

Phoenix Hall
CH-216
Bryantown vic.
Private

C. 1795;1850;1895

Phoenix Hall, although substantially altered from its original form and quickly deteriorating, derives its significance as an example of the evolution of house forms in Charles County from the late 18th to late 19th century. The dwellings most distinctive feature is a massive 18th century brick double-flue chimney on the west gable end. What likely began as a regionally distinctive room-behind-room plan, was transformed into a center-passage plan during the middle of the 19th century when a two-story side-passage dwelling with paired chimneys was constructed at the eastern end of the original structure.

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-216

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The Phoenix Hall is an altered two story, double-pile frame dwelling situated among open fields. In its current form the house has a center passage plan and is distinguished by a massive brick chimney laid in Flemish bond on the west elevation. The opposite elevation includes a pair of mid-19th century exterior brick chimneys. Most likely, the current building consists of a late eighteenth, two or three bay, room-behind-room plan anchored by the existing massive chimney. In the mid-19th century the east wing and paired chimneys were constructed, creating a center passage. During the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century the dwelling was remodeled using Italianate/Victorian elements as evidenced by the arched door panels and sidelights; and the exposed rafters. Around this time the roof was replaced and a large hipped roof was added to the façade.

The dwelling rests on a continuous brick foundation and currently has a metal seam roof currently resting on exposed rafters. The metal sheathing has come up on the northeast corner, causing significant damage to the interior.

The façade is five bays across with 6/6 light wood sash double-hung windows asymmetrically aligned. The current door dates from the late 19th or early 20th century and features arched wood panels. Surrounding the door is a 4-light transom and arched sidelights. The current porch dominates the façade consisting a deep hipped roof resting on six square wooden posts. The porch roof begins just under the second story windows.

The east elevation includes the massive exterior brick chimney, laid in Flemish bond with paved shoulders and a corbelled cap. A square replacement window lies in the center of the chimney. To the left is a rear 4-light and panel door found near the north wall. The roofline on this elevation includes pieces of wood trim which may indicate that at one time the exposed rafters were partially enclosed.

The rear of the dwelling has asymmetrical fenestration consisting of three windows on the first floor and two windows and a door below. Windows are 6/6 light double hung wood sash.

Paired chimneys found on the east elevation include stepped shoulders and corbelled caps and are laid in an irregular bond. Earlier cornice treatment, as found on the opposite elevation is most visible on this elevation consisting of a piece of wood trim covering the end of the rafters and a second line of trim under the rafters attached to the eave wall.

INTERIOR

Phoenix Hall has a center hall, double-pile plan. Interior evidence confirms that the house has been extensively altered and contains a wide variety of materials from different time periods. (1) The house is without significant ornamentation with the exception of a massive, mid-19th century newel in the hall. The front rooms are larger than those to the rear and the east rooms are larger overall than their counterparts to the west. Mantles appear to be late Victorian in style.

The west parlor includes a closet set within the massive chimney. The closet door, consisting of six panels and HL hinges, is the only obvious feature of possible late 18th century origin. Most of the remaining doors contain four panels and late 19th

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-216

Name Phoenix Hall (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

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century hardware.

The upstairs northwest room was extensively remodeled and converted into a bathroom.

An unusual feature was noted on the second floor east wing. While the doors giving access to these rooms from the hall are symmetrical, the interior wall has been moved to enlarge the size of the front room. However, because the rear door could not be placed any further north due to the stair configuration, the interior wall is angled at the entrance to accommodate the opening and closing of this door.

Outbuildings consist of a small shed roof outhouse and a vertical board shed with a steeply pitched metal roof.

The dwelling is approached by a lane that curves to the west of the house. Shortly after passing the main house the lane forks. One fork turns west to approach a group of outbuildings while the other proceeds northward to Zekiah Swamp where stands a second group of agricultural buildings. A very large tree stands in front of the dwelling at the point where the lane begins to turn. The Ernest M. Jameson House (CH-623) stands within eyesight of Phoenix Hall to the southwest.

(1) The interior was surveyed separately from the remainder of the property and was not photographed. Extensive water damage from the leaking roof limited access to much of the dwelling.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-216

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	c. 1795-1895	Architect	Unknown
Construction dates	c. 1795-1895	Builder	Unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Phoenix Hall, although substantially altered from its original form and quickly deteriorating, derives its significance as an example of the evolution of house forms in Charles County from the late 18th to late 19th century. What likely began as a regionally distinctive room-behind-room plan was transformed to a center passage plan by attaching a side passage dwelling with paired chimneys on the eastern end. Final adaptations included a Victorian remodeling later in the 19th century. All of these styles represent dominant architectural trends in Charles County during the time of their execution.

