

CH-172

Port Tobacco Jail, site

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-18-2012

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Port Tobacco

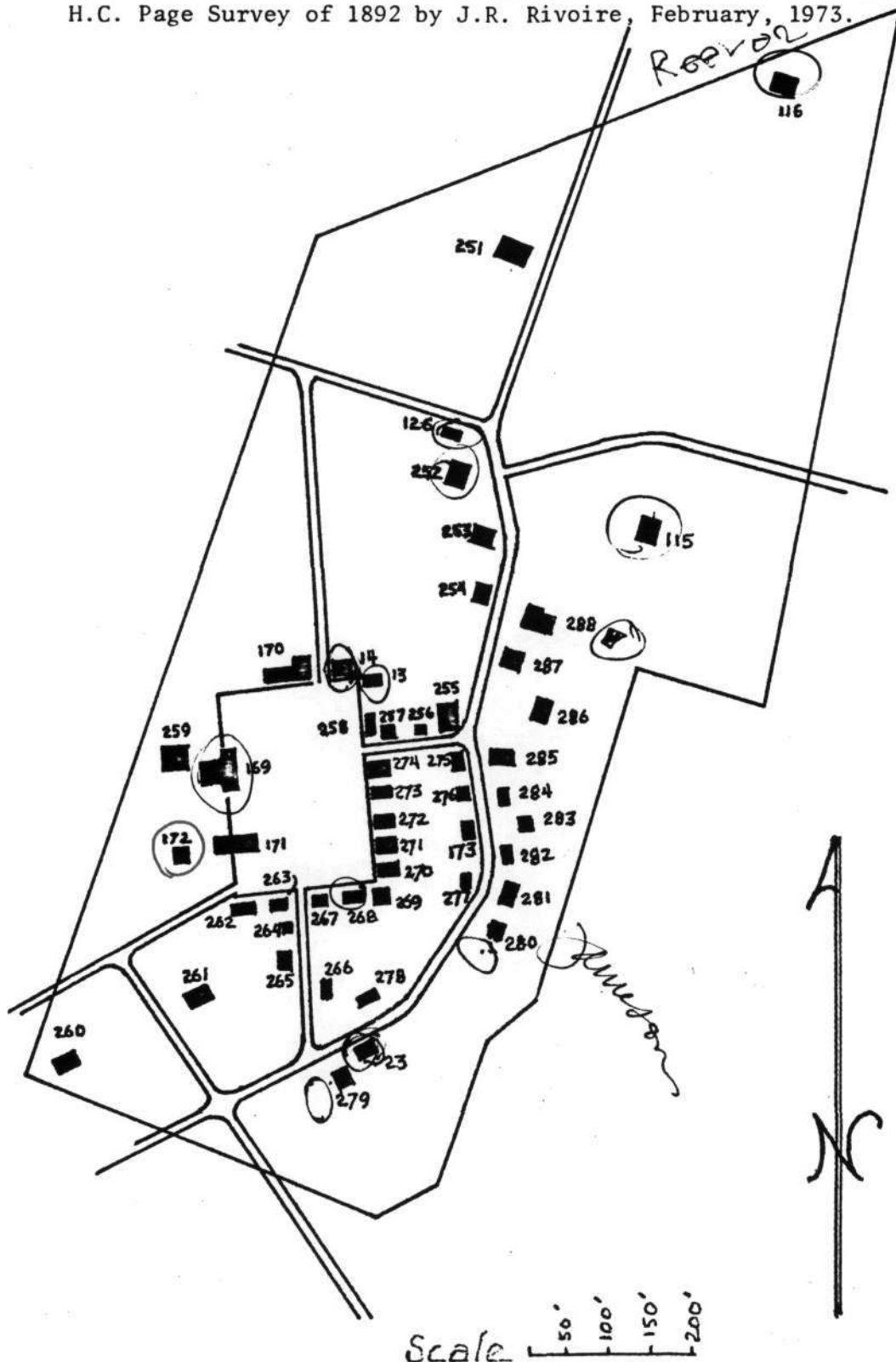
c. 1811

A rectangular, two-story, gable-roofed brick structure that appears to have been three bays in width with the principal entrance door at the west end of the north facade. According to a 1916 account, the jail had heavy oak doors with iron gratings that opened onto a passage with an adjacent large room with "a number of fireplaces." A stair in the passage led to a hall and at least two more rooms (one for women) on the second floor, with additional holding cells in the attic. The building was erected ca. 1811, presumably on the site of the previous jail. Its location adjacent to Christ Church, and the known relocation of the courthouse in 1819-21, suggests that the 1727 courthouse may have stood at this end of the town square, possibly on the site later occupied by the church.

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(Approximate location based on
H.C. Page Survey of 1892 as drawn by J.R. Rivoire [1973])
Port Tobacco
Port Tobacco Quad.
Charles County



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





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

Printed for and Distributed by The Society for
the Restoration of Port Tobacco, Inc.

By Rosemary Coyle Warner, April, 1970 (?)