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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

ational 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 ROSEMARY LAWN

other names/site number CH-105

2. Location

street & number Fire Tower Road N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Welcome ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Charles code 017 zip code 20693

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
☒ private	☒ building(s)
☐ public-local	☐ district
☐ public-State	☐ site
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure
	☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	0	buildings
4		sites
4		structures
		objects
16	0	Total

'ame 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 ☒ 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 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 3/12/92

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
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage; animal facility; agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Mid-Nineteenth Century

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD
BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Occupying a rural, agricultural setting in west-central Charles County, Rosemary Lawn comprises an unusually extensive and well-preserved collection of historic domestic dependencies and agricultural buildings. The main residence, a rambling, two-story, frame farmhouse, is believed to be a largely rebuilt version of a house of similar size and configuration that was under construction in 1844-1847. Most of the exterior and interior finishes of the existing house are contemporary with the c.1880-1920 period. The house essentially follows a north-south axis and immediately adjacent to its northwest and north sides are several early nineteenth century domestic dependencies. These include a frame, pyramid-roofed dairy, a frame, pyramid-roofed "cooler" built over elevated foundations enclosing a cellar chamber, and a timber-framed, pyramid-roofed smokehouse. Directly north-northeast of the house is a large, gable-roofed, frame garage/equipment building that was constructed early in the twentieth century. Between this building and the smokehouse to the west is the site of a nineteenth-century carriage house, suggesting that the garage/equipment building may have replaced a former stable. About 100 feet north-northeast of the garage/equipment building stands a heavily timber-framed structure designed for corn and grain storage, with animal sheds to the sides. Distinguished by narrow sides and a broad, gable-fronted facade, this building stands on brick foundations that rise a full story in height on the rear elevation. Constructed on the side of a hill, the foundations enclose a large central room originally used for housing livestock. About 125 feet southeast of this building is a three-part frame structure which also occupies a sloped site. This building consists of an early nineteenth century corncrib or granary on brick piers. In the early twentieth century a second building of matching design was built parallel to the first, at which time the latter was extensively repaired. A small connecting shed was then built between the two, its single-sloped roof camouflaged behind a false gable. Bordering the entrance road is a mid-nineteenth century tobacco barn with later addition. The site is occupied by assorted other small barns, sheds and former feeding stations dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that are now in near ruinous condition. About 300 yards west of the house is a private cemetery of the Barnes family who owned and occupied the property from at least 1783 until 1873. Rosemary Lawn continues as a working farm, thereby preserving the original historic setting of the house and ancillary structures.

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

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The following descriptions of existing resources is keyed to the Site Plan, Continuation Sheet No. 10. All are considered to be historically contributing resources.

1. **RESIDENCE**--Probably 1847 with late 19th and early 20th century alterations (1 contributing building).

This three-part, gable-roofed frame farmhouse is thought to represent a major rebuilding or remodeling of a 12-room dwelling with porches and "kitchen and pantries attached" recorded in 1847 (See Section 8: Resource History). The principal part of the existing house is a two-story, three-bay structure with one-story front and rear porches and with a two-story bay window at its north end. There is a shallow cross-gable on the east, principal facade, and two interior brick chimneys. Front and rear centered doors open onto a central stair passage flanked by four rooms (See Continuation Sheet No. 8). This same room arrangement is repeated on the second floor, which also has a small room at the front of the hall. There are additional finished rooms at the attic level. The stair is of a basic Eastlake design, with boxed newel posts and turned balusters. Most of the interior door and window architraves consist of one-piece facings and simple corner blocks.

Extending off from the north end of the main block is a lower, two-story wing housing a rear service stair and passage, and a flanking room with a fireplace centered on the partition wall. Attached to the west side of this section of the house is a gable-roofed, one-story wing. All three parts of the house are sheathed with German siding and have asphalt shingled roofs.

The house stands on continuous brick foundations, with a T-shaped cellar beneath the hall and two west rooms of the main block. Framing timbers and other construction details observable from the cellar and crawl spaces indicate that the entire floor framing system of the main block, including the sills, was replaced in the early twentieth century. Other details of more limited accessibility - notably brick nogging, partially hewn studs and posts, and cut nail fasteners associated with the interior partition walls - indicate that the house is probably older than it outwardly appears, and in fact may incorporate all or most of the framing of the house known to have existed in 1847.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

While this evidence is fragmentary at best, the likelihood that the interior and exterior finishes of the existing building camouflage the framework of the 1847 house is reinforced by the fact that it so closely conforms in size and rooms with the earlier building. The 1847 house, according to the Orphans Court valuation, consisted of a two-story, 12-room structure with finished attic chambers and a porch along its rear side, and "attached" kitchen and pantries. Excluding stair passages, the two main sections of the present house parallel in number of rooms and other details the 1847 description, and this building's west wing could have housed the kitchen and pantries.

2. **DAIRY**--Second quarter 19th century, early 20th century interior alterations (1 contributing building). See Continuation Sheet No. 9.

Measuring 9'4" square and built on brick foundations, the dairy features a pyramid roof with deep, overhanging eaves on all four sides, below which are large louvered vents. There was also a louvered opening centered in the west wall. The original door was centered in the east wall. Both the door and the louvers of the window opening were later removed. Except for its modern roof sheathing of asphalt shingles, all of the exterior finishes and trim is original. Early in the twentieth century the interior was altered by sheathing the walls and ceiling with wood, replacing the original door with a heavy, insulated door, and installation of a refrigeration unit to convert it for cold storage of meats. Despite these changes, the building's original framework and most other early details and finishes remain intact. This building's carpentry indicates a second quarter, nineteenth century date of construction. It is one of exceedingly few pre-Civil War dairies surviving in Charles County.

3. **Cooler**--Second quarter 19th century (1 contributing building). See Continuation Sheet No. 9.

Slightly larger than the adjoining dairy but of a similar design, this structure stands less than two feet from the latter's northeast corner. Except for extensive repair and some replacement of its original clapboard siding and its modern roof covering, this building is in a remarkably complete state of preservation and is the only known example of a building of its form and probable intended use known to exist in Charles County. Of heavy, timber-frame construction over brick foundations, the building's upper room has brick nogged walls, a small louvered opening in its north wall, and a high, deep shelf along its east wall. The door, centered in

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

the south wall, is of vertical boards. The wall and roof framing has always been exposed. Directly in front of the door is a trap door providing access to a cellar chamber reached by a ladder-like stair which is original to the building. The lower room has parged brick walls and is ventilated by small, wood-barred openings at the top of all four walls. The floor is of packed dirt.

It is likely that this building was used for the housing of non-dairy products that required being kept cool and reasonably dry. John Barnes' 1844 inventory (See Section 8: Resources History) lists various pickled meats and considerable quantities of cider, wines and liquor stored in small casks and demijohns. This building would have been well-suited for the storage of such items, as well as dried fruits and vegetables. The carpentry details indicate that it is probably contemporary with the dairy and that it was undoubtedly in existence by 1844-1847.

In about the mid-twentieth century the dairy and "cooler" were joined by a small shed covering their front elevations. The shed has exposed interior framing and an interior chimney servicing a small oven-like stove. The original function of this room is not known; possibly, it related to the processing of meats prior to placing them in cold storage.

4. **SMOKEHOUSE**--Second quarter 19th century (1 contributing building).

Located about twenty five feet from the northeast corner of the house, this timber-framed, pyramid-roofed structure has brick foundations and a dirt floor. The door is centered in its west wall. The exterior is sheathed with beaded clapboards, and all of the trim is original. On the interior, the braced wall framing and the roof framing is exposed and heavily smoke blackened. Extensive use of double-struck wrought nails suggests that this may be one of the older extant structures making up the farm complex, though it too was probably built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and is the smokehouse referenced in the 1847 valuation.

5. **CARRIAGE HOUSE SITE**--Probably second quarter 19th century (1 contributing site).

This was identified by the present owners of Rosemary Lawn as the location of an early carriage house that was still standing 1943. A 1950s aerial photograph of the farm shows evidence of a building having stood in this

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

location. The size, design, age and actual original function of the building cannot be verified without archaeological investigation; however, the 1847 valuation lists a carriage house as one of the dependencies.

6. **GARAGE/EQUIPMENT BUILDING**--Probably first quarter 20th century (1 contributing building).

According to the current owners, this building was in existence in 1943. It probably had not been erected more than 10 or 20 years previously. A large frame structure with a gable roof and a north-south axis, it has three open bays in its south end and windows along the three remaining walls. Now used as a garage, it was undoubtedly built to both house and repair farm machinery. It is possible that this building was constructed on the site of one of the two stables listed in the 1847 valuation since it stands immediately adjacent to the carriage house site.

7. **GRANARY**--Probably second quarter 19th century (1 contributing structure).

