inherited through his mother's family. John Mackall Brome was trained as a medical doctor, but seems to have focused most of his energy on the development and management of his large tobacco plantation (1800 acres in 1870) for which the Brome House was the central hub. Brome was quite the entrepreneur, with investments in railroad development, sand and gravel mining, and vacation/resort development. Additionally, Dr. Brome operated a steamship wharf on his property. Prior to the Civil War, Brome operated an extensive tobacco plantation utilizing bound African labor. An inventory of his slave holdings made in 1868 shows Brome as owning 59 slaves as of November 1864. . . .

After Dr. John Mackall Brome died in 1887, the property occupied by the Brome-Howard House was inherited by his son, J. Thomas Brome. Goodly portions of the rest of John M. Brome's property had to be sold to satisfy creditors. After the death of J. Thomas Brome in 1910, the property was inherited by his widow and two daughters. These daughters, Jeanette and Suzette Brome married, respectively, J. Spence Howard and James M. Bennett. Mrs. Bennett died in 1949 leaving her undivided share of her father's estate to her sister, Mrs. J. Spence Howard. At the time of Mrs. Howard's death in 1967, the property was inherited by her sons, J. Spence Howard, Jr., and Thomas Howard. In 1979 the property was sold by the Howards to the State of Maryland for use in Maryland's outdoor museum, Historic St. Mary's City.

The structures are currently vacant, but have been used periodically for meetings and to house special events sponsored by the museum.

The Brome-Howard House underwent substantial rehabilitation in the mid-1980s, to prepare the building for the then-envisioned use as a public exhibit/meeting facility with staff offices on the upper floors. This program has since been abandoned, and current plans call for the relocation of the 19th-century house and outbuildings in order to facilitate interpretation of the 17th-century history of the property.

S.M-33

SM-33, Brome-Howard Farm
St. Mary's County
Page 1 (Addendum)

In 1994 the Brome-Howard Farmhouse, dairy, meathouse, carriage house, and slave quarter, were all moved from their locations at the former center of St. Mary's City. The complex is currently located south of St. Mary's City and on the west side of Rose Croft Road. The building, oriented on a southeast/northwest axis, lies at the visual terminus of a 0.1 mile long farm lane. Surrounded by flat, uncultivated but cut fields, the house overlooks the St. Mary's River to the north.

The Brome-Howard Farmhouse, constructed in the 1840s is a frame, 2 1/2 story, three bay, Greek Revival-inspired plantation dwelling with two gable end additions that create a telescoping effect. The building's walls are covered with lap siding and the roof is covered with cedar shingles.

A thorough documentation of the building was conducted in 1993 by Peter Kurtz and Gabrielle Lanier prior to the 1994 move of the building. The documentation included measured drawings and extensive description and significance statements. Since the building was documented, however, several changes to the building have been made. Most notably, the house currently rests on an elevated five-to-one common bond brick foundation. The previous foundation was situated too close to the ground causing deterioration to the building's structural fabric. In order to preserve the building from moisture damage and bring the building up to modern building code, the foundation was extended to approximately 2 1/2 feet above ground level. This has given the building a much more prominent and imposing presence upon the surrounding landscape.

The brick fireplaces of the building were also replaced. Measured drawings taken before the move in 1994 provided for a more accurate re-creation of the various fireplace details. A porch was added on the river side elevation near the juncture between the main block and the first gable end ell. The porch features seven stairs with two square newels connected by a railing supported by series of square balusters. This porch permits entry into the first gable end ell as well as the porch of the main block.

On the interior, the most significant changes have been made to the kitchen ell. The kitchen was altered just after the move to facilitate catering operations. A preparation island was installed dividing the kitchen into two spaces and a closet that once hid the gable end fireplace was removed. Most of these observations are based upon analysis of the 1993 measured drawings and previously written descriptions. Differentiating changes in the building's materials and form, therefore, is difficult to completely ascertain.

While the original architect and/or contractor of the Brome-Howard Farm remains uncertain, the reanalysis of several buildings in and around Leonardtown has suggested that it was the noted local architect Vincent Camalier. Oral tradition suggests that Camalier also built Buena Vista (SM-52), Union Hotel (SM-545), and White Hall (now demolished) (SM-54) in Leonardtown. Buena Vista, Brome-Howard, as well as White Hall feature the most similarities. All of these buildings feature pedimented porticos that exhibit square columns with a classical profile or entasis. The tympanums are all sheathed in flush board siding. The horizontal cornice and raking cornice on the Brome-Howard House, however, were treated with a stepped molding with Greek ovolo profile, while Buena Vista and White Hall featured cornices with a flat fasia

profile. The Union Hotel does not project a pediment, but it does feature a recessed porch with a series of similarly detailed square columns. The interior plans and decoration of Buena Vista and the Broome-Howard house are also similar. Both buildings feature side-passage plans with double parlors. The stair newels in both buildings exhibit a Classical turned newel with a mushroom cap. The scroll sawn stair brackets and the panelling on the stair of Buena Vista are absent, however, in the Brome-Howard house. Other similarities between Buena Vista and the Brome-Howard house include the door surrounds that feature "symmetrically-molded, stepped architrave trim with a narrow flat field and a beaded inner edge" as well as "bulls-eye corner blocks."

While architectural similarities do not necessarily mean the buildings were erected by the same builder, comparisons between buildings provide a rich context for furthering interpretation and study of St. Mary's County's architectural landscape. Such studies can then more fully illuminate connections between the various plantation owners such as John Mackall Brome and George Combs who subscribed to a distinctive architectural style and landscape.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Brome/Howard House (SM-33)

AND/OR COMMON: St. Mary's Manor

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: On the bluffs of the St. Mary's River, southwest of the intersection of MD Rtes. 584 and 5.

CITY, TOWN: St. Mary's City — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First.

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: St. Mary's City Commission/State of MD — Telephone #: 301-994-0779

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 39

CITY, TOWN: St. Mary's City — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: MD 20686

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: St. Mary's County Courthouse/Governmental Center

Liber #: 207

Folio #: 108

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Leonardtown

STATE: MD 20650

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Land records of St. Mary's County
Archaeological surveys of subject area by St. Mary's City Commission
1978 Appraisals for sale of subject property

DATE: Md Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory, Vol. One (SM-33)

__FEDERAL X STATE X COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN: St. Mary's City

STATE: MD 20686

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	XUNALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE
XGOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brome/Howard House is located in St. Mary's City, Maryland, on the southwest side of Maryland Routes #5 and #584. The rear of the house commands a magnificent view of the St. Mary's River. It is a 2½ story frame house, built ca. 1840, with telescoping wings and a separate dairy and meat house beyond the wings.

The 2½ story frame main section is three bays wide and three bays deep and sits on a low brick foundation. The gable roof, with wood shingles, has two gabled dormers on each side and two common bond (five stretcher courses to each header) brick chimneys inside the south end. The box cornices below the roof have two beads in the frieze that are duplicated in two pedimented porches across the entire east and west elevations. These porches have squared doric columns. The front (east) porch was carefully rebuilt from the ground up in 1964 because of termite damage. The back (west) porch has screens put in place in 1968 to replace earlier screens and canvas awnings. All windows in the main section are double hung six over six. Both east and west main doors have rectangular transoms and side lights with lattice work in the transom. The exterior walls are weatherboard painted white and have been replaced within the last generation.

The exterior door and window trim, reproduced throughout the interior of the house is symmetrically molded with corner blocks. Inside the main section the layout on all three floors is side hall, two rooms deep. The first floor has two formal parlors separated by a folding door with a grained finish. Each parlor has dark marble mantles with rectangular openings and plain pilasters. The front parlor fireplace has an ornate cast iron grating that evidently was originally in the rear parlor. Paint and wallpaper finishes have been altered and will require research. The side hall has an open string single flight staircase to the second floor. The second and third floor plans have additional small rooms in the side hall. The second floor has simple wooden rectangular mantles in bedrooms. A half bath was added in the early 1930's to a closet in the west bedroom. The third floor has many pieces of Brome/Howard family furniture, and J. Spence Howard, Jr., has donated much of this furniture to the State of Maryland along with information on where the pieces stood in the house in the early 20th century.

The two story dining room wing has a bay window (added by J. T. Brome before 1900) on the west side, 3 over 3 eyebrow windows in the 2nd floor and an exterior common bond chimney on south gable end. The interior of the dining room has a large wood rectangular mantle and the second floor hallway was divided up with a partition in the 1930's to accomodate a full bath. The 1½ story kitchen wing also has an exterior common bond brick chimney. The interior of the kitchen is largely unaltered. The original brick floor has been covered with wood and the large kitchen fireplace (originally with a simple wooden mantle) was reduced in size and covered with modern brick.

Some substantial changes have been made to east porches on the two telescoping wings of the house. A brick porch and walkway once extended in front of these wings and past the two outbuildings to the south and out to the well.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SM-33

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	X ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION	
—400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE	
—1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE	
—1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
X 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		—INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dr. John M. Brome

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brome/Howard House is a perfect example of a mid-nineteenth century gentleman's plantation home. Built as the manor house and office for a 3,000 acre tobacco and wheat plantation, it has been at the center of life in St. Mary's City since it was built in the 1840's. It is a simple but elegant survivor of the age of the ante-bellum Southern Maryland Tidewater aristocracy.

This majestic home also happens to be situated right on top of the site of the 17th century capital of Maryland. After acquiring the property in 1980, the State of Maryland, which is developing an historic park in and around the area, began an intensive archaeological survey. The 1981 field season uncovered the best preserved 17th century town site in the United States. In addition to the Gov. Leonard Calvert house, the Council Chamber/State House of the 1660's, and the St. Mary's Fort and Yaocomico Indian village of 1634, archaeologists have located at least a dozen structures and numerous fence lines all within a few hundred yards of the Brome/Howard House. The incredibly rich archaeological remains of Lord Baltimore's capital will occupy researchers for generations to come. The equally impressive remains of aboriginal inhabitants who occupied the bluffs for 10,000 years before the European settlers arrived will also be the subject of intense investigation.

Museum planners might be inclined to discount the importance of the Brome/Howard Plantation in the face of these impressive cultural remains that go to the very source of American history. From the beginning of its research and plans for the site, however, the St. Mary's City Commission has seized the opportunity to study and interpret the cultural panorama from prehistory to the present. As a visitor passes through the St. Mary's College campus on MD Route #5, he can look towards the St. Mary's River and see the standing reminders of these many historical layers. The 19th century Brome/Howard House and outbuildings, including a recently restored slave quarter, are in the foreground. 18th and 20th century barns are in the middle distance, and, at the far edge of the fields, a 1920's dairy and tobacco farm is visible beyond the woods in Key Swamp. The St. Mary's City Commission is dedicated to maintaining the existing landscape and interpreting the 18th, 19th, and 20th century history of St. Mary's City along with the prehistoric and 17th century archaeological remains. Few museums have had such a unique opportunity to show visitors architectural and archaeological history back 350 years to the very moment European settlers set foot on these shores.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SM-33

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Several interviews with Messrs. J. Spence Howard and Thomas B. Howard 1975-present (notes, transcripts, photographs, and artifacts in collection of St. Mary's City Commission)

Earle, Swepson. Chesapeake Bay Country. Baltimore, 1934. (Photographs of Brome/Howard House and Plantation Slave Quarters).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10.673 as described Liber 207, folio 108 of the land records of St. Mary's County, MD. This property includes the dwelling house, 3 outbuildings, the yard on the riverside, the entrance road, and the formal garden.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The subject property is a 10.673 acre irregularly shaped parcel located on the south side of Maryland Route #584 and on the St. Mary's River. The property is open and flat with a frontage of 387.06' on the river, a frontage of 464.10' on Maryland Route #584, and a frontage of 304.64' on Maryland Route #5 (see accompanying plat map). At the riverfront the property has an elevation of approximately 40' with an overgrown bank sloping steeply down to the shoreline.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Burton K. Kummerow, Coordinator of Interpretation

DATE: March 1, 1982

ORGANIZATION: St. Mary's City Commission

TELEPHONE: 301-994-0779

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 39

CITY OR TOWN: St. Mary's City

STATE: MD, 20686

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

7. Description

Substantial improvements were made to the house in the 1940's. Electricity and running water were added along with hot water in 1946 and central heat in 1949. At that time, the wooded porch flooring was added and the porch was partially enclosed to accomodate the water heater and the furnace. A wooden stoop to the west door of the dining room wing was replaced with brick in 1964.

There are two outbuildings standing just to the south of the main house. A dairy was later used as an office, but the wooden floor merely covers the original brick pit and shelves. A window was also added to the west side of this hip roofed frame structure. A meat house next door is unchanged except for the addition of a water tank in 1947 that has since rotted and caved in. A wood shed is attached to the south side of this structure.

Other buildings and plantings on the property in the immediate vicinity of the house survive to illustrate the appearance of the 19th century plantation. A simple frame gable roofed carriage house is south of the main structure, and a recently restored two family, center chimney, frame slave quarter is a few hundred yards to the west on the river bluff (see photograph in Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory, Volume One, "Brome Farm"). A tree lined formal entrance with a gravel road is on the east (land) side of the main house. On the north side, three large trees flank a formal boxwood garden that was begun in the early 1900's to replace a 19th century kitchen garden. Several rundown picket and latticework fences complete the landscape.

