

CT-167
DORSEY FARM
Port Republic
Private

mid 19th century

Among the many buildings on this large farm, the house and largest tobacco barn are the most notable. The house is a large frame structure with a Federal type plan consisting of an end-hall and double parlors. Two chimneys on the east end provide each room in both stories with fireplaces.

The tobacco barn, or at least parts of it, may be as old as the house. Its main significance, however, stems from the fact that it was used for heat-curing. Air-tight siding and a pit which contained the border-like curing apparatus document this fact. As far as is known, this method of curing tobacco began in this area in the 1860's but did not bring much success in this county.

(Capsule)

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-167
CLVT 167

MAGI # 05016756 35

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dorsey Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Scientist Cliffs Road

CITY, TOWN

Port Republic

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mason Weems

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: JLB 126/481

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CT-167

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

LOCATION _____

CLASSIFICATION _____

STATUS _____

OWNER _____

DATE _____

REMARKS _____

OWNER OF PROPERTY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION _____

COUNTY _____

STATE _____

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS _____

DATE _____

BY _____

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 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Among the many buildings on this large farm, the house and largest tobacco barn are the most notable. The house is a large frame structure with a Federal type plan consisting of an end-hall and double parlors. Two chimneys on the east end provide each room in both stories with fireplaces.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100+

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

Wayne L. Nield, II
Historic Sites Survey
Broomes Island, Maryland 20615
506-2050

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Winter 76-77

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Dorsey Farm

This house was not examined on the interior; but from the outside, it was observed that it is a two-story end hall and double parlor type with two large chimneys on its original north end. A two-story wing was added onto that end which also has an exterior chimney. The owner says that every room has a fireplace which has been closed-up.

Modern siding covers the original clapboards.

The main block is three large bays wide and two large bays deep. The roof is gable-end and a central pediment or cross gable with a fan shaped window occupies the upper front (West) facade. This feature is probably a Victorian modification of the original appearance, which is much more Federal in character.

Being close to the Chesapeake Bay, the terrain of this 100 acre farm consists of hills, some of which are quite steep. The house occupies one of the steepest hills and commands a view of the rest of the farm, which unfolds with more buildings to the South in several hills and valleys.

A farmyard complex is directly below the house and consists of chicken houses, a cattle barn with pens, a stripping shed, and a modern haybarn. Further down the dirt lane which connects all of the buildings and lying on the right is a pond for waterfowl. The pond lies in a low valley. East of the pond and up on the hill south of it is a family graveyard with several tombstones, which lie on their faces beneath much brush and vines.

One stone bears the initials "J. B." The present owner remembers reading other stones and discovering these to be the graves of Dorseys. One of them, he remembers figuring, died about 150 years ago.

As the slope rises to the South, two modern tobacco barns are encountered and sitting on the crest of the hill, is a third tobacco house which is a building of great interest. The house and this barn actually occupy the two highest spots, and the rest of the complex lies inbetween.

With its sheds, this barn measures 36' x 68' overall. The frame of the main block, however, is a standard 24' x 40' (ten rooms) post-and-beam structure. The members of this frame are heavy prices hewn and joined together via mortise-and-tenon with trunnels.

This frame has been placed upon 3' brick piers, and the floor has been dug out into a pit so that there is a distance of 4' between the sills and the earth below. The present owner says that his father told him that this was done in order to accommodate a curring apparatus.

There is other evidence that the main block was an "air tight" barn. On all but the north wall, pieces of siding remain which reveal that the building was covered with heavy vertical siding. Each board was approximately 1" thick, 9" wide, and 13' long (eaves-sill). The boards are rabbled on the edges for half-lapping (vertical shiplap). On the south wall, one board is stamped "St. Marys" in two places. Such siding is obviously designed to prevent any flow of air. The sheds appear to be later additions

however, this special siding does not appear to be weathered. This fact suggests a couple of possibilities relevant to the age of the original structure:

1. A conventional tri-partite barn was altered in order to adapt it to heat-curring by removing its central transverse sills, raising it on piers and changing its siding. Sheds were added later. They are frame structures with circular sawn posts and sills but pre-date Weem's ownership. (19). A large prize is housed in the south end of the south shed.
2. The siding is original, and the frame was designed for this special process as is suggested by the uprights located in the ends where doors normally are. The condition of the remaining siding, however, suggests the original presence of sheds on both the east and west ends as well as the south side.