This architecturally complex building actually served a number of purposes, including corn and grain storage and the housing of livestock. Of heavy, timber-framed construction over full brick foundations and built against the side of a hill, it measures 40'7" wide by 18'5" deep and has a high gable roof with a north-south axis. The central portion of the building is a full two-stories high above the foundations. The lower room, lined on the interior with vertical slats, was used for storing corn. The upper room, reached by a corner stair, was originally sealed with flush, horizontal boards and served as a granary. The common rafter roof, nearly 26 feet on a side, extends down to cover 12-foot wide sheds flanking the corn room. The sheds were originally partitioned into narrow tie stalls, possibly for stabling work mules. The wood-floored loft above these was probably used for storing hay. The building's common bond brick foundations, underpinned with fieldstone, rise to a full story height on the north, rear side. A wide, off-center doorway gives access to a large open room below the corncrib. This room is ventilated by patterned grillwork in the south wall; there is also evidence that there was once a window opening to the right of the north door. While there is no evidence of stall partitions, this room was clearly used for housing livestock.

The granary's south facade, notable for its symmetrical arrangement of doors, retains most of its original clapboard siding and door hardware. The siding of the north, east and west sides has been largely replaced.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

The metal roof sheathing is modern. The roof was originally wood shingles, which was subsequently replaced with corrugated metal.

The presence of double-struck and early cut nails in the same context suggests a probable late-second quarter nineteenth century date of construction. This building was probably one of the two granaries and mule sheds recorded in 1847. Multi-use agricultural buildings architecturally similar to this structure were not uncommon in this locality, although few examples survive. This is by far the most structurally complex and best preserved example of its form known to exist in Charles County.

8. **PEN OR FEED LOT**--Probably early 20th century (1 contributing site).

9. **TRIPLEX GRANARY AND CORNCRIB**--Probably 1825-1850 (1 contributing structure).

This unusual three-part frame structure consists of a timber-framed corn or grain storage building thought to date from the 1825-1850 period. Like most of the earliest structures that make up this complex, it was built on the side of a hill. Rather than continuous foundations, however, its underpinning consists of large, brick piers. These are spaced along the outer walls as well as beneath the center of the building. The extensive support system suggests that it originally functioned as a granary; it may be the second of the two granaries recorded in 1847. In about the early twentieth century a second building of matching size and design was erected parallel to the first. This stands on concrete piers. Its exterior is sheathed with flush, vertical boards and cement used to seal between the wall posts and horizontal nailers, indicating that it was built as a granary. Concurrent with its construction, the wall framing of the older building was extensively reworked, apparently to convert it to a corncrib. At the same time, a small frame hyphen was constructed to provide a passage between the two buildings. This has a shed roof and cement lined interior walls. An interesting detail of this section is the manner in which the shed roof was camouflaged by extending the vertical boards of its front wall above the roofline to form a fully trimmed false gable corresponding with the gable fronts of the flanking sections.

10. **SMALL ANIMAL BARN OR SHED**--Probably early 20th century (1 contributing structure).

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

Overgrown and dilapidated condition; of frame construction.

11. **POST BARN**--Probably late 19th century (1 contributing building).

Possibly dating from the late nineteenth century, this small barn is built around untrimmed, hole-set cedar posts. The exterior is sheathed with vertical planks and the roof with metal. It apparently was used at various times as an animal shelter, tobacco barn and hay barn. The building has a gable roof on a north-south axis. Extending to the east is a long shed-roofed appendage. Both parts of the structure are in dilapidated condition.

12. **SHED**--Probably early 20th century (1 contributing site).

In ruins, of frame construction.

13. **SMALL BARN**--Probably early 20th century (1 contributing building).

This now-dilapidated frame structure appears to have been alternately used for curing tobacco and storing hay.

14. **WELL HOUSE**--Early 20th century with older foundation (1 contributing structure).

This small, gable-roofed frame structure dates from the early twentieth century, but the brick-lined well it shelters is considerably older. It is extremely likely that the well house recorded in 1847 occupied this same site.

15. **TOBACCO BARN**--Probably mid-nineteenth century (1 contributing building).

This gable-roofed, timber-framed barn appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century and is very likely one of the four tobacco houses recorded in 1847. In later years the barn was extended in length and a shed built across its south side. The shed contains remnants of a vertical screw prise used for packing tobacco into hogsheads.

16. **CEMETERY**--Nineteenth and twentieth century (1 contributing building).

Enclosed within a post-and-board fence, the cemetery contains seven monuments, the largest and most sophisticated being that marking the

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

graves of Captain John Mitchell (d.1812), and his wife, Catherine (Barnes) Mitchell (d.1814). This stone was erected about 40 years after Catherine Mitchell's death by her son, Walter H.J. Mitchell of Linden (CH-48, NR). Other marked graves include that of an infant who died in 1836, John C.H. Barnes (1845-1849), M.J. Barnes (1806-1852), Mary R. Barnes (1840-1842); Mary A. (Barnes) Brawner (1794-1821), and Charlotte Compton (1817-1864). The graves are arranged in parallel rows, facing east. There is clearly discernible evidence of at least eight additional graves that are not marked.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

The only known archaeological site location is that of the Carriage House (#5 above). However, the 1847 valuation records a number of additional ancillary structures that likely stood in close proximity to the dwelling. The fact that this entire area remains undisturbed makes it extremely probable that these sites could be identified by archaeological investigation. The circled area on the Site Plan defines the area where the archaeological potential is probably greatest. The buildings that likely stood within this area include:

A. Wash House and Bath House (apparently a single structure).
B. Ice House (a deep pit, often lined with wood and covered by a pitched roof positioned close to grade. Generally, they were located at the edge or side of a hill).
C. Stable for Horses (See #6 above).
D. Stable for Horses (See #7 above).
E. Work Shop (possibly a blacksmith's work area where farm implements and other items were made and repaired).
F. Well House (See #14 above).
G. Privy.
H. Poultry House.
I. Poultry House.
J. Poultry House.
K. Apiary.

At least one other of the four tobacco houses recorded might have stood in this same general area. Similarly, at least two of the nine "negro quarters" were probably located near the main dwelling.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

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
Agriculture

Period of Significance
c.1825-c.1941

Significant Dates
1844
1847

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 Rosemary Lawn farm complex is unquestionably one of Charles County's most significant nineteenth and early twentieth century historic properties, regardless of whether it is viewed in a historic agricultural or historic architectural context. As stated in Section 7: General Description, the Rosemary Lawn property embraces a singularly unique collection of historically and physically integrated agricultural buildings and domestic support structures, and constitutes the largest and best preserved collection of such buildings known to exist in their original setting in this region. In addition to the rarity of several of the buildings - notably the two dairies and the oldest granary - the manner in which each of the buildings was constructed to maximize its functional use, and their obviously carefully considered placement, is of exceptional interest and importance. Further, this complex of buildings considerably enhances - just as it is enhanced by - two other significant collections of historic agricultural buildings and domestic dependencies in Charles County listed in the National Register: McPherson's Purchase (c.1845-1900), and Thainston (c.1865-1930).

☒ See continuation sheet No. 12
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
Agricultural/Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure: dairy, smokehouse
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing, storage, animal facility, agricultural outbuilding

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

HISTORIC SETTING:

The opening decades of the nineteenth century represented a period of significant change for Charles County. Before the American Revolution this area was semi-isolated and culturally provincial, and largely comprised of owner-occupied farms and leaseholds that rarely exceeded one or two hundred acres. The economy was historically based on the production and export of tobacco, a labor-intensive crop constantly subject to an often wildly fluctuating market. By the 1780s and 1790s more and more local farmers were augmenting their tobacco with grain crops, for profit as well as personal use. In the 1810s an expanding European grain market and improved trade relations fostered increased production of cereal grains for export, resulting in a new era of economic stability and prosperity. Coincidentally there occurred a major resurgence of building activity as new homes were built and others extensively remodeled and enlarged. Rebuilding extended to changes in the agricultural landscape as well, as granaries, corncribs and livestock barns began outnumbering the tobacco houses. Most noticeably, cribs and granaries became larger and more sophisticated in design over their eighteenth-century predecessors whose usefulness had heretofore extended not much beyond the family farmstead. By the second and third decades of the nineteenth century improved means of communication and commercial and public transportation effected further measurable change. Particularly relevant in this instance was communication - often in letters published in regional newspapers - between local planters and those living in more prosperous farming areas, and the array of readily available and inexpensive farm journals espousing new developments in agricultural theory, technology and marketing. The founding of the Maryland Agricultural Society and organized county fairs that were primarily agriculturally oriented began to influence local farmers, from the way they cultivated the soil; built their houses and organized their domestic environments; and designed and arranged their domestic dependencies and agricultural buildings. In 1800 the beginnings of these changes were barely noticeable; by the 1840s, however, agricultural reform had manifested itself in one form or another at every level of local society, wealthy or poor, free or slave. The Civil War brought about an abrupt end to whatever forward-thinking, forward-moving steps the county had made. Economic chaos and social malaise coupled with a sharp decline in the white population forced Charles County to retreat to its former economic and cultural isolationism, which was to endure for the next half-century.