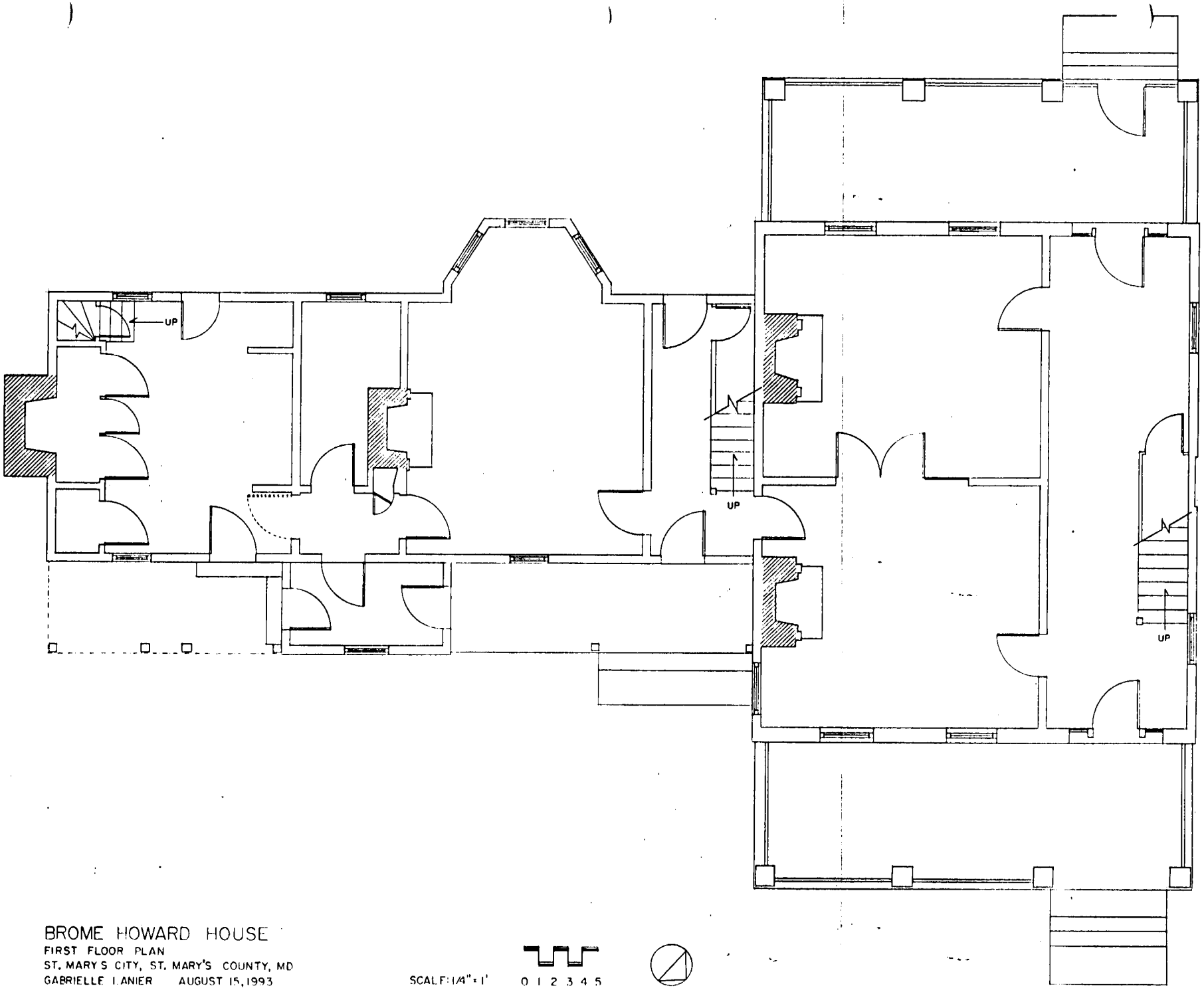
8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Brome/Howard Plantation still dominates this landscape as it has for 140 years. The surviving structures (the manor house, dairy, meat house, carriage house, slave quarter, formal entrance and garden) are not spectacular, but together they provide a picture of a thriving antebellum plantation. This plantation is associated with several important southern Maryland families.

John Mackall moved to the land from Calvert County in the late 18th century. The site of his house is now partially covered by MD. Route #584. One of his grandaughters, Susan Mackall (1820-1881), married Dr. John M. Brome (1818-1887) in 1840 and the present house and plantation were built between 1840 and 1842. The Brome's son, James Thomas Brome (1847-1910), married Eliza Emaline Thomas (1857-1924) of Deep Falls, the ancestral home of a family that produced a Maryland governor. Upon the death of Eliza Thomas Brome in 1924, the house and what was left of the plantation were left without a will to two daughters, Susette Brome Bennett (1877-1949) and Jeannette E. Brome Howard (1881-1967). During the lives of the builder and his son, the Plantation encompassed 2813 acres, almost all of the peninsula associated with St. Mary's City. When James Thomas Brome died in 1910, the property was reduced to 90 acres by the sale of most of the land to the Slavonic Society of New York City of U.S.A., Inc. The purpose of this sale was to provide farm sites for Slavonic immigrants, and several of these families still reside in the St. Mary's City area.

The manor house was used as a summer residence until 1946 when J. Spence Howard, Jr., moved in to begin farming the property. Upon the death of her husband, Jeannette Brome Howard lived in the house from 1950 until her death in 1967. Her two sons, Thomas Brome Howard and J. Spence Howard, Jr., inherited the remaining 90 acres and the house, and Thomas Howard took the house and 13 1/2 acres and J. Spence Howard the remaining acreage in 1970. Thomas Howard sold the house and 10.4 acres to the State of Maryland in 1980. At the time of the sale, the 1840 house was essentially unaltered and much of the Brome family furniture was still in the attic.

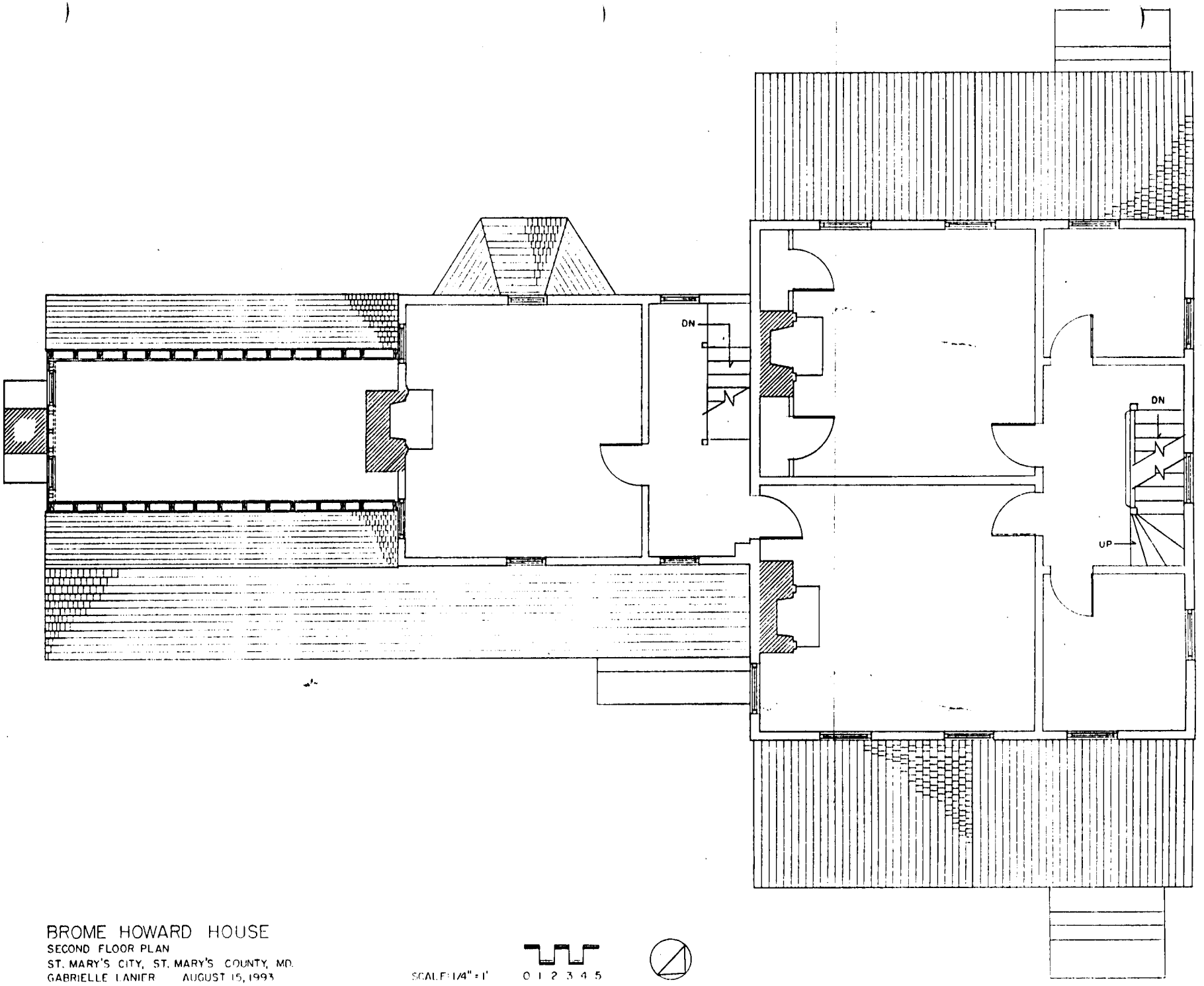
This remarkable Mackall/Brome/Howard/Thomas family has been instrumental in not only building, developing, and preserving a slice of Southern Maryland plantation life over 150 years, but also in consciously protecting one of the most important historic sites in the United States. The St. Mary's City Commission is beginning to restore the Brome/Howard house as a 19th century historic house museum and a much needed country inn. The restored house will stand, alongside the site of Maryland's earliest house, as one of the layers of the many centuries of St. Mary's history and as a monument to the contribution of a preservation-minded family.



BROME HOWARD HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 15, 1993

SCALE: 1/4" = 1' 0 1 2 3 4 5

SM-33

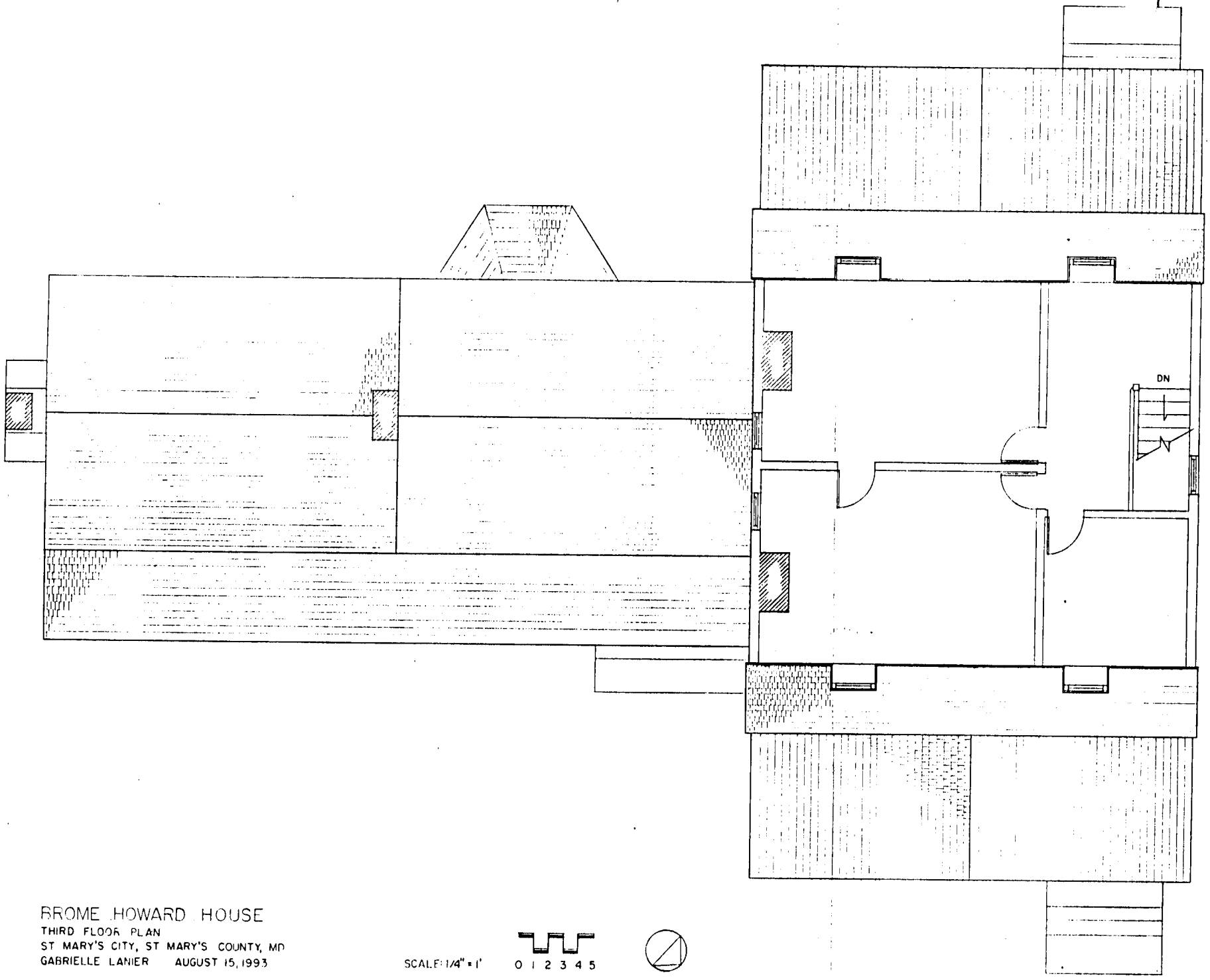


BROME HOWARD HOUSE
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 15, 1993

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'

0 1 2 3 4 5

SM-33



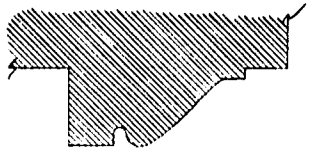
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
THIRD FLOOR PLAN
ST MARY'S CITY, ST MARY'S COUNTY, MD
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 15, 1993

SCALE: 1/4" = 1' 0 1 2 3 4 5

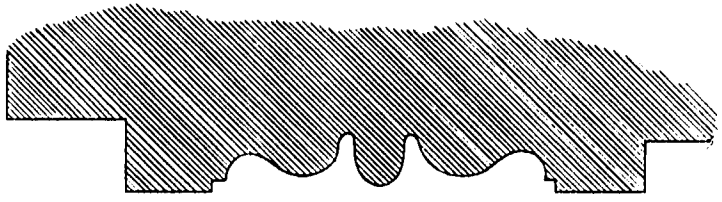
SM-33

WINDOW AND DOOR SURROUNDS,
MAIN BLOCK, FRONT HALLWAY, FIRST FLOOR

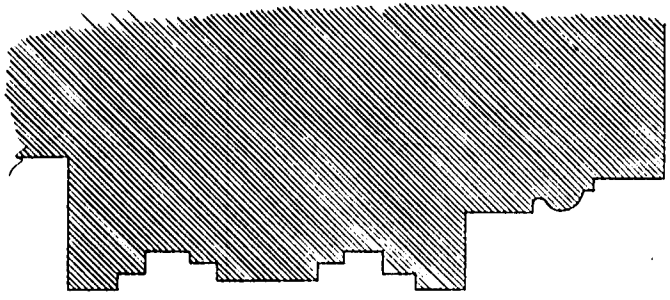
MOLDING AND DOOR SURROUNDS,
WING ADJACENT TO DINING ROOM,
DOOR BETWEEN DINING ROOM AND
HALLWAY, FIRST FLOOR



