

K-84

Providence Plantation

1781

Chestertown

Private

Providence Plantation was built in 1781 by the Trews, an early Quaker family of Quaker Neck; numerals RT 1781 are recorded with glazed headers in the gable. The house has an unusual L-shaped plan with three rooms per floor and enclosed corner stairs. The interior paneling is very fine and has survived with few alterations.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Providence Plantation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Quaker Neck Road

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Bartus Trew

Telephone #: (301) 778-0419

STREET & NUMBER

Providence Plantation, Quaker Neck

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: EHD 45

Folio #: 334

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

K-84

## 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

Providence Plantation house is a three bay, two and one-half story brick house with a central hall plan. There is an early two bay one and one-half story kitchen at the west side of the house, In the east gable are the initials T,WM and the date 1781 in glazed brick. The house has an unusual plan; the two northwest rooms have been extended under a catslide roof. This plan is similar to Rosemont (K-202).

Flemish bond is used on the front facade of the main house and wing and on the east gable. Openings are simply treated with a rowlock arch used above first floor windows of the house and flat arches above basement windows. There is a simple water table on the main house which steps up over the basement windows; it is laid in an irregular bond. The rear facade of the wing is English bond; Liverpool bond is used elsewhere. Brick chimneys with corbelled caps are enclosed within gable walls.

Window openings are evenly spaced. 12/8 sash is used on the second floor, 12/12 on the first, and 6/6 in dormers and the kitchen wing. Basement windows have iron grilles. There are small, four-pane, attic windows and a cellar entrance in the east gable.

Front and rear entrances retain their early six panel doors. Each is reached by a flight of stone steps. Old photographs show a one story, three bay porch on the front of the house. When it was removed an architrave was installed; this door also has a four-pane transom light.

Gable dormers light the attic. On the main house they have a cornice and return, reeded pilasters, and a triangular design in the tympanium.

The kitchen wing has front and rear entrance doors, a pyramidal fireplace and a ladder stair to the room above. Ceiling beams in this room are exposed.

A modern addition has been constructed beside the original kitchen wing.

Virtually all rooms retain there original paneling. That in the west first floor rooms is natural pine. Walls of the front have vertical paneling and a narrow chair-rail. There are raised and beveled panels above the back-to-back corner fireplaces and a cornice. The fireplace has a rectangular opening with plastered surround and narrow shelf with a beaded edge. The rear room (in the extension) has paneled wainscoting and contains the corner stair, enclosed in paneling, which leads to a stair hall above.

In the formal east parlor the raised and beveled paneling has ogee edges and has been painted. There is a paneled fireplace wall with corner stair, closet, cupboard with pilasters and round arch opening, and the fireplace which has a crossette surround and narrow molded shelf supported by consoles. The wainscoting in this room is also paneled.

Upstairs rooms also have paneling and six-panel doors. Random width pine floors are used throughout.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-84

ERIOD		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 1781

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Very few houses survive for 200 years and fewer still with so little change as has Providence Plantation. Except for about 20 years in this century the house has been owned by descendents of the builders. It is one of the few buildings which retain original interior detailing and can be precisely dated. The graveyard as well is a document of the family history and of the relationship of burying grounds to dwellings common in the 18th century in Maryland.

The Trew family were early Quaker settlers of the Quaker Neck region of Kent County. Although Bartus Trew, a prominent Quaker of the Chester River Meeting, has been considered the builder, this is an obvious conflict with the initials T in the gable. Examination

W M  
1881

of meeting records shows the house was probably constructed by William and Mary George Trew of Kent County who were married at Cecil Meeting House in 1/8/1748 - 49, or by their son, William who, it appears also married a Mary and was the father of a son Bartus, born in 1780. By 1882-83 the Chester Meeting was no longer active and its graveyard was deeded to another Bartus Trew, the grandfather of the late Bartus, owner of Providence Plantation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carroll, Kenneth, Quakerism on the Eastern Shore, Baltimore, The Maryland Historical Society, 1968.