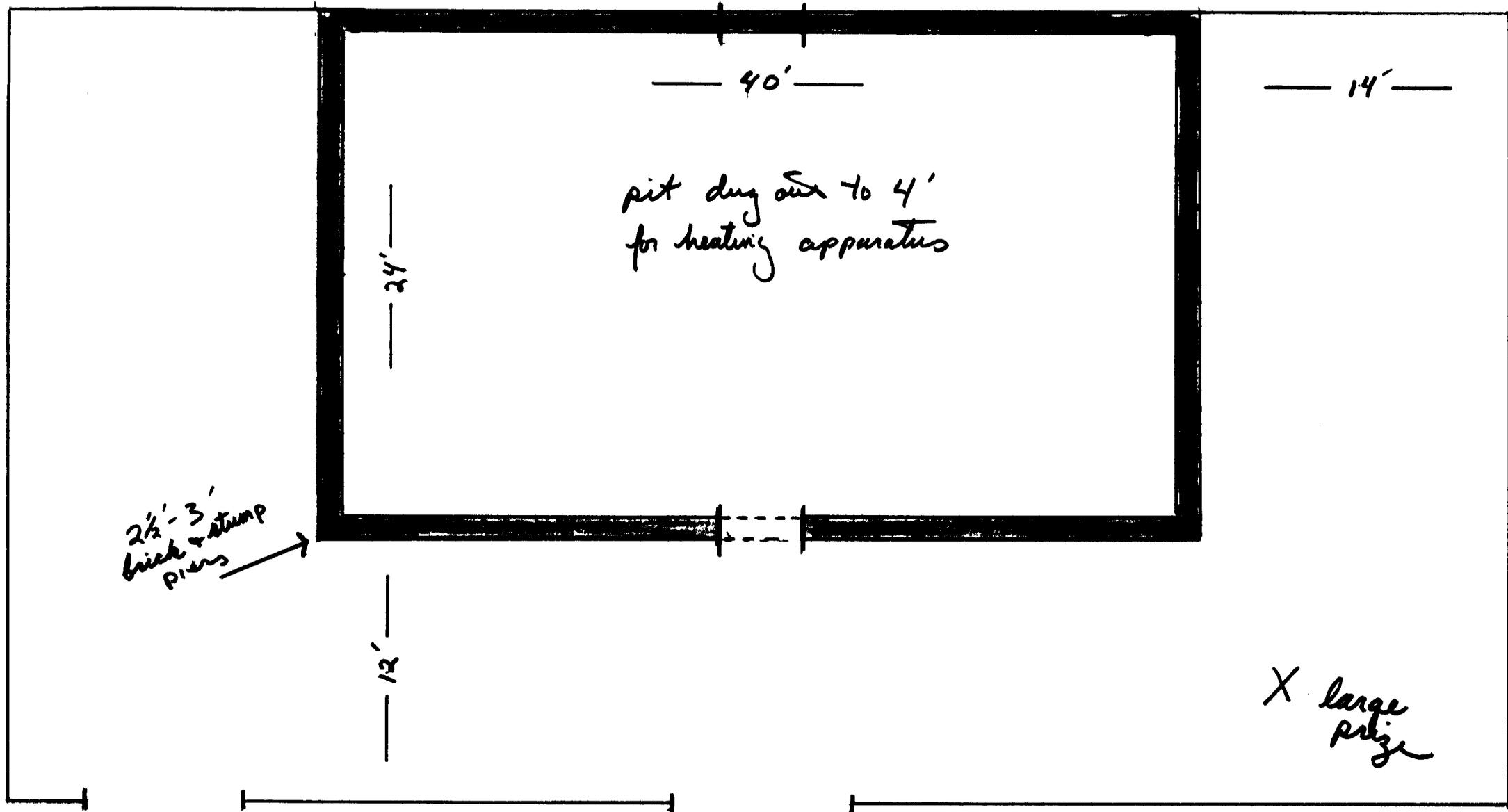
These possibilities are of importance in dating this structure since the available evidence indicates that the use of a curring apparatus in this area at least was a phenomenon of the third quarter of the Nineteenth Century. W. W. W. Bowie advocates the use of the Bibb apparatus in the article which he authored in 1867. In it the device was described in a manner suggesting that it was a relatively recent invention. Such an apparatus has been recorded in a barn in St. Leonards, which bears the Bibb name and a patent date of 1861. Oral history limits the use of this curring method to the Nineteenth Century.

In addition to its age and construction, this barn is important for its ability to document a phase of tobacco production, which appears not to have lasted in Southern Maryland after the turn of this century. The actual age of the frame is still undetermined. As stated, if it was constructed for this special use, the oldest portion of the barn is probably from the third quarter of the Nineteenth Century. Considering its site and the fact that the house appears older than that, the possibility of an older barn being adapted to this purpose remains for consideration.

Bibliography

Bowie, W. W. W., "Culture and Management of Tobacco", Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, 1867, Governments Printing Office Washington, 1868.