WINDOW AND DOOR SURROUNDS,
MAIN BLOCK, SECOND FLOOR



MANTEL MOLDING, DINING ROOM ADDITION, FIRST FLOOR



DOOR SURROUND, MAIN BLOCK, TRIPLE DOOR BETWEEN TWO MAIN
ROOMS, FIRST FLOOR

BROME HOWARD HOUSE

MOLDING PROFILES (ACTUAL SIZE)
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 20, 1993

SCALE: 1" = 1"

SM-33

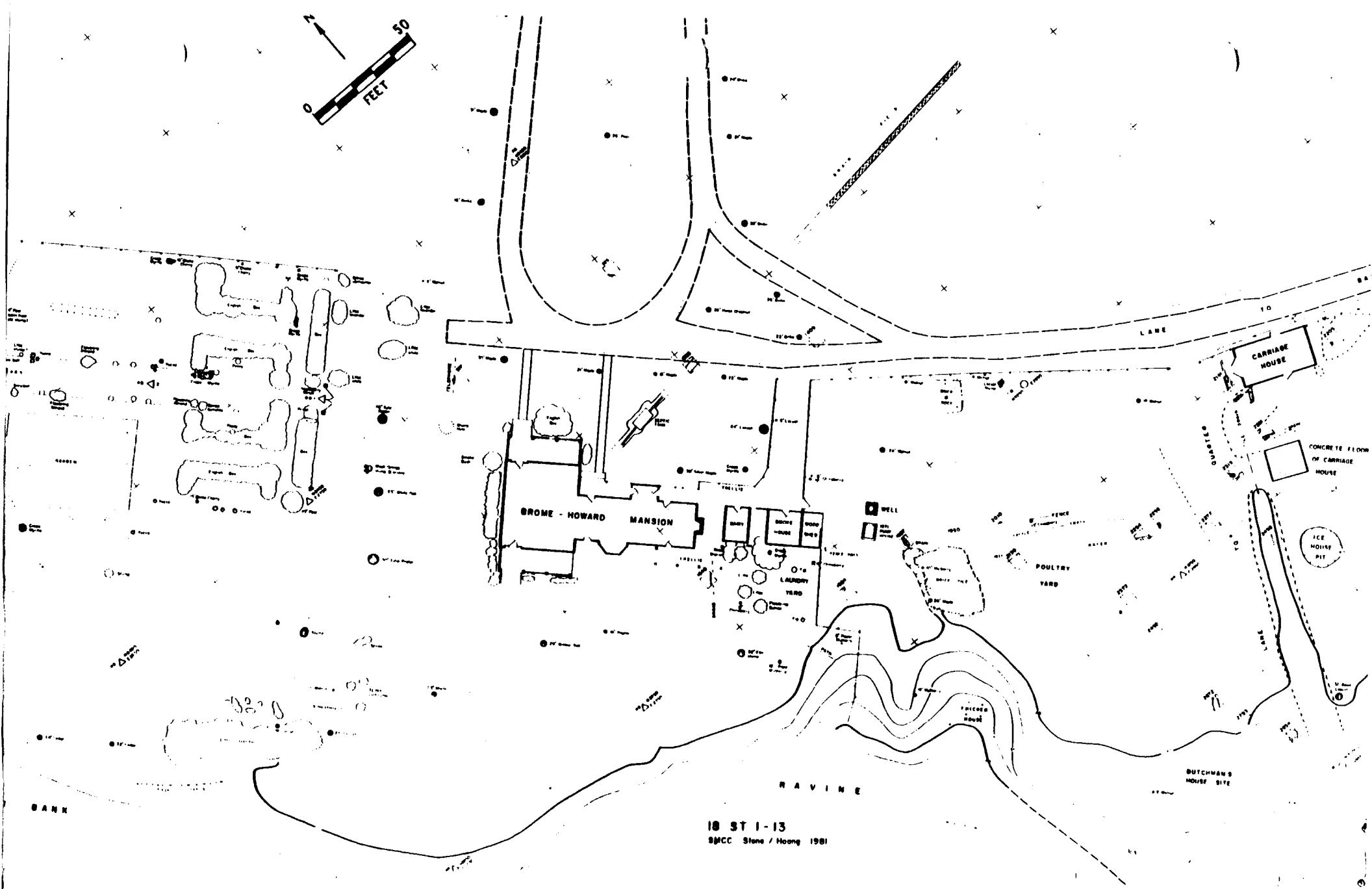
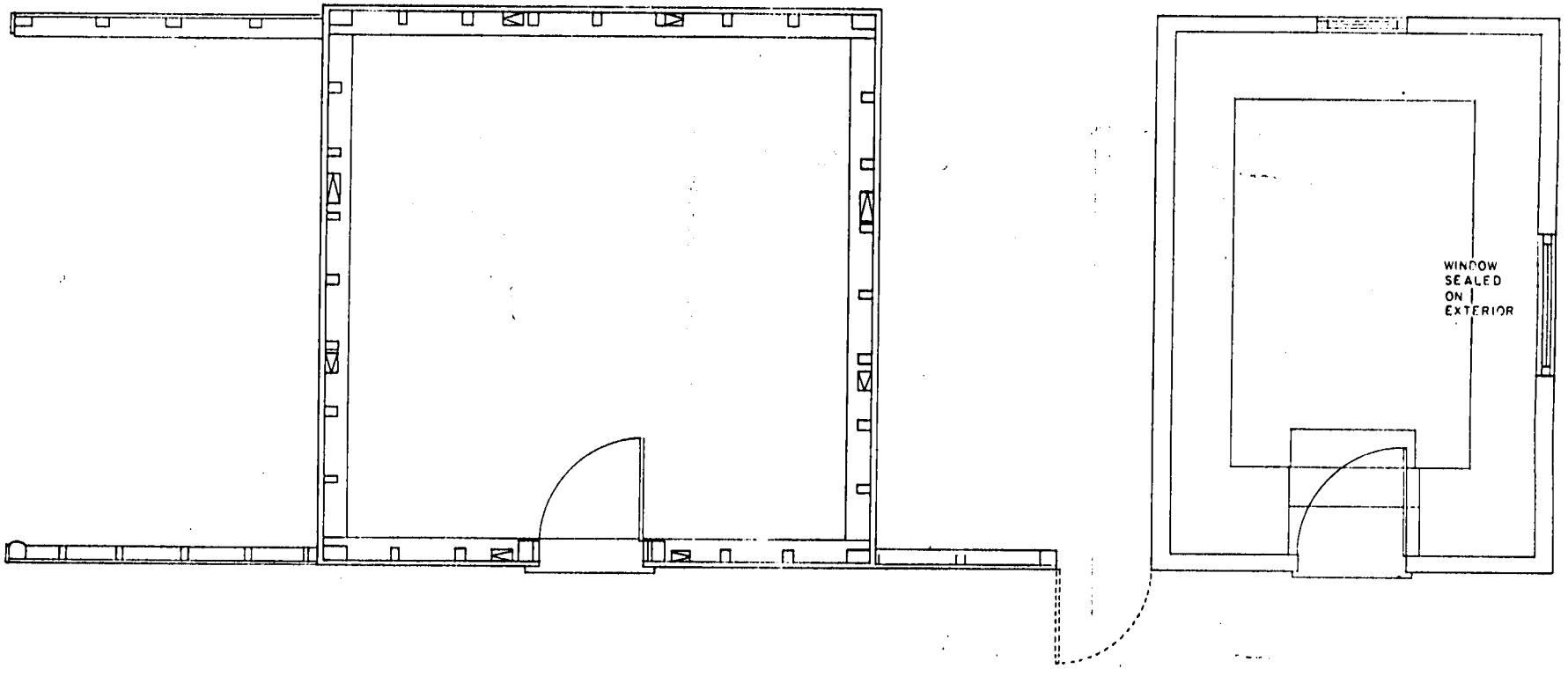