RESOURCE HISTORY:

The land on which the Rosemary Lawn complex is sited was originally part

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

of a 5,000-acre tract called Poynton Manor granted to Governor William Stone in 1654.[1] Between 1764 and 1783 a total of 437 acres of Poynton Manor had been conveyed in several parcels by Stone's descendants to Richard Barnes, a planter, mill owner and county justice.[2] Located at the extreme north end of the original manor, these lands were joined with other contiguous tracts Barnes purchased. By 1783 Barnes' dwelling plantation embraced 678 acres, and the 437 acres that were formerly part of Poynton Manor were improved by "a comfortable dwelling house, 2 tob[acco] houses, a corn house and kitchen."[3] By 1798 Barnes' plantation had grown to 973 acres, and included a dwelling that, with five dependencies, was given an assessed value of $400.00.[4]

Richard Barnes died in 1804, leaving a will in which he bequeathed his dwelling house and part of his dwelling plantation to his son John, subject, however, to the "use and occupancy of the room in my dwelling house called the Long Room during the single lives" of John's sisters, Mary Ann Barnes and Mary Batt Barnes.[5] Richard Barnes' personal estate, which was appraised at $5,357.60, included 28 slaves. Listed under "Household Stuff" in the inventory were such items as an "8 day Clock," 8 beds, 9 tables of assorted sizes and woods, a desk, 2 pair of cast andirons, 4 looking glasses and 3 corner cupboards. Also inventoried were 3 "old" spinning wheels" and "4 Hives [of] bees." Rooms of the house that were specifically referenced were the "Hall," "dining room," "long room," and "little room."[6] The named rooms and the number and type of household furnishings suggest that Barnes' dwelling was most likely a two-room, hall-and-parlor structure with attic bed chambers and a full-width shed across the rear. The "little room" may have been a small appendage off the end of the house inasmuch as it was large enough to contain a cupboard and other furnishings. Richard Barnes' will also named as heirs his sons William, Humphrey and Richard, and the children of his deceased son Henry. Also named was Barnes' daughter Catherine, the wife of John Mitchell.[7]

Mary Batt Barnes died in 1826, leaving her sister, Mary Ann Barnes, a life estate in her real and personal property, after which it was all to pass to her brother, John.[8] Mary Ann Barnes died three years later, naming her brother John as her principal beneficiary.[9]

Historical evidence suggests that both Mary Ann and Mary Batt Barnes continued to occupy the family home following their father's death in 1804, and that though the dwelling was owned by their brother John, and possibly occupied by him and his family as well, they continued to live there until their deaths. It is also believed that their sister, Catherine Barnes Mitchell, lived there following the death of her husband in 1812.[10] There is further convincing

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

evidence, both historical and physical, that the existing Rosemary Lawn house was built on or immediately adjacent to the house occupied by Richard Barnes in 1804 and which was most likely the same dwelling house recorded in the 1783 tax assessment.[11]

Although John Barnes, son of Richard, owned the family homestead, it does not appear that he occupied the land on a permanent basis after about 1819 when he purchased Chimney House in the town of Port Tobacco (NR).[12] For nearly forty years the Clerk of the Charles County Court, and a successful merchant-planter, Barnes considerably expanded the plantation devised to him by his father by buying up those parts of the original tract inherited by the children of his deceased brothers and the acquisition of other lands, here and elsewhere. One of the properties he acquired was Retreat (NR), formerly the plantation of the Jenifer family just outside the county seat of Port Tobacco.[13]

In 1838 John Barnes wrote a letter to his nephew, Reverend Richard Henry Barnes Mitchell, in which he closed by saying "I hope it is not necessary to assure you it will, at all times, give me pleasure to see you in my house, either here or at the Retreat, while I make the latter a temporary residence - and I sincerely regret that I could not at this time ask Mrs. M. & her sisters to join you in a visit - being quite unprepared to entertain Ladies & especially strangers." The letter was headed "Rosemary Lawn, 20 June 1838."[14]

Barnes' widowed son-in-law, William Penn Compton, had died only several months before this letter was written, which might be why Barnes did not feel able to entertain socially at Rosemary Lawn. It is equally possible that Barnes was in the midst of an extensive rehabilitation of the Rosemary Lawn plantation, including construction of a new home and other buildings. This would also coincide with a dramatic decline in the permanent, non-tradesmen population of Port Tobacco as merchants, lawyers and others able to do so removed to outlying farms to escape an unhealthy environment resulting from the town's low lying, swamp-side situation.[15] Both factors could be the reason why Barnes was making the house at Retreat "a temporary residence."

The inventory of the personal estate of Barnes' son-in-law, William Penn Compton, who died intestate, itemizes far too many household furnishings and plantation implements matching those that appear in Richard Barnes' 1804 inventory and that filed upon John Barnes' death in 1844 to be merely coincidental.[16] Inasmuch as it does not appear that Compton occupied any of the lands he himself owned - most of which he had acquired on the death of his father several years earlier - it is conjectured that Compton lived at Rosemary Lawn

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

with his wife (John Barnes' only child) and their son, Barnes Compton. This theory is given further credibility by the fact that William Compton's brother, Wilson Compton, was appointed guardian of William's orphaned son, that Wilson and John Barnes were named administrators of Compton's estate, and that the court records show that immediately following William Compton's death Wilson Compton and his wife had taken up residence at Rosemary Lawn.[17]

John Barnes died in 1844, leaving a will by which he devised a life estate in all his real and personal property to his grandson, Barnes Compton. After Barnes Compton's death the same was to pass to John Barnes' various grandnephews and grandnieces.[18] John Barnes' estate was as vast as it was valuable. His real estate holdings totalled more than 3,000 acres of prime farmland in addition to several improved lots fronting the courthouse square in Port Tobacco. He also owned 78 slaves, three of whom were carpenters and another a brickmason. The inventory of his household furnishings indicates that he was probably living at Rosemary Lawn at the time of his death. Included were items that also appeared in the inventories of Richard Barnes and William Penn Compton, as well as furniture and accessories that were only recently purchased. Among the most valuable items listed were a group of family "pictures" (probably portraits) and a large library of books. Among the latter were several volumes concerned with animal husbandry and assorted agricultural publications. Those that were listed by title included American Gardener, American Farmer, Cultivator, Farmer and Gardener, and Farmer's Cabinet. Livestock on the farm included 17 mules, 12 horses, oxen, 14 milk cows, 2 bulls and 14 heifers, 80 head of sheep and 27 lambs, 5 brood sows and 29 young hogs, and a wide variety of poultry. Plantation implements included hillside and subsoil plows, harrows, corn and tobacco cultivators, corn sheller and corn and cob crushers, wheat fans and harvest rakes and numerous gardening tools. There were also "14 bee hives with bees [and] 11 empty d°," as well as carpenter's, bricklayer's and blacksmith's tools.[19]

The bequest John Barnes made to his grandson, combined with what he had previously inherited on the death of his father in 1838, made Barnes Compton, at age 14, one of Charles County's wealthiest individuals and largest slaveowners.

In 1847 the Charles County Orphans Court ordered an assessment of the annual value of each of Compton's various real estate holdings, including descriptions of all of the improvements and their condition.[20] In filing their reports, the appraisers consistently referred to Rosemary Lawn as the "Home Plantation."[21] It was by far the most extensively improved of the farms Compton inherited.

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

According to these documents, the improvements to Rosemary Lawn in 1847 consisted of

> "...a spacious dwelling house containing twelve rooms, six of which are unfinished, as is the piazza, in the rear of the building, balcony and garret. The other parts of the building appear to be in good order - Attached to the dwelling house are Pantries and Kitchen in good condition - Also wash and bath House, Ice House, two stables for horses, Carriage House, two granaries, four tobacco houses, work-shop, sheds and mule stables, nine negro quarters, Well House, privy, three poultry Houses and Apiary, all of which are in good order. A young apple and peach orchard, pailed garden and lot of grass in front of the Dwelling enclosed with post and rail fence."[22]

As previously discussed, the carpentry of the oldest extant structures and the presence of the cemetery, together with historical evidence, convincingly indicates that the existing site is the same that was occupied by the Barnes family as early as 1783 and certainly by 1802, the date of Richard Barnes' will. What is especially intriguing about the 1847 description, however, is that the house that was being built by John Barnes and which remained incomplete in 1847 neatly corresponds in general layout and number of rooms to the existing house.

