

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #73-12 Building Date: 18th and early
19th century
Building Name: Site of Northampton
Location: 10900 block (south side) Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville, Md.

Public/Park/Unoccupied/Ruins/Inaccessible

Description

The Site of Northampton includes the foundations of several buildings of an important early plantation, part of which has been reserved as parkland, while the acreage around it is being developed into a residential subdivision. On part of this park land are the foundations of a multi-period frame plantation house, and the later farmhouse built in its place after a fire in 1909; a short distance northwest of these foundations are the ruins of an ice house and tobacco barn. On an adjoining parcel of land, to the southeast, are the ruins of two early slaves quarters, both of which were photographed, while still occupied, in the 1930's. The westerly quarter was of frame construction, one-and-one-half-stories high, and covered with board-and-batten siding; its gable roof was covered with wood shingles, and there was a wide brick chimney centered at the ridge. About 100 feet east of the frame quarter stand the ruins of a larger brick quarter, also one-and-one-half stories high and with central chimney, but constructed to house two families; its easterly fireplace and part of the north wall survive intact.

Significance

The Site of Northampton is one of the most important archaeological sites in Prince George's County. The property now consists of two small parcels of parkland surrounded by a developing residential subdivision. On one of the parcels are located the foundations of the early plantation house of the Sprigg and Fairfax families as well as the foundations of the post-1909 house built in its place. This was the home for five generations of the Sprigg family, including a prominent Revolutionary patriot and an early nineteenth-century State Governor; after the Civil War, it was the home of the Fairfax family, including a titled British Lord who elected to remain in the United States and practice medicine in Prince George's County. On the second parcel are located the ruins of two slaves quarters, a late eighteenth-century frame quarter, and an unusually substantial brick quarter, built early in the nineteenth century to house two families; this duplex dwelling is unique in Maryland. The Site of Northampton offers a rare opportunity for archaeological research on an important early plantation complex: the lifeways of both master and slave, the relationship among the plantation buildings, and the structural and cultural details of slave housing.

Acreage: 12.6 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site of Northampton

and/or common Northampton Mansion and Slaves Quarters

2. Location

street & number South side of Lake Arbor Way, 10900 block not for publication

city, town Mitchellville Largo vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name M-NCPPC

street & number 6600 Kenilworth Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber and folio

street & number Main Street 7007:941 - 6750:737

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey/P.G. Inventory of Historic Resources

date 1936/1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress/Prince George's County Historic Preservation

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland Commission

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Site of Northampton includes the foundations of several buildings of an important early plantation. Northampton was a 1,000-acre tract patented in 1673 to Thomas Sprigg. There was a dwelling in the property before Thomas Sprigg's death in 1704, and the plantation remained the home of the Sprigg family for five generations. More buildings were constructed over the years; the mansion was destroyed by fire in 1909, and a subsequent dwelling was destroyed in 1967. Today, none of the Northampton buildings still stands, only ruins of several outbuildings survive. The considerable acreage which once comprised the Northampton plantation is currently being developed into a residential subdivision. Two small parcels of land (totaling 12.6 acres) are being reserved as parkland; on these adjoining parcels are located the ruins of the mansion and several domestic outbuildings, a tobacco barn, and two slaves quarters.

All that remains of the mansion at Northampton are parts of the foundations of three building periods: a) the stone and brick foundations of an early dwelling to the west, b) the stone and brick foundations of a later and larger dwelling extended to the east probably late in the eighteenth century, and c) the concrete foundations of a 40 by 34 foot dwelling constructed after the 1909 fire, incorporating parts of the older easterly foundation. This house foundation is located on a 12.01 acre parcel of land planned as a park area within the subdivision. Ruins of several outbuildings (including an ice house and tobacco barn), are located within 400 feet northwest of the mansion.

