NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**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). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name ACQUINSICKE

other names/site number CH-53

## 2. Location

street & number Billingsley Road N/A [ ] not for publication

city, town Pomfret [X] vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Charles code 017 zip code 20675

## 3. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| [X] private | [X] building(s) | 1 | 1 buildings |
| [ ] public-local | [ ] district | | sites |
| [ ] public-State | [ ] site | | structures |
| [ ] public-Federal | [ ] structure | | objects |
| | [ ] object | 1 | 1 Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 1/16/92

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

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Acquinsicke is a rectangular, two-story, five-bay, clapboarded frame dwelling with one-story additions to each end. With a northeast-southwest axis, the house stands on brick foundations enclosing a full cellar, and its one-room-deep, central passage plan is repeated on both principal floor levels as well as the finished attic. A boldly corbeled chimney stack stands at each end of the building's gable roof, servicing fireplaces in the first floor, second floor and attic rooms. All of the existing exterior finishes are contemporary with an extensive post-1934 rehabilitation. On the interior, the building's original floor plan remains undisturbed, although most of the trim, including mantels and doors, reflect renovations that occurred in the mid-and late nineteenth century and the late-1930s; however, the main stair, which rises in four flights to the attic, and the mantel and the trim of its flanking alcove in the first floor north room are original. Other early features include some of the baseboards, most of the trim of the attic chambers, and all of the flooring except that in the first floor south room. As part of the building's late 1930s rehabilitation a one-story, gable-roofed, kitchen-service wing was added at the north end of the house. About 20 years later a one-story, semi-hipped roofed sunporch was built at the opposite end. Despite the twentieth century changes, the integrity of the eighteenth century portion of the house as it existed in 1934 has been preserved. A detached frame garage, built about 1940 or 1950, stands off the north end of the house and at a right angle to it. There are no other extant structures. Historic landscape features include a series of two terraced falls to the south and southwest of the house. Acquinsicke is easily visible from Billingsley Road, which borders the north side of the site. Although some vestiges of its original rural agricultural setting remain, the surrounding lands are the focus of increased residential development.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Acquinsicke stands about 200 feet from the south side of Billingsley Road, approximately one mile west of the intersection of Billingsley Road and Maryland Route 228. As it presently exists, having open meadows to the east and south and wooded grounds to the west, the setting of the house has experienced little physical change since the 1940s. However, many of the surrounding properties, all of which were once part of the original Acquinsicke tract, are currently or are scheduled to be subdivided into residential developments.

Once the main residence of a 1,500-acre working farm, Acquinsicke is a rectangular, two-story clapboard-sheathed frame structure with brick foundations and a gable roof. At each end of the roof there is a boldly corbeled chimney stack, each once embellished with a plaster band, an unusual feature on houses built after about 1780. The house is one-room deep and five bays in width at both principal floor levels of both side elevations. The only exterior openings in the end elevations are small casement windows in each gable. As it did originally, the building's principal elevation faces west and probably once looked over formal or semi-formal gardens. The opposite site of the house is fronted by a circular drive. At the north end of the house there is a one-story, gable-roof frame wing that is contemporary with a major rehabilitation of the original structure that occurred in the late 1930s and early 1940s. At the opposite end of the main block there is a smaller, one-story, semi-hipped roofed addition that was built in the 1950s. Unfortunately, the proportions and design of the south wing are less sympathetic to the architecture of the original house than the earlier north wing. All of the building's existing exterior finishes, including clapboards, are mid-twentieth century and later. Other twentieth-century features include the door and its transom and sidelights on the west front, the glazed door and small window directly above the original first-floor door of the east elevation, the stoops and steps that front both side entrances, and the stuccoed finish of the foundation walls. Most of the wood-barred windows in the foundation walls of the main block are original. Plain modillion blocks ornamenting the cornice of the west elevation replicate an original feature.

Photographs of Acquinsicke's exterior taken in 1934 prior to its rehabilitation show it to have once had a shed-roofed porch extending the full width of the west facade, and remnants of a two-story frame wing that formerly stood against its south end. Another wing, said to have been built in the late nineteenth century, stood off the east side of the house, covering the two east windows of its first floor south room. This wing is said to have been destroyed by fire prior to 1934, by which time the original house, which stood vacant for many years, was in near ruinous condition.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

As part of the post-1934 rehabilitation campaign, a Colonial Revival styled porte cochere was designed for the east, approach facade. The glazed door with sidelights above the original east entrance door was intended to provide access to a balustraded roof from the lower landing of the interior stair. While this door was installed--necessitating removal of an original window that probably once lighted both landings of the stair--the porte cochere was never built.

Acquinsicke's interior reflects changes that were made to the house in the mid- and late nineteenth century, as well as features contemporary with its post-1934 rehabilitation. The original room arrangement of the first and second floor levels and the attic remains undisturbed, and there does not appear to have been any significant replacement of the building's framing system, including the roof. Except for those previously discussed, all of the windows appear to occupy original locations and retain their original dimensions, although the sashes are of a type characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century, particularly in regard to the profile of the muntins. The most notable original woodwork is found in the north, first floor room. Here, there is a finely crafted Federal period mantel with reeded and ribboned pilasters, carved sunbursts and other decorative embellishments. Flanking this is an unusual curved and arched alcove with reeded pilasters, rope moldings and an elaborately carved keystone. The interior of the alcove has a delicately shaped horizontal rail with alternating plain and fluted blocks. This molding is said to have once continued across all of the walls of the room, and its design to have been repeated on a ceiling cornice that once also existed. If so, the sophistication of the remaining woodwork, including an unusually bold baseboard, indicates it to have been an exceedingly elegant room unparalleled by any late-eighteenth century, early Federal house surviving in Charles County. Another surviving early feature of the house is the main stair. Rising in four flights to the attic, it has square newels and balusters, shaped rails and scrolled stair brackets. Below the first run of stairs is a closet enclosed by a wall of horizontal, flush panels and a six-panel door. The closet was originally lighted by a small window in its east wall, later covered over. Another original feature of the stair was a handrail mounted along the inside wall between the first and second floor levels. This was later removed, though the railing has been preserved. The stair framing and other details indicate that it is an original feature of the house; however, its simplicity is in sharp contrast to the woodwork of the north, first floor room. Sometime in the mid-twentieth century the stair closet was converted to provide interior access to the cellar.

All of the woodwork of Acquinsicke's south first floor room is early twentieth century with the exception of the fireplace mantel, which is a more modern addition designed to compliment the mantel of the room opposite the hall. All of the earlier woodwork of this room is said to have been lost as a result

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of the fire that destroyed the building's former, late-nineteenth century east wing. Most, if not all, of the woodwork of the second floor rooms ranges in date from the mid- to late nineteenth century, and includes simple mantels and grain-painted doors. Closets flanking the fireplaces of the two principal rooms may have been introduced in the mid-nineteenth century. A small room at the front of the stair hall was converted to a bathroom in this century, though the space itself is probably an original feature. Only one mantel remains at the attic level and it dates circa 1900. Batten doors opening off the stair passage and beaded baseboards are probably original. Only the north attic chamber retains its original plaster, which was applied over split lath attached to the rafters and knee wall studs with wrought, double-struck nails. The plaster in the room opposite was removed about 25 years ago.

