

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Lexon
other names/site number Burris-Brockmeyer Farm OA-107

2. Location

street & number Corsica Neck Road N/A not for publication
city, town Centreville vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Queen Anne's code 035 zip code 21617

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 2 buildings, 2 sites, 2 structures, 4 objects, Total 4
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 3/27/90
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial

Federal

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof wood shingle

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Lexon is a third quarter eighteenth century two story brick house with a gable roof, center passage single pile plan, and Federal and Greek Revival interior decorative detailing resulting from changes in the first half of the nineteenth century. The house stands on the south side of Corsica Road with a string of twentieth century domestic and agricultural outbuildings lined perpendicular to the south of the house. Reoriented in the first half of the nineteenth century, the present facade or north elevation, asymmetrical in arrangement, was the original back elevation. The structure has simple brick details; a square section water table, jack arches, and no belt course. The interior of the first floor and the east room on the second floor have Federal and Greek Revival mantels, stairs, and decorative detailing. The west side of the second floor has one paneled chimney wall dating from the first period of construction. This section is also divided into two spaces by a vertical board wall with the south room small and narrow. The surrounding land is level with cleared area to the front, back and east and forested land to the west.

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Lexon is a two story brick house with a two story frame ell built late in the nineteenth century covering one third of the south facade. This was originally the front facade, however the house was reoriented in the first half of the nineteenth century to face the county road to the north. A large, six-panel door with a three-light transom occupies the center bay. There are two 9/6 windows to the left of the door and one window close-set to the right between the door and the wall of the wing. This window was evidently cut in when the wing was added. The same fenestration pattern exists on the second floor with 6/6 lights. There is one cellar window in the second bay from the west. First floor windows have splayed jack arches, one which is brick, with row-lock course below suggesting that the windows were possibly taller originally, but not necessarily.

The foundation is laid in Flemish bond and the pattern continues above a plain water table. Openings have king closers. There is a box cornice with crown mold and bed mold which originally stopped at corners but in later 19th century was extended to return at gables and carry up the eaves. Seams are visible where later work was added. Beveled pieces substitute for molding. The roof is shingle. A small screen porch covers the center bay of this facade on the first floor.

The west gable end is of Flemish bond above a plain water table. Bonding occasionally breaks pattern, particularly in ground and upper gable, largely due to openings. There are numerous glazed headers in the upper portion but no pattern. The door is in the extreme left bay on the first floor; there is a blocked door opening in the extreme right. The right door is original and the left was probably cut in later. There is a rowlock lintel above the right and none above the left. The door jambs on the left are concealed by trim. Cellar entrance is cut in below the right door. The outline of a demolished addition covers most of the gable wall. The north wall of the wing was set into the main wall; covering is still evident but no similar evidence is visible on the south wall. An outline in whitewash shows silhouette of building and cellar locations. There is a 4/4 window on the second floor above the left door. A pair of 4 light attic windows flank the chimney in the upper gable. Rakeboards have been replaced in second half of 19th century wing with box cornice. The flush brick chimney is in the center of the gable.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.2

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The north facade, which is now the front facade, faces the road. It is of Flemish bond above a plain water table. The door which is in the center bay has no transom. Two 9/6 windows are to the left of the door and one is to the right so the fenestration is not balanced. All have rowlock lintels. The same pattern exists on the second story with 6/6 lights and rowlock lintels. The center window is not downset. The cornice and roof are the same. A one-story late nineteenth century porch with chamfered posts and small double brackets below soffit, above each post, stops 7-8 degrees from each gable end. Of particular interest are surviving early louvered shutters with very wide beveled louvers set in pegged wooden frames. These are the first recorded example in Queen Anne's County and may be original, but certainly are early 19th century. Two cellar windows flank the door.

The east gable has the same brick work and cornice and has a water table. There is one 9/6 window in the south bay on the first floor, one 6/6 window on the second floor. A pair of 4 light attic windows flank the flush chimney. A bulkhead cellar exterior entrance is at the north end of the gable. First and second floor windows are fitted with the same shutters but the openings may not be original. Lintels have been rebuilt but the joints are concealed by bolted shutters. The cellar entrance is covered by a brick gable roofed shed of common bond which is not bonded to main wall but appears to be from the first quarter of the 19th century. Its doors are beaded batten. The gable siding is beaded and secured with double struck nails. The cornice has been rebuilt to match the house.

