

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Baker Farm Survey Number: D -705

Project: Dorchester County Power Plant Agency: Delmarva

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Baker Farm is a 269-acre farm complex located in the vicinity of Vienna, in Dorchester County, Maryland. The property contains a late 19th century-to-early 20th century vernacular farmhouse and several associated outbuildings. The property is a representative example of a rural farm complex; neither the house nor outbuildings has the architectural distinction necessary to qualify the property for listing on the National Register.

The property was originally part of a larger tract of land owned by a Silas Fleming. In 1856, the extensive property was divided into six smaller tracts by the Land Commissioners responsible for dividing Fleming's estate. The Baker Farm sits on Tract 1.

The house itself is a two-story, three-bay frame structure with a two-story ell. The house is covered with a gable roof with exposed end rafters and features two brick chimneys with orbelled caps. The front elevation is divided into three bays with a central entry. The windows on the first story have 2/2 sash; those on the second story and rear ell have 6/6 sash. A small, shed-roof addition has been made between the main block of the house and the rear ell. The house is in deteriorating condition and has lost its integrity of materials.

Around the house are several deteriorating outbuildings, most of which post-date the house. These include a chicken coop, an equipment shed, a barn, and several wood structures of unspecified function. Two trailers also occupy the house site.

The Baker House and its associated buildings is representative of the vernacular rural farmhouses of Dorchester County and the Eastern Shore and lacks the architectural distinction necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Further, the dwelling has lost its integrity, due to additions and alterations of materials.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: MAAR Associates

Beth Hannold and Kim Williams
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

1/25/96
Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Alfredo Padilla
Reviewer, NR program

Feb. 13, 1996.
Date

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: _____

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

D-705 - Baker House

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme: Agriculture and Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture-Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuildings

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Part of the Maginnes Beginning, Sarah's, Land, Tract 1 of the
Russell L. Baker Home Farm
and/or common Baker House

2. Location

street & number South side Route 50 not for publication

city, town Vienna vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Dorchester

3. Classification

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

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

name Russell L. Baker III

street & number 4331 New Bridge Road telephone no.:

city, town Vienna state and zip code MD 21869

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber PLC-272

street & number High Street folio 326

city, town Cambridge state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. D-705

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date of move _____

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

8. Significance

Survey No. D-705

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 checked="" 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 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		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. D-705

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson 1877
Jones 1966
Stiverson 1977
Land 1974

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 912.76

Quadrangle name Rhodesdale

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 55, Parcel 55

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 Lauren Archibald

organization MAAR Associates, Inc. date March 1994

street & number P.O. Box 655 telephone (302) 368-5777

city or town Newark state DE

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/DHCC
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

7. Description

Survey No. D-705

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The frame house has two stories with side gable roof with ell. The house lacks an attic. On the second floor, windows are 6/6 sash, and on the first floor they are 2/2 sash. The house has a three bay facade with center door. The east gable end is blank. There are two chimneys; the western one is on the exterior of the house. The house has seen several additions. On the east side is a one-story, enclosed shed-roof porch; and a small one-story addition - perhaps an enclosed entryway - is found on the south face of the house. This structure has been covered with blue composition siding.

The overall form, the symmetrical spacing of bays, the original exterior chimney, and one-room deep plan suggest that this farmhouse dates from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Although interior access could not be granted, it appears to lack a basement from exterior inspection. This one-room deep house with ell and side gable roof is typical of the period in the region.

Outbuildings

Around the house are several large, deteriorated outbuildings, most of which appear to post-date the house. These include a chicken coop, equipment shed, barn, a very small trailer, and several one story, semi-permanent wood structures with unknown functions. The exact intended uses of the temporary outbuildings is not known. Around the front yard of the house is a junkyard, and a large trailer sits approximately 150 feet north of the house.

8. Significance

Survey No. D-705

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

This tract of land was the first-described of six subdivisions of Silas Fleming's property created in 1856 by the Land Commissioners in order to make a fair distribution of Fleming's estate among his heirs. It was referred to in the records of the division of Silas Fleming's estate as Tract 1, a farm and fixtures containing 269 acres with no reference to specific buildings.

Architectural evidence suggests that the house was built in the late nineteenth century, probably by Dr. S.S. Ewell as a tenant farm house. The 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas map of the Vienna area shows a house at this location with Ewell listed as the owner.

Since the mid-seventeenth century, the economy of the entire Eastern Shore has been based primarily on agriculture. Initially, the economy was based on the cultivation of a single cash crop, tobacco, which was not only the principal commodity of the region but also served as legal tender. The cultivation of tobacco was laborer-intensive and highly specialized, requiring extensive hand cultivation. To accommodate tobacco cultivation, early plantations required housing for a large work force consisting primarily of slaves, as well as specialized buildings for the drying and storage of tobacco and wharfs and landings for its shipment abroad (Land 1974; Stiverson 1977).