The brick-walled basement level of Acquinsicke's main block, whose original access appears to have been limited to an exterior door in the south wall of the south room, repeats the plan of the first floor. In more recent years the central space was partitioned to provide a small room at its west end. Neither of the two end rooms was provided with a fireplace; instead, shelved niches were incorporated into the projecting chimney bases. Carpentry details of the first floor joists, sills and partition bearing beams observable from the cellar suggest that a considerable amount of reframing occurred in the mid- and late nineteenth century, although the floor frame of the first floor hall survives essentially intact. In this area the joists spanning the partition bearing beams were fastened at each end by a double lap joint atypical of the building's period of construction, but not uncharacteristic of carpentry techniques of the early and mid-eighteenth century. There is also some indication that the floor frame of the two first floor rooms flanking the hall consisted of large tie beams spanning the front and rear sills and spaced about 5 feet apart, and that these in turn supported a series of joists paralleling the front and rear sills that were joined to the tie beams by the same double lap joint as those which exist in the central room. If such a floor framing system was once present, then it raises the possibility that the existing house was built around an earlier structure. However, the evidence is far from conclusive. It is also unlikely that, short of stripping the house down to its wall framing, the questions that are raised will ever be satisfactorily answered.

Acquinsicke's north wing contains a full cellar, kitchen, bath, pantry and another small room at the first floor. The attic, originally unfinished, was remodeled for use as a bedroom in the mid-1950s. The wood-paneled kitchen features a working fireplace contemporary with the wing's construction. The south wing features multi-unit windows in its three exterior walls, and is accessible from the south first floor room of the main block by glazed doors flanking the fireplace.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

The only other identified historically contributing feature of the property is a series of two terraced falls that extend in an east west line beginning at the south end of the house. The terraces and falls were extensively landscaped in the mid-twentieth century with ornamental trees and flowering plants, only remnants of which survive.

It is said that a small private cemetery formerly existed about 120 feet southwest of the house, but no discernible evidence survives, nor can its existence be proven without archaeological testing. Since the cemetery's existence and location is neither physically nor historically documented, it is not considered a historically contributing feature. Also, while there is historical evidence that a detached kitchen and assorted domestic dependencies once existed proximate to the house, the locations of their sites are unknown.

About 25 feet from the north end of the house and at a right angle to it stands a one story, gable-roofed, frame garage with two large bays in its south wall. Believed to have been built in the 1940s or 1950s, this structure is considered non-historic and non-contributing.

See Continuation Sheet No. 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) | Period of Significance | Significant Dates |
|---|---|---|
| Architecture | 1783-1798 | N/A |

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:

In a local context, Acquinsicke, built between 1783 and 1798, is a highly significant example of late eighteenth century, early Federal architecture. Exceedingly few examples of domestic architectural forms survive in this locality that illustrate as well as Acquinsicke the transitional phase between wholly vernacular building customs and those buildings whose carpentry and overall designs were clearly influenced by outside sources. In this regard, Acquinsicke's one-room-deep central passage plan, full two-story height, finished and heated attic chambers, and boldly corbeled and plaster banded chimney stacks are of particular interest. Viewed singly, each of these details is unusual in a local, late-eighteenth century architectural context; collectively, they establish Acquinsicke as wholly unique.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 6

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

HISTORIC SETTING:

Acquinsicke was built within the last two decades of the eighteenth century, an extremely important transitional period in the evolution of domestic architecture in the lower Southern Maryland region. From about 1720 until the end of the American Revolution, housing forms here remained fairly static--those dwellings of the middle and lower economic class levels were usually of one-story height with one or two lower rooms and small attic chambers above, while those of the more prosperous merchant-planters almost invariably contained four rooms off a centered rear stair hall and with bed chambers within a gable or gambrel roof. Surviving buildings combined with historical research has provided convincing evidence that houses with central through passages and houses of a full two-story height were relatively rare before the close of the eighteenth century. It was not until about the second decade of the nineteenth century, when improved economic conditions spawned a building boom that continued well into the 1840s, that two-story dwellings with central or side passages extending the full depth of the house became increasingly common. Similarly, changing fashions in a broader American context was slow to influence local architectural trends. Consequently, there are remarkably few late-eighteenth century houses in Charles County whose architectural embellishments reflect to any significant degree the neoclassicism so widely embraced elsewhere in the decades following the Revolutionary War.

The land on which Acquinsicke stands is part of what was once one of Charles County's largest plantations and was initially established by Anthony Neale, member of one of Maryland's most historically important Catholic families. Neale's dwelling, which is believed to have stood on or near the site of the present house, was used as both a private residence and as a mission chapel of the Society of Jesus headquartered at St. Thomas Manor (NR). The survival and growth of Catholicism in Maryland during the 1690-1776 period was almost entirely dependent on the support of these mission chapels by families such as the Neales. All of these mission chapels have disappeared, and the precise locations of nearly all of them remains unknown. Today, only St. Thomas Manor and the property encompassing St. Mary's Church, Newport (NR) have documented associations with the pre-1776 history of Roman Catholicism in this area, and Acquinsicke is the only extant non-church owned site to have historically proven associations with the missionary activities of the Society of Jesus in this locality.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

RESOURCE HISTORY:

Acquinsicke takes its name from a 1,000-acre tract of escheat land patented by Anthony Neale in 1704.[1] Originally known as White's Ford and renamed Acquinsicke by Neale, the 1,000 acres had formerly been granted to Jerome White in 1669.[2] White had immigrated to Maryland from England as a free adult about 1661. A Catholic and apparently well-educated, he held a number of important and influential positions, including that of deputy governor in 1669 and the colony's Surveyor General from 1661-1671. White received land grants totalling more than 10,000 acres, most of which reverted to the Lords Baltimore when White died in England intestate and without heirs in 1677.[3] The White's Ford grant of 1,000 acres was one of those that escheated to the proprietor. When the tract was resurveyed for Anthony Neale, the boundaries were found to embrace 572 acres more than the 1,000 stipulated in White's grant. To correct this discrepancy, Neale was requested to "...leave out the surplusage where [he] should think convenient..."[4] The origin of the name Anthony Neale gave to the property is not precisely known, though certainly it derives from a word or descriptive term used by native Indians who continued to occupy this section of Charles County at the time Neale patented the property. It may even have been the name of a small village that once existed on or near the land.

Anthony Neale's patent was recorded in 1706 and it was probably not long afterward that he established Acquinsicke as his dwelling plantation. Previous to that time he is believed to have lived on part of his father's plantation, Wollaston Manor, in the southeastern section of the county.[5] Neale's father, Captain James Neale, was a highly-educated and well-travelled member of colonial Maryland society. He first arrived in Maryland in 1635, but did not establish formal residence in the colony until 1642. A planter and assemblyman, James Neale held a number of provincial offices, and between 1649 and 1659 served as ambassador for Charles II and the Duke of York in Spain and Portugal.[6] The Neales were staunch Roman Catholics and continued to be openly so throughout the 1691-1776 period when Catholics in Maryland were denied their basic civil rights. Anthony Neale's parents and their descendants established and supported a private mission at Wollaston Manor,[7] and Anthony Neale is said to have supported the work of the Church by providing his home at Acquinsicke as a mission chapel of the Society of Jesus headquartered at St. Thomas Manor (CH-6; NR).[8]

Anthony Neale died in 1723. His will devised one-half of the Acquinsicke plantation to his son Edward, stipulating that "...it be that moiety whereon my dwelling house stands that I now live in." Edward was also given "...my silver Chalice & suit[e] of Church Stuff to be kept and remaine in my said Dwelling House and to go from heir to heir for the use of our family etc. so long as any of mine shall inhabit in the said place." Edward's share of Acquinsicke was to

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

lie south of and include the dwelling; his brother, Charles, was bequeathed the part of the plantation lying north of the dwelling together with "...one thousand foot of one inch pine plank [to be used] towards...building him a house..."[9]