In the context of time and place, Rosemary Lawn was an unusually well-developed plantation. It appears likely that many of the domestic and agricultural buildings described in the 1847 valuation had been built within a decade or two of John Barnes' death. Some evidence of this is found in John Barnes' 1844 inventory, which includes such items as "1 lot dressed pailings," "1 lot cypress shingles," "1 doz. garden posts (200 hewed)," "3 new farm gates," and other materials. That the house John Barnes was building in 1844 replaced or represented an extensive alteration of an older dwelling is hinted at by such inventoried items as "1 doz. old window sash," "1 keg with old nails," "1 keg with new nails," "1 keg with old locks," "3 house locks [and] 2 house locks brass."[23] Also, the Guardian Accounts filed by the administrator of Barnes Compton's estate refer several times to work done at Rosemary Lawn by Compton's slave carpenters and bricklayer between 1847 and 1851.[24]

Educated at Charlotte Hall Military academy (SM-85, NR) in St. Mary's County, and later at Princeton, from which he graduated in 1851, Barnes Compton spent most of his youth away from Charles County. Throughout this time his estates were administered by his uncle and guardian, Wilson Compton, who continued to occupy the Rosemary Lawn plantation. Barnes Compton attained his

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

21st birthday on November 16, 1851 and returned to Charles County and took over management of his extensive holdings.[25] A series of letters written in 1858 by several of Compton's cousins relate Compton's courtship of Miss Margaret ("Maggie") Sothoron of St. Mary's County. One, dated March 4, reads "Another rumor going the rounds is that Mrs. Wilson Compton is to move to Loch Leven [CH-43] and Mrs. Barny Compton to take her place at Rosemary Lawn. This too is very generally believed as it is thought Barny received decided encouragement from Miss Maggie and her family..." A letter dated October 27th discussed the upcoming Compton-Sothoron wedding as one that was to be a "...grand affair [with] 12 groomsmen and as many bridesmaids."[26] Following an excursion to Niagara, the newly married couple returned to Charles County and took up residence at Rosemary Lawn, and by 1860 Barnes Compton, then 29, and his wife Margaret, 23, were the parents of a child.[27] In 1863 Barnes Compton secured full title to Rosemary Lawn and the other properties in which his grandfather had bequeathed him a life estate by purchasing the interests held by the other legatees.[28]

Barnes Compton, like his grandfather and other members of his family, was a progressive farmer who played an active and highly visible role in local agricultural affairs. Between 1851 and the Civil War, livestock, produce and other products from Rosemary Lawn frequently won top prizes at the annual county fair.[29]

Shortly after 1865, however, he began disposing of his extensive landholdings, an act undoubtedly precipitated by the loss of his slaves following the Civil War and a severe economic depression that ensued in the war's aftermath. Compton also began to turn his attentions from agricultural pursuits to politics. (Late in life he was to be elected to Congress, serving from 1884 to 1890 and from 1891 until 1894.)[30]

In 1872 Barnes and Margaret Compton sold 550 acres of Rosemary Lawn "upon which he [Compton] resides" to William Dows, an Englishman.[31] Reserved from the conveyance was one-half acre "used as a family burying ground" together with a right-of-way. A survey plat attached to the deed shows the 550 acres to have extended on both sides of the public road (present-day Fire Tower Road), and include the part of Rosemary Lawn upon which the existing dwelling and domestic and agricultural structures stand. It is traditionally believed that the Compton home was destroyed by fire shortly after this conveyance. Certainly, the exterior and interior finishes of the house as it presently exists are in keeping with a house built or extensively rehabilitated at the close of the nineteenth century or first decade of the twentieth century.

See Continuation Sheet No. 19

Dows lived at Rosemary Lawn until his death in 1916, after which time it continued in the ownership of his family by a complex series of transfers until 1926.[32] By that year the 550 acres had been reduced to 298. In 1942, by which time all of the existing structures that make up the farm complex had been built, the 298 acres were purchased by Raymond and Loulie Dodson, whose heirs are the current owners.[33]

See Continuation Sheet No. 20

1. Margaret B. Klapthor and Paul D. Brown, History of Charles County, Maryland (La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary Commission, 1958), p. 8.

2. Deeds: L#3:524, 526 and K#4:246 (La Plata).

3. 1798 Tax Assessments, Charles County, District 7, Land (Annapolis).

4. 1798 Federal Direct Tax Lists, Charles County, Parts 1 and 2 (Annapolis). The $400.00 assessed value placed Barnes' dwelling slightly above average (See J. Richard Rivoire, Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland [La Plata, Maryland: Southern Maryland Studies Center], pp. 14-18).

5. Wills: AL#12:319 (La Plata).

6. Inventories and Accounts, 1802-1808:171 (La Plata).

7. Wills: AL#12:319 (La Plata).

8. Wills and Inventories, WDM#15:214 (La Plata).

9. Ibid., 325.

10. Wills: AL#12:319 (La Plata).

11. According to the present owners of Rosemary Lawn, the brick foundations of an earlier dwelling stand directly in front of the existing house. The early nineteenth century construction details of the dairy and the oldest of the granaries, the existence of the Barnes cemetery where known interments occurred as early as 1812, and the history of the ownership of the site combine to support the conclusion that it was originally occupied by Richard Barnes, Sr.

12. Chimney House was accorded one of the highest valuations of all buildings in Port Tobacco in 1798. Built about 1770, it was originally the residence and store of Scottish merchant Thomas How Ridgate. In 1819 a new county courthouse was built almost immediately adjacent to this building. It is believed that John Barnes made Chimney House his permanent residence at least until about 1838-1840.

See Continuation Sheet No. 21

13. The conveyance was not formally recorded until 1847.

14. John Digges Mitchell Collection, Southern Maryland Studies Center, Charles County Community College, La Plata, Maryland.

15. See: Port Tobacco Historic District, National Register nomination form, 1989.

16. Inventories, 1837-1841:51; Inventories and Accounts, 1802-1808:171; Inventories, 1844-1846:1 (all La Plata).

17. Guardian Accounts, 1835-1847:28 (La Plata).

18. Wills: DJ#16:316 (La Plata).

19. Inventories, 1844-1846:1-28.

20. Guardian Accounts, 1847-1854:37.

21. Ibid., 33, 37, 137, 139.

22. Ibid., 37.

23. Inventories, 1844-1846:1-28.

24. Guardian Accounts, 1847-1854:37, 137, etc.

25. Abstracts from the Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser, Vol. 1: 1844-1854, Roberta J. Wearmouth, comp., (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1990), p.88, 119.

26. Gen. Walter Hanson Jenifer Mitchell Collection, Part 1, Mitchell Letters, Southern Maryland Studies Center.

27. Charles County Census records.

28. Deeds: GWC#1:295 (La Plata).

29. Wearmouth, Abstracts; notes by the author of this nomination from the Port Tobacco Times.

See Continuation Sheet No. 22

30. John M. Wearmouth, Charles County Helps Shape a Nation (La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Board of Education, 1986), pp. 39-42.

31. Deeds: GAH#3:402 (La Plata).

32. Ibid., WMA#33:528, 532; 35:62; 46:115.

33. Ibid., 76:118.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 20

[X] See continuation sheet No. 20

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
- [X] Other

Specify repository: Charles County Courthouse, La Plata

10. Geographical Data

creage of property 73.46 acres

USGS Quad: Mathias Point, MD-VA

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	316700	4262590
B	18	316700	4261890
C	18	316170	4261900
D	18	316170	4262600

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at A, a point in the center line of Fire Tower Road; then west 250 feet to B, a point in the center line of the existing farm entrance road; then due south 675 feet to C; then due west 1,600 feet to D; then due north 2,000 feet to E; then due east 1,600 feet to F; then due south 1,325 feet to the point of beginning at B. (See Continuation Sheet No. 23; numbers define locations of historic resources identified in Section 7, see also Continuation Sheet No. 10.) [X] See continuation sheet No. 23 & 10