Within 500 feet southeast of the mansion are the ruins of two slaves quarters. The westmost, and probably earlier of the two cabins, was of frame construction. The 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph shows a side-gabled one-and-one-half story dwelling on a high stone foundation; its uneven roof planes were covered with wood shingles, and the walls were covered with board-and-batten siding. Principal entrance was in the south facade, and there was a second entrance and a loft-level window in the east gable end. A wide brick chimney is centered at the ridge. Today all that remains is the stone foundation, circa 28 by 26 feet, and a concentrated pile of bricks nearly centered inside this foundation, representing the fallen chimney. There are also several fragments of the framing, including a corner post with both downbraces still attached, and surviving tenons and rosehead nail fragments indicative of early construction techniques. This frame quarter may well correspond to the "negro house, 26 by 24 feet" listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax.

The second slave quarter, located circa 100 feet east of the frame

quarter, is built of brick; like the frame quarter, it is in ruinous condition, but more of its superstructure survives than that of the frame dwelling. The brick quarter was recorded in a 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey photograph, and in a photograph taken in 1939 by Henry Chandlee Forman. The building was one-and-one-half stories high and side gabled, with two entrances near the center of its south facade, indicating its duplex plan. The gable roof was covered in the east section, with wood shingle, and in the west section with standing seam metal; a wide square brick chimney was centered at the ridge. The brick was laid in 5:1 common bond, and the photographs indicate several courses of decorative brick corbelling at the eaves. The west gable end was lighted by two first-story windows, and one at loft level; a similar window lighted the loft in the east gable end, but the two first-story windows (evident from the visible flat-arch lintels) had been covered by a frame shed addition.¹

Today the brick-upon-stone foundation (circa 46 by 23 feet) of this building is clearly visible. Centered inside the foundation is the heavy brick chimney base, which clearly served an interior fireplace for each of the two living spaces. The west fireplace has collapsed, but the east fireplace survives intact, with its 4-3/4 foot wide flat-arch lintel supported by a strap of metal (probably a straightened wheel rim). A section of the north wall survives, including one of the rear windows with its sill beam in situ. Recent archaeological work has revealed evidence of a series of earthen and brick floors, as well as fragments of a wood floor in the westerly section.

The ruins of these two slave quarters stand on a .5688 acre parcel, connected to the 12-acre park parcel by a narrow dog's leg. The area around the .5688 acre parcel is presently being graded for the construction of a townhouse complex.

Notes

- ¹ See two memoranda of field visits by Orlando Ridout V:
a) 11 February 1988 on Slave Quarter Ruins at Northampton, and
b) 18 February 1988 on Northampton House Site.

See also four Historic American Building Survey photographs, 1936, Library of Congress; and 1939 photograph by H.C., Forman published in Forman, H.C. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, 1956, p. 148.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#73-12

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 18th and 19th century Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Site of Northampton is one of the most important archaeological sites in Prince George's County. The property now consists only of two small parcels of parkland surrounded by a developing residential subdivision, but on them are located the foundations of the early plantation house of the Sprigg and Fairfax families as well as the foundation of the post-1909 house built in its place; also the ruins of several domestic outbuildings, one tobacco barn and two slaves quarters. The site offers a rare opportunity for archaeological research on an important early plantation complex: the lifeways of both master and slave, the relationship among plantation buildings, and, perhaps most importantly, structural and cultural details of slave housing.

The 1000-acre tract of Northampton was patented in 1673 to Thomas Sprigg, and passed after his death in 1704 to his son Thomas Sprigg II; the elder Sprigg's will indicates that there was a dwelling on the plantation by 1704.¹ Northampton passed in 1722 to Osborn Sprigg, son of Thomas II, and subsequently to Osborn Sprigg, Jr., prominent Patriot during the Revolutionary period.²

Osborn Sprigg, Jr., distinguished himself in many ways during the Revolutionary War period. He was elected to the Provincial Convention in Annapolis in November of 1774, and again in May 1775.³ In 1777, under the first Constitution of the new State of Maryland, he was one of four members of the House of Delegates elected from Prince George's County. In 1788, Osborn Sprigg was one of four Prince Georgians who were members of the Convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States.⁴

