

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Stratford, Stradford, Whaley Farm, DeCourse Farm

and/or common Broad Reach

2. Location

street & number Eastern end of Learman Rd. (OP 494), *Whaley Road* JUL 21/84
1 mile east of Quaker Neck Landing Rd. (#661) not for publication

city, town Chestertown vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ellice McDonald, Jr.

street & number Box 92 telephone no.:

city, town Montchanin state and zip code Delaware 19710

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber WHG 51

street & number folio 350

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-476

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The house at Broad Reach is a four-part frame house (all gable-roofed) with 3 of the sections arranged in telescope fashion (the 18th century portion southern-most) and the 4th sited in front (approach side) of the 18th century section, with those 2 gable roofs parallel rather than perpendicular.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-476

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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.

Although it is not readily apparent, one of the four parts of the house at Broad Reach probably dates to the first half of the 18th century. Unshaped log floor joists are visible from the cellar. An early settler would have found this high site on the Chester River ideal for water transportation. Possibly originally 1½ stories with a hall and parlor plan, the house has since been greatly altered by additions, repair and remodeling. Two old outbuildings are on the site: one of the few planked log smokehouses remaining in Kent County and a square brick dairy or spring house with a pyramidal roof using small-log framing.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

1. Size - Main Section: 2 stories, 4 bays wide, 2 bays deep
 Wing A: 2 stories, 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep (this is to the rear of main section - the oldest. The interior measures 16' 10" x 23')
 Wing B: 1 ½ stories, 2 bays wide
 Wing C: 1 ½ true stories, 2 bays wide (recently raised)
2. Plan type - Modified center hall. Plan of 18th century portion was probably 1 ½ story hall and parlor.
3. Roof type - gable
4. Chimneys - Located in south gable end of Wing A, slightly off center to the west; 1st floor fire-back (completely rebuilt in mid-20th century) Materials are brick. Decorative elements - cap.
5. Material/Walls - are frame with wood shingles.
6. Material/Roofs - are asphalt shingles.
7. Material/Foundation - Main section, Wing B and Wing C: are brick with crawl space.
 Wing A: is 1-3 common ^{brick} with cellar.
8. Age - Main section: late 19th to mid 20th century
 Wings: A - 1st half 18th century?
 B - 19th century?
 C - late 19th to mid 20th century
9. Style - 18th century vernacular Georgian with 2 later telescope additions and 1 later addition in front of early section. Present effect is rustic country house.

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main entry: Located in the approach side of main section, 3rd bay to the north. Door - outside face has 6 raised and beveled panels with quarter-round panel molding; the inside has very wide (9-14") horizontal beaded boards fastened with square-headed nails. The door measures 37 ½" x 67 ¼", which is an unusual size/shape for as late as the main section appears to be. During a remodeling/addition period this door may have been taken from an older section of the house. There are sidelights with a single light on each side over (on the interior) a single raised and beveled panel.
 Secondary Entries: Located 1) to the east of fireplace in Wing A - French doors: 2) on the approach side of Wing C - to the kitchen; 3) also rear door, other side, from kitchen. All 20th century doors, plain frames.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

2. Windows - Main Section: type - double hung
lights - 6/6
details - plain trim, plain wood sills
shutters - none
Wings: type - double hung; fixed (picture); casement
lights - 6/6
details - plain trim
shutters - none
3. Dormers - Wing B - small 6/6 double-hung windows; gable roofed; cheeks of wood shingles. Wing B - recently made a true story-and-a-half from one story to provide guest room and bath on 2nd floor.
4. Roof details - Main Section: The most notable roof feature is the platform and gallery atop and connecting the parallel gable roofs of the main section and Wing A. Access is by a stair from the 2nd floor hall of the main section through the attic. The roofs of both sections have been considerably rebuilt.
Wings: To accommodate the large gallery; roof details in all house sections are plain.
5. Porches - Covered (with trellis) brick patio in L behind main section at south gable end of Wing A - mid 20th century.
6. Color - Current: Light green
Historic: ?

