Survey No. AA 2067

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JAVA FARM

and/or common ROBERT LEE FORREST FARM

2. Location

street & number near Muddy Creek Rd. (Java Farm) ___ not for publication

city, town Mayo ___ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county AA

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ 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 Smithsonian Institution map 60/parcel 11 (350 a. IMPS)

street & number 1000 Jefferson Drive SW telephone no.:

city, town Washington state and zip code DC 2000

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 1713

street & number folio 5

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-2067

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
___ good	✓ ruins	___ 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.

The Java Farm Superintendant's House was abandoned c. 1940 - is now very delapidated, overgrown.
The house faces east, a 3-bay 1½-story side-gabled frame house, with right rear 1½-story cross-gabled el,and 1-story shed. Full-width front-porch shed roof.

I-house plan: center hall, stairway rising from rear toward front of house.
Large chimney in central hall space, east of stair. Fireplace in north wall of south parlor. All interior walls plastered, no wallpaper.
Brick foundation 2½' high, parged over.
Cedar shingles over original German-siding weatherboard (6" wide boards).
Deep basement under el with huge old furnace.
Front porch roof collapsed.
Paired 8-pane casement windows either side front door and centered in south wall of main block. North wall, main block, contains sash windows, down and up.
Long shallow shed dormers, two facing east, 1 north (in el), containing square single-paned windows.
Square white asbestos shingles (14" sq.) placed diagonally on gable roof of main block, also on porch roof over top of tin and a tongue-and-groove beaded board ceiling.
Very wide (15-18") boxed eaves.
Casement windows swing inward; slatted wood shutters swing outward.

A bathroom shed addition behind south parlor contains old fixtures: overhead galvanized tin water tank with manufacturer's signature "Jos. Vo___? Wilmington".

8. Significance

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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**

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.

"Java" Farm was originally the name for all of John Contee's 1819-purchased property, approximately 600 acres south of the Sellman Farm (AA-147) and west of the Rhode River. This land had been occupied from 1652 to 1725 by three generations of the Sparrow family, per surveyor Amy Hiatt. It belonged to the Macubbin and Carroll families during the rest of the 18th century. The name "Java" was given to it by Contee, a naval lieutenant during the War of 1812, who commanded the USS Constitution in its capture of HMS Java. He used his bounty money to purchase the farm.

In 1859 John Contee divided his farm between his two sons Richard and Charles. After this date Charles' southern half retained the name "Java Farm", and Richard's northern half became known as "Contee Farm" (including the AA-146 Contee Hse.ruins).

Charles built a house on Java Farm which shows on the 1878 Hopkins Map and on the 1906 USGS map.

In 1915 Robert Lee Forrest purchased Java Farm from the owners Miles and Snyder who lived in Baltimore. (Liber GW119/Folio 427-430, 11/1/1915) The only structure on the farm at the time of purchase was a barn. During two years of non-stop construction activity (1915-1917), Forrest built a state-of-the-art dairy farm which he operated until c.1940. He built a barn for cattle, a house for himself, a superintendant's house c.1916 on top of the hill west of the farm entrance road (this is the site of Chas. Contee's 19th cen. hse.). He also built a house on Spring House Rd., a house at Fox Point, a diesal-powered generator bldg, a milk-bottling plant, a hay-dehydrating plant (the 1st of its type in MD), a dormitory for farmhands, a mule barn, and 6-7 other bldgs. (see accompanying map). In 1935 Java Farm supplied 300 customers with milk.

About 1940, with the arrival of WWII, Forrest had a hard time keeping farm help. He closed down his dairy operation, and continued living there by himself until c.1947. (In 1940 he prepared his will leaving his estate to the Smithsonian.) He died in Baltimore 10/30/62 at age 84, a lifelong bachelor.

The Java Farm buildings were vandalized and burned during Forrest's absence 1947-62. Several have been adapted for use as part of the Smithsonian's Rhode River Environmental Research Center. The superintendant's house is in ruins today (see description and sketch, accompanying).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name South River Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		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 Susan Wetherill