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 23

[X] See continuation sheet No. 23

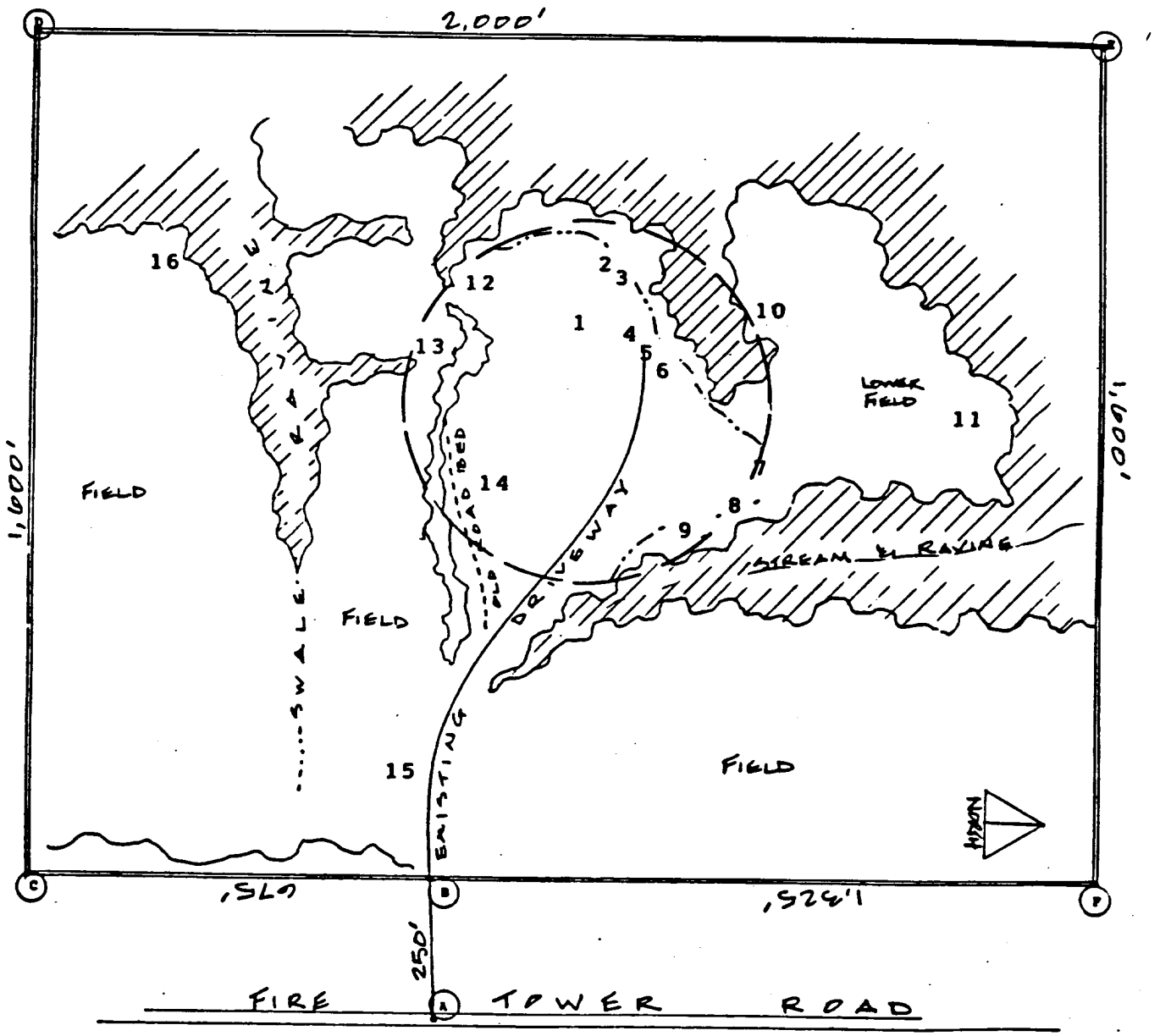
11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Richard Rivoire

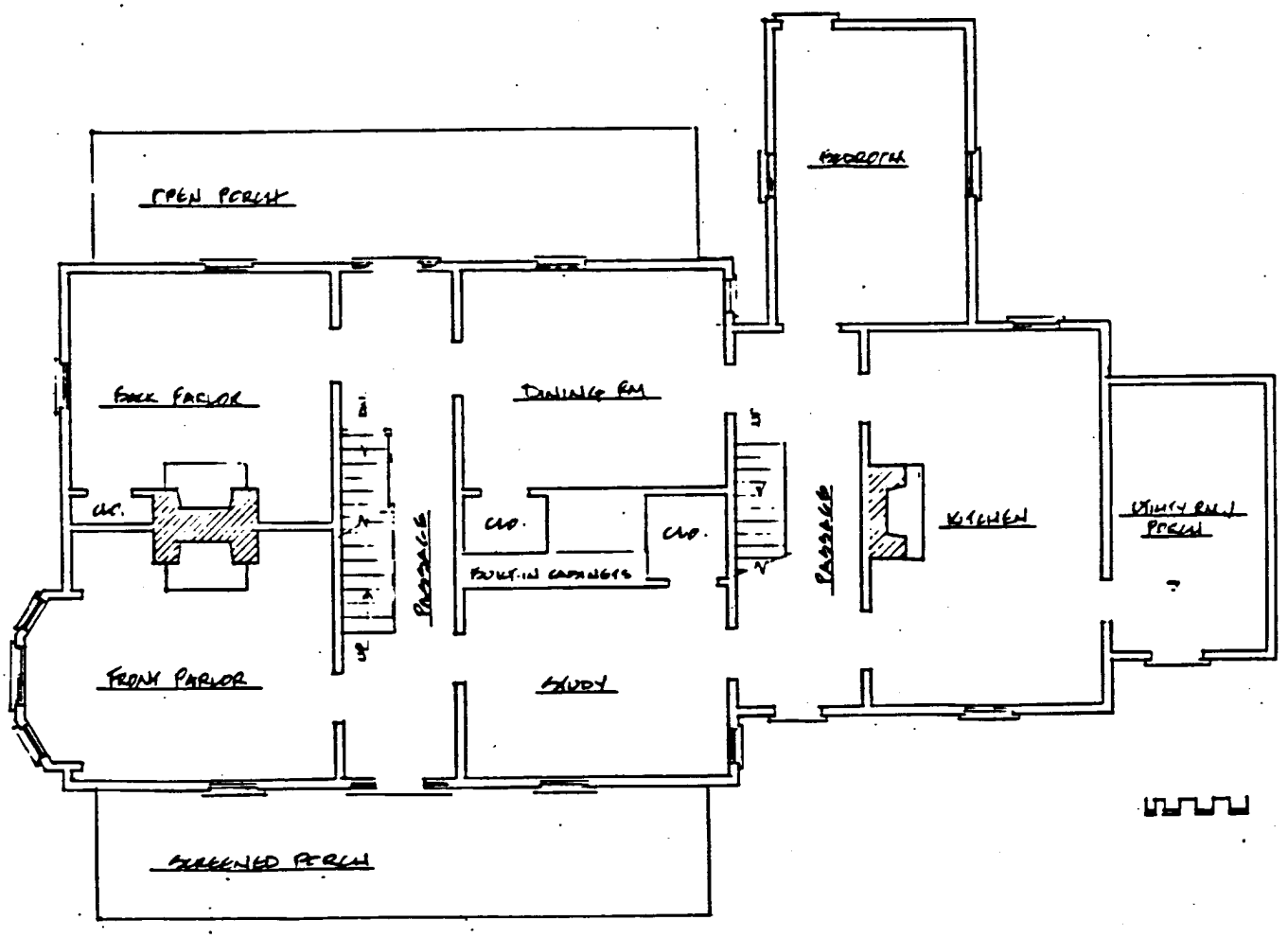
organization _____ date August 1991

street & number P.O. Box 132 telephone (301) 932-1000

city or town La Plata state Maryland zip code 20646

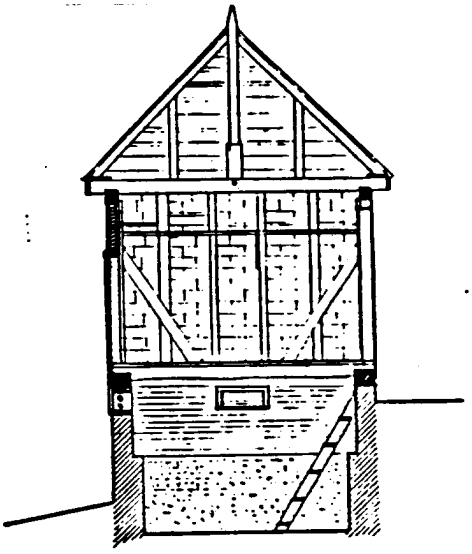


BOUNDARY PLAT
(Boundaries determined from aerial photographs, tax assessment maps and U.S.G.S maps)

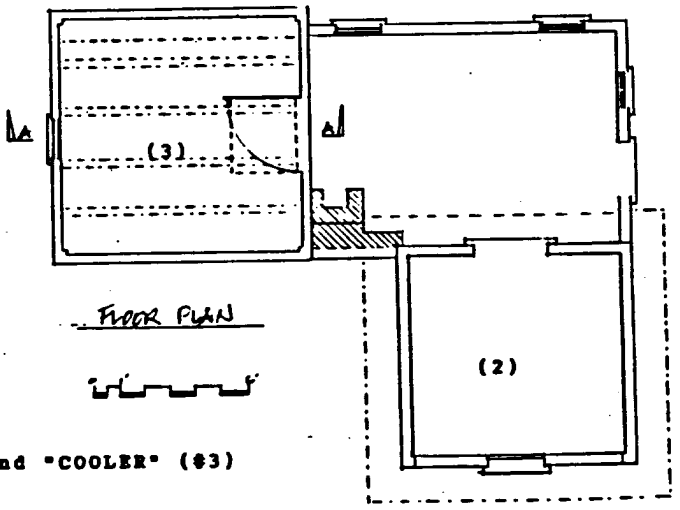


Rosemary Lawn, (#1)
First Floor Plan
Rooms identified according to current use.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9