Interior Description

1. Plan type - Main section: modified central hall
Wings: telescope
2. Major stair - In main entry hall, enclosed to handrail by narrow vertical beaded boarding beginning at floor; small closet under stair served by dual-purpose door which can also close opening from hall to living room (Wing A). On one side are vertical chamfered boards and on the other horizontal chamfered boards with another layer of boards in the middle; are doweled. There is a large penny-end strap hinge in the middle and at top and bottom hinges hooked at the ends. The door may be partially original or simply an artful "reproduction".
Other stairs - Between kitchen and dining room - straight-run enclosed.
3. Major mantles - 1) Wing A - 2nd floor bedroom (over 1st floor fireplace) small rectangular opening; no mantle; rebuilt with brick laid to ceiling with (perhaps) original brick visible in niche.
2) Wing A - Living Room - completely rebuilt with "old" brick flush hearth and floor-to-ceiling brick face with set-in old beam shelf.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

4. Major trim - Windows/doors: mostly plain board; Wing A, 2nd floor has 3" fillet and ½" inside bead.

Baseboards: plain

Cornices: none

Chair rails: entry hall - center fillet with bevel each side (modern)

5. Major doors - some 4-panel

6. Floors - Wing A, 2nd floor-hall has wide random pine; bedrooms are overlaid with medium random pine. Wings B & C, 2nd floor - narrow pine strip flooring. Wing A, 1st floor - medium to wide random yellow pine (6-9"), perhaps original; does not appear re-used, though some areas are patched. Other areas - cork tile, rubber tile. Dining room - narrow pine strip.

7. Walls/Ceiling finishes - Wings B & C, 2nd floor - vertical German shiplap on walls. Wing A - 1st floor - painted random width, chamfered-edge pine paneling (recent) Wing B - 1st floor - random medium-width beaded pine (20th century).

Outbuildings/Site Description

1. Major outbuildings - Dairy/Springhouse: 9' x 9', Brick walls and floor with small-log pyramid roof framing, wood shingles. Construction - Random common bond. Brick walls with interior plaster; brick floor on ground, in which wood trap door has been placed in center for access to underground water storage tanks. Radiating from the center are small logs which rest at the sides on the brick walls; a center post extends from the logs' meeting point at the center to the roof peak and the log rafter framing. The radiating logs appear to have once been covered with lath and plaster. The brick walls are 5' 6" in height to the eaves, where there is a new box cornice and an overhang of 12". The entry door is in the center of the east side and is board and batten (replacement). Casements with 2/2 lights are in the center of the other three sides. Window framing is plain, thick, and rough.

Meathouse/Smokehouse: about 10' x 12', of wood, with steep gable roof covered with asphalt shingles over wood shingles. Construction system - planked logs dovetail-notched at corners; now supported by brick piers at corners. The meathouse was moved from another location on the property, where the bottom logs rested directly on the ground. There now is a recently-added floor of medium-width pine, and the interior has been finished for use as a playhouse. Entry is by a recent board and batten door with arrowhead hinges in the south gable end. One 2-light casement window has been added on each side, and double 6-light casements are in the north gable end. In the gable ends above the level of the planked logs there is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION (continued)

weatherboarding, overlaid at the roof line by tapered verge boards. The distance from the bottom plank to the plain box cornice is 5ft. The height from the ridge to the level of the rafter ends is 6ft 6". Thus the roof is taller than the walled area. If there were ever any low tie beams (at the level of the top planks), they have been removed. Collar beams are covered by interior finish material. The logs are now chinked with mortar.

2. Site Description - The house stands on a high sloping bank overlooking the Chester River. Surrounded by lawns and mostly relatively new plantings, the approach side is reached by an elliptical drive. A very large maple, perhaps 4 ft. in diameter, is within the drive near the main entry. Also on the site are a modern guest house (out of sight to the south), a large shed, and a pond.

3. Views to/from site - To the north the entry to Brown's Creek can be seen and across the Chester River a flat, low and unpopulated area of Queen Anne's County (Northwest Point). In all directions trees are in the distance. Neighboring houses cannot be seen.

Use of Building

1. Current - Residence - private; summer house
2. Historic - Residence - private

History of Building

Wing A's 1st floor joists are unshaped (except at top to receive floor boards) logs, many of which appear to be juniper. Originally they probably spanned the entire cellar depth of about 17 feet. (There is now a mid-point beam with metal posts.) In the room above (possibly originally a hall and parlor) the hewn^{ce} joists (24 - 26½" on center, 3½ to 4" in width), once with lath and plaster, are exposed. They appear original, but the three-part summer beam does not. The large oak center portion may have been cut for this use (it is circular sawn) and the side portions appear to be re-used lumber which may have been installed at the same time as the oak beam or later. The joists originally probably had no intermediate support. Though the evidence is not conclusive, Wing A very likely was 1½ stories. All the framing visible in the attic was not earlier than the late 19th century - joists and rafters alike are of modern milled lumber, leading to a conclusion that the 2nd floor was raised.