In 1798, Osborn Sprigg was listed as the owner and occupant of the 1100-acre Northampton plantation; his residence was described as "a framed dwelling house, 60 x 40 feet with hip roof", valued at \$850, a comparatively high value for a frame structure. The domestic outbuildings within the 1 1/2 acre nucleus of the plantation included a 36 by 26 foot hip-roof kitchen, a 30 by 26 foot wash house, a 16 foot square meat house, and a 12 foot square milk house, all in very good repair. In addition to

these principal buildings, the plantation included also a 20 by 16 foot overseer's house, a 26 by 24 foot Negro house, a 40 by 12 foot corn house (with a 10 foot shed on each side), a 60 by 30 foot barn and stable, and three 60 by 24 foot tobacco houses.⁵ The Negro house recorded in this 1798 tax may well be the same frame quarter which was later (in 1936) recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey, and whose ruins are an important component in the archaeological site.

It is likely that major changes were made in the plantation house early in the nineteenth century, for the surviving (circa 1895) photograph of the building does not fit the description in the above-cited 1798 tax document. No record has yet been discovered, however, documenting the destruction, rebuilding or renovation of the Northampton house. There is a hint of change, however, in the fact that the assessed value of the property more than doubled between 1800 and 1802,⁶ and in the similarity between the style of the house shown in the 1895 photograph and that of Friendship, another nearby early nineteenth century frame dwelling (now destroyed). Confirmation of the changes at Northampton may be provided in the future by intensive archaeological investigation of the mansion site.

Family tradition holds that the house was expanded, i.e., a major wing was built, soon after the Revolution, and that at the same time Pierre L'Enfant designed the formal gardens which, until the 1940's, ornamented the lawns southeast of the mansion.⁷ This tradition, however, does not explain the discrepancy between the 1798 description and the circa 1895 photograph. It is more likely that, in 1801 or 1802, Osborn Sprigg altered or rebuilt the Northampton mansion, or that his nephew, Samuel Sprigg, did so soon after he inherited the plantation in 1815.

Osborn Sprigg, Jr., died in May 1815, and devised Northampton to Samuel Sprigg, son of his brother, Joseph; it remained the home of Samuel Sprigg for the next 40 years. Osborn Sprigg's will is very interesting, for it gives evidence of his humane treatment of Northampton's large slave population. Ten of his slaves were individually freed by his will. Specifically, Tom was freed and given livestock, a horse, and a silver watch, as well as the house "in the Mill Field" in which he then lived, for the rest of his life. Frank, together with his wife and children, was also freed, and was given the house in which his father then lived, for the rest of his life. Sprigg ended his will by charging his heir to be kind and friendly to the servants who had been freed by his will, and to continue to treat those old and infirm servants "in the same humane manner which heretofore they have been accustomed to".⁸

In 1811 Samuel Sprigg had married Violetta Lansdale, daughter of Revolutionary War Major Thomas Lancaster Lansdale of Hazelwood (#74B-13). He was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1808, and served, from 1817 to 1828 as one of the Directors of the Planters Bank in Upper Marlboro.⁹

In December 1819, Samuel Sprigg, although still relatively unknown on the political scene, was elected Governor of Maryland. His three-year administration was characterized by support for internal improvements; the chartering of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was a result of his strong advocacy, and he later served as president of the Board of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.¹⁰