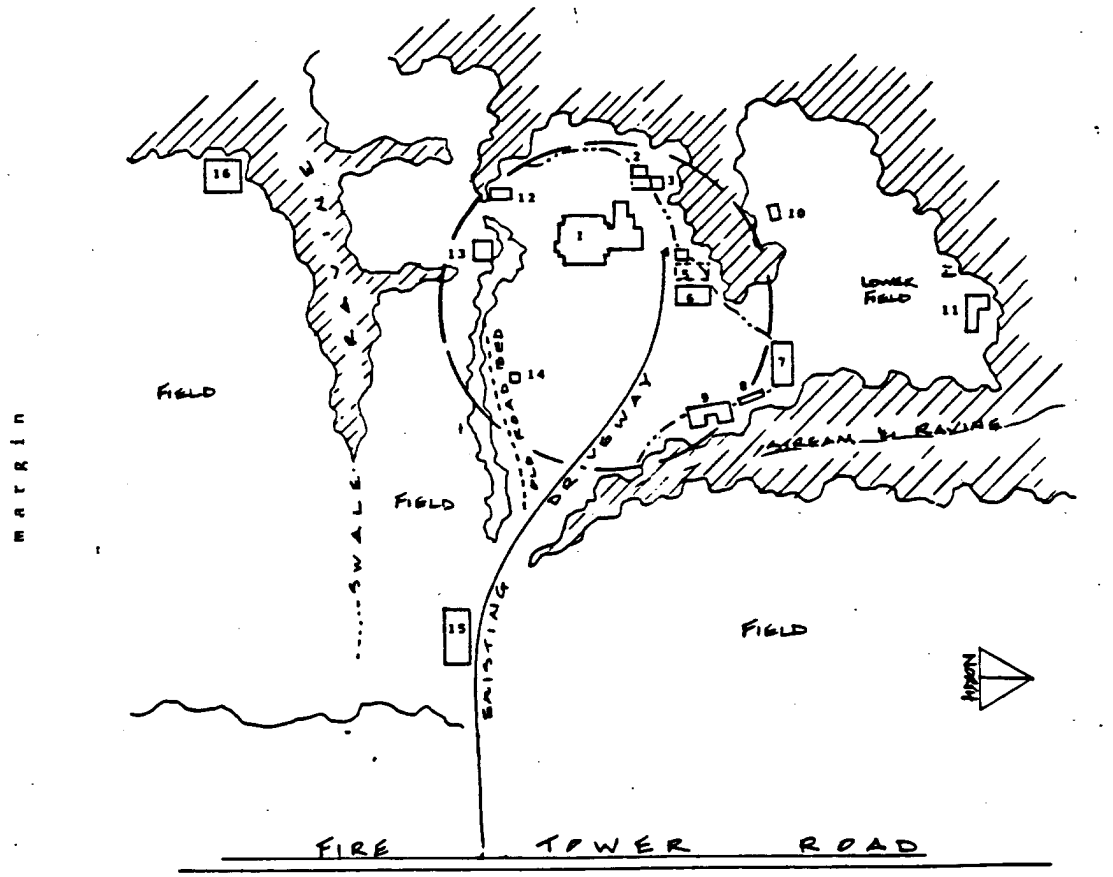
SECTION A-A



FLOOR PLAN

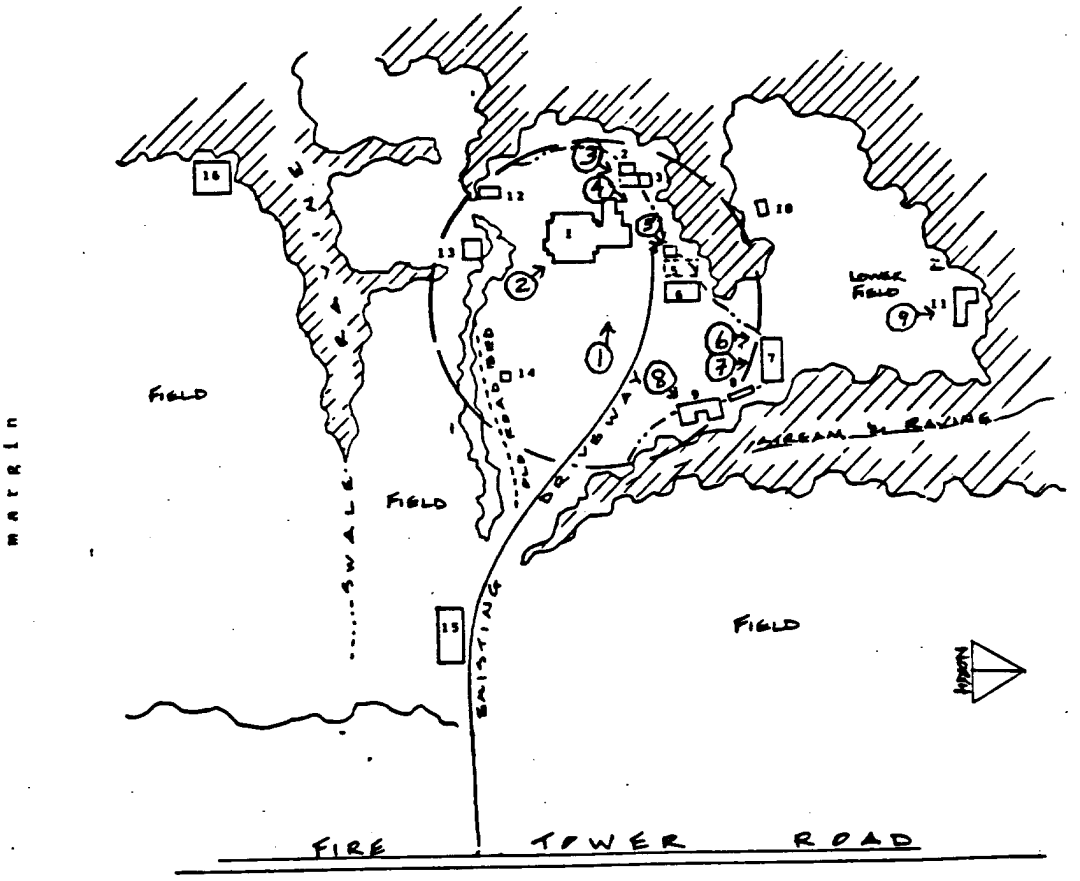
DAIRY (#2) and "COOLER" (#3)

See Continuation Sheet No. 10



SITE PLAN
Not drawn to scale.
See Section 7: General Description for building identifications.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11



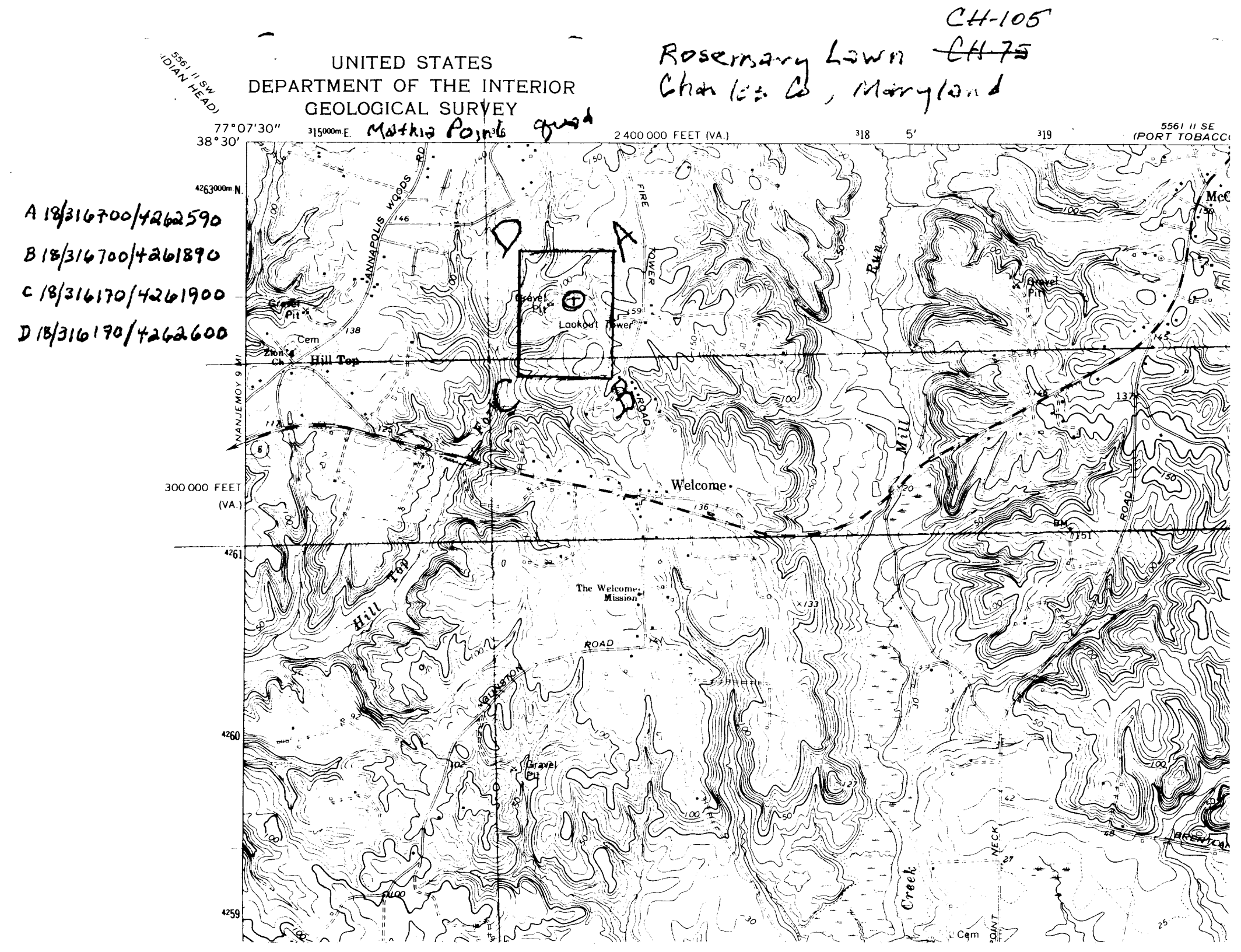
SITE PLAN
Not drawn to scale.
See Section 7: General Description for building identifications.