By the standards of the period, Neale clearly enjoyed a privileged lifestyle, despite the fact that the inventory of his personalty suggests that his house was probably of only two rooms with small sleeping chamber above. Although he did own a "house clock," a small library of books, assorted pieces of silver, a violin and "5 packs of playing cards," his house was as modestly furnished as it was small. Nevertheless, this was true of nearly all dwellings occupied by those of Neale's stature. The estate, which included 33 slaves, was estimated to be worth over 1,108 pounds sterling, placing Neale among the county's wealthier inhabitants.[10] Neale also owned several other valuable properties, including a mill seat and two unimproved lots in Chandlers Town (Port Tobacco; NR) in the same county.[11]

Edward Neale was probably living at the home plantation at the time of his father's death, and is known to have continued to reside there until the mid-1740s when he moved to Queen Anne's County on Maryland's Eastern Shore.[12] According to several local histories, Acquinsicke continued to be used as a place of worship for local Catholics throughout Neale's occupation of the land. In 1751 Edward Neale, who had no surviving sons, conveyed the 500 acres of Acquinsicke he had inherited from his father, plus an additional contiguous tract of 611 acres he patented under the name Acquinsicke Enlarged to his eldest daughter Eleanor and her husband Henry Rozer of Prince George's County.[13] Eleanor and Henry Rozer were then living at Notley Hall, a large estate binding on the Potomac River near present-day Fort Washington which Henry had inherited from his father Notley Rozer.[14] Seven years later, Charles Neale, Edward's brother, sold his half share of Acquinsicke to Colonel Samuel Hanson,[15] necessitating a formally surveyed division of the two parts of the original tract they had inherited on their father's death in 1723.[16]

Henry and Eleanor Neale continued to live at Notley Hall and on their deaths both Notley Hall and Acquinsicke passed in ownership to their son, Henry Rozer, Jr.[17] Between 1751, when Edward conveyed his half share of Acquinsicke and Acquinsicke Enlarged to Eleanor and Henry Rozer, Sr., and the early 1780s, the plantation was apparently unoccupied, though possibly it was cultivated under an as yet unknown lease arrangement. According to the 1783 tax assessments for Charles County, that portion of the Acquinsicke estate owned by Henry Rozer, Jr. was unimproved, suggesting that the house and ancillary structures that existed in 1723 had disappeared or were in complete ruins.[18]

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

Between 1783 and 1798, however, a new house was built on the southern half of the original Acquinsicke tract that had descended to Henry Rozer, Jr. and on which Anthony Neale's dwelling had formerly stood. In the 1798 federal direct tax lists for Charles County, this same part of Acquinsicke was assessed in the name of Benjamin Tasker Dulany, Jr., the husband of Henry Rozer, Jr.'s granddaughter Elizabeth.[19] Improvements to the 1,498-acre estate included a dwelling and two outbuildings which were given an assessed value of $1,250.00. This figure is consistent with that accorded other recently built or rehabilitated houses in the county of comparable size and degree of architectural distinction.[20]

Henry Rozer, Jr. died in 1802 leaving a will in which he styled himself "Henry Rozer of Notley Hall." Dated January 28, 1800, the will devised the ancestral Notley Hall plantation to Henry's eldest daughter, Maria, wife of Francis Hall Rozer. The Acquinsicke plantation, "containing by late survey 1,500 acres now called Rozer's Farm," was bequeathed to Henry's granddaughter Elizabeth "together with all the negroes and stock upon the said farm of every kind which property I have put my granddaughter Elizabeth Dulany and Benjamin Dulany her husband in possession of." In making this bequest, Henry Rozer stipulated that "it is my will and request that the half of the said 1,500 acres of land so bequeathed...lying to the South of the Dwelling House and including the Dwelling House shall be given by her after the natural lives of her the said Elizabeth Dulany and her husband Benjamin Dulany unto Henry Rozer Dulany, being the eldest son."[21]

The dwelling house referenced in Henry Rozer's will is undoubtedly the house that exists today. That Rozer clearly desired the house to remain in the family suggests that he probably financed its construction and that the house stands on or near the site of the dwelling built and occupied by Rozer's grandfather and great grandfather. The latter theory is given additional credibility by the fact that both Anthony Neale (d. 1723) and Henry Rozer requested that the land lying south of and encompassing the dwelling should remain in family ownership, and the fact that the divisional line between the two halves of the original tract established in 1758, and again in a subsequent survey, falls within several hundred feet north of the existing house.[22] Further, in a mid-1960s letter written by a former owner of the house who with her husband did extensive rehabilitation work on the property in the late-1930s, it was related that while clearing the grounds adjacent to the house a cemetery was uncovered. Unfortunately, fragments of ledger-type monuments that were unearthed, some of which were said to be of the Neale-Rozer family, were not preserved. The cemetery site, located about 150 feet west-southwest of the house, was graded and no discernible evidence of its existence remains.[23]

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

Benjamin and Elizabeth (Rozer) Dulany, who also owned property in Alexandria, Virginia and elsewhere, are believed to have lived at Acquinsicke/Rozer's Farm until 1836 when Elizabeth (Rozer) Dulany "of Charles County," and her son Henry Rozer Dulany "of Fairfax County, Virginia," conveyed the property to Elizabeth's first cousin, Francis W. Rozer.[24] Rozer, the son of Maria and Francis Hall Rozer and grandson of Henry Rozer (d.1802), was then living at Notley Hall, which he had inherited on the death of his father in 1803.[25]

Francis W. Rozer died intestate not long after acquiring the Acquinsicke/Rozer's Farm estate. A widower, he left as heirs two sons, Charles and Francis, both of whom were minors. Although the Rozers were residents of Prince George's County, Francis E. Rozer's estate was administered under the auspices of the Orphans' Court for Charles County.

In 1847, guardianship of Charles and Francis Rozer was transferred from Richard C. Washington to James W. Gillis at the request of the family of the orphans' mother.[26] The Guardian Accounts of the Orphans Court show that the boys received their secondary education at private boarding school and that both briefly attended Mt. St. Mary's at Emmitsburg, Maryland. Charles later attended Georgetown College and Francis attended St. John's College, Annapolis. Financing of their education, personal expenses, legal fees and the maintenance of jointly owned property derived largely from profits accrued from the rent of Notley Hall, Rozer's Farm and other properties, and from stock dividends.[27]

Between 1840 and 1850 the Acquinsicke/Rozer's Farm estate was rented to John M. Brown, and between 1850 and 1858 to Thomas S. and Thomas H. Edelen.[28] In 1847 Brown was reimbursed for building materials and their freight from Alexandria which were used in repairing various buildings on the property, presumably including the dwelling.[29] In 1848 H.R.V. Cawood was paid $180.00 "for building [a] kitchen and meat house at Rozer's Farm."[30] In 1847 the Orphans' Court directed that an annual value of the various estates be determined, including a description of existing improvements and their condition. These documents were not entered in the Guardian Accounts until 1852, however. The description of Notley Hall noted the improvements as

> "One 2½ story brick Dwelling House out of repair, the kitchen, smoke house, carriage house, stables, small granary, two negro quarters, and the two corn houses out of repair, a small peach orchard and an early vegetable garden. Acreage unknown."