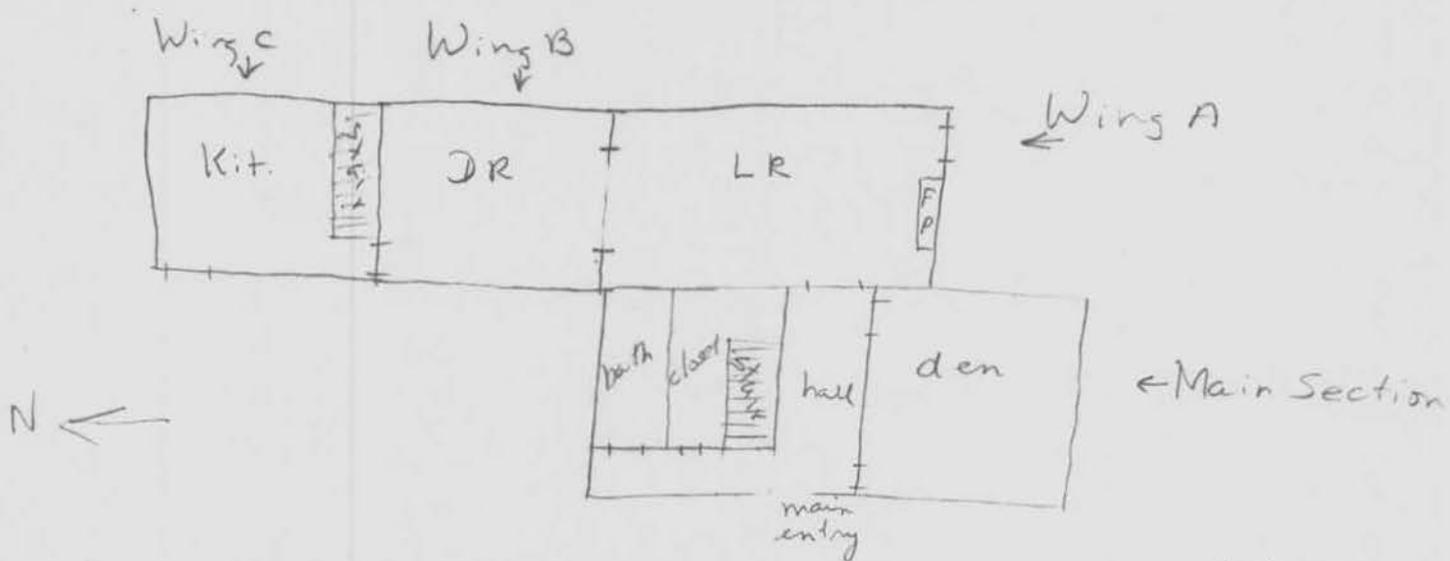
Wing B was most likely the 2nd addition to this house, possibly following the same roof line as Wing A had originally. Not much information could be gleaned from the crawl space because of replacement and repair work. Many of the joists appear re-used, & it is possible that new sills were put in place. Some of the framing is balloon framing. There appears to be noggling in some walls.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION (continued)