Forman, H. Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, Easton, Maryland, 1934.

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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

K-84

# 7 Continued

Behind the house is a graveyard with stones dating from the 18th century.

Providence was built in 1781 by William and Mary Trew, as indicated in glazed brick on the east gable. The land was granted in the seventeenth century to the Trew family who were prominent Quakers.

The house is a two-and-one-half story brick building having an unusual floor plan to the main section. It consists of a great hall and two rooms to one side, one of which forms an "L". This latter "L" section is covered by a <sup>cat-slide</sup> roof. Farther to the west is the one-and-one-half story brick kitchen and a modern wing with added conveniences. The south facade is laid in Flenish bond and there is a stepped water table which jogs above the basement windows, which have flatarches and horizontal wood grills. The flat arches above the other windows are made of vertical headers. The facade is three bays long with the middle bay slightly off-center. The middle bay contains the door with transom surrounded by an elaborate architrave of 20th century date. On the first floor the windows have 12/12 sashes and louvered shutters. The "A" roof dormers have <sup>an</sup> ~~and~~ applied triangle above the 0/0 sash.

The east gable is plain except for the glazed date and initials, the basement entrance and two four-pane casements in attic. At the base of the chimney is a brick string course.

The original kitchen is three bays long with center door and the south facade is laid in Flenish bond. The windows have 6/6 sashes and on the "A" roof is a single dormer. The new kitchen wing is constructed of brick and is longer than the original wing.

The interior of the house has some fine period woodwork . On the east side is the living room which has a fireplace wall of raised panelling with double dog ear trim and the fireplace, flanked by an enclosed stair and a glazed cabinet with crude fluted pilasters. The room has a raised panelled dado. The trim in this room is of three-part construction. The panelling is painted a soft pink. Floor of pine may be replacement.

To the west of the living room or Great Hall, is a second room, probably the original dining room. It's walls are fully sheathed with vertical boards with quarter round molding like the raised panelling of the living room. There is a corner fireplace with raised panelling above and a corner cabinet with glazed doors. The chair rail raises to the height of the waist of the corner cabinet. All of the woodwork is in natural pine and the floor is oak, a rarity in this area.

North of the latter room is a den with corner fireplace having raised panelled chimney breast and dado, in natural pine. There is also an enclosed stair to the second floor bedrooms. All of the rooms have a cornice which breaks out above the windows. The trim of the latter two rooms consists of two pieces.

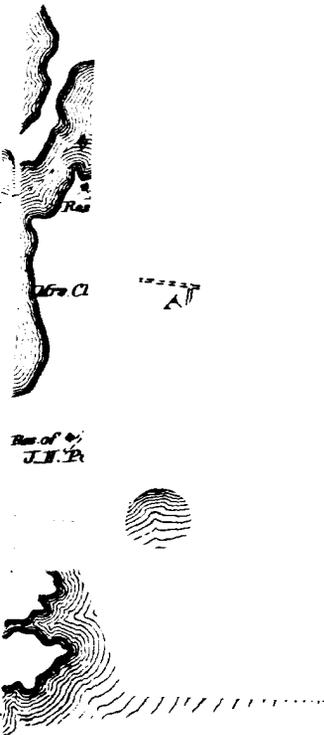
On the second floor above the living room is a bedroom of equal size having panelled wall, fireplace and enclosed stair to attic and to living room on opposite sides of the room.

Above the formal dining room is a bedroom with corner fireplace with raised panelling. Above the den is a bath with panelled exterior wall.