The interior has a first floor, center hall plan with single nicely proportioned parlors on either side. The stair hall is slightly wider than usual and has an open string stair rising against the west wall. The newels are delicately turned with a simple block cap. The rail is molded and the balusters are square with a very fine bead on each corner. There are scrolled solid brackets on beaded carriage and plaster panel below. The baseboard is molded. The very fine, six-paneled door on the north end of the hall has boldly raised panels (late 18th century or earlier) and ogee panel molds.

The front and rear doors have paneled soffits and jambs. The panels are flush, not recessed, and set off with bead. The front door (south) has a 3 light transom, but the door is second quarter nineteenth century - 6 panel with flattened ogee panel mold. Front

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and rear doors have Federal cove/astrayed backband against beaded fuscia. Arched open below landing leads under landing to west parlor. Federal chairrail is carried through below the landing. A four panel door leads from the passage down to the cellar. Chairrail is molded shelf above broken field fascia with astragal - very unusual pattern. Large 20th century doors have been cut in to connect with both parlors.

The east parlor is slightly larger than the west parlor. The fireplace is centered on the gable wall. A large Federal mantel survives. Plain board surround with plain Doric columns support a plain frieze with band of molding below, and a very heavily molded shelf. There are no blocks; the shelf breaks back about 1 1/2 inches from each end. The mantel is actually more Greek; the columns and moldings are dominated by three different Greek profiles. Molded baseboard and chairrail are the same as in the hall. The windows have splayed jambs but are not paneled. The sash is set in beaded and channeled frames. The architrave is in Federal cove/astragal, against beaded fascia.

The door in the south wall to the wing has different architrave. There is a two door (glass) cupboard to the right of the door above the chairrail. The door architrave is carried around the cupboard as one unit. The cupboard is built into an original window location.

The west parlor also has a centered fireplace with Federal mantel, board surround with plain pilasters, side and center blocks, and plain frieze. The molding sets off the opening and the shelf is heavily molded which breaks forward above all three blocks. Chairrail and baseboard are the same as the rest of the first floor, but the chairrail on the north wall is solid field, still with the same shelf and astragal. Window architraves on the south wall are cove/astragal. The window on the north wall has ogee/astragal that matches the door architrave to the right of the fireplace. The blocked door is to the left of the fireplace but the chairrail crosses the opening, so the door must have been blocked in the second quarter of the 19th century.

Also on the property are a frame one story implement shed built about 1900-1920, a one story frame twentieth century barn, a probably-twentieth century corn crib, and a circa 1815-1850 meat house.

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Frame meathouse

This early 19th century frame meat house was moved to this property at an unknown date earlier in the twentieth century. It is sited in line with an implement shed and a corn house along the west edge of the cultivated land to the southwest of the house.

The meat house is of heavy timber frame construction, measures 12 feet deep and 14 feet long, with steeply pitched gable roof. The building rests on L-plan brick piers and is covered with plain horizontal siding secured with mature machine nails. The only opening is a door centered on the east gable. This door is the most distinctive feature of the building. It is constructed of vertical boards (probably originally beaded but now heavily weathered) on the exterior face secured to horizontal boards on the interior face with dozens of hand-wrought nails placed in a decorative pattern. The door is hung on hand-wrought strap hinges and is set in a beaded frame. Beaded corner boards and beaded and tapered rakeboards provide additional decorative elements to the building.

The interior of the building was modified sometime after about 1885 to accommodate grain storage. Horizontal boards were nailed to the interior face of the wall framing with wire nails to permit loose storage of grain. The original use of the building is clearly evident, however. The framing is typical of meat houses in this region and the roof includes two sets of collar beams to facilitate hanging meat. The interior walls and roof are blackened with smoke from the curing process. The wood floor appears to be original and there is no clear evidence of how the fire for smoking meat was contained in the building, but most likely a single stove was used as needed.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.5