Samuel Sprigg retired in 1822, and spent the rest of his life at Northampton operating the large ancestral plantation. It was certainly during this period that the brick slave quarter, a large and unusually substantial structure for its type, was built. Sprigg served for many years on the Vestry of St. Barnabas Church at Leeland, and was a frequent delegate to Diocesan conventions. He died in April 1855, at the age of 74, requesting that he "be decently buried without ostentation or parade", and leaving the Northampton estate to his wife, Violetta.¹¹ His inventory, although not recorded room-by-room, reflects a very large dwelling: ten carpets and floorcloths as well as a set of stair-carpeting, eight beds with bed furniture, five sets of andirons, and 45 individual chairs. The labor force at Northampton at that time included 61 slaves.¹²

Violetta Sprigg continued to live at Northampton with her son, Osborn III, and his family for another ten years. In March 1865 she sold all of the Northampton property, including adjoining parts of Kettering and totaling 713 acres, to John Contee Fairfax and George W. Riggs.¹³ Riggs, a successful Washington merchant and founder of Riggs National Bank, had just purchased Green Hill, the old Digges family plantation, and made it his country seat.¹⁴ John Contee Fairfax, son of Albert Fairfax and Caroline Snowden of Oaklands in northern Prince George's County, had been born in 1830, and raised in Fairfax County, Virginia; he received a medical degree, and in 1857 married Mary Kirby. After 1865, Dr. Fairfax made Northampton his year-round family home; he added some Gothic Revival decorative elements to the mansion, e.g., the jigsaw vergeboards which adorn the dormer windows. In 1869, he inherited the title of 11th Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron; he chose to remain in the United States, continuing to practice medicine in Prince George's County, and resided at Northampton until his death in 1900.¹⁵

In 1881, Fairfax and Riggs mortgaged the Northampton estate to Dr. Fairfax' mother, Caroline Snowden Fairfax Sanders, who resided with him and his family at Northampton. In the following year, because Fairfax and Riggs were unable to meet their payments, Mrs. Sanders offered the property, 713 acres of Northampton "on which John C. Fairfax now resides", at public sale, and purchased it herself as high bidder at \$20,000. Caroline Sanders remained the legal owner of Northampton for the remainder of her life.¹⁶

After Mrs. Sanders' death early in 1900, Northampton passed to John C. Fairfax, and then, later in the same year, to the latter's eldest son, Albert Kirby Fairfax, who inherited John C. Fairfax' title after his death. Albert Fairfax settled his father's estate in 1901, and moved to England, claiming his hereditary title, and leaving Northampton under the management of his sister, Frances Fairfax Roberts of nearby Inglewood, one of the Roberts family estates.¹⁷

In March 1909, a fire destroyed the Northampton mansion, at that time vacant and used by the Fairfax family only during the summer months. Although the house had certainly been altered and expanded over time, it was believed, at the time of its destruction, to have been over 200 years

old.¹⁸ Shortly after the fire, a new, smaller dwelling, with concrete foundation, was built over the foundations of the original main block.

In 1936, the Historic American Buildings Survey recorded the then-standing tobacco barn west of the house, as well as the two tenant-houses, originally slaves quarters, to the east. At that time, both of the quarters were occupied by families who were descendants of the black farmers who had worked for the Fairfax family. The HABS photographer, John O. Brostrup, did not record the frame dwelling which then stood on the site of the original mansion; he did, however, acquire a photograph, unofficially dated to 1895, which was said to show the old mansion before the 1909 fire, and that photograph is now included in the HABS collection. The formal gardens just southeast of the house were also measured and drawn by H.C. Forman in 1936.¹⁹

Albert Kirby Fairfax, 12th Lord Fairfax, died in England in 1939, leaving a widow and two teenage sons. He devised the Northampton estate to his eldest son, but his sister, Frances Roberts was to have absolute use, control management and possession of all of the property for her life time, as well as the proceeds from the land. Frances Roberts continued to maintain the property, including the formal gardens, until her death in 1950, after which the two sons of Albert Lord Fairfax sold the entire property.²⁰

