

Ch- ~~328~~ 331

1890's

The William Ross House
Grayton Vicinity
Private

This abandoned two story frame house was once the attractive residence of a family of black landowners. William Ross, the owner, was born and raised in the small, log house (recorded as the Ross-Hancock House, Ch-310), and this house that he built reflects the change in living conditions as black families left tenancy and became landowners.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH ~~328~~
331

NAE #0903315604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The William Ross House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER At end of long dirt drive leading west from Holly Springs Rd., c. 0.5 mile north of its jct. with Riverside Rd.
CITY, TOWN Grayton VICINITY OF Nanjemoy CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3
STATE Md. COUNTY Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 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 checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William H. Ross Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER Holly Springs Rd.
CITY, TOWN Grayton VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse Liber #: 29 Folio #: 316
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story frame house stands at the end of a long dirt drive that winds through cultivated fields. The house is now abandoned, but it can still be seen that this house was once attractive, and that its owners had given it considerable attention.

The house consists of a principal block of two stories, with two bays across the facade. ^{It is one bay} in depth. Attached to the western gable is a smaller, one and a half story frame block, the downstairs of which probably served as kitchen. Across the facade of the main block extends a shed porch supported by turned posts.

The house is sheathed with weatherboards that were painted white, and that in contrast to the tin roof with "shingle" patterns would ^{have} given the house a pleasant appearance. The frame itself is rather interesting: hewn posts and studs, which indicate a continuation of earlier building traditions, and which were probably taken from the forest on the property. Since the house was locked, no investigation of the interior was possible, but apparently the downstairs of the main block consisted of one room with two upstairs. Decorative features would probably have been plain, in keeping with the exterior.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1890's	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William Ross
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to local oral informant, Benjamin Ross, this house was built by his brother, William, on the land that he had purchased. Benjamin and his brother William had been raised in the "Ross-Hancock House" (Ch-310), which was recorded as part of this survey. This house of William Ross should be seen in comparison with the earlier log house, for the two reflect the changes in living conditions as black families moved up from tenancy and became landowners. According to Benjamin Ross, his brother built this house in the late 1890's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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 George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Md. Commission on Afro-American History and Culture DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean St. TELEPHONE

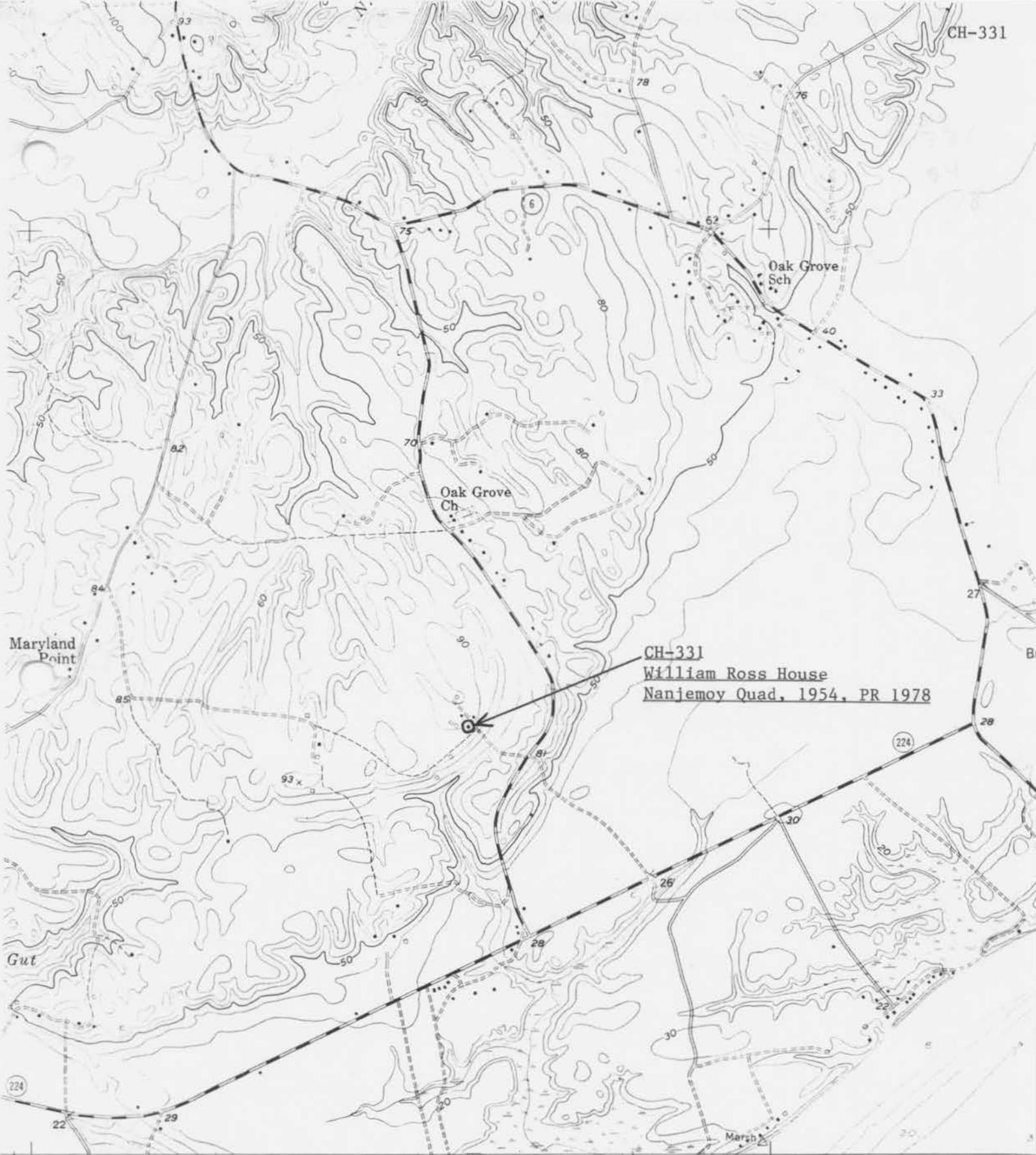
CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Md.

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

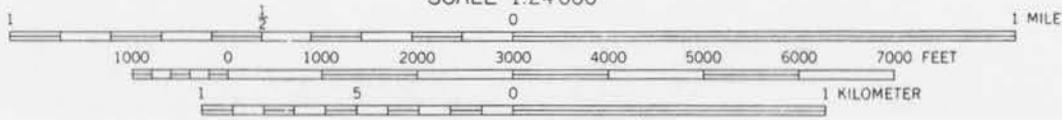
CH-331



CH-331
 William Ross House
 Nanjemoy Quad, 1954, PR 1978

7 12'30" '08 (KING GEORGE) 5560 I SW '10 10' '11 '12

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929





William Ross House
Grayton, Md.
South Elevation
1177
CH ~~328~~ 331 GWM

S. Ehw



William Ross House
Grayton, Md.

NORTH ELEVATION

CH ~~328~~ 331 ^{1/77} GWM

N. Elev



William Ross House
Grayton, Md.

WEST ELEVATION

1177

CH ~~328~~ 331 GWM

W. Elw