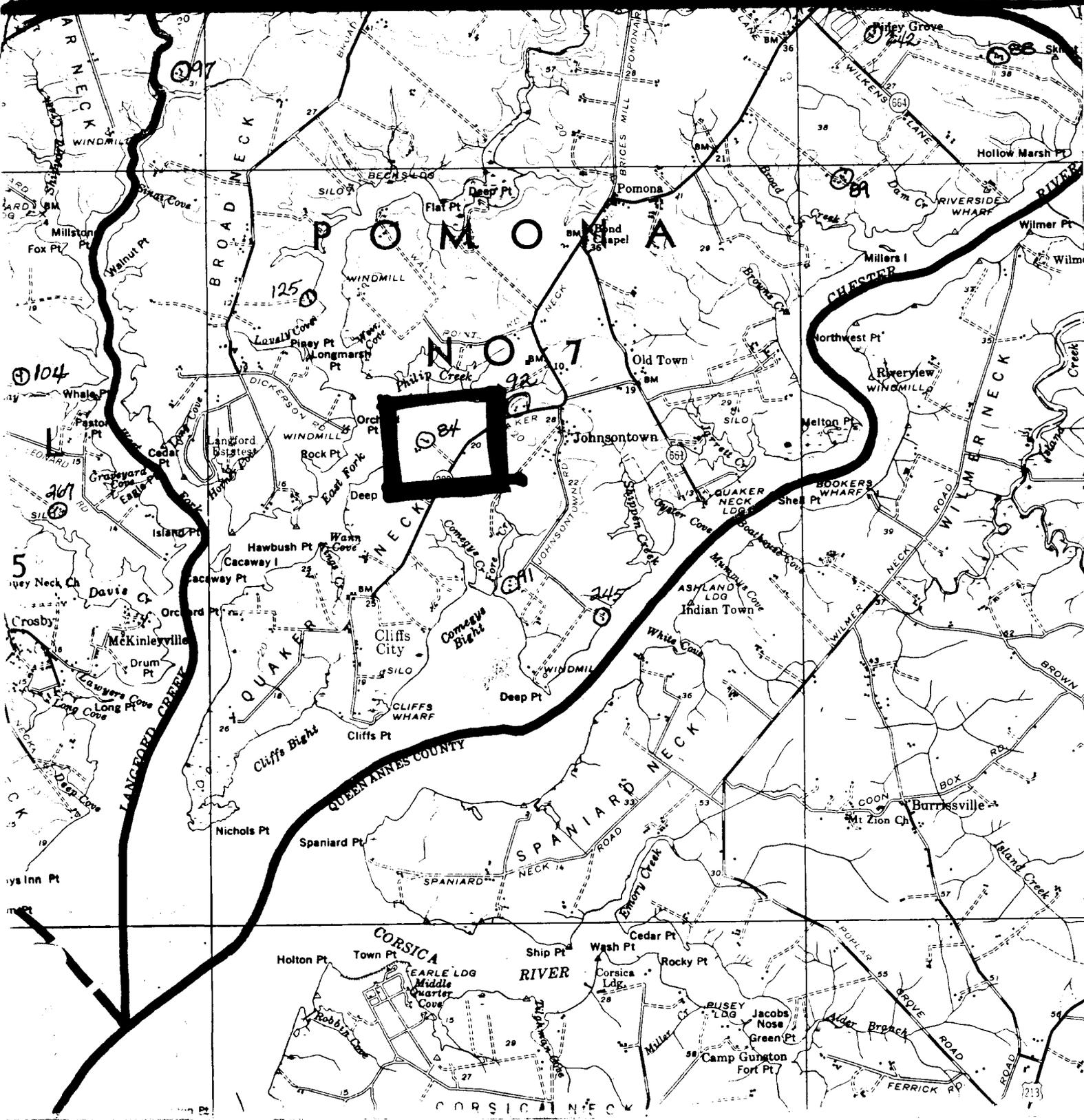
Half of the attic is finished with plaster, the other half is used for storage.

Kitchen has brick floor, pyramid fireplace with wood lintel, exposed beam and flooring above. There is access to basement. It is presently used as dining room.

The modern kitchen is in the new wing.