Figure 2. 19th- and 20th-century Landscape Features at ST 1-13

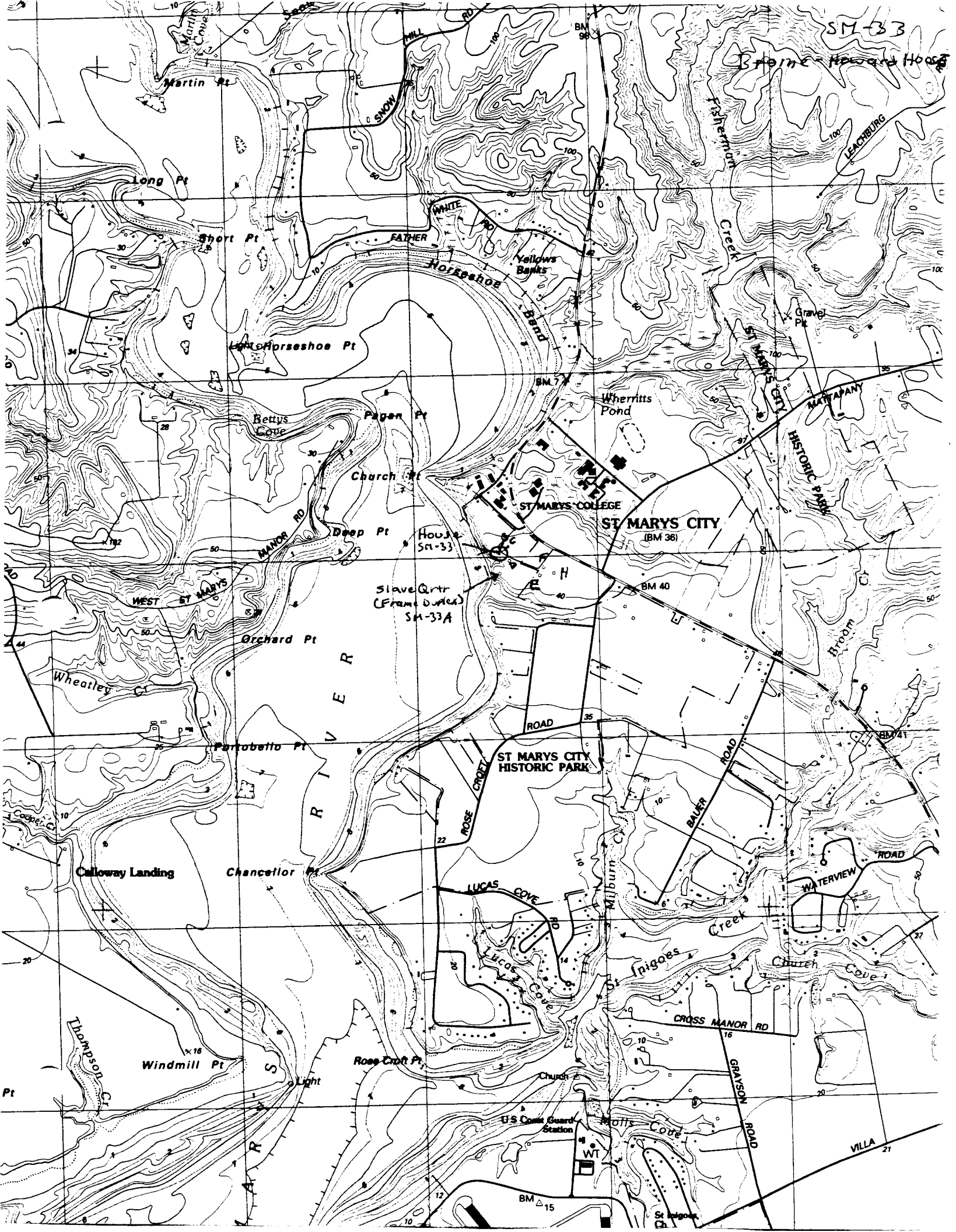
SM-33

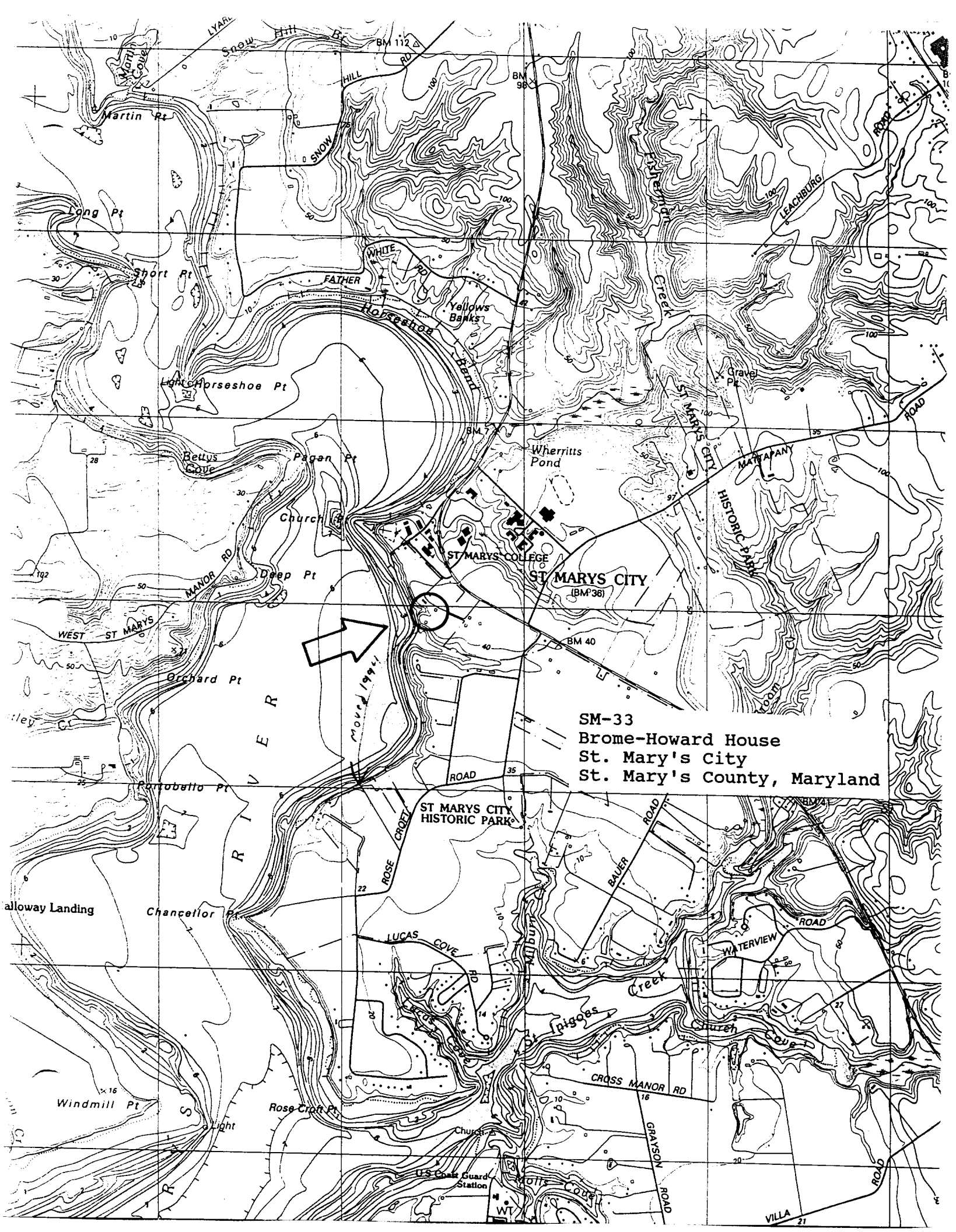


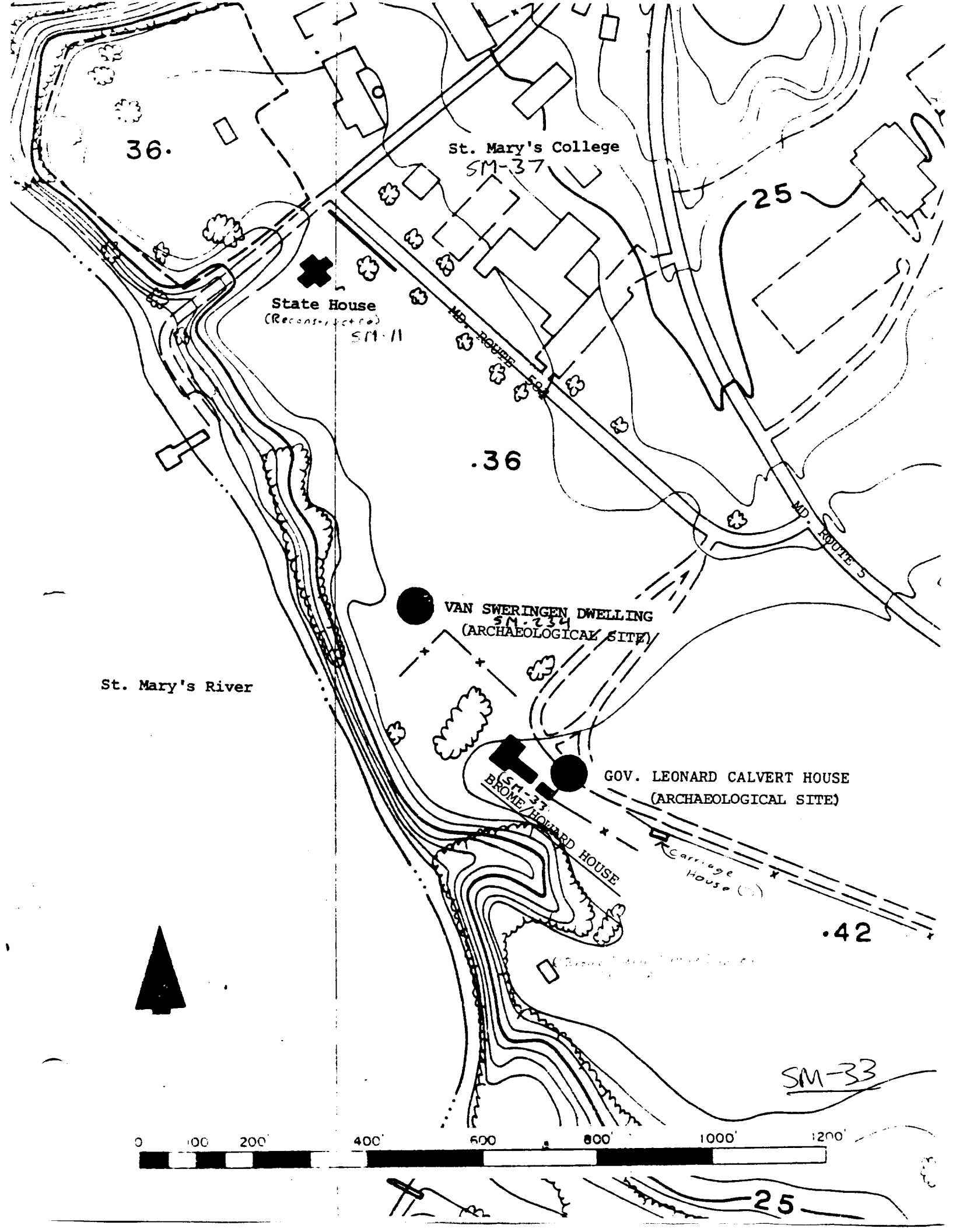
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
MEAT HOUSE AND DAIRY, FLOOR PLANS
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 18, 1993

SCALE: 1/2" = 1' 0 1 2 3 4 5

SM-33


SM-33
Brome-Howard House
Martin Pt
Long Pt
Short Pt
Horseshoe Pt
Horseshoe Bend
Yellows Banks
Fisherman Creek
Gravel Pit
ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK
Wherritts Pond
Bettys Cove
Pagan Pt
Church Pt
ST MARYS COLLEGE
ST MARYS CITY
(BM 36)
Deep Pt
House SM-33
Slave Qrtr (Frame Duplex) SM-33A
WEST ST MARYS MANOR RD
Orchard Pt
Wheatley Cr
Portobello Pt
ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK
ROSE CROFT ROAD
BAUER ROAD
Broom Cr
Calloway Landing
Chancellor Pt
LUCAS COVE RD
Lucas Cove
Milburn Cr
St Inigoes Creek
Church Cove
WATERVIEW ROAD
CROSS MANOR RD
GRAYSON ROAD
Windmill Pt
Thompson Cr
Rose Croft Pt
Light
Church
U S Coast Guard Station
Molls Cove
WT
VILLA
St Inigoes Ch
MATTAPANY
LEACHBURG
SNOW HILL RD
FATHER WHITE RD
BM 7
BM 40
BM 41
BM 15


SM-33
Brome-Howard House
St. Mary's City
St. Mary's County, Maryland
ST MARYS CITY
(BM 36)
ST MARYS COLLEGE
ST MARYS CITY HISTORIC PARK
Wherritts Pond
Yellows Banks
Horseshoe Bend
Horseshoe Pt
Pagan Pt
Church Pt
Deep Pt
Orchard Pt
Portobello Pt
Chancellor Pt
Windmill Pt
Rose Croft Pt
Long Pt
Short Pt
Martin Pt
Martin Cove
Bettys Cove
Fisherman Creek
Church Cove
Molls Cove
Moved 1991
Gravel Pit
Snow Hill Br
Snow Hill Rd
Lyard
Father White Rd
Leachburg Road
Mattapany Road
Rose Croft Road
Lucas Cove Rd
Bauer Road
Waterview Road
Cross Manor Rd
Grayson Road
Villa Road
West St Marys Manor Rd
Milburn Cr
St Inigoes Creek
Lucas Cove
Alloway Landing
Light
Church
U.S. Coast Guard Station
WT
BM 112
BM 98
BM 7
BM 40
BM 41


36.
St. Mary's College
SM-37
25
State House
(Reconstructed)
SM-11
MD. ROUTE 5
.36
MD. ROUTE 5
VAN SWERINGEN DWELLING
SM-234
(ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)
St. Mary's River
GOV. LEONARD CALVERT HOUSE
(ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)
SM-33
BROME/HOWARD HOUSE
Carriage House
.42
SM-33
0
100
200'
400'
600
800'
1000'
1200'
25

BROME/HOWARD HOUSE ST. MARY'S CITY, MD SM-33

1/82 ALEXANDER H. MORRISON, ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

BROME/HOWARD HOUSE ST. MARY'S CITY, MD. SM-33

1/82 ALEXANDER H. MORRISON ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION

WEST ELEVATION

BROME/HOWARD HOUSE ST. MARYS CITY, MD. SM-33

1/32 ALEXANDER H. MORRISON ST MARYS CITY COMMISSION

SOUTH WEST ELEVATION

BREME | HOWARD HOUSE ST. MARYS CITY, MD. SM-33

1/82 ALEXANDER H MORRISON ST. MARYS CITY COMMISSION

NORTH ELEVATION

Brome/Howard House St. Mary's City, MD. SM-33

1/82 Alexander H. Marcus St. Mary's City Commission

Northwest elevation

BEOMS/HOWARD HOUSE ST. MARYS CITY, MD. SM-33

1/82, ALEXANDER H. MORRISON, ST. MARYS CITY COMMISSION

EAST ELEVATION

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARY'S CITY, MD
PETER E KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO

NORTH FACADE OF HOUSE, GARDEN TO WEST
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

#1 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARY'S CITY MD
PETER E KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
DRIVE, VIEW FACING NORTH FROM HOUSE

2 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARYS CITY, MD
PETER E. KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
LANE TO CARRIAGE HOUSE AND SLAVE QUARTER, VIEW FACING EAST FROM HOUSE
3 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARY'S CITY, MD
PETER E KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
17TH-CENTURY CHAPEL ROAD SURVIVING AS
FARM LANE, FACING WEST TOWARD HOUSE

4 OF 11

SML-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARY'S CITY, MD
PETER E KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
VIEW SOUTH FROM HOUSE TOWARD ST. MARY'S RIVER, SHOWING 19TH CENTURY TERRACING
5 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARYS CITY MD
PETER E KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
STAIR PASSAGE, 3RD FLOOR, FACING NORTH
6 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARYS CITY, MD
PETER E. FURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
STAIR PASSAGE, 3RD FLOOR, FACING NORTHEAST
SHOWING TYPICAL DOORS AND TRIM.
7 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARYS CITY, MD
PETER E KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
NORTHEAST ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, FACING
SOUTHEAST

8 OF 11

SM-33
BROME HOWARD HOUSE
ST MARY'S CITY MD
PETER E. KURTZE, 8/93
NEG AT MD SHPO
SOUTHEAST ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, FACING S.E.

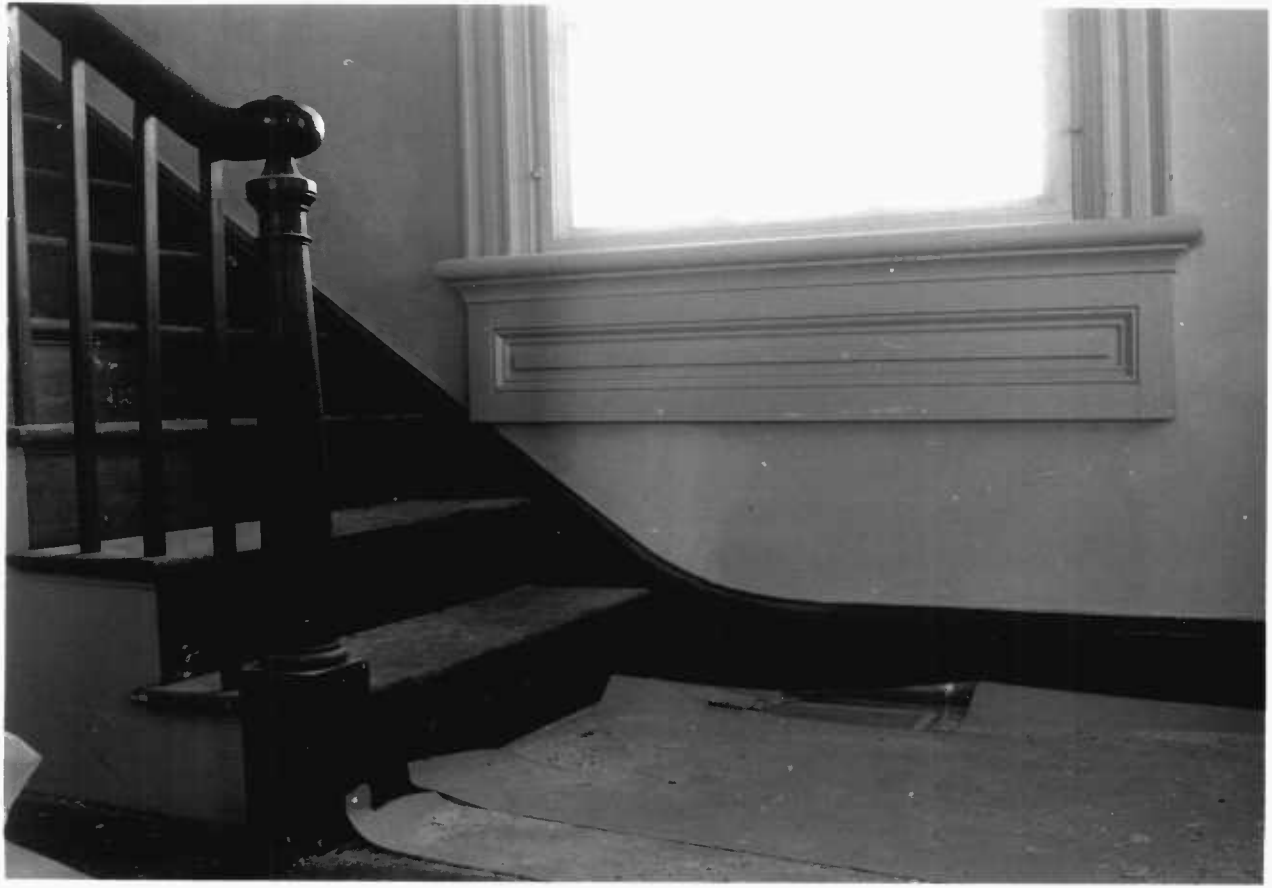
9 OF 11

SM-33
Broome-Howard Farm
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
March, 1997
MHT SHPO

1 of 7

SM-33
Broome Howard Farm
St Mary's County, Md
Rick Ranzetta
1997
SHPO

87



SM-33
Broome-Howard Farm
St Mary's County, Md
[illegible] K Ranzetta
[illegible], 1997
Md SHPO

3 of 7

SM-33
Broome - Howard Farm
St. Mary's County, Md
Rick Ranzetta
March 1997
Md SHPO

1 of 7

SM-33
Broome - Howard Farm
St Mary's County, Md
C. K Ranzetta
March, 1997
Md SHPO

5 of 7

EXIT

SM-33
Broome - Howard Farm
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
March, 1997
Md SHPO

6 of 7

SM-33
Broome - Howard Farm
St. Mary's County, Md
Rick Ranzetta
March, 1997
Md SHPO

7 of 7

STMA-[redacted] 33A
MACI # 190334.5405

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON FRAME DUPLEX AT BROME FARM

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of Rt. 5 just beyond the St. Mary's College campus.