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
c. 1760

Significant Dates
c. 1760

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The significance of Lexon in Queen Anne's County is derived from its architectural character. Erected in the third quarter of the eighteenth century, Lexon is an important early example of a center passage, single pile plan house representing the range of colonial domestic architecture in the county between the finest Georgian house of the period and the more commonly built one and a half story hall parlor houses of the successful farmer. Of the approximately three dozen colonial period houses surviving in Queen Anne's County, most like Lexon, are built of brick. Lexon is a substantially well built well finished house with an overall good level of finish. Important features evident here are a Flemish bond facade (south elevation) and simple brick details including a square section water table, jack arches, and noticeably the lack of a belt course. Although extensively redressed on the interior in the first half of the nineteenth century, Lexon still retains the original room plan with an unusual three room plan on the second floor and a paneled chimney wall and a vertical board wall dating from the first period of construction also on the second floor. The decorative detailing, mantels, and stairs throughout the house are good examples of Federal and Greek Revival work for the county.

See continuation sheet 8.1 for

HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification - A.D. 1680-1815

Agricultural - Industrial Transition - A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Known Design Source: none

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QA-170Section number 8 Page 8.2HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Lexon appears to have been built about 1760. The basic construction and stylistic features indicate the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The property was inherited by William Scandrett, Jr. in 1754 (QA wills WHN-1-46) from his father William Scandrett who acquired the land by deed in 1744 (QA Land Records RT-C-112). Scandrett, Jr. retained ownership until 1773 when title was transferred to James Carradine whose family held the land well into the nineteenth century (QA Wills WHV-3-251). Little is known about Scandrett, Jr. except that his father was somewhat prominent in the county. In 1729 the senior Scandrett was appointed a counter of tobacco plants in the room of William Carmichall and in 1737 he became a warden of St. Paul's Parish, one of the original parishes of the province of Maryland. Although these positions are not an indication of vast wealth they do raise the possibility that Scandrett may have inherited sufficient wealth to enable him to build a substantial though not elaborate house (Emory, pp. 20 and 185 for information on Scandrett, Sr.).

In the first half of the nineteenth century Lexon went from being a remote country house to being located directly on an important local road within walking distance of the new county seat, Centreville. The reorientation and the Federal and Greek Revival woodwork are likely a direct reflection of efforts to adjust to these changes in the Corsica Neck neighborhood. When built, Lexon faced south toward the Queenstown - Chestertown road and the community of Hibernia. Located on a property of approximately 235 acres, Lexon was sited a few miles north of this road. Hibernia was the site of the parish church of St. Paul's one of the original parishes of the province of Maryland. It was also the site of the Hanson Tavern an important landmark of Centreville in the 1790s. Hibernia declined in significance and a new road was cut through from Centreville to Corsica Neck passing immediately to the north of Lexon.

While renovation was not so dramatic as at houses such as Cross Manor in St. Mary's County (SM-3), it never the less reflects significant change in life on the Corsica River in the early 19th century. The renovations consisted primarily of the installation of Federal and Greek Revival woodwork and did not involve changes to configuration, floor plan, or fenestration, or roof line.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Queen Anne's County (QA-107)
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

Queen Anne's County Land Records, Centreville, MD.

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland: Its Early History and Development.
Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1950.
Reprint of a series of newspaper articles 1886-1887.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

acreage of property approximately 16 acres
USGS quad Centreville, MD

UTM References

A	1,8	40,60,8,0	4,32,32,5,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,8	40,57,1,0	4,32,30,9,0

B	1,8	40,60,2,0	4,32,30,1,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,8	40,57,5,0	4,32,33,0,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are delineated on Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to maintain the historic open space character of the setting but to exclude the vast acreage of surrounding fields which do not contain architectural resources.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Orlando Ridout V and Ronald L. Andrews	date	September 1989
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	telephone	301-974-5000
street & number	21 State Circle	state	Maryland
city or town	Annapolis	zip code	21401