Since 1960 much of the land on the south side of Central Avenue has been developed into the residential subdivision of Kettering. The area north of Central Avenue, on which were located the post-1909 house and ruins of the outbuildings, was sold in 1964 to the Northampton Corporation, which planned a similar development. In September 1967, the post-1909 house was destroyed and by that time, the slaves quarters also were in ruins. The Northampton subdivision was begun in the 1970's, and a 12-acre parcel, including the site of the mansion and its immediate outbuildings, was reserved for archaeological investigation and eventual development as a park.²¹ Archaeological work began in 1987, after the land had been conveyed to the present developer. It became immediately clear that the ruins of the two slave quarters were to the east of and not included in the 12-acre park parcel; the developer agreed to reserve an additional section of land, including the quarters, for more intensive archaeological work and eventual interpretive park development. Accordingly, one-half acre of land, adjoining the 12-acre park parcel, was conveyed to M-NCPPC in June 1988, and excavations are currently in process.²²

Although there are no longer any buildings standing on the site of Northampton, it remains an archaeological site of unique importance. Northampton was the home for five generations of the Sprigg family, including a prominent Revolutionary patriot, and an early nineteenth century State Governor. After the Civil War, it was the home until the end of the century, of another prominent family, a titled British Lord who elected to remain and practice medicine in Prince George's County. The Site of Northampton includes not only the remnants of the early mansion, but also of the formal gardens, reputed to have been designed by Pierre L'Enfant. Perhaps most importantly, the site includes the ruins of two slaves quarters: a frame structure probably dating from the eighteenth

century, and an unusual brick two-family structure which dates from the early nineteenth century. The brick structure was one of the only three known brick slaves quarters in Southern Maryland; only one of these three buildings survives, a small brick dependency of Mulberry Fields in St. Mary's County, which was probably not built originally as a slave dwelling.²³ Because the Northampton property was the location of an important early plantation house, its domestic outbuildings, and two uniquely significant slaves quarters, the site promises to yield substantial new information about the complete plantation complexes of Prince George's County.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Patent #17:455; Will #1:23
- 2 Prince George's County Deed I:368, Will #1:416
- 3 Maryland Gazette, 1 Dec. 1774, 26 Jan and 4 May 1775.
- 4 Ibid, 26 December 1776; Hienton, L.J., Prince George's Heritage, 1975, pp. 182-183. The four Prince Georgians who participated in the Ratification Convention in 1788 were inducted into the Prince George's County Hall of Fame in April 1988.
- 5 Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Collington and Western Branch Hundreds (Md. Hall of Records M865)
- 6 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, Collington and Western Branch Hundreds, 1800-1815.
- 7 Forman, Henry Chandlee, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, 1956, pp 127-129.
- 8 Prince George's County Will TT#1:122
- 9 Van Horn, R. Lee, Out of the Past, 1976, pp. 245, 275 ff., 287 etc.
- 10 White, Frank F. Jr., The Governors of Maryland, Hall of Records, 1970, p. 78-80.
- 11 Prince George's County Will WAJ#1:21; Planters' Advocate, 25 April and 2 May 1855.
- 12 Prince George's County Estate file #332
- 13 Prince George's County Deed FS#2:537
- 14 See MHT form PG#65-8
- 15 Bowie, E.G., Across the Years in Prince George's County, 1947, pp. 15-16
- 16 Prince George's County Mortgage WAJ#3:202; Equity #1426; Census for Prince George's County, 1880.

- 17 Prince George's County Estate files #1779, #1788, and #6637; Prince George's County Will JBP#1:693; Bowie, E.G., op.cit., pp. 15, 16, 440-441.
- 18 Laurel Leader, 26 March 1909.
- 19 Historic American Buildings Survey collection, MD, 17-LARG.v,2, Library of Congress; Forman, H.C., op.cit. pp. 127-129.
- 20 Prince George's County Estate file #6637; Prince George's County Will WTD #6:53; Prince George's County Deeds #2361:263,268.
- 21 Prince George's County Deed #3028:457; Plat #133:98
- 22 Prince George's County Deeds #7007:941; #6193:207; #6527:262; Plat #138:93
- 23 McDaniel, G.W., Hearth and Home, 1982, pp. 94-97; See also Orlando Ridout V memo, 11 February 1988.

see also 73-19, 73-20
for slave quarters and
further research on Pg #73-12

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
Northampton
site

1701675127

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Northampton-Site
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
north of Rte. 214, east of Rte. 202
CITY, TOWN
Largo
STATE
Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Prince George's

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Northampton Corp.
STREET & NUMBER
9823 Central Ave.