Photograph Map ⑤→ = photo no. & direction of view

CH-105

Rosemary Lawn ~~CH-75~~

Charles Co, Maryland

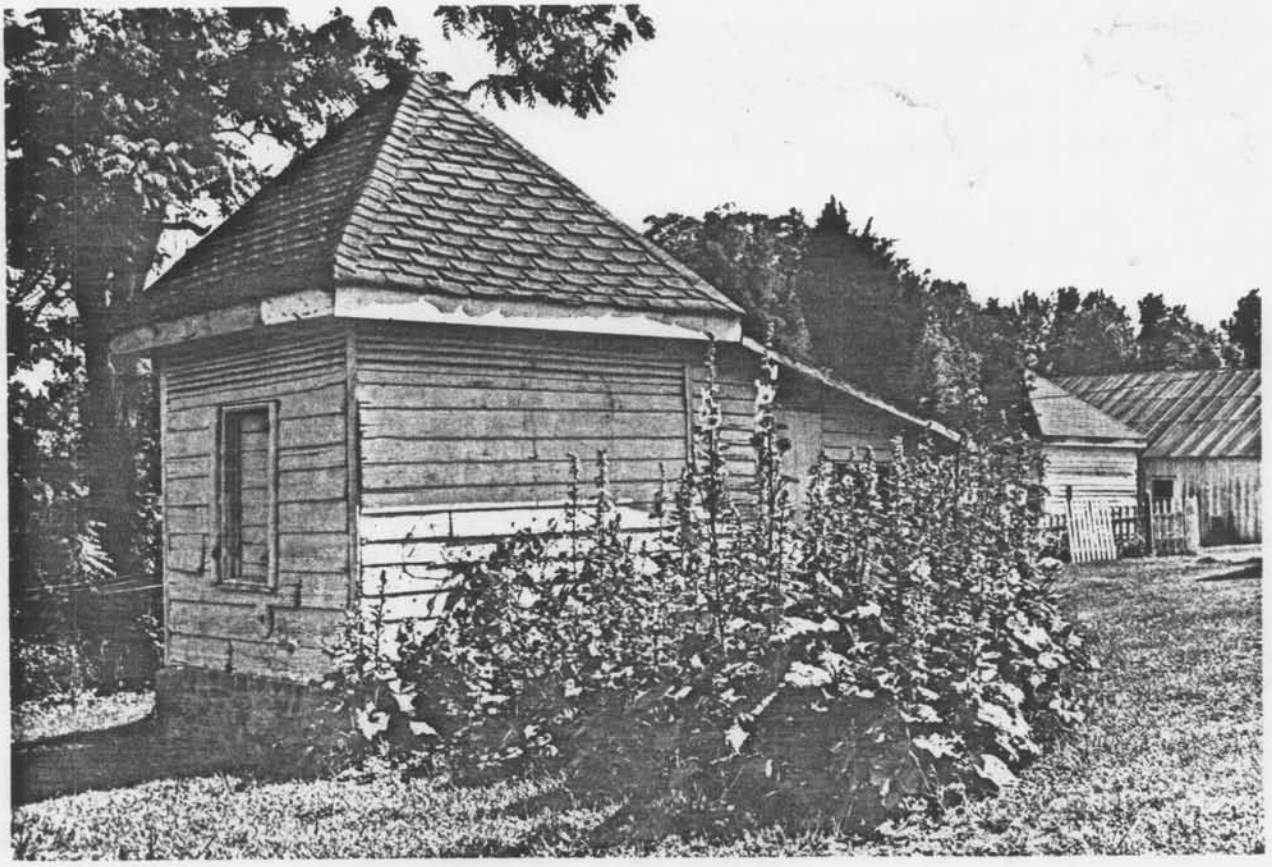


CH- 105

ROSEMARY LAWN, CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LA PLATA, MD.
VIEW OF MAIN HSE. & OUTBUILDINGS
FROM E. (left: HOUSE; CENTER: SMOKE-
HOUSE; RIGHT: GARAGE)
1/9

ROSEMARY LAWN CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LA PLATA, MD.
VIEW OF MAIN HOUSE FROM SE
7/9

CH- 105

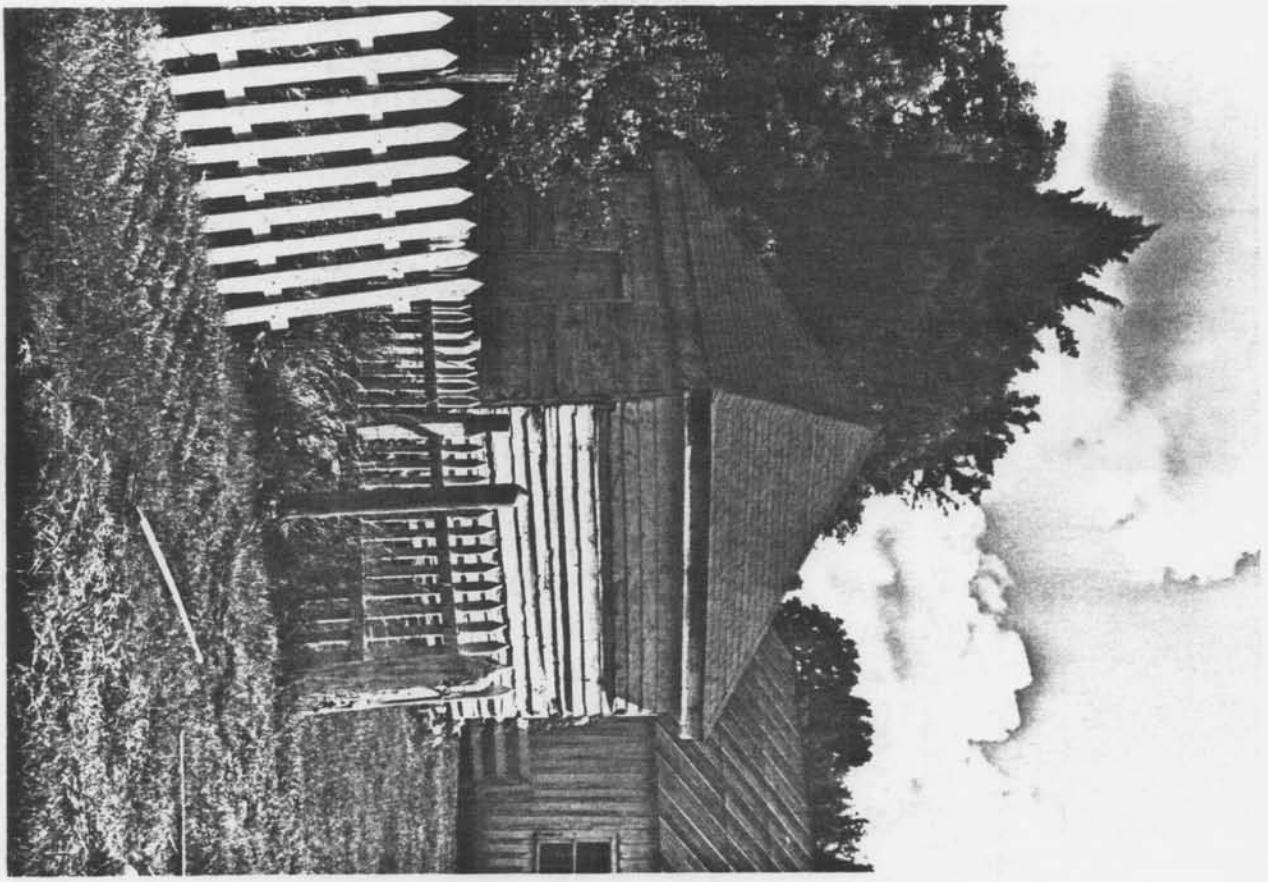


ROSENARY LAWN - CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
VIEW OF DAIRY (BLDG. # 2) and "COOLER (#3) FROM E