See Continuation Sheet No. 12

Rozer's Farm was described as

> "...containing about 1400 acres, half of which is in woods, the residue arable and divided into two tenements. That part occupied by John M. Brown contains a comfortable two story dwelling house, two large barns and corn house, nearly new kitchen, other houses in good repair except one quarter in bad repair."[31]

Charles Rozer attained legal age on July 17, 1855.[32] In 1858 a petition was presented to the Charles County Court on behalf of Henry A. Bowling of Prince George's County stating that Bowling had acquired Charles Rozer's half interest in Rozer's Farm and requesting a division of the property between Charles and Francis Rozer, the latter still a minor.[33] The court ordered a survey and division of the land later that same year. The then 1332 acres were divided into two equal parts by a line that basically followed the divisional line of 1758 and which essentially parallels present-day Billingsley Road. Lot #1 in the division, which included the main dwelling and ancillary structures, was awarded to Francis W. Rozer and Lot #2 to Charles.[34]

Francis Rozer reached his 21st birthday not long after the division was made. In 1868 Francis W. Rozer and Frances E. Rozer, his wife "of Prince George's County," sold two parts of his share of Acquinsicke/Rozer's Farm to neighboring property owners.[35] In 1896 the Rozers were living in Montgomery County, Maryland, and in that year sold the remaining 501 acres together with the house to william H. Bournes.[36] Bournes subsequently defaulted on a mortgage and the farm was sold at public auction to Frederick Bournes.[37] In 1913 Bournes conveyed the property to local attorney and land speculator Walter J. Mitchell.[38] In 1934 Mitchell sold the house and remaining land to J.F. Paul Eschner, by which time the house was in near ruins. The Eschners extensively rehabilitated the house, added a wing and made other improvements to the property.[39] In 1947 Eschner's widow sold the house and 100 acres to Richard H. Mudd who two years later conveyed the same to Young Wright.[40] The Wrights continued the rehabilitation of the house and grounds until 1962 when Acquinsicke was purchased by George C. Miles.[41] The present owners acquired the house and further reduced acreage in 1990.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS:

The extent to which Acquinsicke was rehabilitated in the 1930s and 1940s was clearly necessitated by its near ruinous condition at the time of its sale in 1934. In many respects the work that was done was far more sympathetic than the fate suffered by many other county landmarks, then and now. What is important is that the most significant historic architectural features of the

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

house have been preserved, thus providing valuable physical evidence of the changes that occurred in local building customs during the critical post-Revolutionary War period. And, there is every reason to believe that further, more comprehensive studies of this building will reveal additional important information. Regardless, the fact that Acquinsicke is the **only** documented example of its form dating before the late-1810s in this locality by itself establishes its eligibility for National Register listing.

Proving this property's significance in a religious context is more difficult than establishing its architectural significance, since the actual site of the original Neale home is not precisely known. Further, though the existing house was built by a direct descendent of Anthony and Edward Neale, it by itself has no direct association with that aspect of the property's history. Nevertheless, there is strong historical evidence that the existing house was built on or quite close to the site of the earlier Neale dwelling; possibly, as suggested by irregularities in the framework of the present house, it incorporates part of the framework of its predecessor. Also to be considered is the fact that the site of the existing structure was clearly highly valued in a personal rather than economic sense by Anthony Neale's descendants, who retained possession of it for almost two hundred years. Rarely did properties continue in one-family ownership for this length of time. These aspects of the history of the Acquinsicke site, together with the fact that so very few historically important and physically tangible sties exist in this locality relating to the early, pre-American Revolution history of Roman Catholicism, warrants careful consideration of Acquinsicke's site as being one of historical significance in that context. Even though it cannot be proven that the home/mission chapel of the Neale family existed within the area of land nominated without extensive archaeological examination, the site arguably has symbolic and commemorative value by its established historical associations.

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

1. Patents, DD#5:240 (Annapolis).

2. Ibid.

3. Edward C. Papenfuse, et al., A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789, 2 Vols. (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985), 2:882.

4. Patents, DD#5:240.

5. Harry Wright Newman, Maryland Smoots and Kindred Families (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1956), pp. 290.

6. Papenfuse, et al., 2:609

7. J. Richard Rivoire, "St. Mary's Church, Newport" (Charles County), National Register nomination form, 1991.

8. Margaret Brown Klapthor and Paul D. Brown, History of Charles County, Maryland (La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentary, 1958), p. 68; Jack D. Brown, et al., Charles County, Maryland, A History (La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 111.

9. Wills, AB#3:166 (La Plata).

10. Inventories, 1717-1735:327 (La Plata).

11. Wills, AB#3:166.

12. Archives of Maryland, XLVI:140-142; Court Proceedings, 1812-1814:28 (La Plata).

13. Deeds, Z#2:502 (La Plata); Patents, PL#7:273 (Annapolis).

14. Effie Gwynn Bowie, Across the Years in Prince George's County (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, reprt., 1975), p. 571.

15. Deeds, G#3:177 (La Plata).

16. Ibid, 178.

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

17. Bowie, 572.

18. 1783 Tax Assessments, Charles County, District 4, Land (Annapolis).

19. 1798 Federal Direct Tax Lists, Charles County, Part 2: Dwellings (Annapolis).

20. J. Richard Rivoire, Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland (La Plata, Maryland: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990), pp. 16-18.

21. Prince George's County Wills, T#1:518 (Annapolis).

22. Ibid.; Wills, AB#3:166; Deeds, G#3:178; Land Commission Records, BGS#1:325 (La Plata).

23. Notes taken by the author of this nomination from the original letter whose present whereabouts is unknown.

24. Deeds, IB#22:173 (La Plata). See also Papenfuse, et al., 1:284.

25. Wills, T#1:518; Bowie, 571.

26. Orphans Court Proceedings, 1845-1849:286 (La Plata).

27. Guardian Accounts, 1847-1854:20, 47, 49, 84, 112, 148, etc. (La Plata).

28. Ibid., 397, 441; Ibid., 1854-1860:69, 139, 199, 272, 351, 252, etc.

29. Ibid., 1847-1854:7.

30. Ibid., 113.

31. Court Proceedings, 1849-1853:130-148; Guardian Accounts, 1847-1854:132-133.

32. Court Proceedings, 1857-1862:335.

33. Land Commission Records, BGS#1:325.

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

34. Ibid., 327.

35. Deeds: GAH#1:397 and GAH#2:401 (La Plata).

36. Ibid., JST#8:137.

37. Ibid., JST#9:18 and RGS#12:179.

38. Ibid., WMA#51:497.

39. Ibid.

40. Ibid., 84:510 and 89:81.

41. Ibid., 161:144.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Endnotes, Continuation Sheets 14-16

☒ See continuation sheet Nos. 14-16

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: Courthouse, La Plata

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 15.19 acres

USGS Quad: Port Tobacco, Maryland

UTM References

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 18 | 322770 | 4275090 |
| B | 18 | 322660 | 4274930 |
| C | 18 | 322450 | 4275050 |
| D | 18 | 322560 | 4275260 |

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are as shown on Map 13, Parcel 100, Charles County Tax Maps, Rev. to June 1, 1988.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 17

