

S·M - 303
James G. Curtis House
Mechanicsville Vicinity
Private

1890-1910

This frame house consists of a principal block that is two stories in height, three bays in length, one bay in depth, and has a small, one story kitchen attached to the rear length. In plan, the downstairs consists of two small rooms in the main block, and two upstairs. This design is a common one among the homes of small landowners in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM-303
MAGI #1903035604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE JAMES G. CURTIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East South side of Delabrooke Rd., 0.2 mile east of Jct. of Turner Market Rd. and Delabrooke Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville = VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

JAMES G. CURTIS

Telephone #: 301-884-3683

STREET & NUMBER

Delabrooke Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20659

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: Map 10 Parcel 29

Folio #: WR MRB 2

150

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leedartown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story frame house stands on the summit of a hill facing north and looking out towards Delabrooke Rd. which is about 75 yards in front of it. At one time this house was probably the only dwelling on the property, but today dwellings for Mr. Curtis' children have been built nearby, a common occurrence on the properties of black landowners that have been surveyed.

The house consists of principal block of two stories with a one story, one room kitchen (with wood stove) attached to the east side of the rear length. The design of the facade is a common one, a door centrally located with two windows flanking it (See houses at Beachville, such as STMA-283). A shed screen porch has been added to front, the weatherboards covered with aluminum siding, and the wood shingles roof with tar paper: all the changes reflecting the modern fixtures of a contemporary folk house.

The interior plan of the principal block is laid out in a hall and chamber design with a boxed staircase ascending the southeastern corner, and a brick stove chimney ascending the exterior western gable end. Behind the house are several outbuildings, now used primarily for storage, but reminiscent of the days when this was a working farm.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES c.1890-1920 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is another example of the house form that was adopted by small landowning black families in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The owner/occupant has been a helpful oral informant, having been raised at Cremona, (STMA-93A) which is located nearby. He also led me to Abraham Medley's log house.

One of the advantages to the continuity of family ties is seen at Curtis' house. He is an elderly widower and lives alone, but since his children's families live close at hand, his grandchildren are often at his house to lend him a hand with the household activities and chores, plus provide the company that is needed, especially by the elderly who live alone.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street TELEPHONE 269-2893

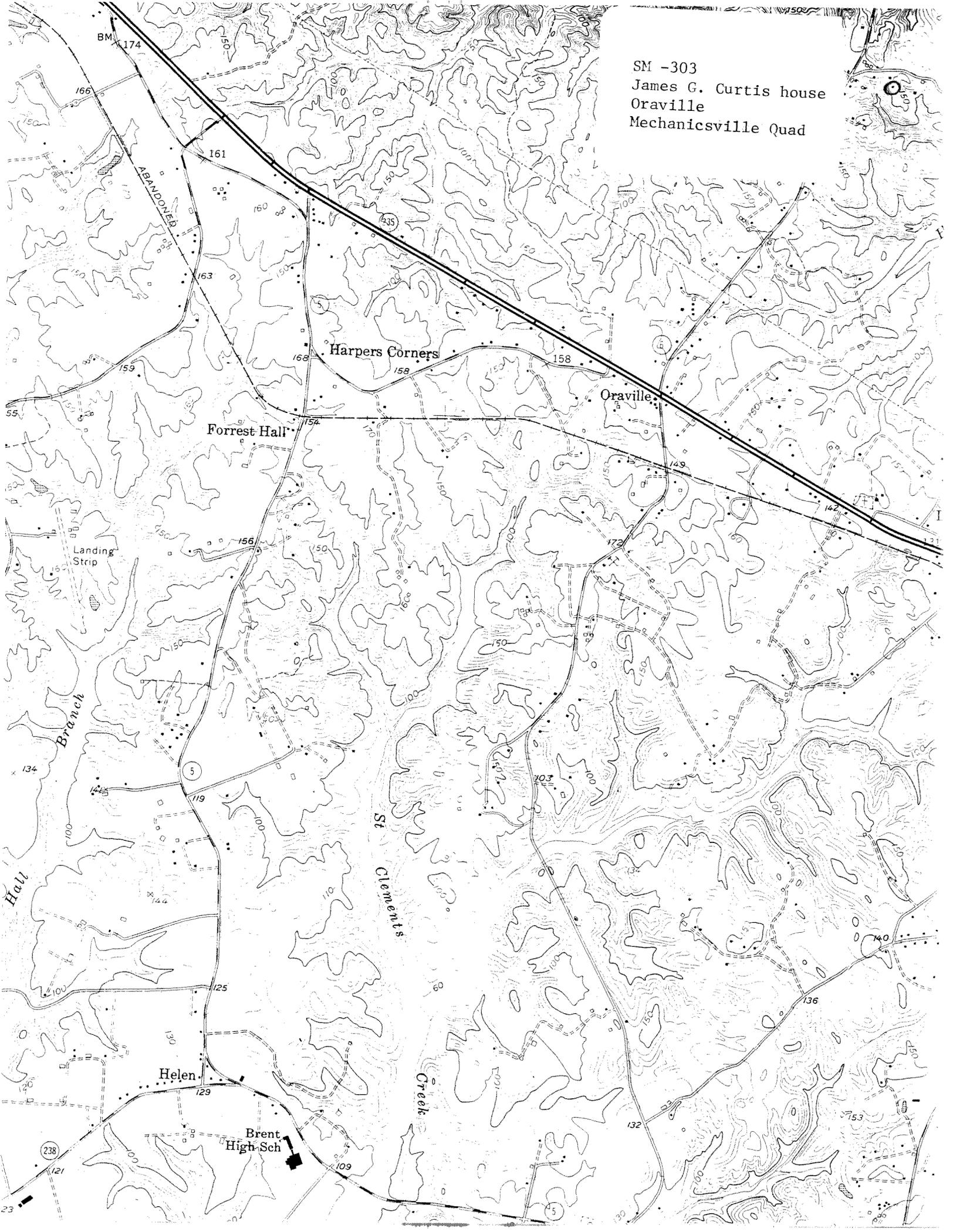
CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, Maryland STATE 21401