Although Phoenix Hall has an elusive early history it is clear that the home and the associated property has been in the Jameson family for well over one hundred years. In 1922 William M. Jameson left to his son J. Clarence Jameson "my home farm known as Phoenix Hall as now laid off and on which the mansion is located"(1). To son Ernest Jameson, his father gave the remainder of the Phoenix Hall tract upon which he had recently built a dwelling (CH-632).

(1)Wills CND 20/258

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-216

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 250
Acreage of historical setting 3
Quadrangle name LaPlata Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Phoenix Hall is associated with Charles County Property May 34, Grid 24, Folio 41.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	date	01/04/2001
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-216

Section 8 Page 1

Phoenix Hall
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of title:

(No mention of "Phoenix Hall" in published Charles County Land Records 1722-1796)

January 1, 1899

To J. Clarence Jameson. "Phoenix Hall" home farm with mansion house. Recorded in 1922
Wills CND 20 Folio 258

October 30, 1974

Rits Ridgeway Howell and Walter F. Ridegeway, grantors to J. Clarence Jameson, III 1/3 interest land and premises "Phoenix Hall" Conveyed under second item of will of William M. Jameson
Liber 361 Folio 286

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-216

Section 9 Page 1

Phoenix Hall

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD. Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

TLC Genealogy, *Charles County, Maryland, Land Records 1761-1796*. 6 volumes.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:



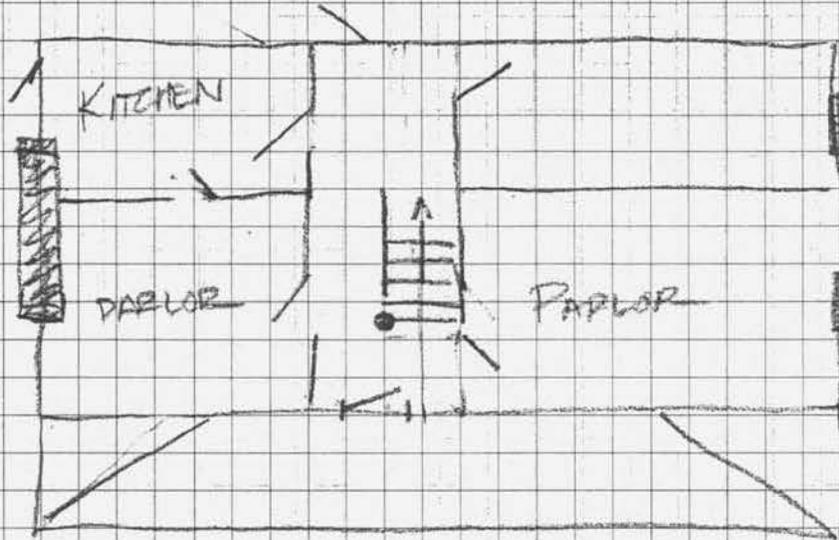
Name: PHOENIX HALL

Address: N. SIDE PEARTREE HILL PL

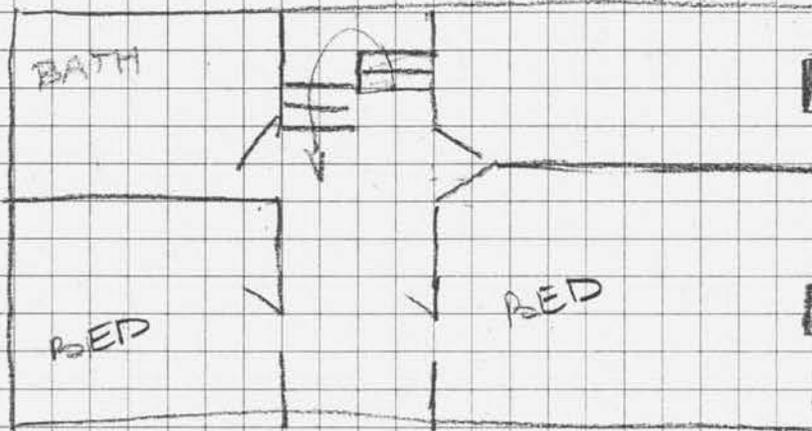
CH - 216

Charles County, Maryland

BRYANTOWN Vicinity



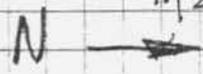
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