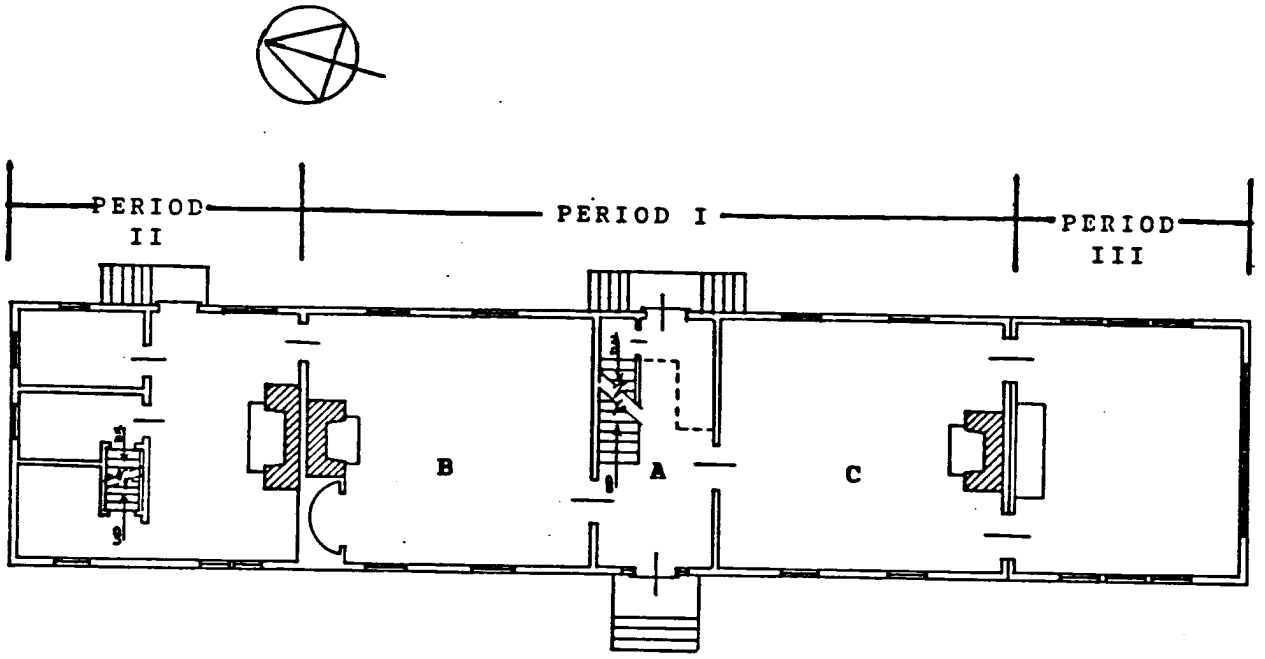
Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all known historic resources integral to the nominated property, maintaining the historic rural setting.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

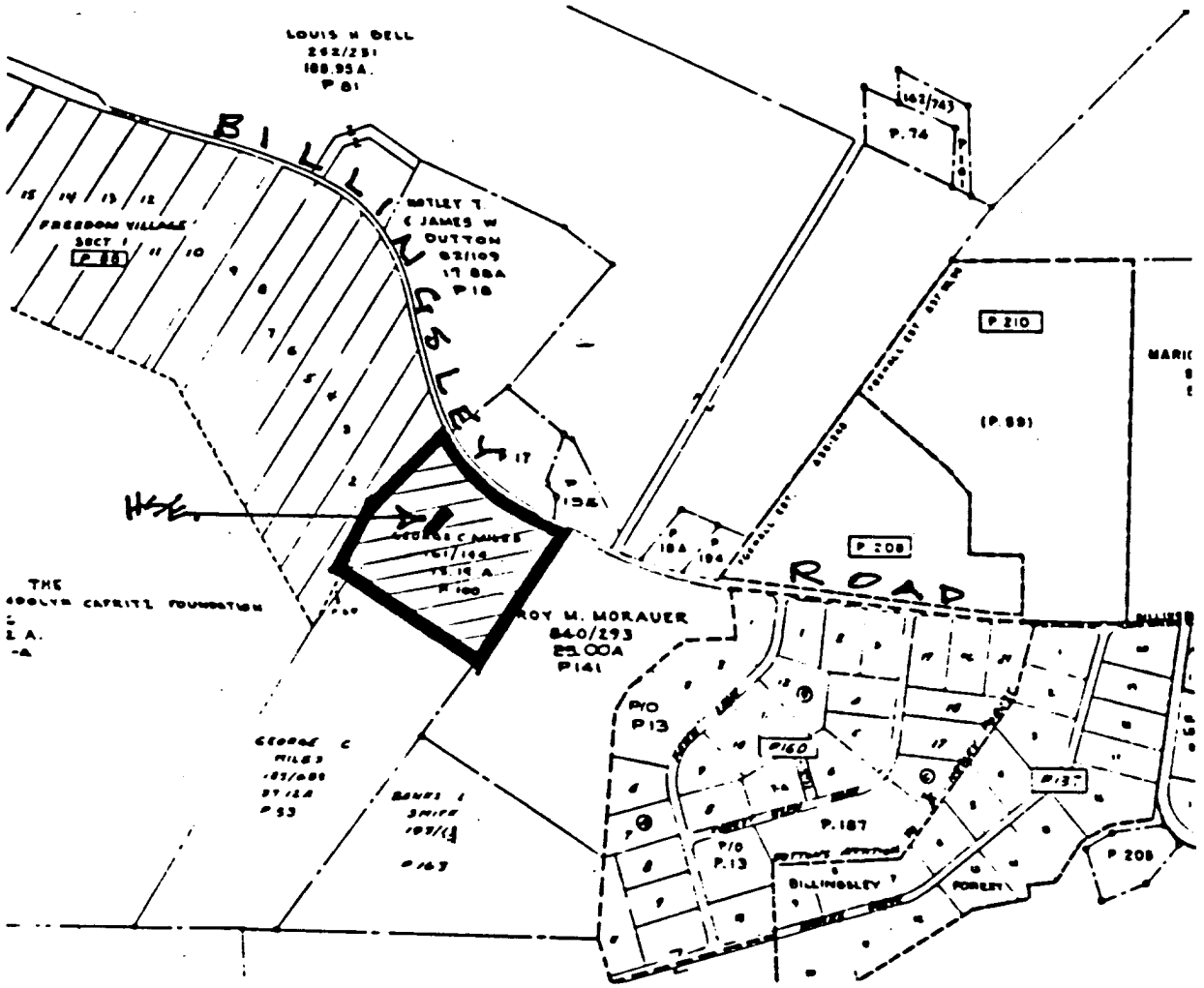
name/title J. Richard Rivoire
organization
street & number P.O. Box 132
city or town La Plata
date August 1991
telephone (301) 932-1000
state Maryland zip code 20646