Telephone #:

CITY, TOWN
Upper Marlboro
VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Prince George's County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

Liber #:
Folio #:

CITY, TOWN
Upper Marlboro

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE
1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Could not gain access to site at time of survey. However, reports indicate that the original 18th Century house burned in 1909 (See H.A.B.S.) Several slave houses, including a brick double-house, stood until the early 1950's. These were subsequently destroyed, and it is believed that nothing of significance remains today. The Northampton Corp. is developing a huge housing complex here.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was one of the earliest buildings in the area-possibly the earliest documented by photographs. Was a home of the Sprigg and Fairfax families.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, (photos), 1895, 1936.
- 2) Bowie, Effie Gwynn. ACROSS THE YEARS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., (1947), pp. 15, 16, 440, 594.
- 3) PRINCE GEORGE'S POST, article by J.C. Wilfong, Jan. 4, 1968.

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 F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

9/24/73

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

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

Dec. 10, 1967 OR.

7B

#30 Granary, Northampton Manor site

It was not possible to view the granary because of ~~be~~ impassable ~~sea~~ winter condition of ~~roads~~ ^{the} farm road and ~~ferocious~~ ^{ferocious} dogs. The granary is supposed to be an important, heavy timbered, early ~~of~~ ^{form} building.

The manor house was burned down in 1909 and replaced by a ~~slap~~ weatherboard house with hip roof, ~~is~~ now dilapidated.

The ~~early~~ smaller, early ^{overlooked} house described by Mr. Forrest Bowie in the 1937 HABS survey fell to ruin. Mr. Bowie and Mr. Ridout visited the ruins in February 1967, which lay on the embankment above the farm lane. Only some brick chimneys and much decayed timber remained, covered with honeysuckle. The mantel piece seem to have been removed.

Chain of Title
Site of Northampton
P.G. #73-12

7007:941 Porten Sullivan to M-NCPPC, .56872 acre of Northampton,
24 June 1988 Parcel S, Northlake Plat #138:93.
Deed

6750:737 Porten Sullivan to M-NCPPC, 12.0133 acres of Northampton,
31 March 1987 Parcel I, Northlake Plat #133:98.
Deed

6527:262 Central Avenue Associates to Porten Sullivan for
30 Dec. 1986 \$2,451,400, 90.45 acres, same described in #3028:457,
Deed part of Northampton

6193:207 ITR Properties of Maryland to Central Avenue Associates
30 Sept. 1985 for \$12,397,319, part of Northampton, part of the lands
Deed described in #3028:457.

3028:457 R. Amman, S. Hollingsworth and N. Lubar to Northampton
20 Aug. 1964 Corporation, many parcels of land, same conveyed by
Deed Fairfax.

2361:278 Otto Minear to R. Amman, S. Hollingsworth and N. Lubar,
17 July 1959 part of land of which the late Albert K. Fairfax died
Deed possessed, described in deed from Thomas B. Fairfax,
850.9 acres.

2361:263 Thomas B. Fairfax, descendant under the will of Albert K.
17 July 1959 Fairfax to O. Minear, part of the land of which Albert
Deed Fairfax died possessed, known as Northampton and other
tracts, 850.9 acres.