organization A.A. Co. Planning & Zoning

date July 1987

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

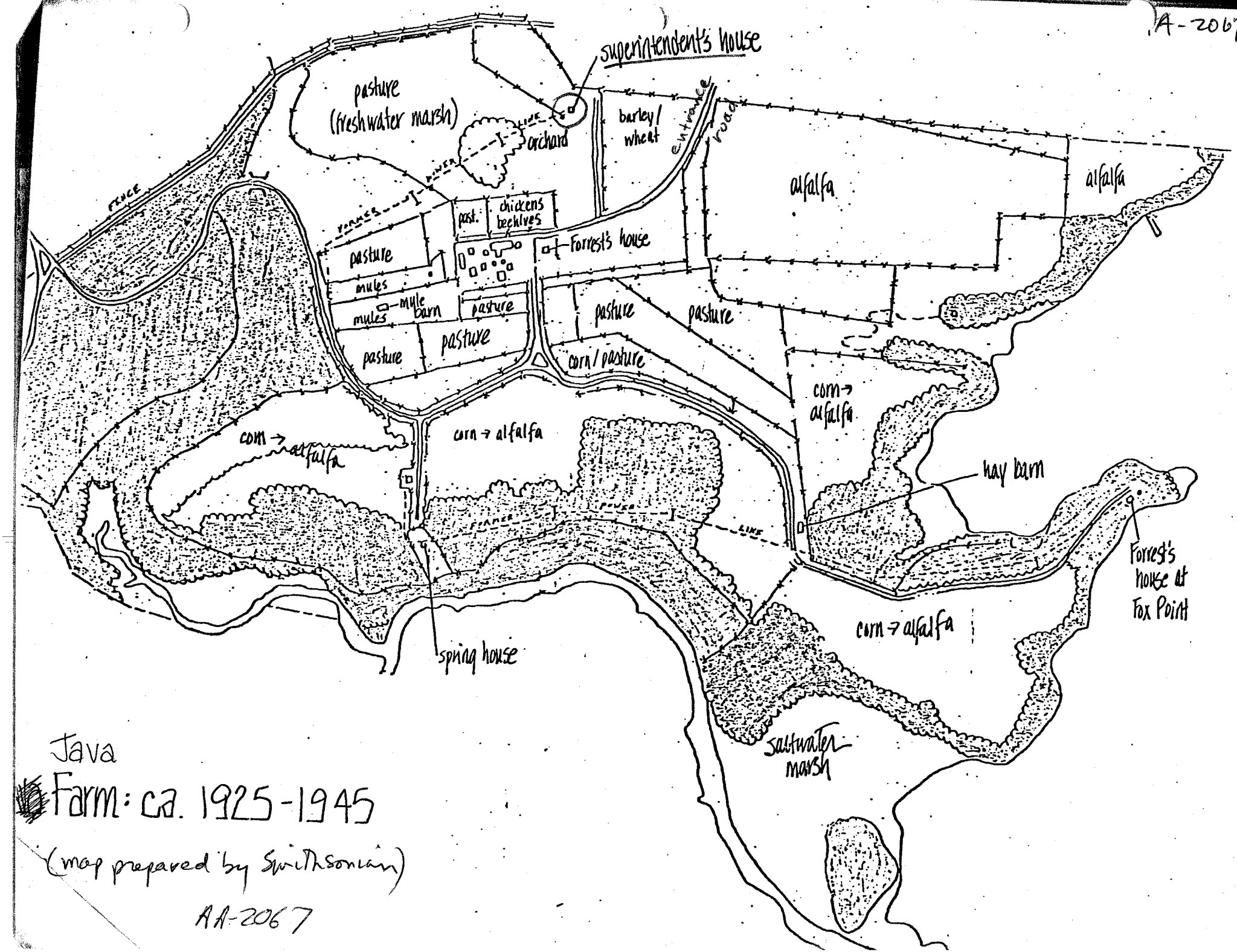
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