ACQUINSICKE: FIRST FLOOR PLAN

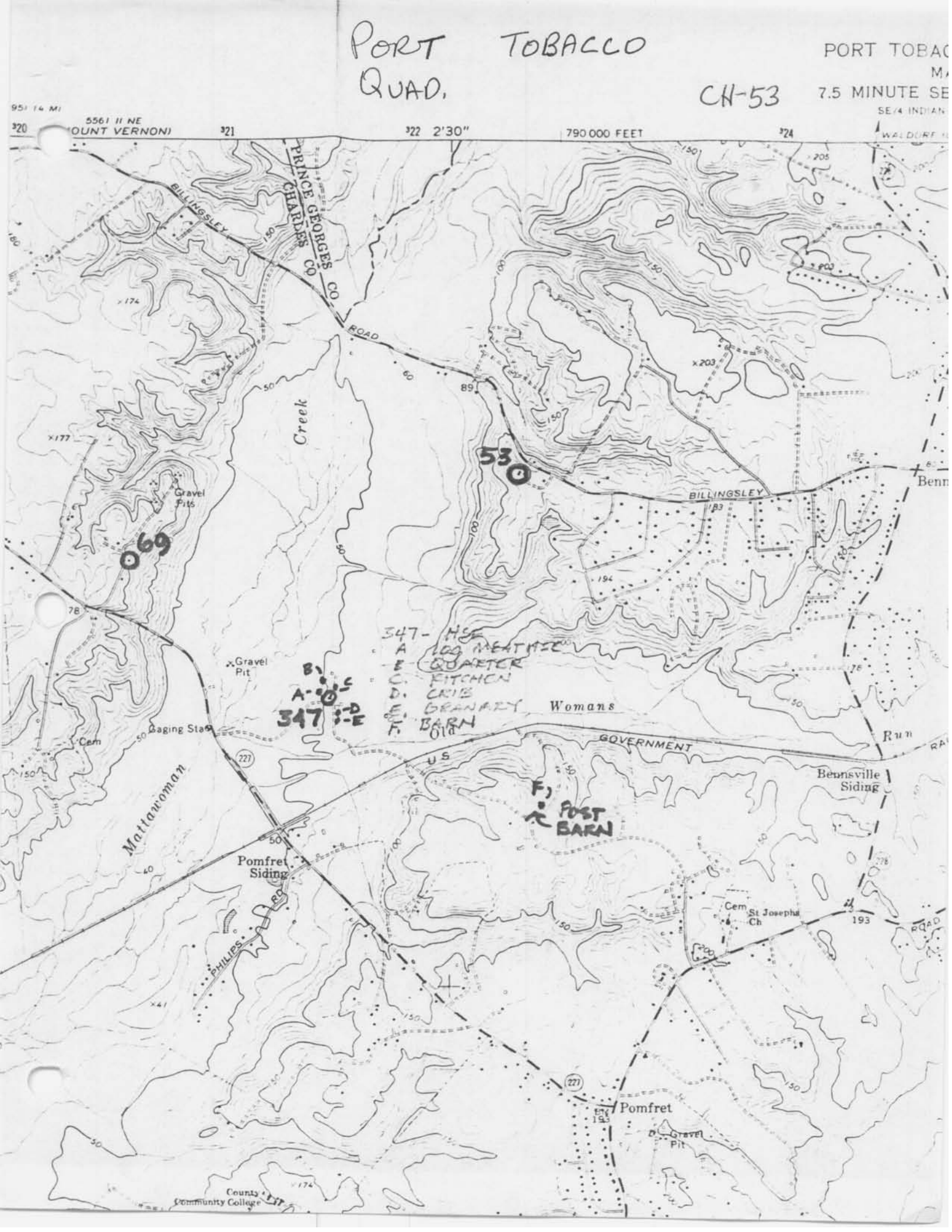
Dimensions of historic rooms: A. (Stair hall): 11'-10" x 19'-6½"; B. (Present dining room: 19'-4" x 19-6½"; C. Present living room: 19'-4" x 19'-6½".

Ceiling heights: First floor: 11'-1"; Second floor: 8'-10"; Attic chambers: 5'-11".

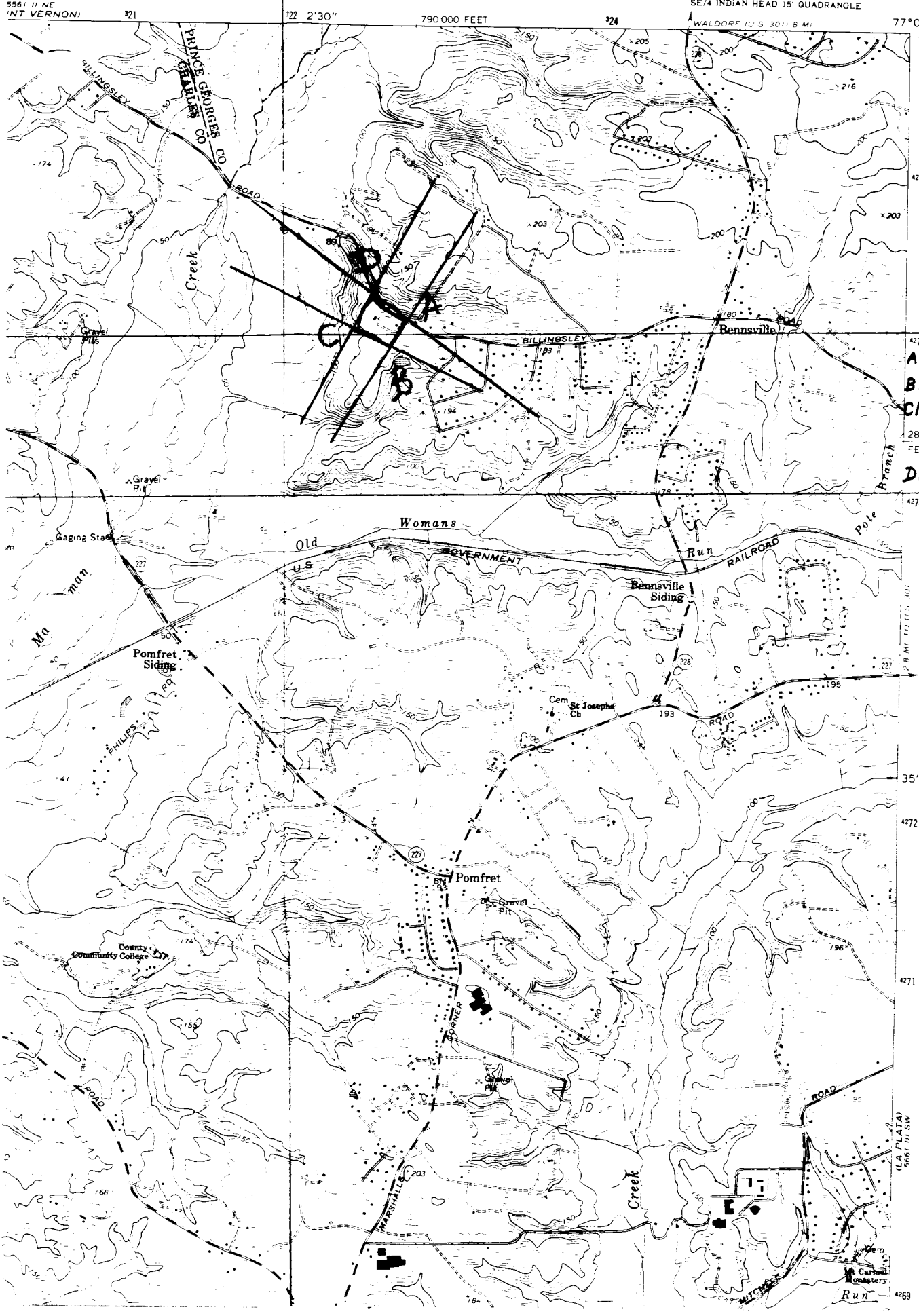



**MAP 13, PARCEL 100**, Charles County Tax Maps, Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Rev. to June 1, 1988.

For boundary description see Charles County Land Records, Liber 161, folio 144, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.