CITY, TOWN St. Mary's City ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland

COUNTY St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	___OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
___BUILDING(S)	___PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	___PARK
X STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	___ENTERTAINMENT	___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY	X OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME St. Mary's City Commission Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN St. Mary's City ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

SM-33A

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	_ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This long frame structure with a central chimney is situated on a beautiful site: a bluff overlooking the St. Mary's River. It was probably constructed in the mid-19th century about the same time as the main house, which is located approximately 250ft. upriver and across a wooded ravine. About 250 yards southeast of the house is a cluster of barns and farm workshops, some dating from the same period. The house is oriented toward the east and faces pasture land that once was cultivated in tobacco, according to J. Spence Howard, whose family built Brome Farm. A single pen log slave cabin roughly sheathed with vertically attached boards and with a wide-based brick chimney on the northern gable end once stood a short distance north of the duplex. All that remains is rubble. According to Mr. Howard, the structure has been altered in the 20th century: many of the older clapboards have been replaced; a window was cut into the northern gable end; a plank floor was installed; and the brick hearths were raised to the level of the new floor. The flooring has since been removed. A few years ago Mr. Howard began further renovation with the intention of converting the house into an office. Construction was called to a halt when the site was purchased by the St. Mary's City Commission. The exterior and interior of each half of the house are nearly identical. In total, the house measures 36ft. 3in. in length, 16ft. 2in. in depth, and approximately 15ft in height. These dimensions provided the occupants of each half with about the same living space as that in a typical single unit house. The rooms were divided by a partition of vertical planks. Evidence in the building materials indicates that originally no door connected them, but later one was cut. Large back-to-back fireplaces opened into each room. The frame was hewn, attached by mortised and tenoned and pegged joints, and sheathed by random width weatherboards with bevelled edges. Before the interior was sheetrocked, Mr. Howard said, the walls had had no interior cladding. Since all the interior sheetrock has been removed, no evidence remains to confirm or disprove this.

There were no stairways to the upstairs chambers. Instead, ladders ascended through trap doors into each room above. These rooms were divided from each other by vertical planks extending upwards from the partition below. A crawl space was cut into them as a passageway. On either gable end were small windows. There were no hearths.

The rafters are half-lapped and attached by cut nails. Narrow collar braces reinforce the joints and were positioned near the peak to give headroom to the occupants. The wood shingled roof is in fairly good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

According to J. Spence Howard, who lives near the site, house servants occupied this duplex, and some of their descendants still live in the area. They might be located for oral interviews for information that was passed down from their ancestors about life within this house. Furthermore, they may have some of the artifacts used in it.

The site has now been purchased by the St. Mary's City Commission. Archaeological excavations around the duplex and the log house adjacent to it might uncover artifacts that would informative about the material culture of slaves and that could be used in the forthcoming museum.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SM-33A

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 McDaniel, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture — 2/76

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

12 W. Madison St.

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Baltimore, — Md.

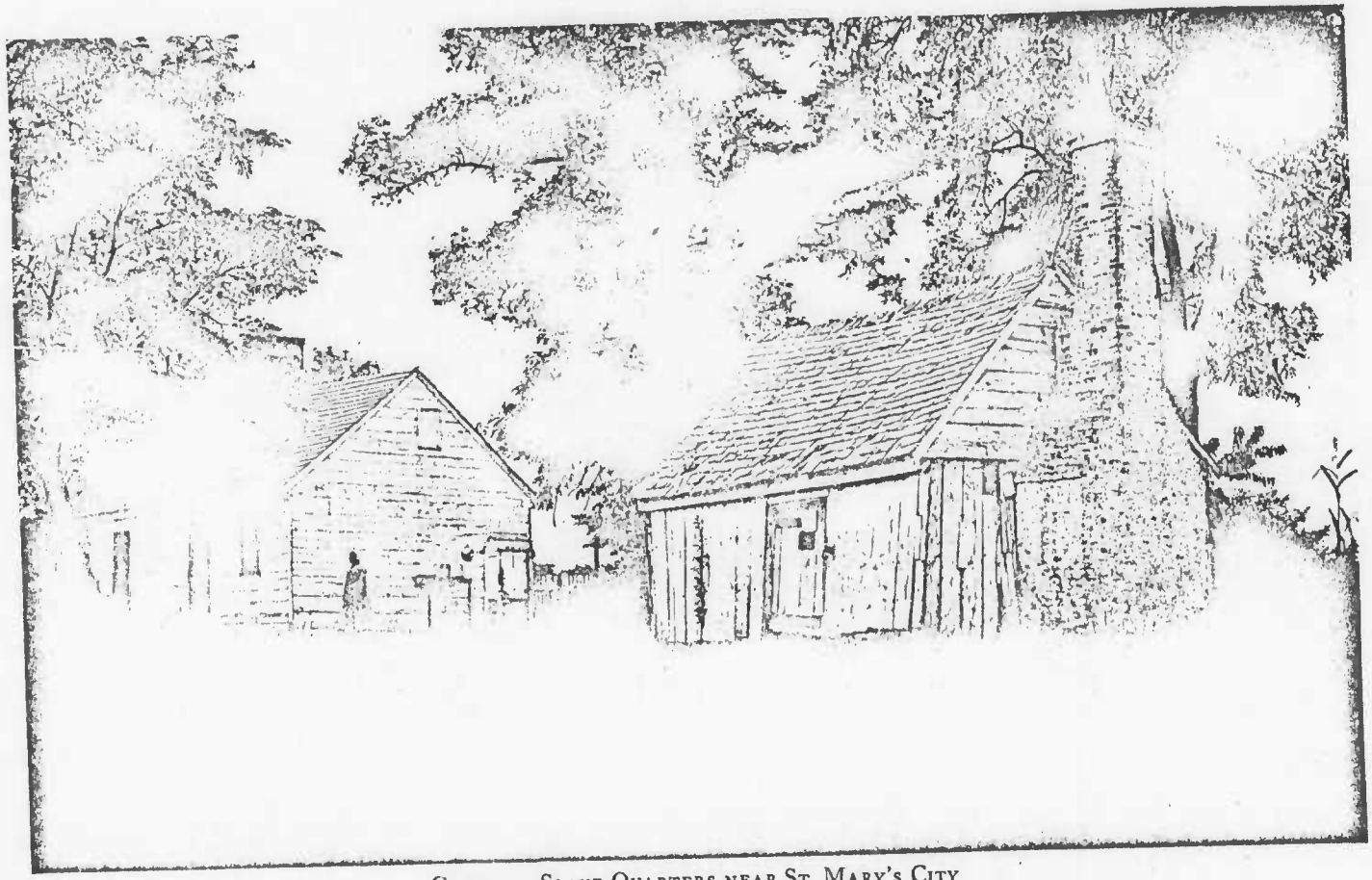
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

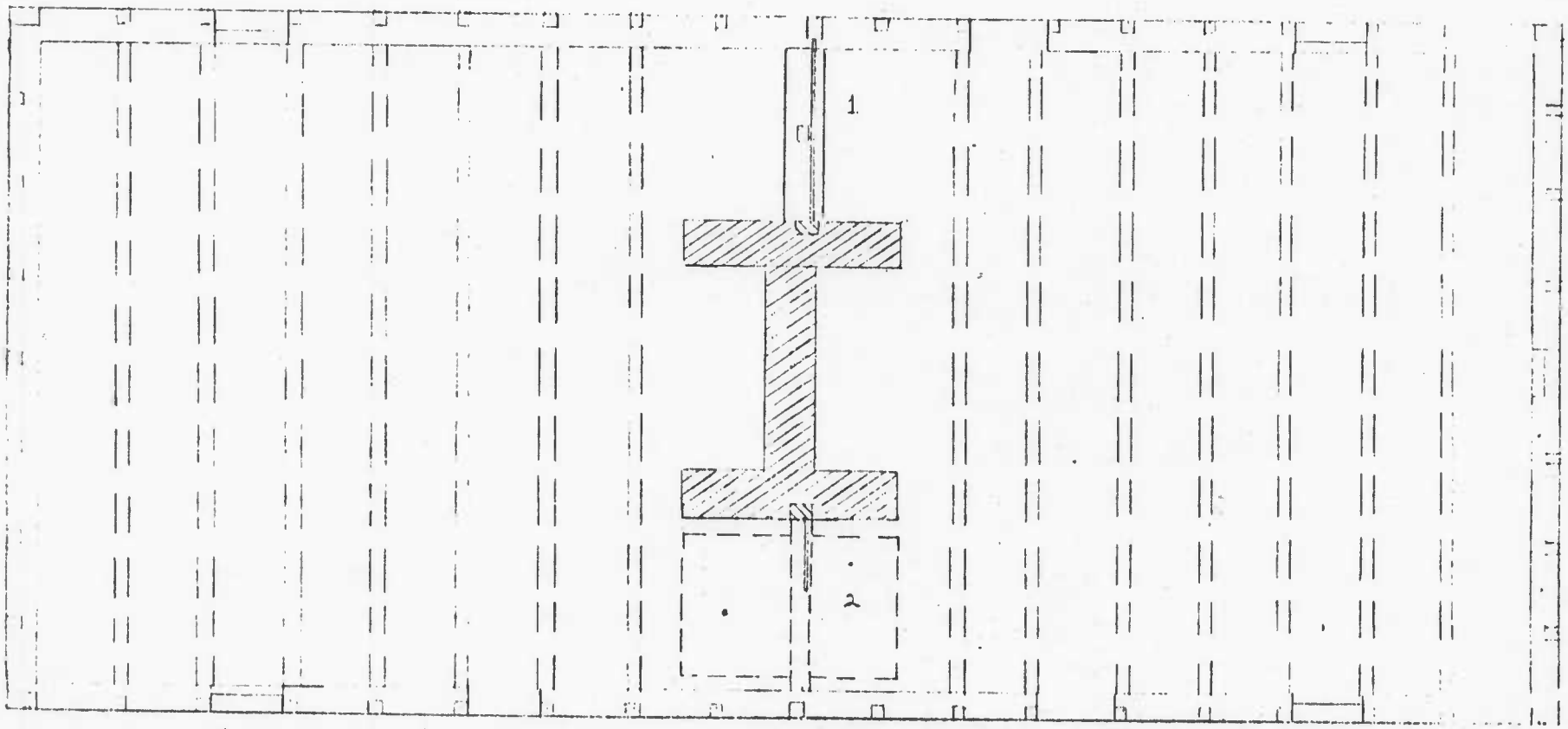
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

BROME FARM
Franc Dupier

SM-33A



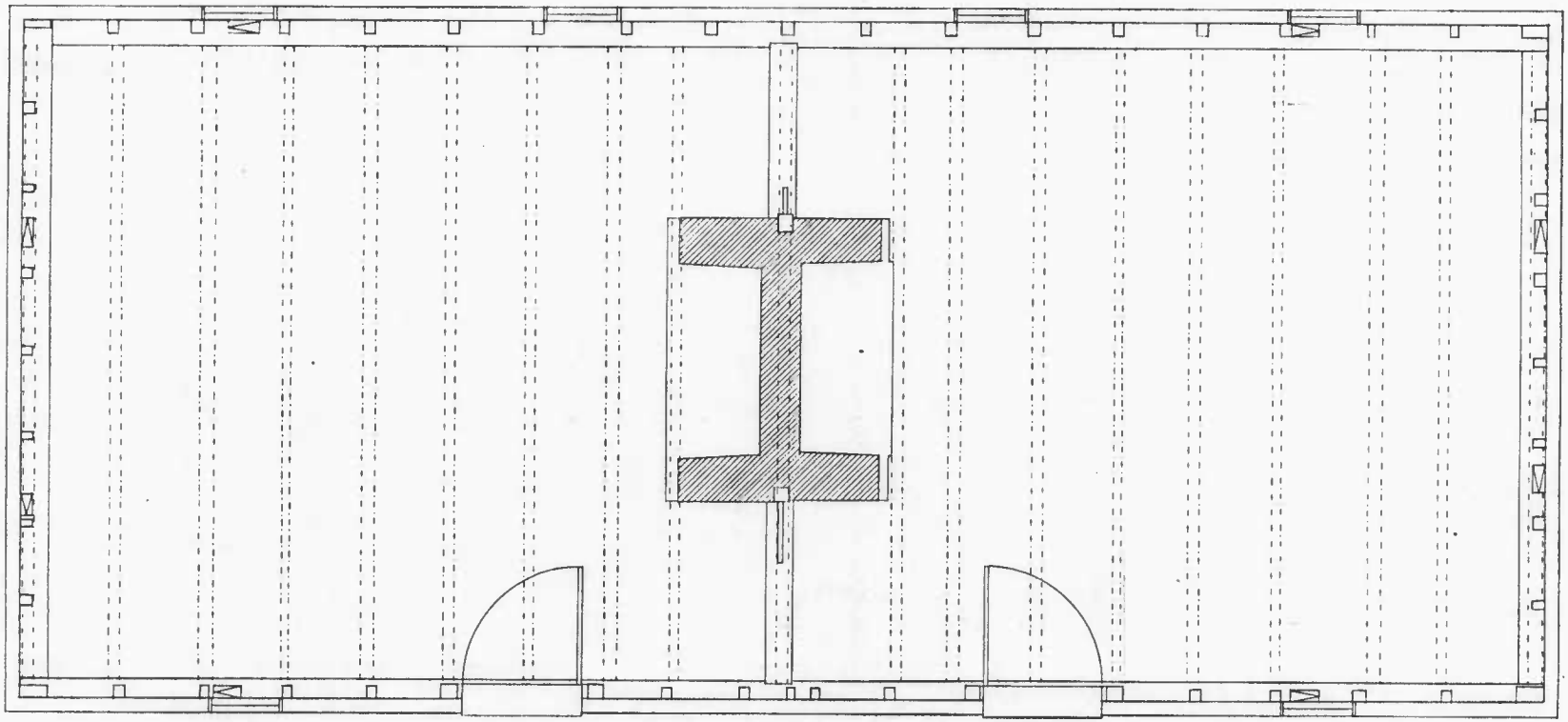
GROUP OF SLAVE QUARTERS NEAR ST. MARY'S CITY