Sloan, E., An Age of Barns, N. Y. 1967.



pit dug out to 4'
for heating apparatus

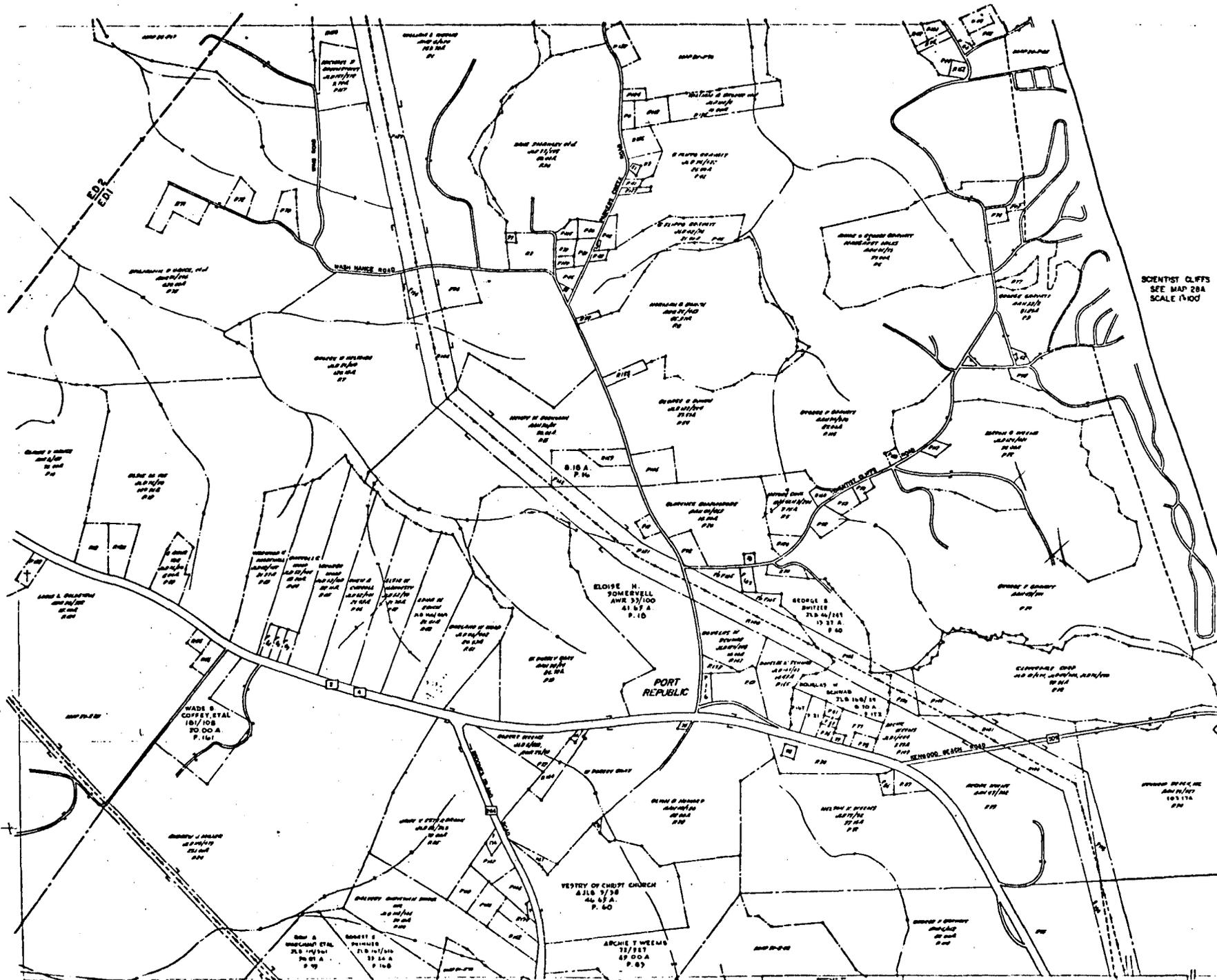
2 1/2 - 3'
brick & stump
piers

X large
pit

Tobac. barn
Dorsey Farm, Pot Rep.
Feb. 1977

plates & sills in sheds are
circular sawn, but pre-
date Weems ownership

CT-107



SCIENTIST CLIFFS
SEE MAP 28A
SCALE 1/100

27

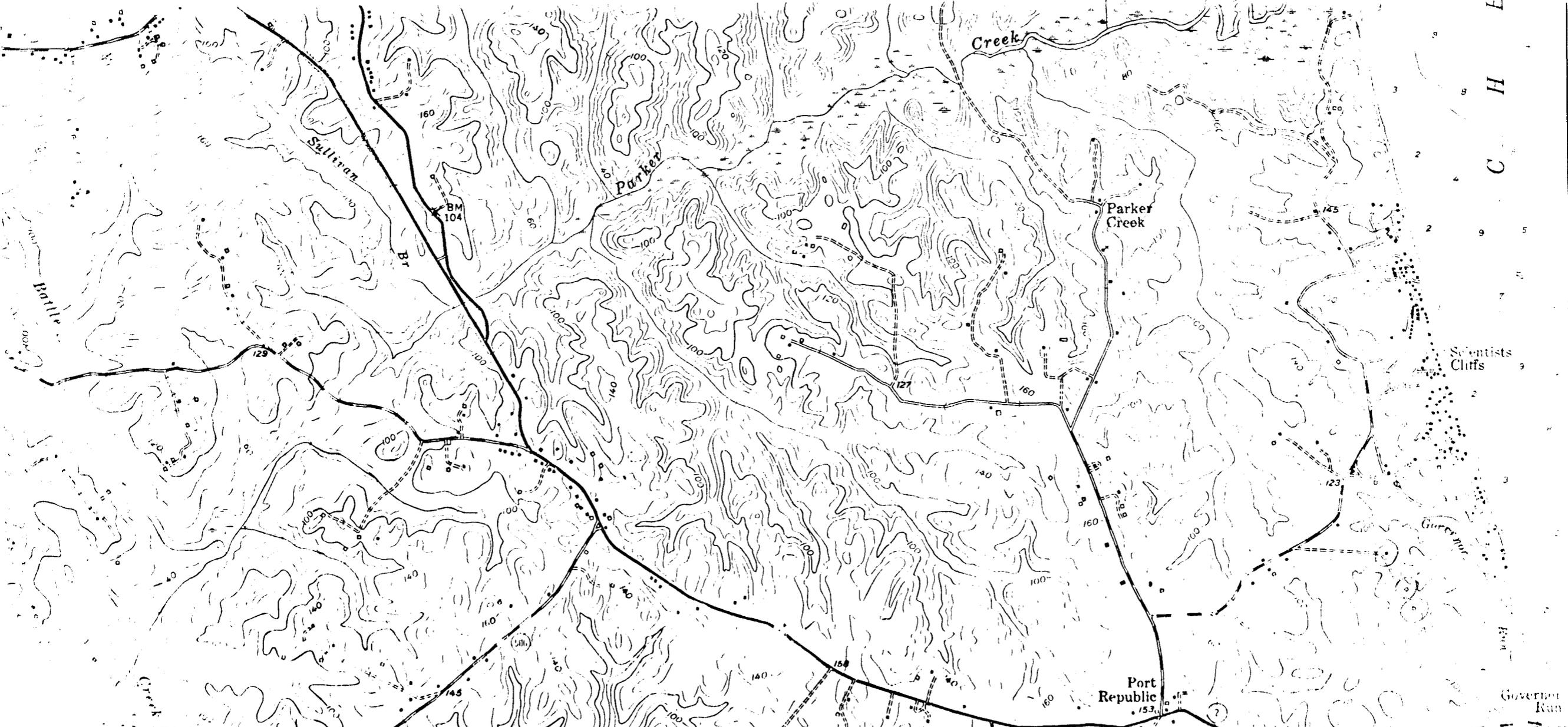
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MD DEPT OF ASSES & TAX

BASE MAP CONSTRUCTED
FROM 1938 ROAD
PLANIMETRY SURV. TO 1938
MAP DIVISION 11/37

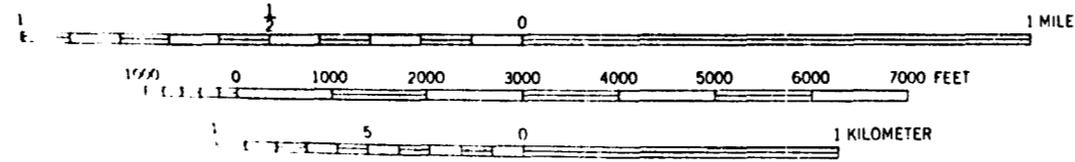
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
PROPERTY LINE
SCALE 1" = 800'



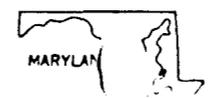
CT-167
COUNT
167



35' 363 (BROOMES ISLAND) 5660 1 NE 365 32'30" 364 3680m E
HOWLAND 1 MI. BROOME ISLAND 5.9 MI. SAINT LEONARD 2 MI. LUSBY 6.7 MI.
SCALE 1:24000
INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
SEA LEVEL
ST. DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved ———
U. S. Route State Route

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ET-107
CLVT-167

Dorsey Farm

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Dorsey Farm

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167
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