PORT TOBACCO
QUAD.
CH-53
PORT TOBAC
7.5 MINUTE SE
5561 II NE
MOUNT VERNON
790 000 FEET
WALDORF
PRINCE GEORGES CO
CHARLES CO
BILLINGSLEY
ROAD
Creek
Gravel Pits
069
530
BILLINGSLEY
Gravel Pit
347 - HSE
A. LOG HEATER
B. QUARTER
C. KITCHEN
D. CRIB
E. GRANARY
F. BARN
old
Womans
Run
Gaging Sta
Cem
US
GOVERNMENT
227
Bennsville Siding
F) POST BARN
Mattawoman
Pomfret Siding
PHILLIPS RD
Cem St Josephs Ch
193
ROAD
Pomfret
Gravel Pit
County Community College

PORT TOBACCO QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 INDIAN HEAD 15' QUADRANGLE

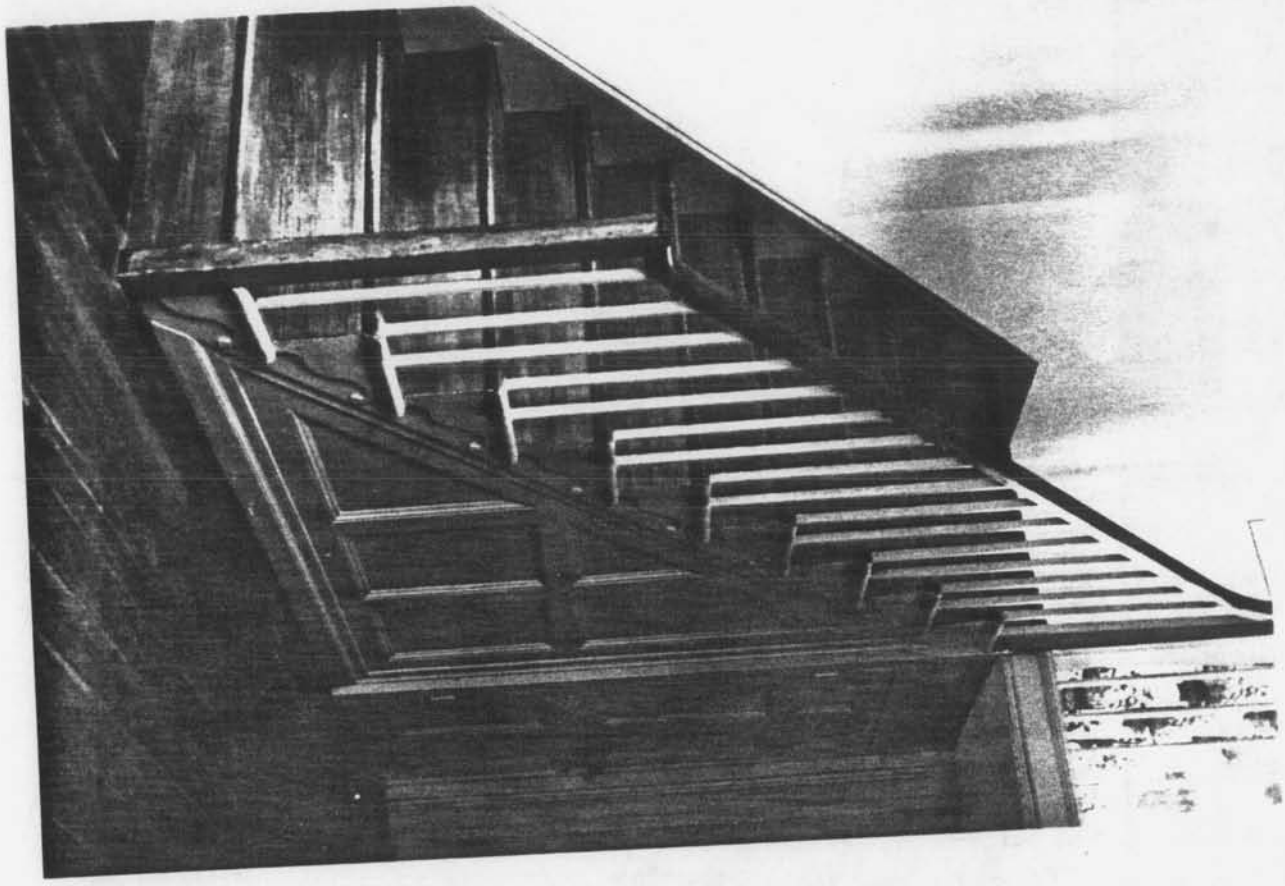


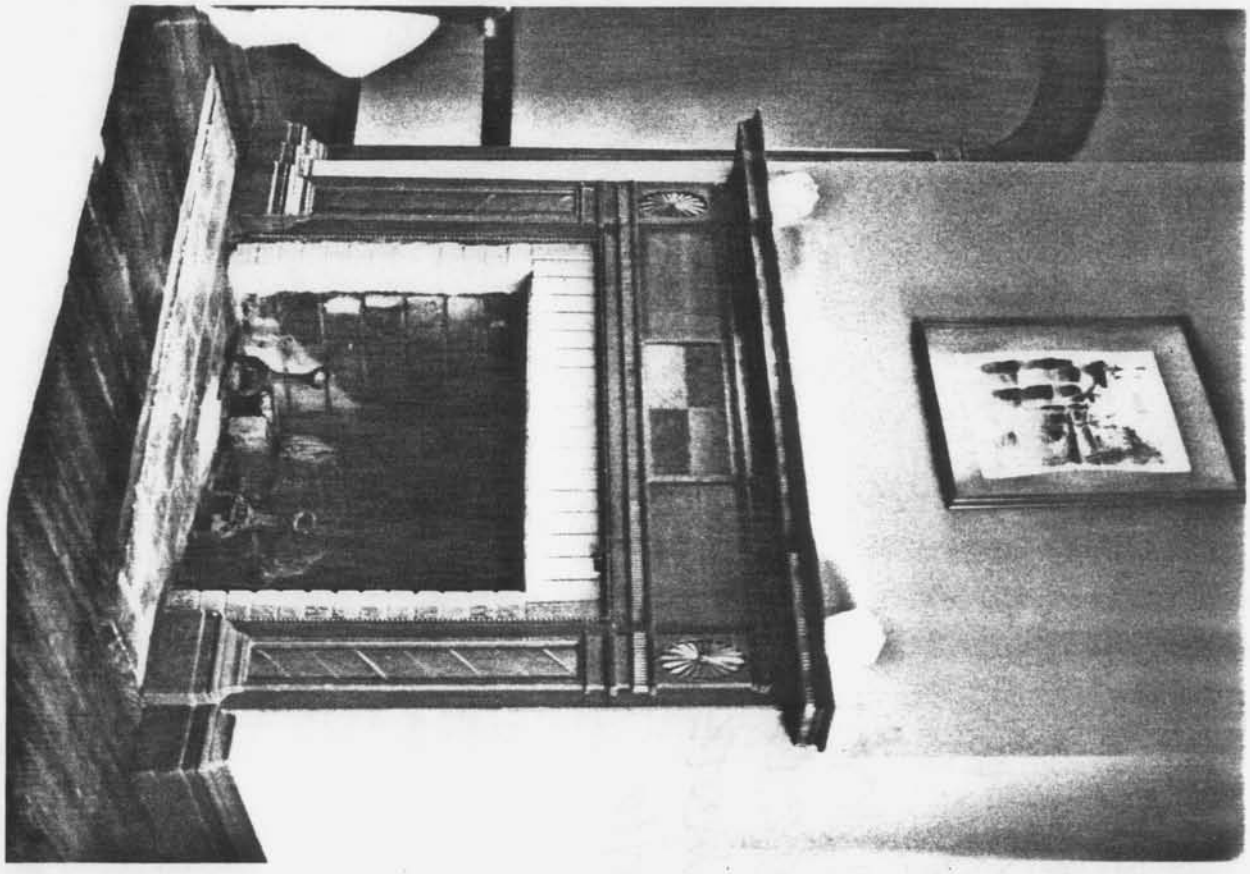

Acquinsicke
CH-53
Charles Co.
Maryland

A 18/322770/4275090
B 18/322660/4274930
C 18/322450/4275050
D 18/322560/4275260

ACQUINSICKE, CH-53
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
VIEW OF HSE. FROM S-SE.
1/6