K-84

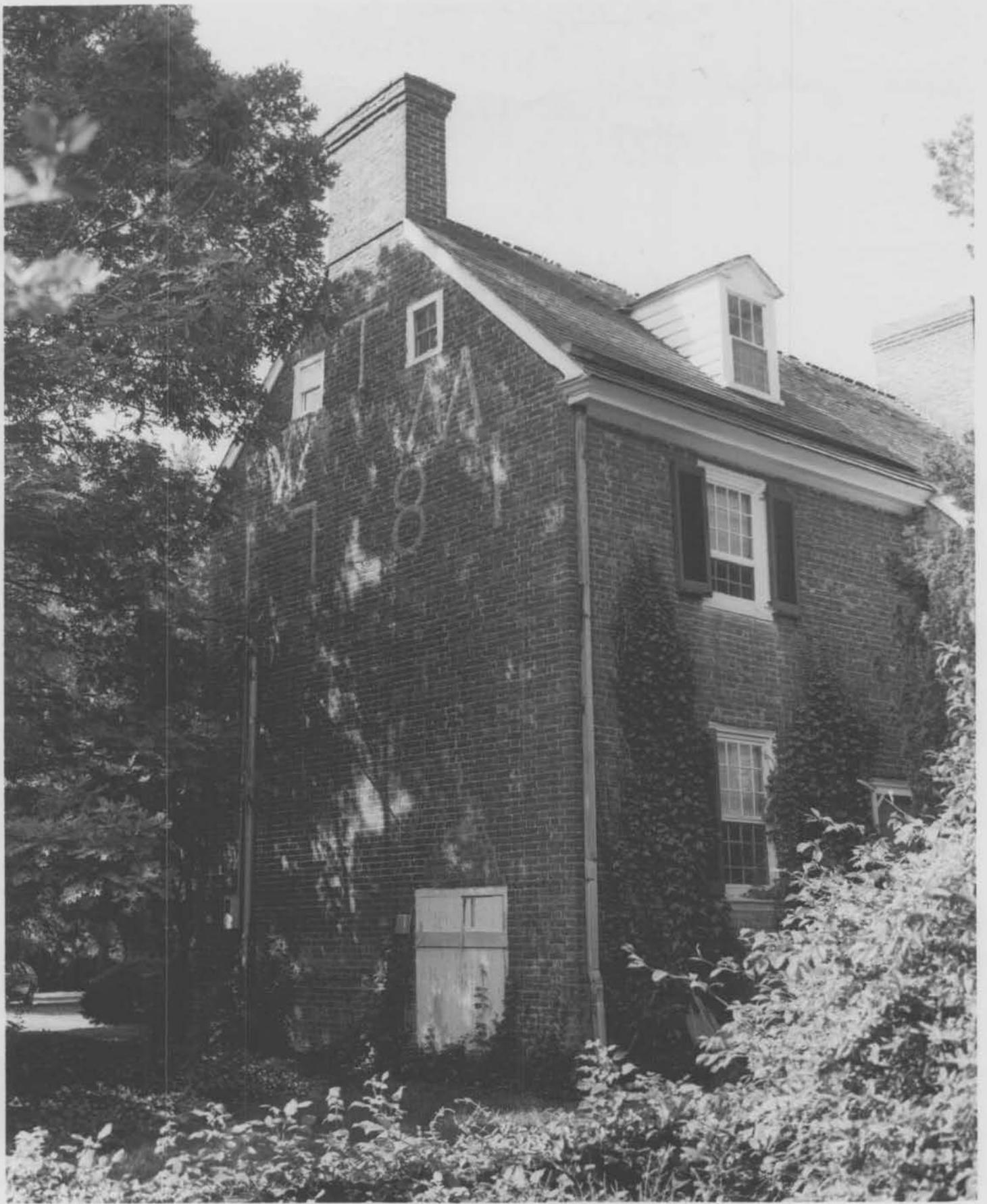




Providence Plantation K-BH  
front facade, south

C. Engstrom 8/77

B-13-1



Providence Plantation K-84

east gable

C. Engstrom 8/77

B-13-2



PROVIDENCE PLANTATION

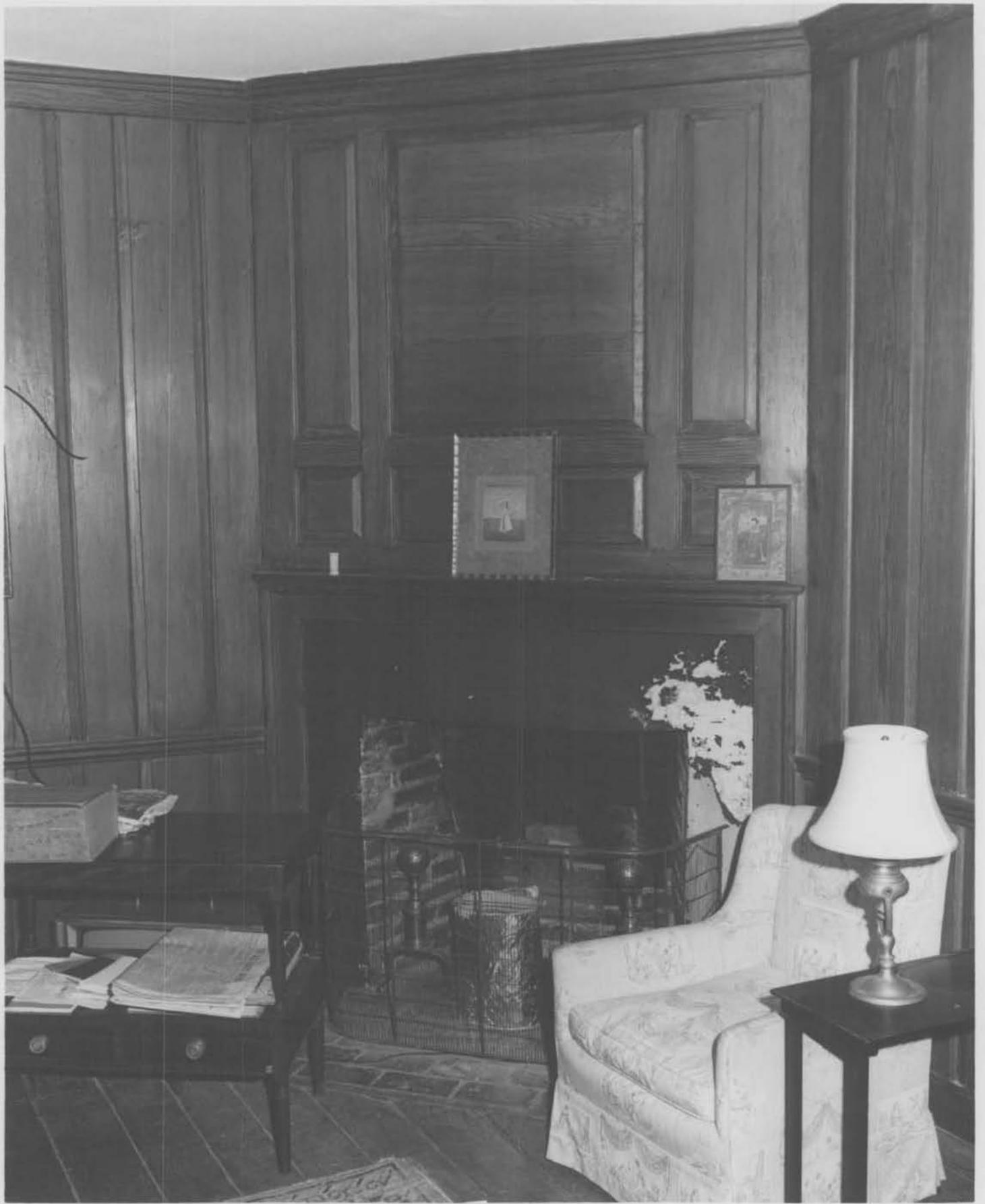
MHT-K 84

QUAKER NECK RD.

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

EAST ROOM

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977



Providence Plantation K-84

west room, 1st floor

C Engstrom 8/77

B-13-4