

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Reed's Creek Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wright's Neck Road, 2.7 miles NW of Maryland Rt. 18

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Reed's Creek Farm

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-5

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Reed's Creek is a late Georgian style brick mansion reputedly begun in 1775. It is composed of two portions, the larger of the two being a five bay structure laid in Flemish bond above a quarter round molded water table. Basement windows have segmental arches with wood grills, with vertical bars, to fit the contour of the opening. The central entrance retains its original architrave, only the pediment being a restoration. Original raised panel jambs emphasize the semi-circular fanlight and original door.

Each window of the house has six over six sash and louvered shutters. The window frames and sash were replaced in the nineteenth century, but two original frames are stored in the attic with some of their walnut sash which had twelve panes in each sash. Above each window is a thirteen inch deep gauged brick flat arch. Between the stories is a five-brick belt course. Beneath the overhang of the wide "A" roof is a modillion cornice, similar to that at Oak Lawn, Caroline County, Maryland, reputedly built in 1783.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

(The window frames of the two houses are also similar, the majority of the frame being set behind the outer facing of brick). A massive chimney rises from each gable wall. The building measures approximately fifty feet by thirty-four feet.

On the northeast side is a four bay long, two story brick wing, contemporary with the main structure. It measures approximately thirty-eight by twenty-four feet and, like the main portion, is laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table. It lacks a basement, belt course, and gauged brick arches, but the plain flat arches possess the refinement of a segmentally arched underside, like some houses in Annapolis. Many of the windows retain original frames and sash, the latter having twelve over twelve panes on the first story and twelve over eight on the second. New six panel doors occupy the two middle bays of the wing, one opening into the dining room, the other into the kitchen. The cornice has a series of ogee-shaped modillion or dentil blocks, not unlike the kitchen wing at Oak Lawn, Caroline County.

On the gables, original bold barge boards continue along the roof and beneath a projecting water table at the base of the chimneys. Each of the three gables have

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

six pane casement windows flanking the large chimney. An aperture on the first floor of the kitchen gable was bricked in years ago, apparently an exterior door.

The river side of the house is almost identical to the approach facade, except for two differences; the central door lacks a fanlight and pediment and there is only one door into the wing.

On the southwest gable of the main portion there were originally three windows (other than the two in the attic) placed assymmetrically. Another window was installed on the second story level during the recent restoration (1961-69). Beneath the stair landing window, a bulkhead for the basement entrance was reconstructed.

Inside, the floorplan consists of a large stair hall occupying the three southeast bays of the house; a back hall and parlor beyond the stair hall; and two rooms on the northeast side of the house occupying the remaining two bays. Its plan is similar to Bloomingdale (1792), closeby.

Prior to the restoration, the hall was unfinished, lacking woodwork, an appropriate balustrade, the ceiling, and some plaster on the second story. A reproduction early Georgian balustrade replaces the Victorian newel

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

and handrail, but the structure and treads are original, as well as the risers and step-ends. Chair rail, cornice, window trim and arch between back hall and stair hall, as well as the mantel of the fireplace beneath the stair and the bookcases in the back hall date from the restoration. Both front and back doors with trim are original, the former retaining its original huge iron box lock and key. The principal doors throughout are composed of six raised panels with wide central stile having bead down the middle, simulating double doors.

All walls have been furred out and new plaster applied. A paneled chimney breast with dentil molded mantel and broken pediment above the crosetted overmantel is the focal point of the living room. Four windows and door have original crosetted trim. Due to the need for heating units, the full impact of the recessed panels beneath the windows is diminished, however the remainder of the raised paneled dado, as well as the dentil and modillion cornice tie the room together with their horizontal lines. Original square hearth bricks were taken from other hearths at Reed's Creek.

Across the hall from the living room, the den

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

possesses one wall of original paneling with overmantel very similar to the living room. A painting on wood of Rinaldo and Armida (see Significance, #8) occupies the overmantel panel. Its broken pediment is a replacement. Flanking the fireplace are closets with recessed panels above which match the recessed paneled dado. The closet doors, windows, door to hall, and newly introduced door to sitting room all have crossetted trim. There is a cornice with dentils.

Adjoining the den and stair hall is the sitting room. It, too, has a handsome late Georgian broken pediment overmantel, the pediment being a replacement. A secondary stair ascends six steps in the north corner to a door; its balustrade is original, but handrail and top of newel are restorations. A recessed panel door, beside the stair, leads down three steps to the dining room. On the opposite side of the fireplace is a closet with similar door. The wall area between the tops of the doors and ceiling was originally plastered, but now possesses baluster-shaped grills (for stereo components). The cornice has a row of dentils resembling wall of Troy work and two cove moldings. There is a recessed panel dado around the room and up the stair. A panel

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

in the window soffit of several rooms suggests that there were originally paneled jambs and/or shutters prior to the replacement of the window frames in the nineteenth century.