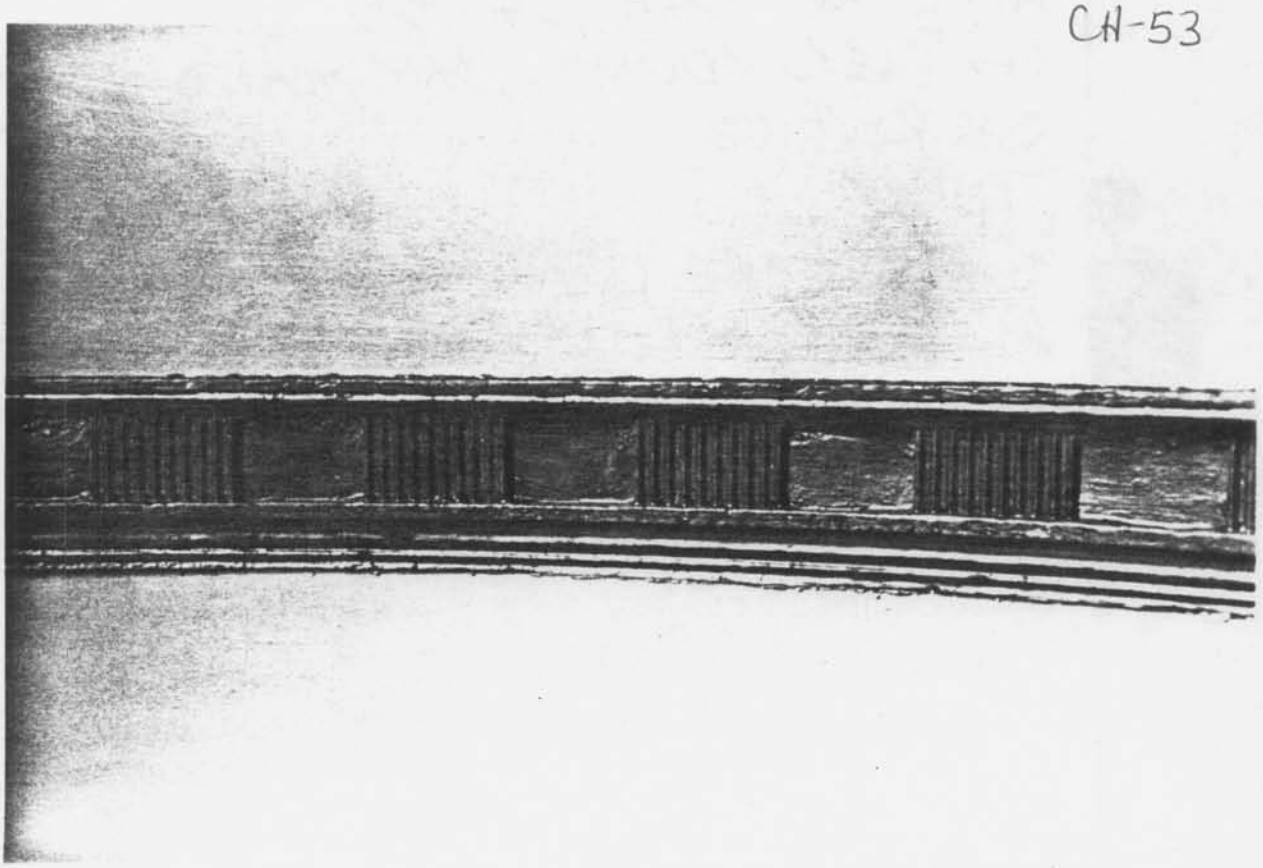
ACQUINSICKE, CH-53
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
VIEW OF HSE FROM W-SW
2/6

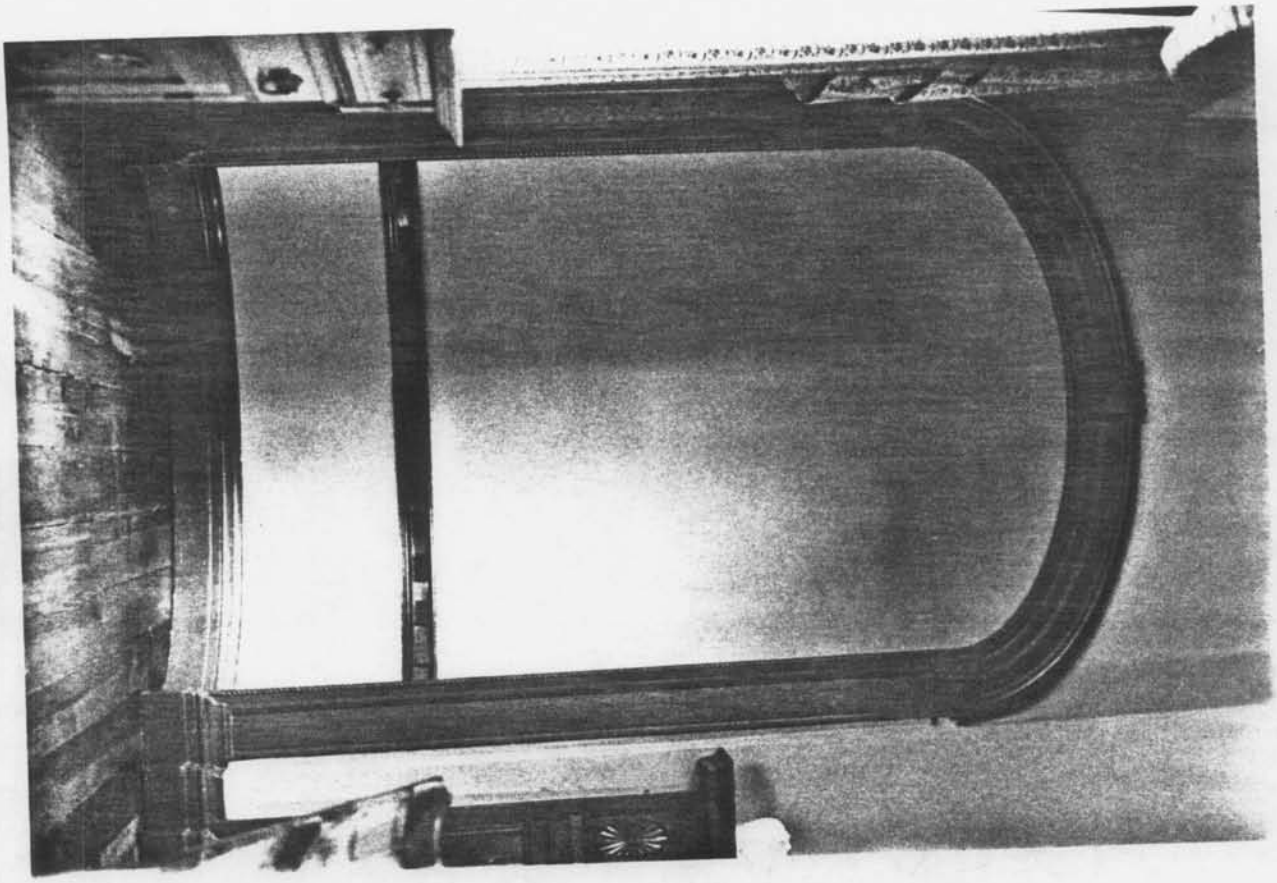




ACQUINSICKE, CH-53
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
MANTEL, 1ST FLOOR N. ROOM
4/6

ACQUINSICKE, CH-53
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
MAIN STAIR
3/6





ACQUINSICKE, CH-53
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
ALCOVE RAIL DETAIL
6/6

ACQUINSICKE, CH-53
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
ALCOVE, N. 1ST FLOOR ROOM
5/6

56½% CH-53 p.69

CH-53 ACQUNSICKE

CH-53, ACQUINSICKE
CHARLES CTY.
E facade, Rivoire 1969