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

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

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

SM -303
James G. Curtis house
Oraville
Mechanicsville Quad

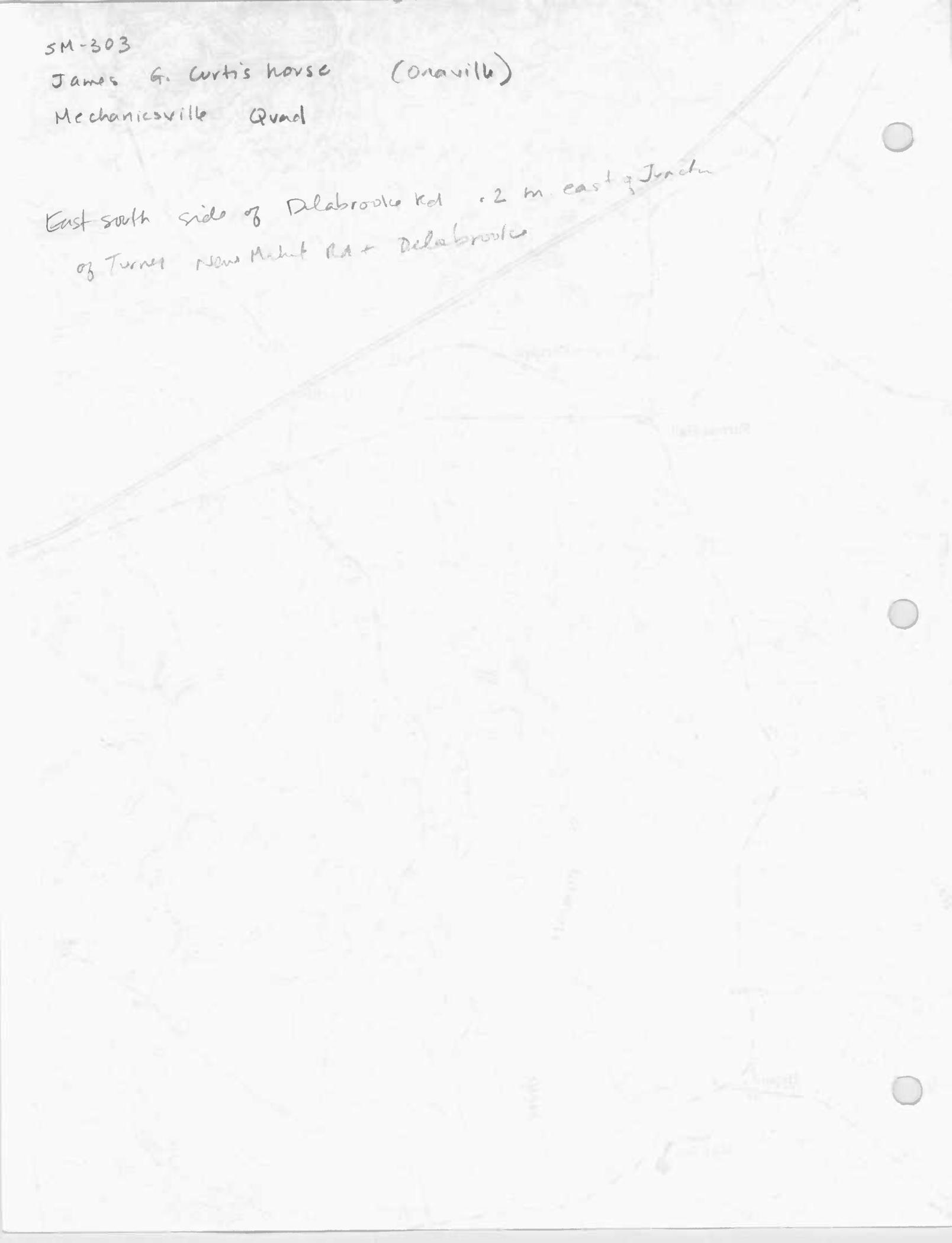


SM-303

James G. Curtis horse (Oraville)

Mechanicsville Quad

East south side of Delabrooke Rd .2 m. east of Junction
of Turner new Market Rd + Delabrooke





James G. Curris House

STMA 303

Mechanicsville, Md.

North facade

GWM — 11/77 26



JAMES G. CURTIS HOUSE

STMA 303

MECHANICSVILLE, MD.

SOUTH VIEW

GWM — 11/77



SM-303

JAMES G. Cuenis House,
ST M A 303
Mechanicsville, Md.
East view
GWM — #27