PS-2746

A-2067

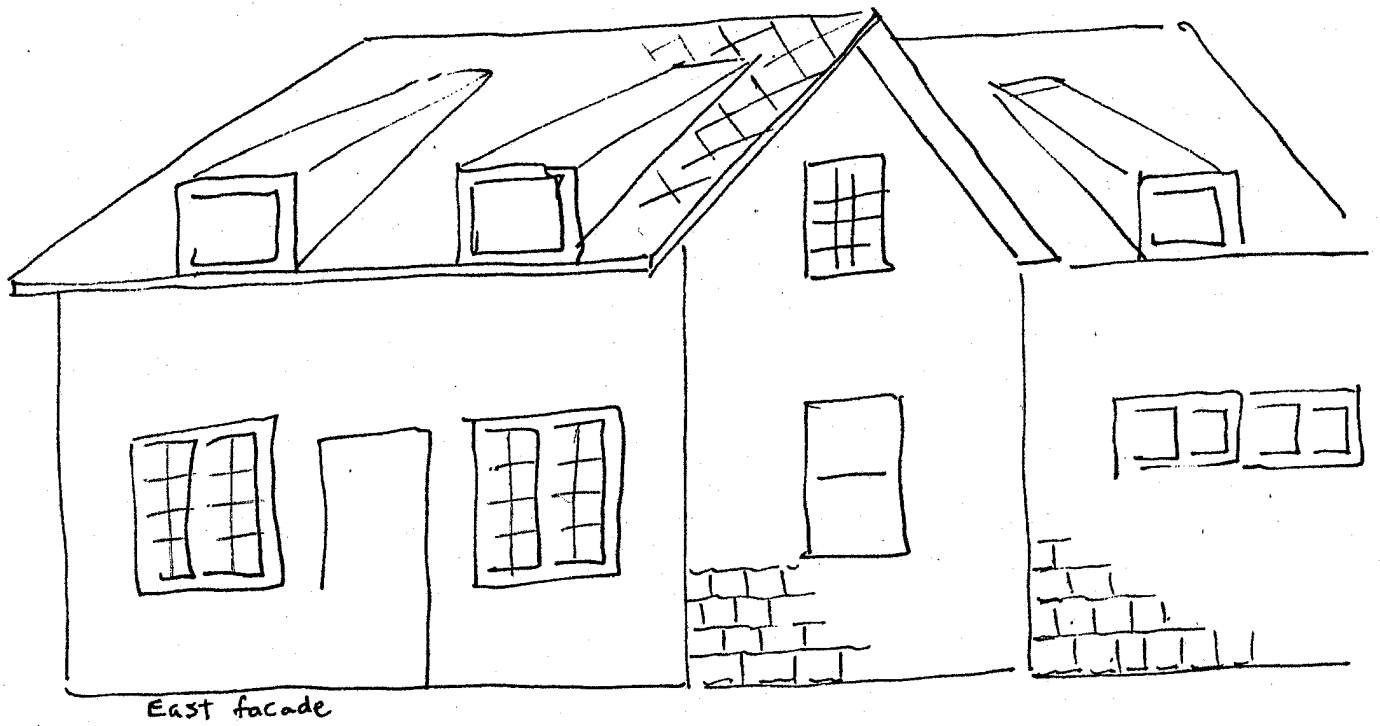


Java Farm: ca. 1925-1945

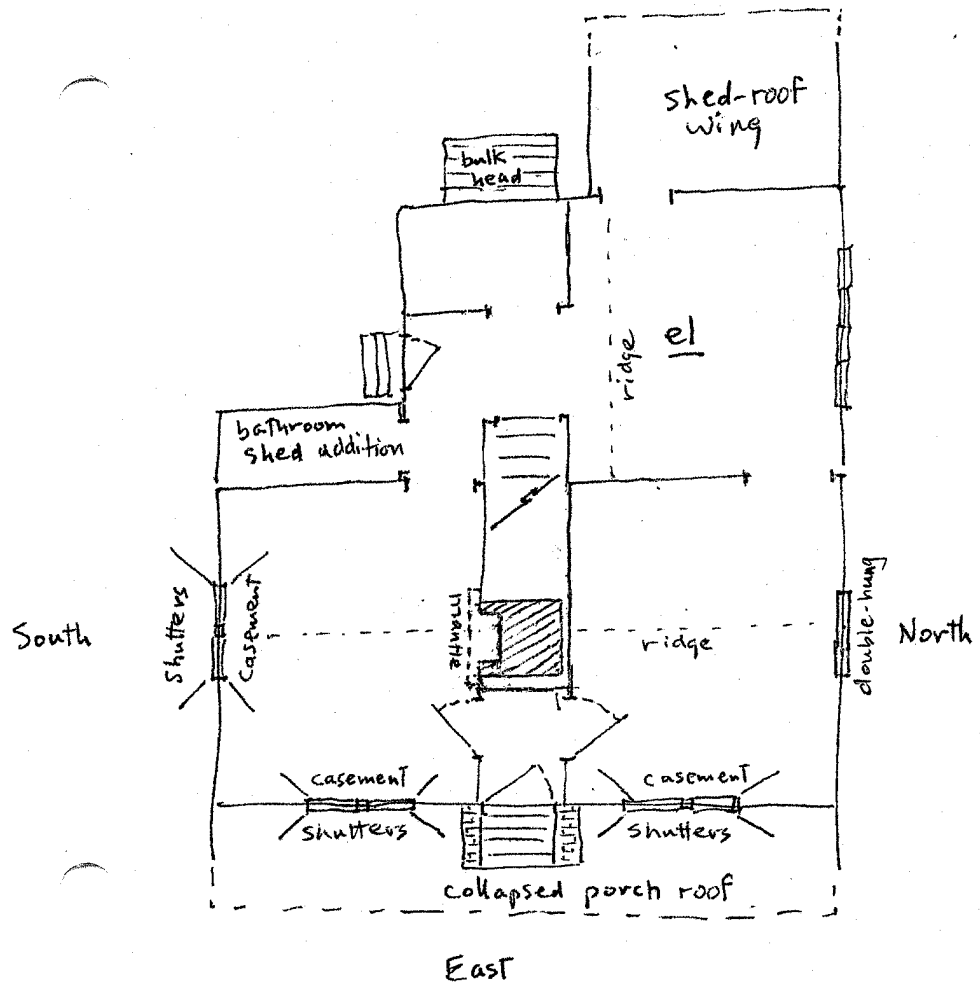
(map prepared by Smithsonian)