Access between the sitting room and dining room is gained down three steps in the north closet. Originally, there were two sets of steps in the dining room, one leading to each of the northeast rooms, with a door to the cellar between. Access to the den has been eliminated and access to the basement has been placed in the passage between the sitting room and dining room. A diagonal fireplace in the west corner of the dining room retains its original recessed panel chimney breast. An original corner cupboard balances the fireplace in the south corner. Much of the trim and chair rail is a replacement of the deteriorated original.

Between the dining room and kitchen is a back stair which ascends in a straight run to the second floor. The kitchen fireplace has an eight foot wide span with segmental arch. Above the huge arch are two original features rarely existing in an old kitchen: a wooden back plate from which to hang a clock jack and the rack for spits. An outline in paint on the brick gave the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

precedent for the restored shelf. Crane and iron pots were found in the fireplace when the restoration began. The remainder of the kitchen has been adapted for modern use.

Floorplan of the second floor main section was the same as the first floor. In order to accommodate facilities for modern living, the back hall was eliminated and two baths installed in its place. Like the first story hall, the second story had little interior finish. All of the woodwork of the hall dates from the restoration. Since the bath occupies the original entrance to the guest room (above the living room), a new door was introduced from the hall. Like the hall, the guest room woodwork, paneling, and finish dates from the restoration.

The dressing room (above sitting room) retains original wainscot, mantel, closets, and cornice. The mantel has solid crosetted trim with a central plinth block between the trim and shelf. A row of tiny modillions is the focal point of the cornice. An original overdoor with pulvinated frieze is the only such element in the house. The window trim is also unique in having crosettes at both bottom and top of the windows. On

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

the northwest wall a series of closets were installed during the restoration, as well as a door to the master bedroom.

Flanking the fireplace in the master bedroom (above den) are two closets. The fireplace possesses a mantel of lighter composition than that of the dressing room. No ornamentation was employed on either the cornice or trim. The flush board dado is like that in the dressing room.

Above the dining room are two rooms, the southeast room being accessible from both secondary stairs, and the northwest room being a laundry. Originally, the northwest room extended from the back stair to the principal wall and access thereto was gained from both secondary stair of the principal block. When the corridor was installed along the back stair for access to the southeast room, the wall between the two rooms was found to have a truss system to support the wide span above the dining room. Most of the trim in the two rooms is original, although some closets are new. Northeast of the back stair (above the kitchen) is a small back hall with open-string winder stair to the attic, and two rooms, one now a bath. The stair ascends to the attic in three runs with winders at the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

turns. Its original balustrade, with turned newels and rectangular balusters and swagged handrail is in fine condition. In the east bedroom is a small fireplace with board closet adjoining. The fireplace wall slopes to accommodate the large throat of the kitchen chimney. With the exception of the dining room and kitchen, all floors are original loblolly pine.

Although the main attic is unfinished, it appears that the builder intended to install at least a ceiling, since the girders have mortise holes to receive ceiling joists. The roofing system divides the house into five bays by queen-post trusses which are joined at two places on each slope of the roof by alternating purlins. This system of roof framing appears in many of the design books of the time. As mentioned previously, two original window frames are stored in the attic along with original walnut sash, a pit saw and walnut plank said to have been stored there since the house was erected.

Rubble stone was used for the walls of the cellar below grade, whereas the interior bearing walls which correspond to the floorplan above are brick. The cellar has a concrete floor and contains the heating system, a work shop and storage area. As usual, there are arch supports below the first floor fireplaces.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
00-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reed's Creek is significant chiefly because of its original architectural quality and integrity. With the exception of the replaced window frames and sash, the exterior is largely intact. What was originally completed inside is still in place and in good repair.

Above the fireplace in the den is an overmantel painting depicting the mythological story of Rinaldo and Armida. It is dated and signed by William Clarke, 1792, and is hailed in Winterthur Portfolio 5 as an extremely rare case of classical nudity in eighteenth century American painting.

Another reason for Reed's Creek's importance is that its builder, Colonel Thomas Wright, was active in church, politics and education. He was a vestryman for Chester Church of St. Paul's Parish between 1761 and 1784. In 1781 he served as a visitor of the Queen Anne's County School and in 1782

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

pledged thirty-two pounds, ten shillings to the founding of Washington College, Chestertown. In the political realm, Colonel Wright was a member of the Committee of Correspondence in 1774 and between 1774 and 1776 he was a delegate to the Provincial Convention. In 1775 he signed the proclamation of the Association of Freemen of Maryland and in 1776 was the commandant of the militia regiment for Queen Anne's County.