NOTES
1 PARTITIONED WALL

HOUSE SERVANTS' QUARTERS
FORT ST. MARY'S MANOR

SM-334

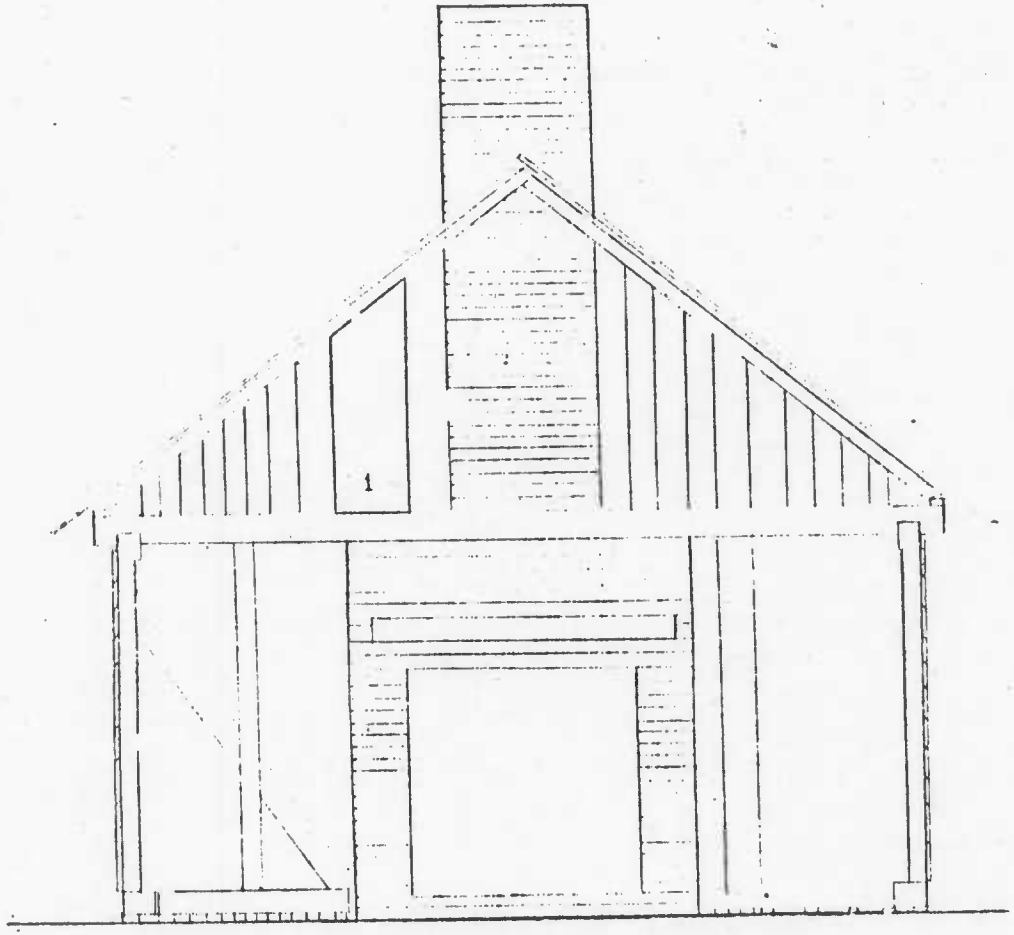


BROME HOWARD HOUSE
SLAVE QUARTER, FLOOR PLAN
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 19, 1993

SCALE: 1/2"=1' 0 1 2 3 4 5

SM-334

ome Farm
STMA-GM-26



NOTES:
1 CRAWL SPACE

HOUSE SERVANTS' QUARTERS
FAST. CR. MARY'S MANOR
ST MARY'S COUNTY, MD.

SM-334

SM-33A

SM-33A

Frame Duplex at Brome Farm

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ravenetta

Sept/99

Md SHPO

Looking SW

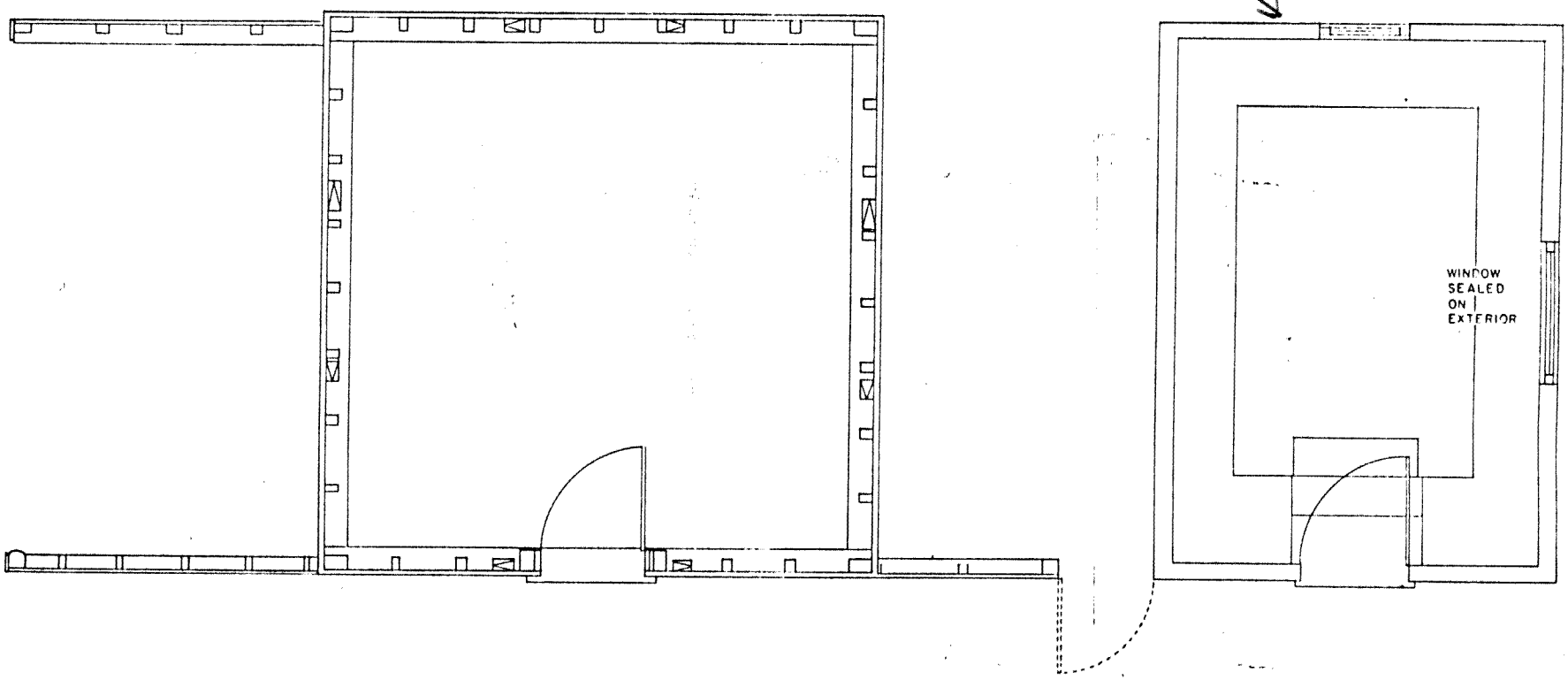
1 of 1

40%

SM-33A R121

SM-33A

SM-33B
Dairy at Brome Farm



BROME HOWARD HOUSE
MEAT HOUSE AND DAIRY, FLOOR PLANS
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 18, 1993

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

SM-33B

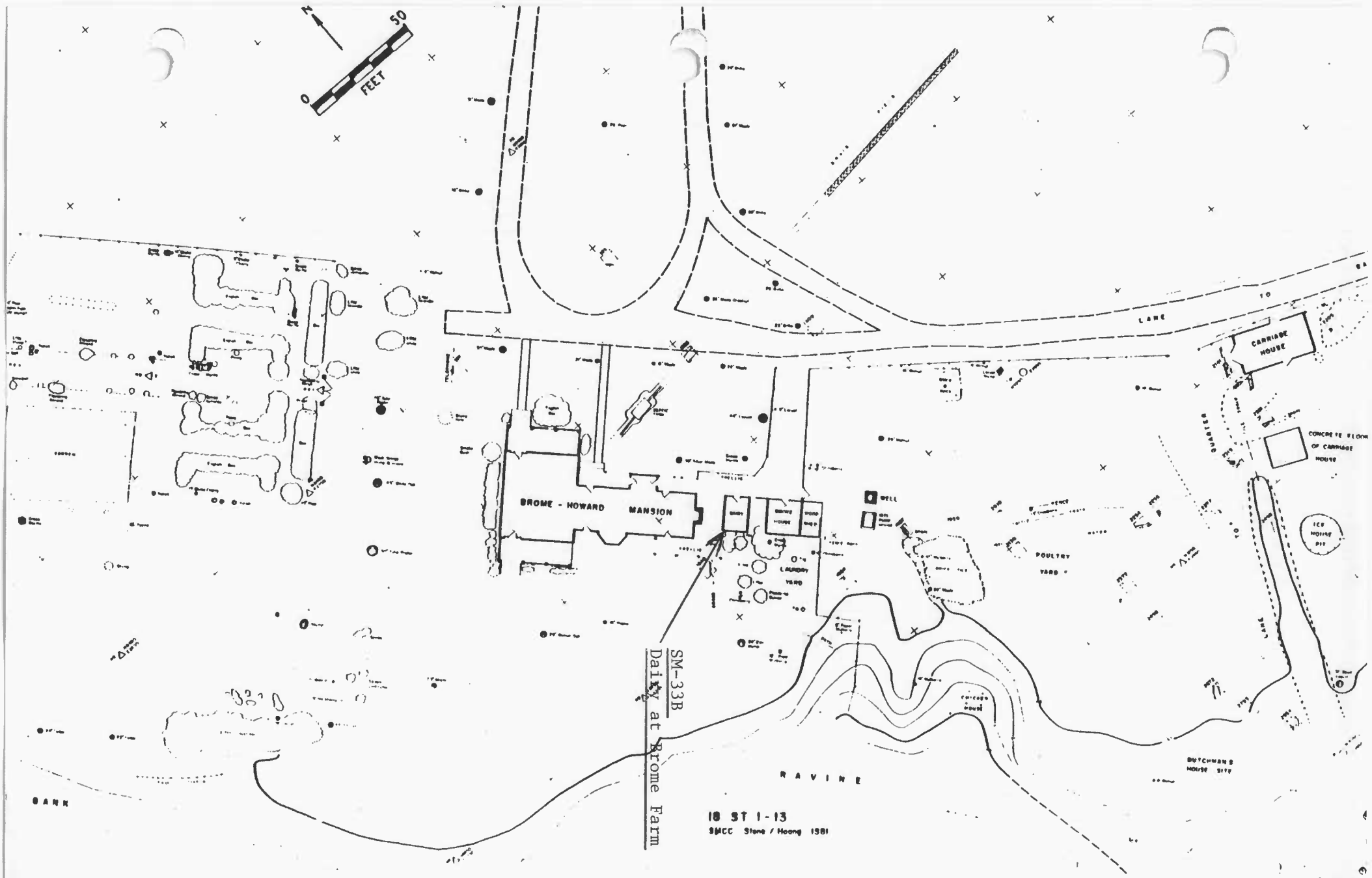
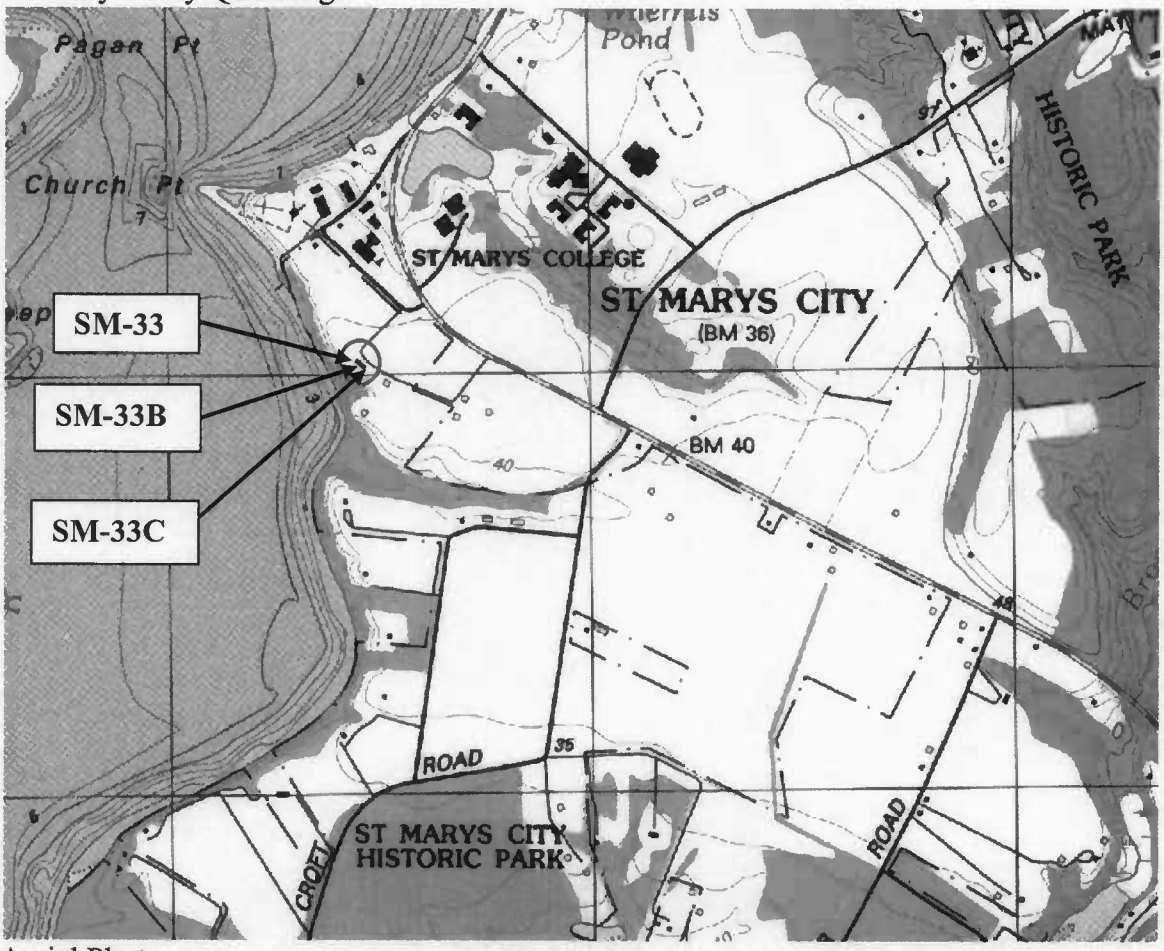