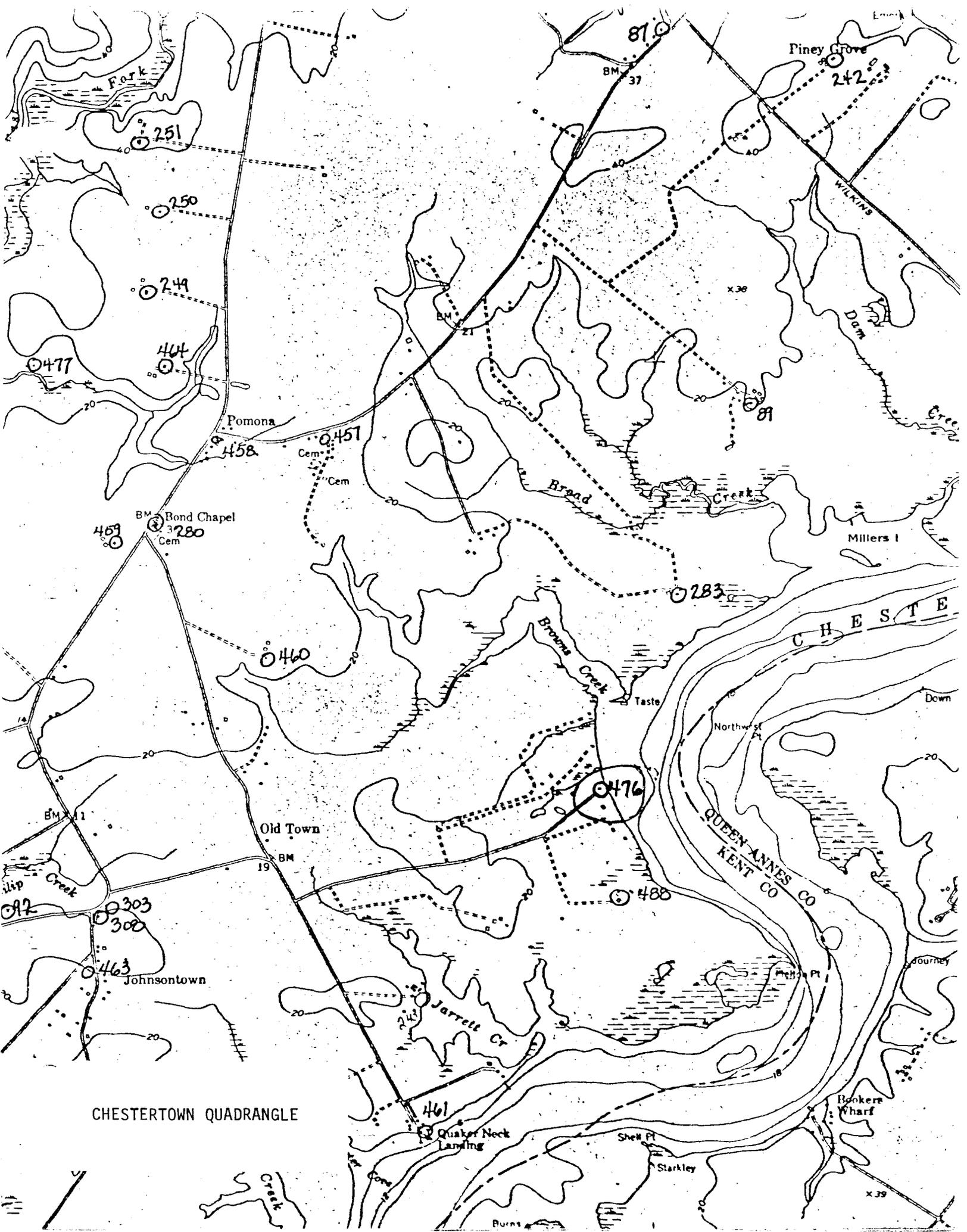
Foundation bricks in Wing A include some dark and glazed headers. The fireplace base (massive) is modern and covers whatever original work or arch might be underneath. Brick averages $8\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4" x $2\frac{1}{4}$ " size. There may be fieldstone beneath the brick to a height of about 12-15" above the present concrete floor.

K-476



M. G. Fallaw
6/81

BROAD REACH
K-476



CHESTERTOWN QUADRANGLE

Bond Chapel
Cem
3280

Old Town

Johnsonstown

Quaker Neck
Landing

Bookers
Wharf

CHESTER

QUEEN ANNES CO
KENT CO

Piney Grove

Pomona

Broad
Creek

Broom's
Creek

Jarrett Cr

Fork

Millers I

WILKINS

Dam

Down

Northwest
Pt

Point Pt

Starkley

Shell Pt

Burns

Creek

477

404

244

250

251

458

457

Cem

Cem

460

476

283

480

303

300

463

81

242

461

x 38

x 39

Enoch

Journey

Down

Northwest
Pt

Creek

Enoch



View to Northwest

BROAD REACH (K-476)

Quaker Neck, Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. Q. Fallaw, June 1981