During the eighteenth century, Eastern Shore planters began substituting the cultivation of tobacco with the cultivation of wheat. Wheat as a cash crop had two major advantages over tobacco. First, the cultivation of wheat was not labor-intensive and required a large work force for only a brief period of time during harvest; second, wheat was easier and cheaper to process for market (Stiverson 1977). During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Eastern Shore of Maryland was one of the principal commercial grain-producing regions of the United States. Wheat cultivation required different specialized buildings such as granaries and mills, as well as barns and stables for the mules, horses or oxen which played an important role in commercial grain farming.

By 1860, Maryland's Eastern Shore was no longer an important grain-producing region and agriculture became more diversified. Some farms continued to cultivate wheat and corn as feed crops in conjunction with dairy farming, while other farms switched to the commercial cultivation of vegetables, poultry, and fruit. During this period, unsuccessful attempts were also made to cultivate rice, flax and cotton (Jones 1966, Stiverson 1977). As the scientific breeding and feeding of animals to enhance their commercial value was introduced, livestock and poultry were no longer permitted to range freely. The adoption of these scientific advances in agricultural technology

D-705: Baker House, Dorchester County, Maryland

8. Significance continued

often required the construction of new kinds of highly specialized agricultural buildings such as large dairy barns, silos, and commercial chicken houses, while scientific advances in the technology of preserving and shipping farm produce resulted in the construction of structures such as packing houses, slaughter houses, and canneries.

During the late nineteenth century, farm machinery of various kinds was introduced. The mechanization of various agricultural tasks such as plowing, sowing, reaping, and milking required either the enlargement of existing farm buildings such as barns and stables or the construction of new buildings to accommodate the farm machinery. At the same time, traditional accommodations for teams of horses, mules and oxen, as well as tack rooms and cart houses, became obsolete. Conversion to exterior power sources and the introduction of modern communications school introduced utility poles and wires as an element of the rural landscape.

The house itself is in poor condition, as are the outbuildings. This is an example of a typical late nineteenth century farmhouse which appears to have no unusual architectural qualities. While it would not be eligible under Criteria A, B or C, Criterion D was not evaluated.

**D-705 - Chain of Title
(Sarah's Land and Macginnis Beginning;
Tract #1, Silas Fleming's farm (unnamed))**

6 November 1831
ER-12-148
William Jackson
to
Stephen Rawleigh

Tract of land cont. 253 acres more or less including parts of "Maginnes Beginning," "Daniel's Helicon," "Sarah's Land"

9 June 1853
FJH-2-336
Stephen Rawleigh
to
Silas Fleming

Land on the road from Cambridge to vienna near Big Mills cont. 253 acres more or less.

21 April 1857
Land Commissioners Records FJH-1-80
Est. of Silas Fleming
to
Charles Pattison

Tract # 1 located on the Chicamacomico Rivercont. 269 acres more or less, part of tracts called Sarah's Land and Maginnes Beginning

15, November 1871

(FJH-8-263)

William Layton, trustee of the est. of Charles Pattison

to

Dr. S.S.Ewell

Above described parcel of land.

8 March 1897

Will Book JWF-3-211

LW&T of S.S. Ewell

to

Alexine Gore, his daughter m. Daniel Gore

28 May 1912

Daniel J. Gore

to

William A. Percy

Tract of land situated on the S side of the Road from Vienna to Big Mills cont.8 acres, part of land S.S. Ewell devised to his daughter Alexine by his LW&T. This land appears to have been the extreme south end of a tract of land cont. 269 acres which S.S. Ewell purchased from the estate of Charles Pattison in 1871.

19 March 1974

PCL-185-481

Calvin Harrington Jr. Est. of Mary R. Percy

to

Johns Hopkins University

1/3 interest in five tracts of land, formally belonging to William A. Percy.

_____, _____ 1990

Recited PCL-272-32b

LW&T of Virginia M. Percey

to

Johns Hopkins University

2/3 interest in five tracts of land to Johns Hopkins University formerly belonging to William A. Percy.

26 February 1992

Johns Hopkins University

to

Russell S. Baker

Three tracts of land which Virginia M. Percy (2/3) and Mary E. Percy (1/3) conveyed to Johns Hopkins University.

D-705: Baker House, Dorchester County, Maryland

9. Major Bibliographical References continued

Jones, Elias

1966 New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland.
Tidewater Publishers. Cambridge, Maryland.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson

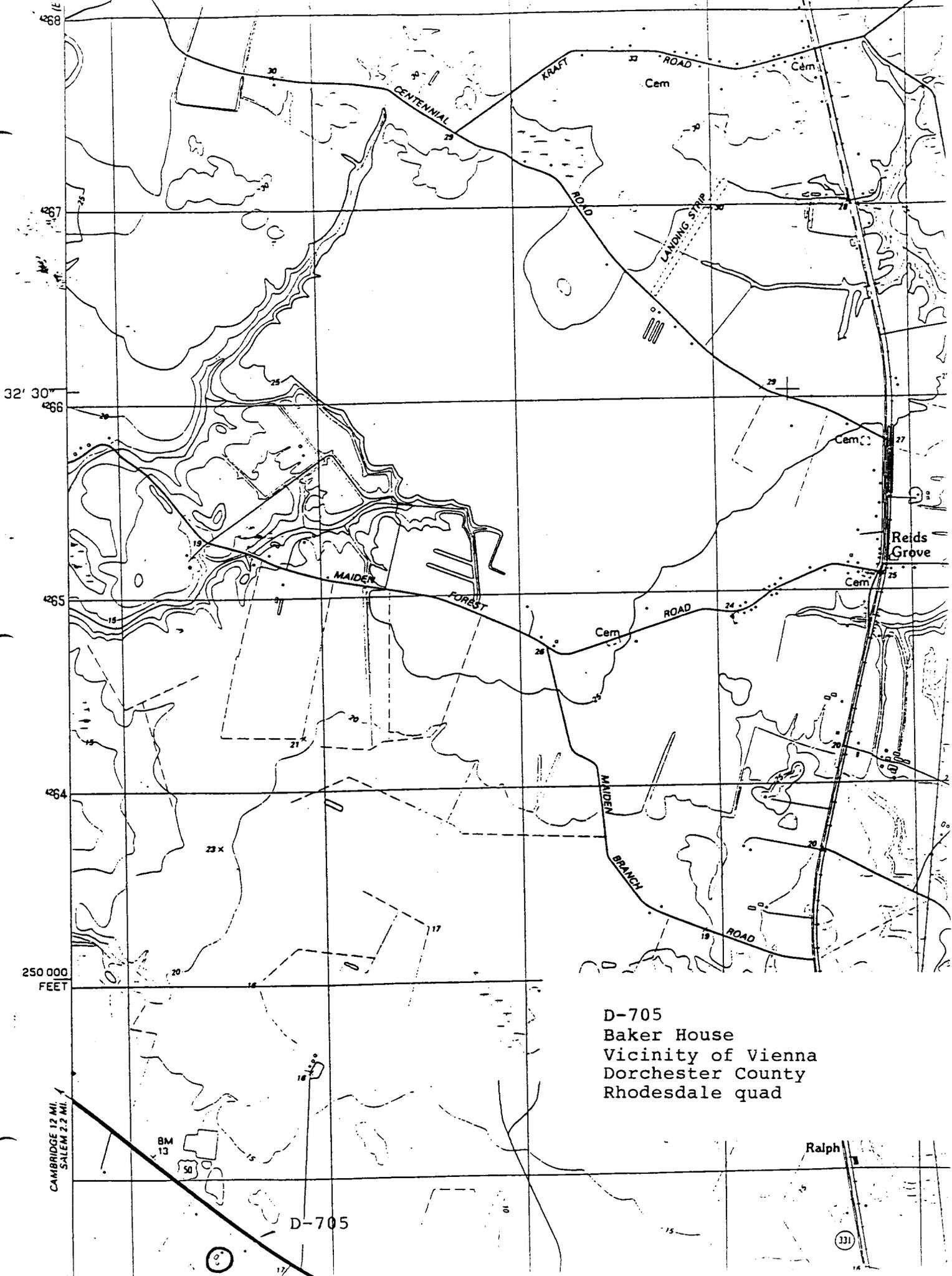
1877 An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties,
Maryland.

Land, Aubrey C.

1974 Provincial Maryland. In Maryland: A History 1632 -
1974. Richard Warsh and William L Fox (eds). Maryland
Historical Society, Baltimore Maryland,

Stiverson, Gregory A.

1977 Poverty in a Land of Plenty: Tenancy in Eighteenth
Century Maryland. The Johns Hopkins University Press,
Baltimore, Maryland.



D-705
Baker House
Vicinity of Vienna
Dorchester County
Rhodesdale quad

Ralph

D-705

BM
13

(31)

250 000
FEET

CAMBRIDGE 12 MI.
SALEM 2.2 MI.



D-705

BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SITE

VIEW OF N. elevation looking SW

1 of 11



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BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MA

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SUPO

VIEW OF W elevation looking E

2 of 11



D-705

BARCK ~~THUR~~
DORCHESTER, MD

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW of SC near elevation looking NW

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BAKER HOUSE
DORCHESTER, MA

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW OF E. SIDE ELEVATION LOOKING W

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4 4'93

4-20

BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

L. ARCHIBALD

APRIL 1993

MARYLAND SHPO

OVERVIEW OF PROPERTY LOCATING SE

ESL III



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BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW OF OUTBUILDINGS LOOKING SW

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BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

K. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SHPD

VIEW OF BARN LOOKING SW

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D-705
3

BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

J. ROSENTEL

SEPTEMBER 1993

MARYLAND SHPO

Overview of property looking S, outbldgs

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BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

J. ROSENTEL

SEPTEMBER 1993

MARYLAND SAPO

Overview of outbldgs looking SW

P of 11



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BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

OVERVIEW OF OUTBLDGs LOOKING S

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D-705

BAKER HOUSE

DORCHESTER, MD

L. ARCHIBALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

Overview of outblotS looking S

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