There has been some conjecture concerning the lack of completion of the interior of Reed's Creek, some saying it was economic difficulties; others, pre-occupation with the war cause. In all likelihood, the reason is that he died before it could be completed and his heirs did not wish or could not afford to complete the undertaking (although it was his heirs who had the overmantel painted). Judging from other houses on the Eastern Shore, the interior seems to date from the post-Revolutionary period. After his death the farm was held by his wife, Rachel (d. 1810), then passing to his son Thomas, in whose possession it remained until 1835. In the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, the building is listed under the name of Rachel Wright and was valued at \$1,000. Richard Alexander Wright inherited Reed's Creek from his

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

father in 1835 and owned it until 1865, when, for financial reasons, he had to mortgage and finally sell the farm. From 1890 to 1961, the farm was owned by collateral descendants of the Wright family. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith, Jr., are the present owners of Reed's Creek Farm and it was during their ownership that the house was finally brought to completion under the guidance of Albert Kruse, AIA.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Account of Washington College in the State of Maryland.
Joseph Crunkshank, Philadelphia, 1784.
Earle, Swepson, Chesapeake Bay Country, Remington Putnam,
Baltimore, 1938.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Michael Bourne, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____

Great Hopes

CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____

Sudlersville **Maryland**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

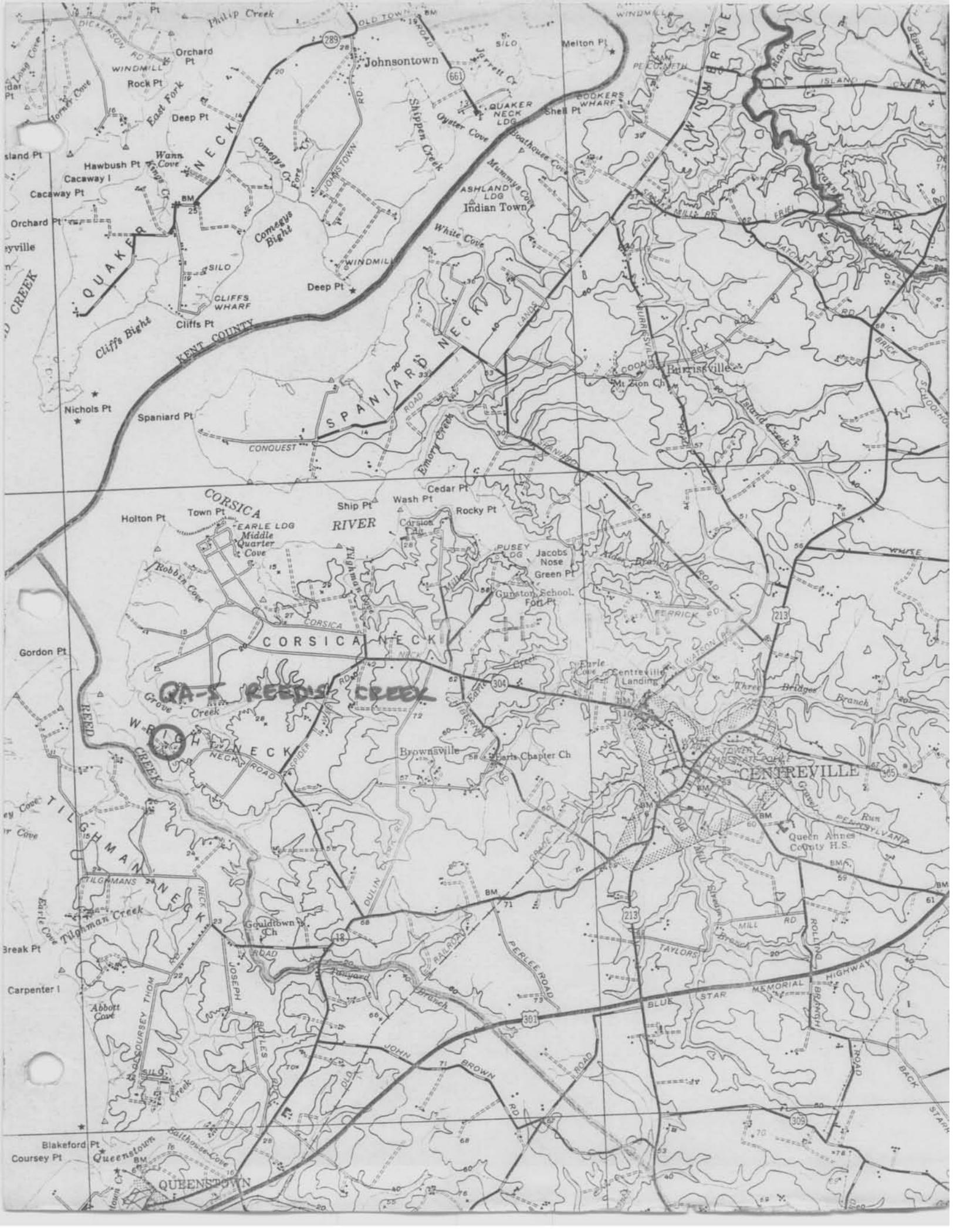
CONTINUATION SHEET

9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Swepson. Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore,
Baltimore, Maryland, 1916.

Emory, Frederick Queen Anne's County, Maryland.
Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1950.

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



QA-5
Reed's Creek Farm

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





QA #5

Reed's Creek



QA-5
Reeds Creek,
Centerville



Reed's Creek 245
M.L. Regiment
10/74



Reed's Creek GA

1974

M. L. Bequaert

Reed's Creek at -5
10/74
M. L. Bequaert



Reid's Creek M.C. Regiment 1974

Reid's Creek M.C. Regiment
10/74