3/9

ROSENARY LAWN CH-105,
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
DAIRY FROM SW. (SMOKEHSE. + GARAGE TO RIGHT)

4/9



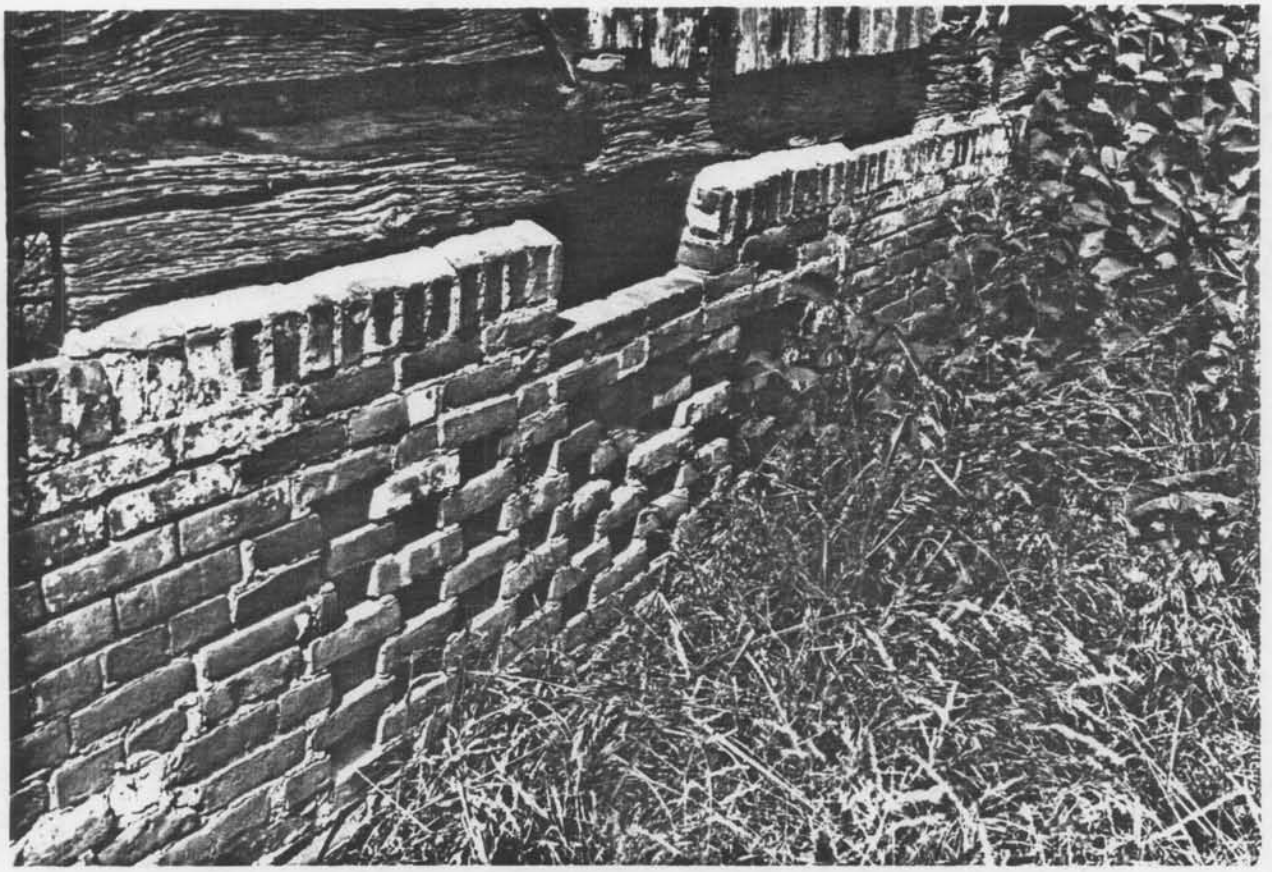
CH - 105

ROSEMARY LAWN CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
SMOKEHOUSE (BLDG. #4)
FROM SW

5/9

ROSEMARY LAWN CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
GRANARY (BLDG. #7) FROM SW

6/9



CH - 105

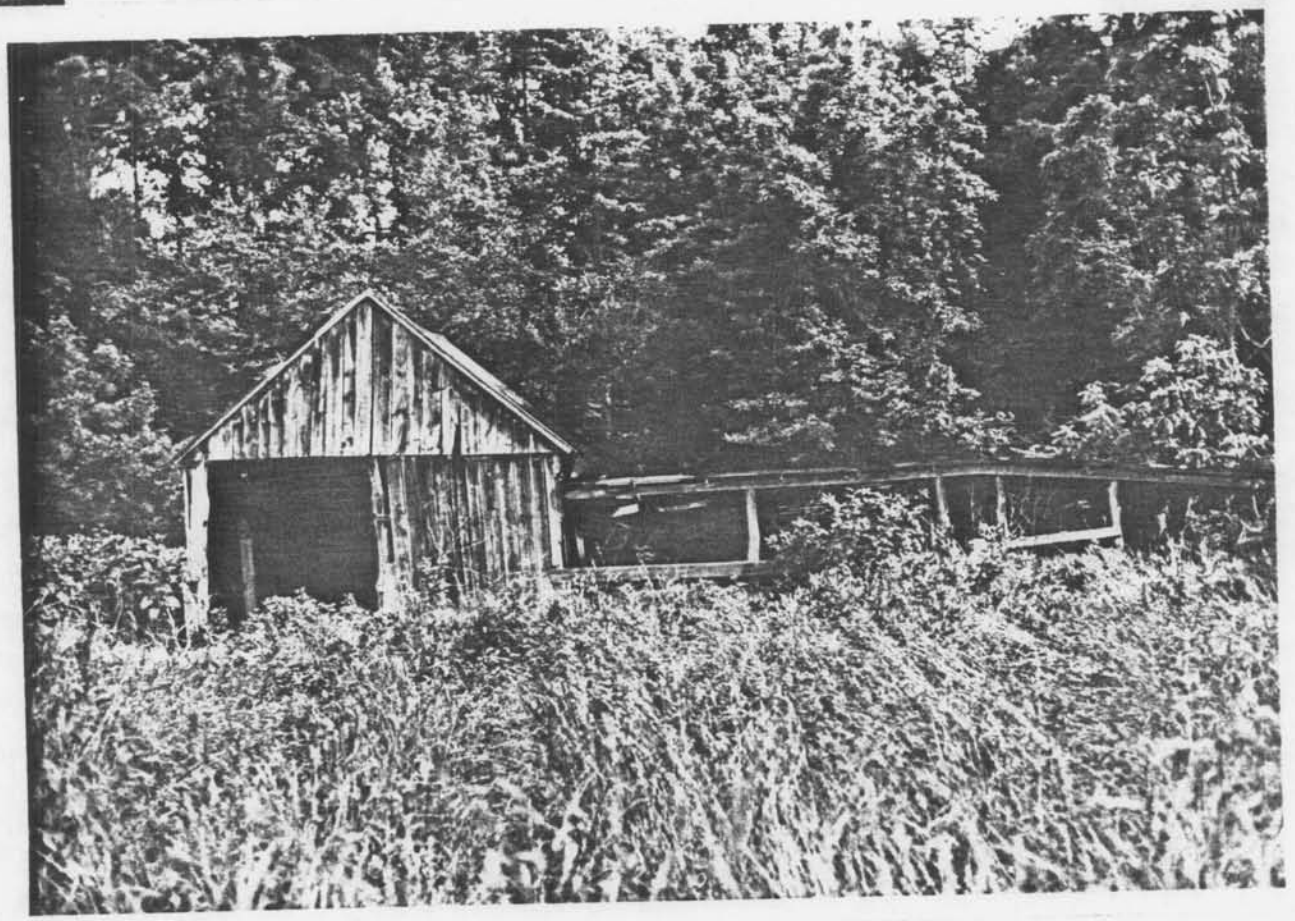
ROSENARS LAWN CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
DETAIL OF VENT, FRONT (SOUTH) WALL OF GRANARY (BLDG. # 7)

7/9

ROSENARS LAWN, CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LAPLATA, MD.
VIEW OF TRIPLEX CRIB & GRANARY (BLDG. # 9) FROM W.

8/9

CH-105



ROSEMARY LAWN CH-105
CHARLES COUNTY, MD.
J.R. RIVOIRE
7/1991
J.R. RIVOIRE, LA PLATA, MD.
POLE BARN (BLDG. # 11) FROM S.
9/9