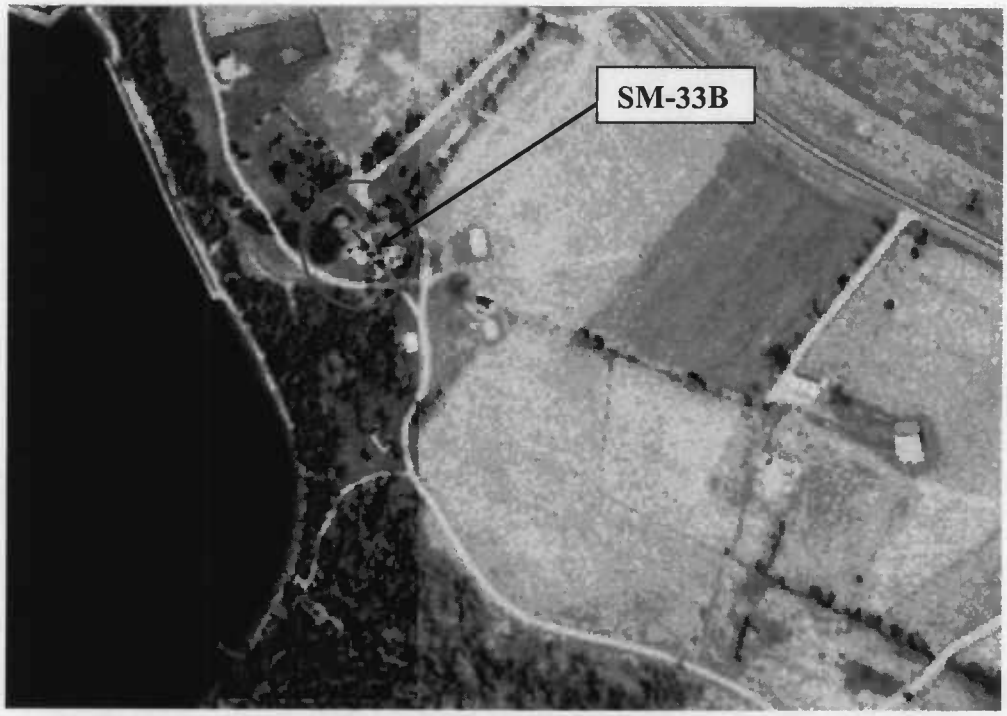
Figure 2. 19th- and 20th-century Landscape Features at ST 1-13

SM-33B

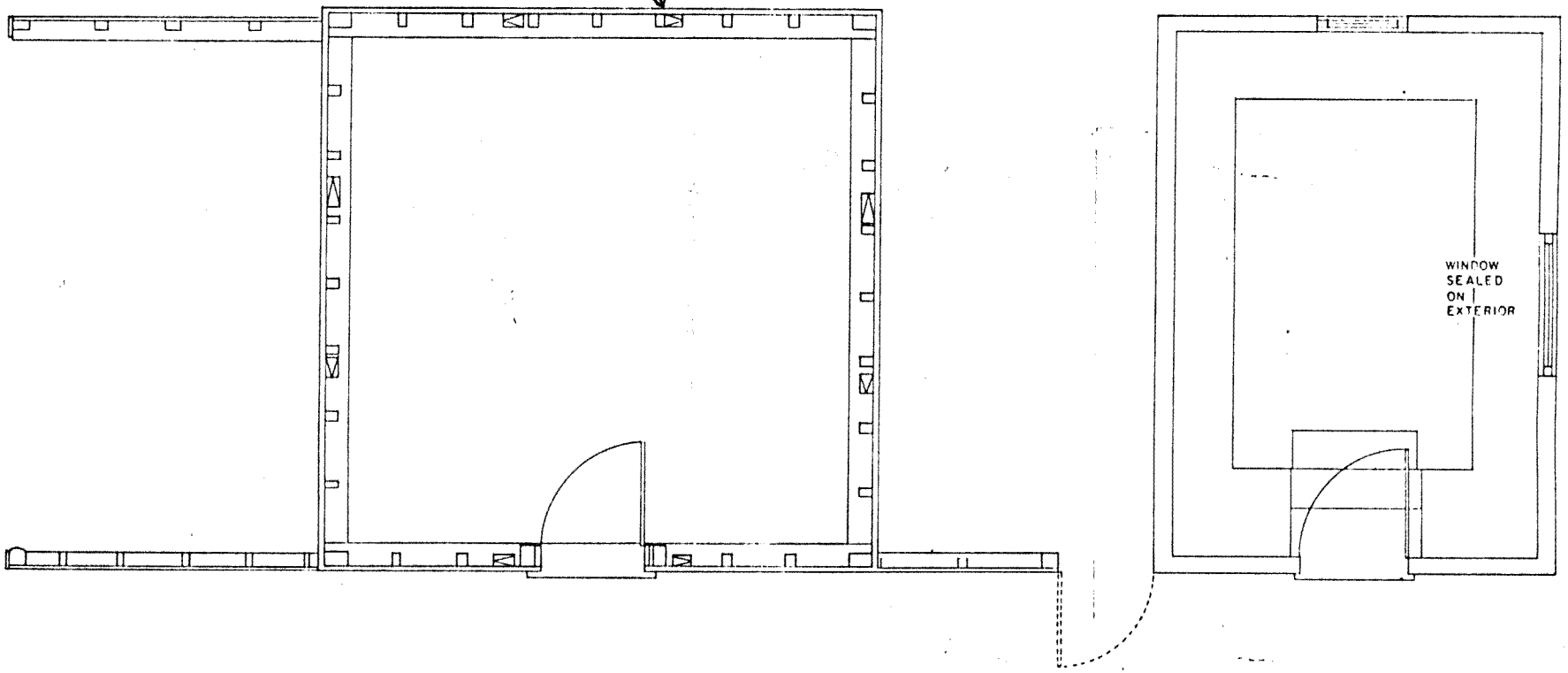
SM-33B
Dairy at Brome Farm
St. Mary's City Quadrangle



Aerial Photo



SM-33C
Meat House at Brome Farm



BROME HOWARD HOUSE
MEAT HOUSE AND DAIRY, FLOOR PLANS
ST. MARY'S CITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD.
GABRIELLE LANIER AUGUST 18, 1993

SCALE: 1/2"=1' 0 1 2 3 4 5

SM-33C

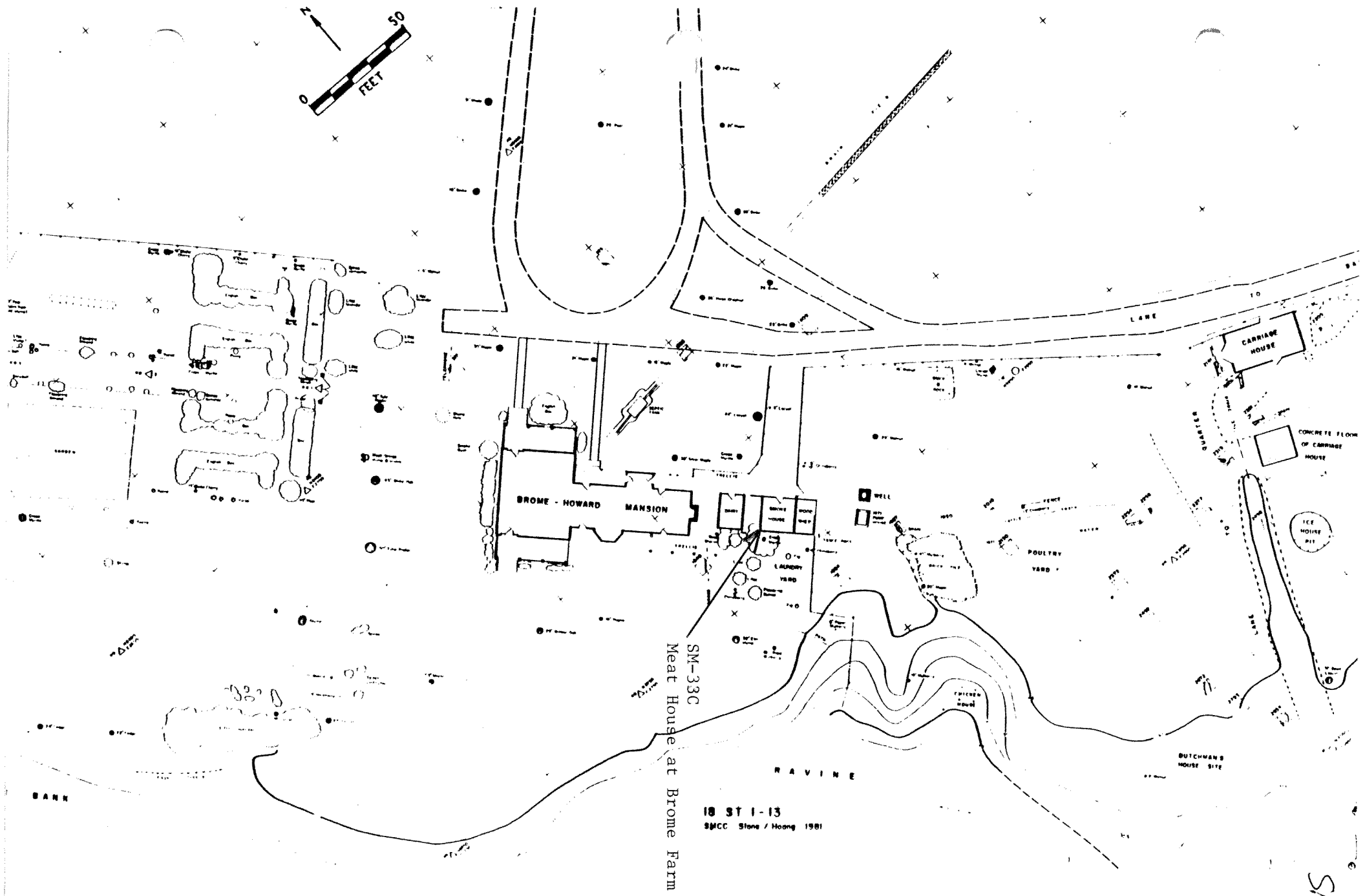
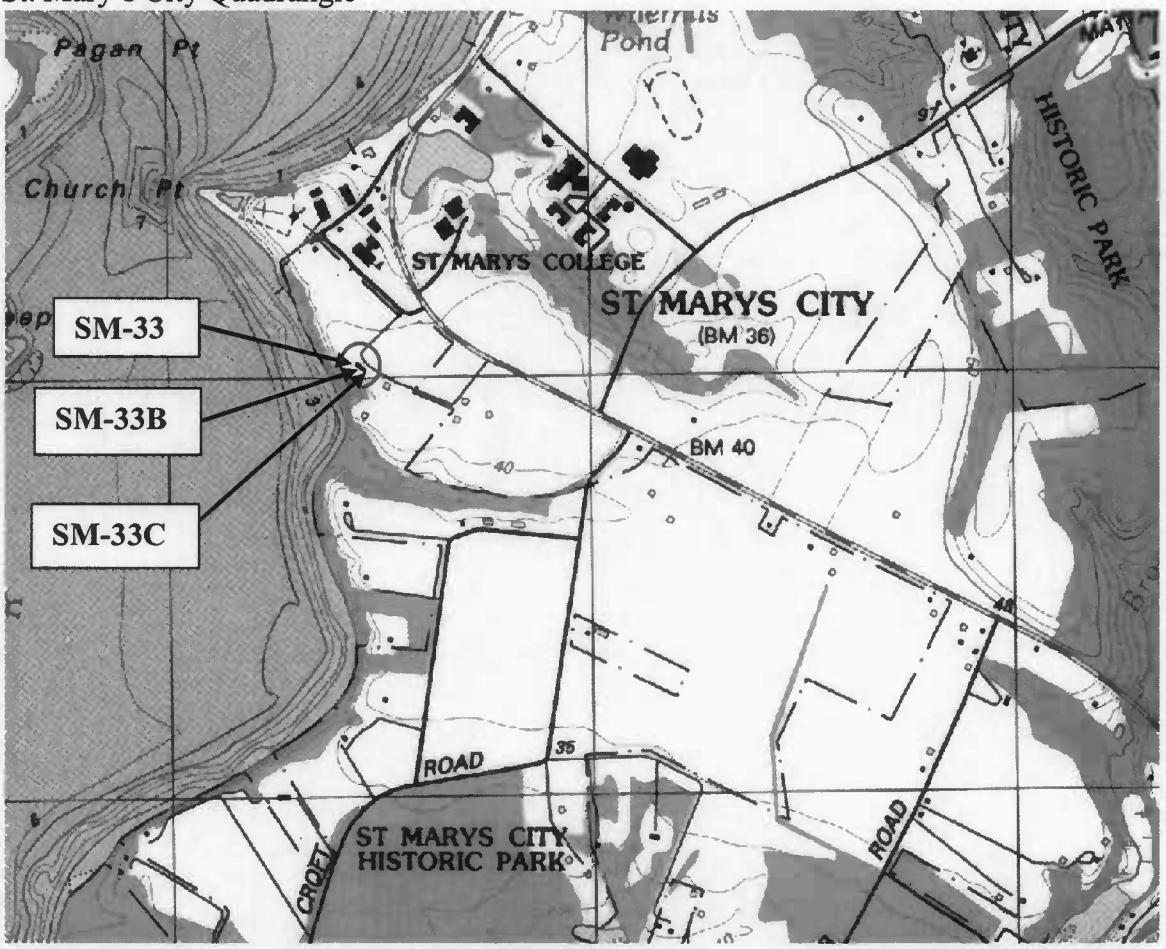