TO NEW DWELLING

11/2000



CHARLES COUNTY, MD
BRYANTOWN VIC
CH-216
PHOENIX HALL

CH-632
ERNEST M. JAMESON

FENCELINE

OPEN

WOODED

OPEN FIELD

OPEN

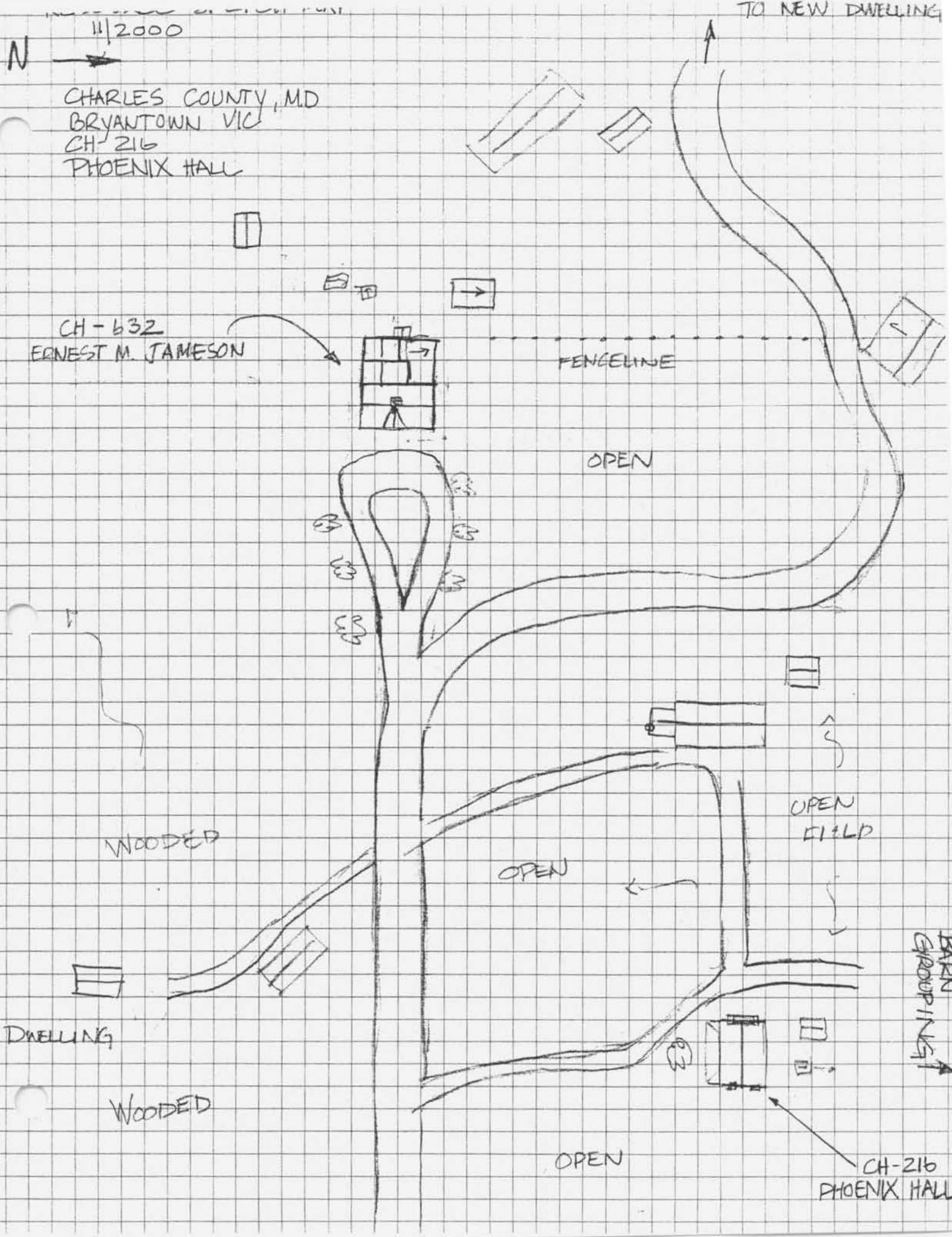
DWELLING

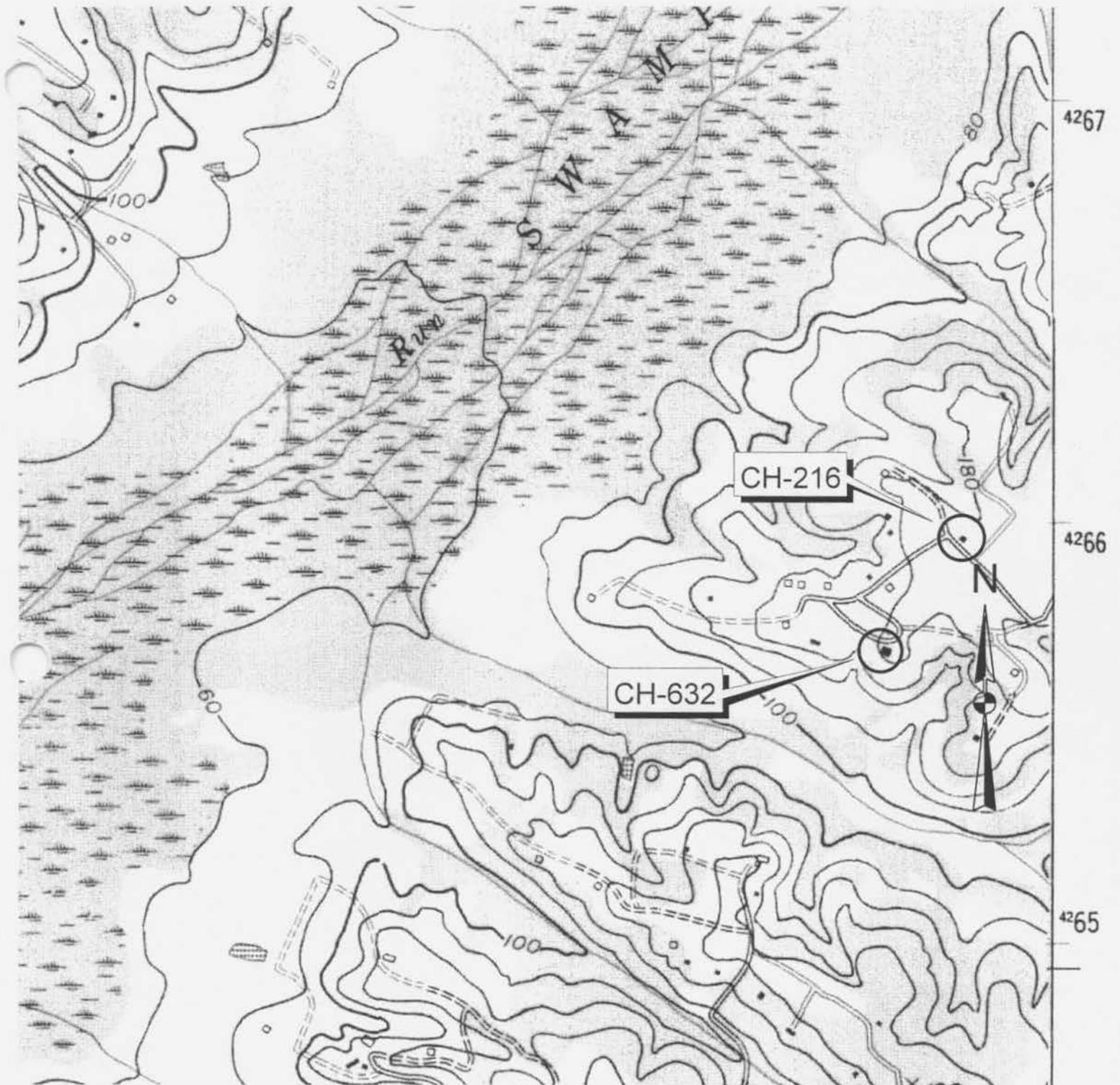
WOODED

OPEN

CH-216
PHOENIX HALL

BARN
GROUPINGS





CH-216
Phoenix Hall
Charles County, MD
Bryantown vic.



CH-216
PHOENIX HALL
CHARLES CO. MD
11/2000
E CURREY
MD SHPO
WEST CHIMNEY
of 7



CH-216
PHOENIX HALL
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/2000

C. CURRY

MD SHPO

WEST CHIMNEY

2 of 7



CH-216
PHOENIX HALL
CHARLES CO, MD
11/2000
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
REAR ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

30F7



CH-216

PHOENIX HALL

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

PAIRED CHIMNEYS, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4 of 7



CH-216
PHOENIX HALL
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
11/2000

C. CURREY
MD SHPO NE FOUNDATION DETAIL
5 OF 7



CH-216

PHOENIX HALL

CHARLES CO. MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

REAR YARD & OUTHOUSE, LOOKING NW

6 OF 7



CH-216

PHOENIX HALL
CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000
C. CURRENCY
MD SHPO

SHED, LOOKING SOUTH

7 OF 7

CH-216
Jameson House
Bryantown
Private

mid 18th century (altered)

It appears probable that the initial stage of this two-story frame house was a two-room, one-story frame structure having a single massive chimney at the west end. In the mid-19th century, the house was extended to the east end and the roof raised to a full two-story height. The two exterior chimneys of the east end elevation date from this alteration. The house was again renovated around 1900 by replacing the roof framing, replacing the exterior sheathing and trim, and erecting a one-story farm porch with square columns at the principal (south) facade. The most interesting feature of the house is the west chimney with its elongated tapered weatherings and enclosed, windowed pent closet between the first-floor fireplace openings. The house now has a low-pitched roof with exposed rafter feet.



P.86 ~~B.2~~ | C/216

70%

CH-216 JAMESON
HOUSE

2/5