AA-2067

JAVA FARM SUPERINTENDANT'S HSE (RUINS) AA. 2067



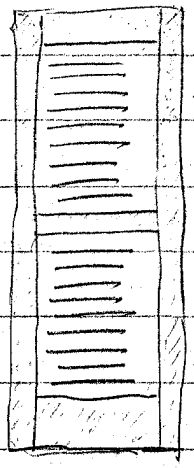
East facade



Sketched by S. Wetherill
6/22/87

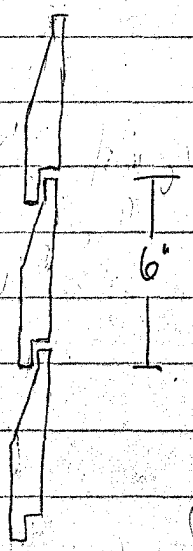
8/6/87
Java Farm

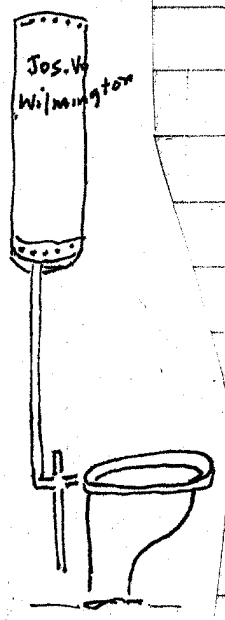
AA-2067

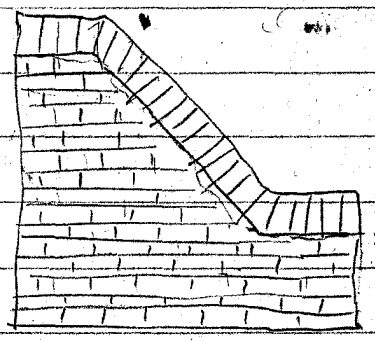


shutters

weatherboard
siding under
wood shingles →

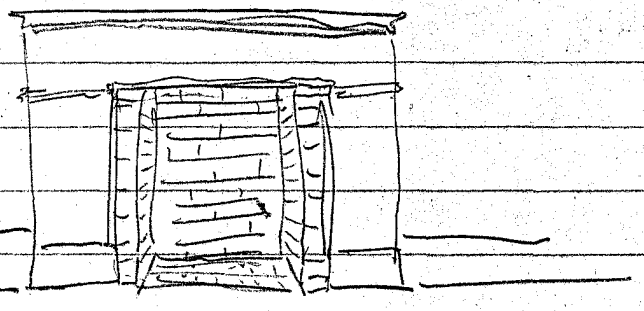






profile of front steps

mantle, south parlor



Sketches by S. Wetherill

USGS map
South River Quad.
1:24000

Woodland Beach
Steuart Level
ISLAND
LONDONTOWN RD
MAYO RD
CENTRAL
SOLOMONS
AVENUE
Glebe Cr
GLEBE HEIGHTS
LOCH HAVEN RD
Collison Corner
Hopes Chapel Cem
Hopes Chapel
Cem
SOUTH RIVER CLUB
HARDEST ROAD
Glebe Branch
Porkchop Pond
South River
North Fork
Muddy Creek
CONTEES WHARF ROAD
Bluejay Branch
Sausage Ponds
Mill Swamp
The Moss
Muddy Cr
Gravel Pit
MAYO ROAD
River Club Estates
Selby Be
Holly H Harbo
HOLLY HILLS RD
Bear Neck Cr
Letts
Cypress Bog
Sellman Cr
Whitemarsh
Germantown
Water
Camp Letts
Calf RM
Sheephead Cove
Contees Wharf
Flat Island
Carr Wharf
RHODE
Fox Cr
Island
Big Island
High Island
Nira
Pile
Murray Wharf
Boathouse Cr
Pig Pond
Point
Bay

2073 2079 230 231 1061 232 767 148 store 149 (site) 2060 140 2061 142 149 147 2059 2064 146 2067 239 2068 2063 2062 802 944 233 225 225B 1063 152 2076 2077 2075 2078

1.9 MI. TO MD. 255
SHADY SIDE 7.9 MI.
(DEALE)
5661 I SE
SCALE 1:24 000
32'30"

AA 2067 - Java Farm

AA-2067
JAVA FARM SUPERINTENDANT'S HSE.
Contees Wharf Rd.
A.A.Co. MD
S. Wetherill 6/87
N elev.