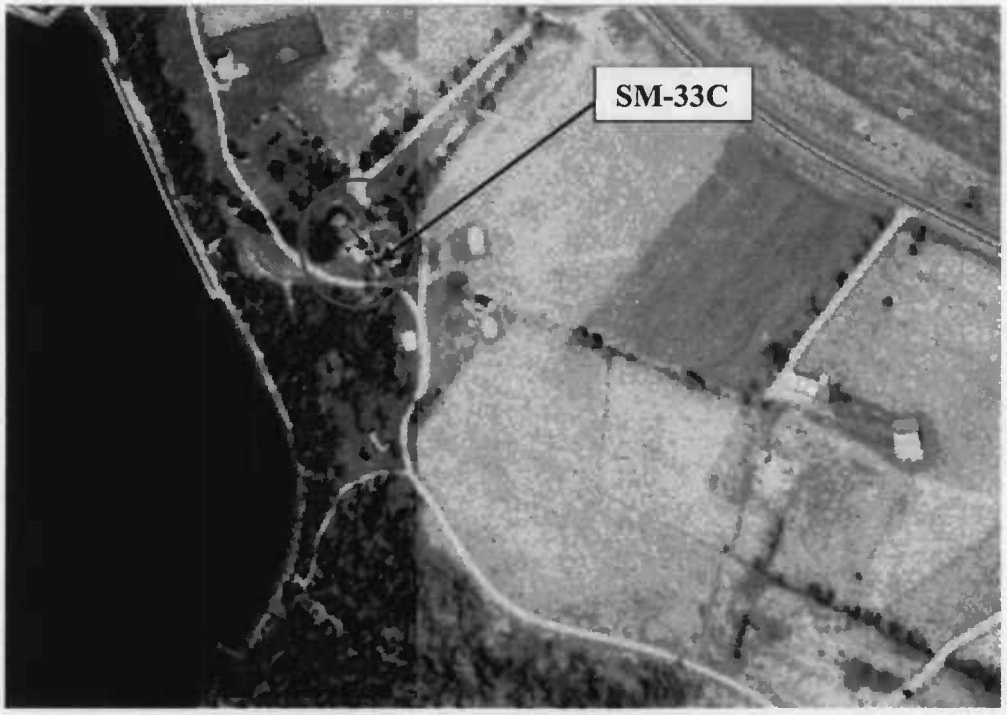
Figure 2. 19th- and 20th-century Landscape Features at ST 1-13

SM-33C

SM-33C
Meat House at Brome Farm
St. Mary's City Quadrangle



Aerial Photo



SM-33G Brome Granary

Constructed
Fall-Winter, 1758
Reroofed after 1772

Like the adjacent 1785 granary (above, SM-33H), this building has been put to varied uses. It was built and reroofed as a granary, converted into a tobacco house, reconverted into a granary, and used for multiple purposes in the 20th century. It is a unique surviving building. It may be Maryland's oldest, frame, agricultural structure, and its simple carpentry is thought to be more representative of average 18th-century construction than the more expensive joinery of the few other barns to survive from that century.

The Brome granary is a four bay, "Virginia" framed stucture measuring 32 by 20 ft. Its frame is a fully evolved oak rendition of Sarum's frame. Pinned, mortise and tenon joints secure only the principal timbers. The original secondary members (studs, braces, rafters, and collars) were riven oak and joined with half-lapped joints except for the stud feet (which are tenoned into the sills). Multiple post to sill braces counter the outward thrust of bulk grain. Tilted false plates support the roof rafters. Here, as at Sarum and the large Brome granary, these plates are carry-overs from tobacco house construction as the granary's loft was plank floored, and raftered, tie beamed, and studded on 24 inch centers. But, as in other riven scantling structures, the false plates simplified joining the irregular rafters to the tie beams.

The building seems to have been poorly maintained, as late in the 18th century the original (clapboard?) roof and its frame were removed and a new frame of sawn poplar rafters and shingle lath were installed. It was covered with round-butt, oak shingles that were riven some time after 1772 (the last growth ring surviving on shingles that have had all of their sapwood removed).

In the 19th century, the history of this building parallels that of its younger sibling, the larger Brome Granary. The small granary was converted into a tobacco house about 1803-1804 and was refloored as a granary in the mid-19th century. But unlike the large granary, this building still has its loft floor. Shedded since the early 19th century, its last sheds were a cow house (south shed) and a stable (north shed).

.../contd.

SM-33G

William Hicks built the granary. He was a merchant who purchased the Governor's Field in 1754 and opened a store there before returning to England in 1758. He dealt in tobacco and wheat, and for a while he operated a mill that his predecessor had built 1,200 ft. to the NE. When in 1774, his attorney offered the property for sale, he advertised that "shipping may lie safe and close to their store or granary's doors." Presumably, it was Hicks' factor who neglected the granary, and his successor, John Mackall, who reroofed it about the time that he was building the new granary to the east. (Although not at the same time, as the details of the two roofs are different.)

The granary collapsed in 1980. Its material was purchased by the St. Mary's City Commission. The granary will be reconstructed after its site is acquired.

References:

Carson and Stone, SM-33G, Architectural Files, SMCC. Measured drawing and field notes

Marks, "Economics and Society," pp. 136

Stone, The 18th-century Barn and Granary on the Governors Field," and "Improvements on the Brome Dwelling Plantation, 1825-1834," 1977, mss. SMCC

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THE KEY-YEAR DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL PATTERN FOR THE OAKS OF MARYLAND'S WESTERN SHORE 1570-1980

American Institute of Dendrochronology

APPENDIX

Building Descriptions

Garry Wheeler Stone

Historic St. Mary's City

1987

FIGURE 26 ~~SM-336~~ SM-336 5 1/8

Brome Farm Granary, dated at 1758, in foreground.

Photographer: Garry Wheeler Stone

SM-33H Brome Barn or Large Granary

Constructed
Fall-Winter, 1785
Refloored
Fall-Winter, 1848

This building has led a checkered life reflecting the varying profitability of wheat versus tobacco in Southern Maryland. It was built as a granary, converted into a tobacco house, refloored as a granary, and again reconverted into a tobacco house. The four bay building originally had three parts: a 40 by 22 foot core (the part that survives) and two, 8 ft. sheds--a floored north shed and an unfloored south shed. The floored central portion, loft, and north shed were granaries; the south shed most likely was a cattle shelter.

The surviving portion is handsomely framed in hardwood--oak except for poplar plates and side sills. The joints are numbered and secondary members are pit-sawn. The rafters rest on tilted false plates. Here, as at the small Brome granary, the false plates are carry-overs from tobacco house construction rather than essential elements of the structure, as the loft was plank floored and the building was raftered, tie beamed and studded at 24 inch intervals. Riven clapboard originally sided the building. A few survive on the south wall. The interior of the main granary was white-washed prior to its first conversion into a tobacco house.

Quite early in its life, the building was converted into a tobacco house--the loft floor and alternate beams removed, riven tier rails fastened to alternate rafter pairs with wrought nails, and the gables (and probably roof) repaired. Then in late 1848, the ground and loft floors were relaid. While the ground floor survives, the loft floor was removed later in the 19th or 20th centuries when the building was again tier poled for tobacco.

This barn was constructed during a period when wheat was becoming an increasingly important crop to large planters like John Mackall. He removed the loft floor and railed the building for tobacco in the very early 19th century, most likely in 1803 or 1804, when wheat prices were down, but tobacco prices were rising. Mackall's grandson, Dr. John Mackall Brome, replaced the granary floors in 1848 after seven years during which tobacco prices had gone from bad to worse.

References:

Carson and Stone, SM-33H, Architectural Files, SMCC. Field Notes.

Marks, "Economics and Society," pp.93, 136

Stone, "The 18th century Barn and Granary on the Governor's Field," and "Improvements on the Brome Dwelling Plantation, 1825-1834," mss. SMCC.

THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BARN AND GRANARY ON THE GOVERNOR'S FIELD

There are two old frame buildings at the center of the Broome Plantation on Church Point. While their present sheds are 20th-century and their wide plank siding dates from the mid-19th century, their hewn frames still preserve the evidence (and some substantial fragments) of an 18th-century appearance. Both can be identified in a newspaper advertisement of 1774. In it the smaller of the two structures is identified as a granary--a storehouse for threshed grain; and traces of bins and vermin protection remain. The other building is described as a barn--a building for storing sheaves waiting to be threshed, grain, and other crops. Its plank floor does not seem to have been used for threshing as the doors appear too narrow to provide adequate ventilation. The open south shed may have been a fodder house or cattle shelter.[1]

Before being converted into tobacco houses in the late 18th century, the barn and granary with their lofts had over three thousand square feet of plank flooring. For the period and place, this was a huge amount of space devoted to grain storage. The buildings reflect the diversification of the local tobacco economy and the commercial aspirations of at least one of the two mid-18th-century owners of the Governor's Field. Both dealt in grain, owned a mill, and paid their quit rents in wheat. Either could have built the granaries.[2]

The first possible builder is William Deacon, Royal Customs Collector for the North Potomac. Deacon came to St. Mary's City, Maryland, in 1722, married a local widow, and took up residence in her home at the southern end of St. Mary's City.[3] Deacon immediately began investing in land and mills. By 1723 he had contracted to buy land adjacent to the Governor's Field and was constructing a mill only 1100 feet from the site of the future granary and barn. He purchased the Governor's Field site in 1727.[4] Deacon may have been engaged in the manufacture of ship biscuit to provision the tobacco fleet. In the 1750s he was half owner of the "Great Mill" at the head of navigation of the St. Mary's River. A 1768 deed lists the improvements on the Great Mill property as: "The Mill House, Stones, Grainery, Bakehouse, Store House, Smith Shop, Miller House, Bolting Mill, Wheat Farm . . . . ."[5] The 1760 inventory of his home plantation lists equipment for harvesting grain as well as tobacco.

The second possible builder of the granaries is William Hicks, who purchased the Governor's Field and St. Peter's from Deacon in 1754. Hicks, the son of the adjacent property owner, had been living in England with his uncle, an English merchant, when his father died in 1753. He immediately returned to St. Mary's City to take over his inheritance. He purchased Deacon's adjacent land and opened a store for his uncle on Church Point. His stay in Maryland was short. When his uncle died in 1758, William Hicks left an agent in St. Mary's and moved to England to take over his uncle's business. In the 1770s he put his Maryland property up for sale.[6]

Hicks's involvement in grain milling and export is less documented than Deacon's, but the accounts of the Church Point store were kept in corn and wheat as well as tobacco. He operated the Governor's Field mill, but perhaps only for its tolls. In 1774 his attorney advertised that "shipping may lye safe and close to their store or granery's doors, ..."[7]

That year John Mackall of Calvert County purchased Hick's St. Mary's City plantation. Mackall converted the buildings into tobacco houses by removing the loft floors, installing tie poles, and adding sheds to the granary. An ambitious planter, by his death in 1813, he owned 1700 acres in the St. Mary's City neighborhood.[8] The two subsequent generations kept Mackall's plantation largely intact. When his great-grandson, John Mackall Brooome, married in 1841, he purchased his sisters' shares of the land and began development of the handsome Victorian plantation which still graces the St. Mary's landscape and of which the 18th-century barn and granary are still a part.[9]

FOOTNOTES:

[1]Maryland Gazette, 3 February 1774 (attached); Oxford English Dictionary, compact edition (1971), s.v. "Barn," "Granary;" Maryland Orphans' Court appraisers occasionally noted that barns included threshing floors, and in 1795 one Queen Anne's County barn is described as "containing a stable corn house and granary," Prince George's Co., Land Records BB #2, p. 93 (SMCC file 17-0019); Queen Anne's Co., Deeds RT, No. F, f. 313 (18-0108), Queen Anne's Co., Guardian Bonds & Valuations SC, f. 257 (18-0270).

[2]Debt Books, St. Mary's County, 1753-1774 (MHR).

[3]Carr, Lois G., J. Glenn Little, and Stephen Israel, "Salvage Archaeology of a Dwelling on the John Hicks Leasehold," Contract Archaeology, Inc., 1969 (Ms, SMCC), pp. 493-96, 513-23.

[4]Chancery Proceedings PL, ff. 324; Rent Roll 7, f. 13, quoted in Lois Green Carr, "St. Peter's Freehold," and "The Governor's Field," Ms., files SMCC.

[5]Chancery Papers #6648, quoted in Regina Combs Hammett, "My Search for the Great Mill," Chronicles, Vol. 21, no. 3: 8.

[6]Carr, Lois G., J. Glenn Little, and Stephen Israel, "Salvage Archaeology . . . . . ," pp. 491-92.

[7]Master's Exhibits, Hicks v. Hicks, Schedule E, Cumberland County Record Office, Carlisle, England; Maryland Gazette, 3 February 1774 (attached).

[8]Chancery Papers No. 5783 (MHR); 1798 Federal Assessment (attached); St. Mary's County Assessments, 1813, First Election District.

[9]St. Mary's Co., Marriage Records 1794-1864, 25 May 1841; Land Commission Records, J. H. No. 3, f. 512-18; Old Commission Docket #158, p. 40.

Carry Stone and Lois Carr
7 June 1977

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APPENDIX

Building Descriptions

Garry Wheeler Stone

Historic St. Mary's City

1987

SM-33H

Brome Barn or Large Granary

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov 1999

S elevation

1 of 2

SM-33H
Brome Barn or Large Granary
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Md SHPO
Nov 1999
East Sill - detail
2 of 2

SM-33 (H)

BROME HOWARD HOUSE

ST MARYS CITY, MD

PETER E KURTZE, 8/93

NEG AT MD SHPO

BARN, VIEW FROM WEST

1 OF 1

Brome Howard House
Granary

SM-33 (4)

BROME HOWARD HOUSE

ST MARYS CITY, MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 8/93

NEG AT MD SHPO

BARN FRAMING, SHOWING TILTED FALSE PLATE

± 11 OF 11

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SM-33A through

SM-33H