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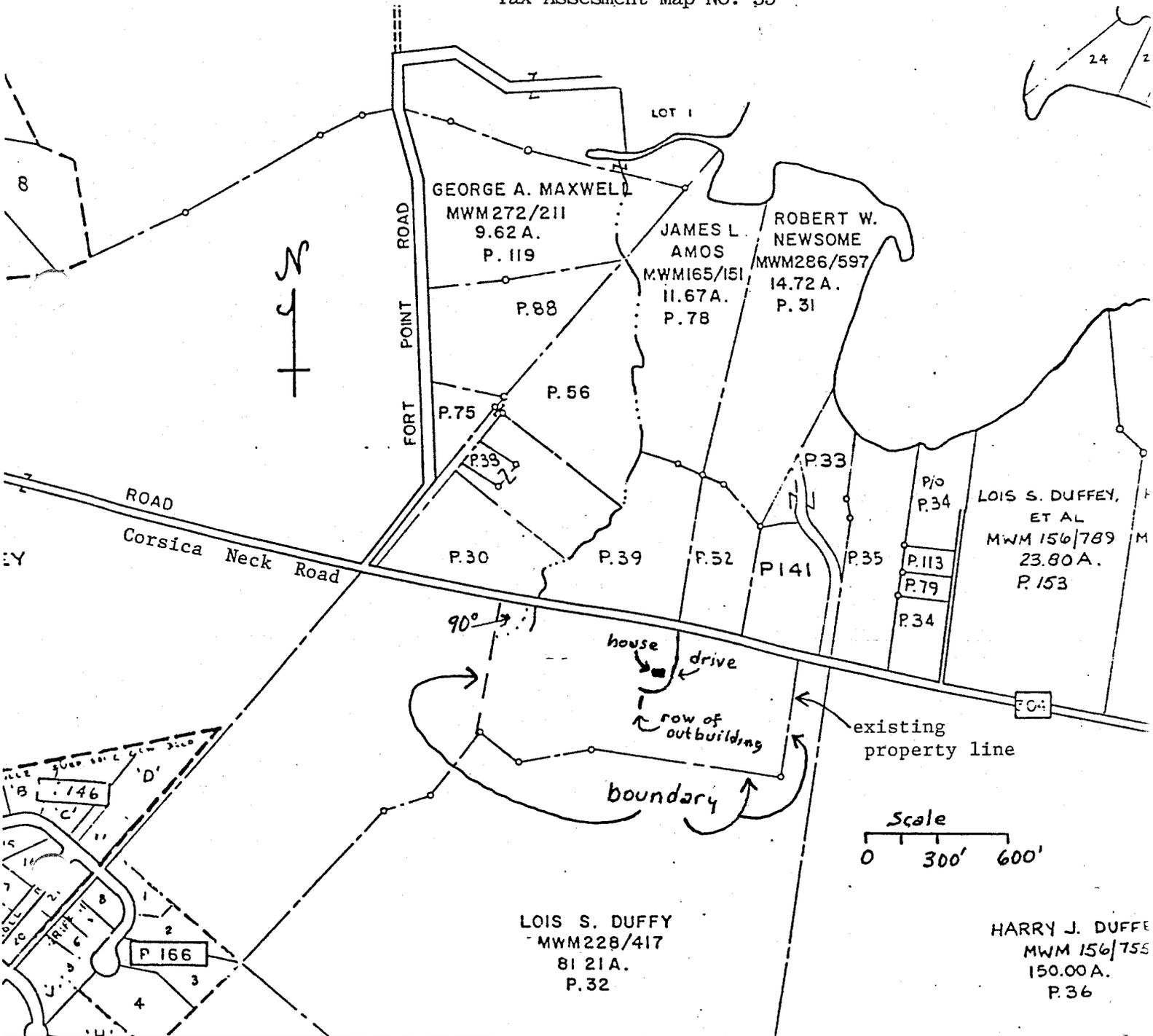
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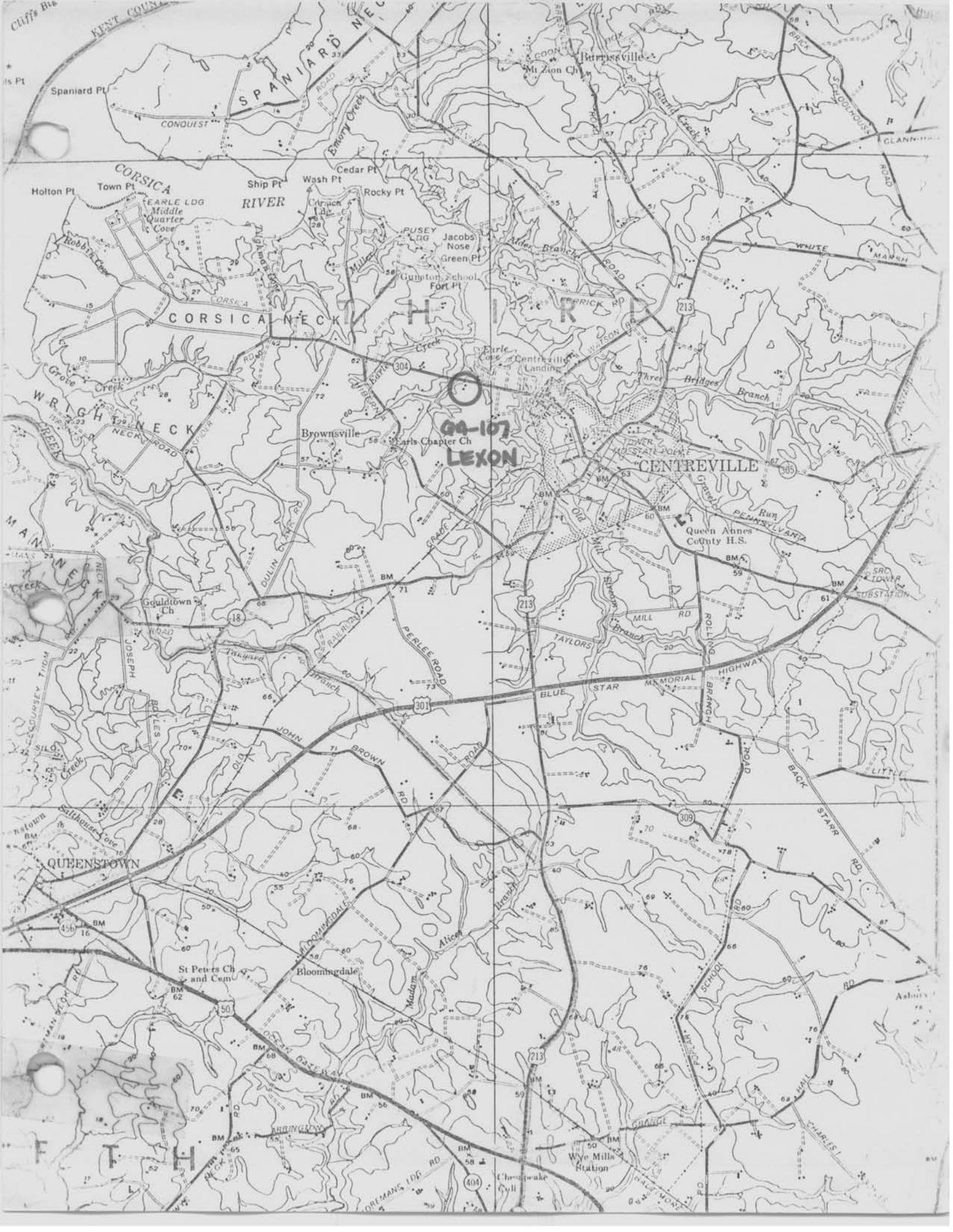
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BOUNDARY AND RESOURCE SKETCH MAP, 1989

Queen Anne's County
Tax Assesment Map No. 35





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Lexon

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





Lexon

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

11 July 1989

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg.: MD SHPO

N.E. elevations

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Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg: MD SHPO

S.W. elevations

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11 July 1989

Photo: Ronald W. Andrews

Neg.: MD SHPO

S.E. elevation

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Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg: MD SHPO

First floor east parlor mantel

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Photo: Ronald h. Andrews

Neg: MD 5HPO

First Floor west parlor mantel

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Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg: MD SHPO

First Floor staircase

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Photo: Ronald W. Andrews

Neg.: MD SHPO

2nd Floor, east chamber mantel

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Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg.: MD SHPO

2nd Floor, N.W. Chamber mantle
and paneled wall.

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Lexon
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Front facade from Northeast



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Lexon
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Southeast



QA-107

Lexon
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Rear facade from South



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Lexon

Centreville vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1980

Main house from Southwest



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Lexon

Centreville vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1980

Frame meat house



QA-107

Lexon

Centreville vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1980

Meat house to west of house