WTD #6:53 Testator, Albert K. Fairfax, of England; devises
3 Nov. 1939 Northampton to son Thomas; testator's sister Frances F.
Will Roberts to have absolute use, control, management and
possession of all of this property for her lifetime;
Albert K. Fairfax inherited Northampton through his
father, John C. Fairfax (d. Sept. 1900) who held it in
trust through his mother, Caroline F. Sanders.

JBP #1:693 Testator, Caroline Snowden Fairfax Sanders; Northampton
22 Jan. 1900 to her son, John Contee Fairfax, and after his death it
Will is to go to his children.

#1426 Sale of Northampton by mortgagee, Caroline Sanders, after
1 June 1882 default by mortgagors Riggs and Fairfax; purchased by
Equity Caroline Sanders, high bidder at \$20,000, 713 acres of
Northampton.

WAJ #3:202 G. W. Riggs and J. C. Fairfax to Caroline Fairfax
14 April 1881 Sanders, 713 acres of Northampton which mortgagors
Mortgage acquired by deed FS #2:537, to secure payment of their
debt.

- 2 -

FS #2:537
24 March 1865
Deed
Violetta Sprigg, widow of Samuel Sprigg, to John Contee Fairfax and George W. Riggs, for \$53,512.50, 713 acres of Northampton.

WAJ #1:21
27 April 1855
Will
Testator, Samuel Sprigg; all real estate "to my ever dear and beloved wife Violetta".

TT #1:122
11 May 1815
Will
Testator, Osborn Sprigg, Jr., many devises, including liberation of 10 slaves and legacies to them; that my executor be kind and friendly to the servants which I have freed by this instrument, and that he will continue to treat those old and infirm servants that may survive me in the same humane manner which heretofore they have been accustomed to; to my nephew, Samuel Sprigg, son of my brother, Joseph, all the rest of my estate; he also is to be executor.

#1:416
8 Feb. 1749/50
Will
Testators, Osborn Sprigg; to son Thomas, all the tract whereon my dwelling house stands and all land adjoining; remainder to other children, including Osborn Jr.

I:368
13 Feb 1722
Deed
Thomas Sprigg to son Osborn Sprigg after the death of grantor's wife, Margaret; part of Northampton, Brook Grove, Kettering and Addition to Kettering not already granted to son Edward.

#1:23
May 1704
Will
Testator, Thomas Sprigg; to son Thomas, my dwelling house and all the houses and land of Northampton and Kettering that I have not disposed of.

#17:455
26 May 1673
Patent
To Thomas Sprigg, 1,000 acres, Northampton in Calvert County, on the west side of the northeast main branch of the dividing Creek of the Patuxent River....

Restoring a Past Some Would Bury

By PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN
Special to The New York Times

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Visitors to the 18th-century plantation of Carter's Grove see only part of the historic property, built from 1751 to 1755 by Carter Burwell, a member of a wealthy and powerful Virginia family: the manicured Georgian gardens and crushed oyster-shell pathways, the beautiful house with brass chandeliers, formal dining room, black walnut staircase, the gilt-framed oil paintings.

Invisible, however, is another world a quarter of a mile from the "Big House": the uneven piece of land that was home to the slaves who cut the gardens and terraces, made the mansion's Georgian brick facade and cultivated Burwell's 1,000 acres of orchards, grain and firewood trees.

Now the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which owns the property about five miles outside Williamsburg, is recreating the three 18th-century slave dwellings of the "farm quarter," to allow visitors to consider life on this 18th-century plantation from the slaves' perspective. The job is scheduled for completion in March.

Largely Undocumented Culture

Archaeological research over the past decade, encouraged by an increased focus on black history and architecture among archeologists, architectural historians, curators and preservationists, has led to greater understanding of slave life and largely undocumented culture.

"Williamsburg was never a place for blacks to come to," said Rex Ellis, the assistant director of African-American interpretation for Colonial Williamsburg, who grew up in the city not far from the historic area. "We're in the embryo stages in interpreting ethnic history. The typical response of museums has been one of silence."

"We're going to have to show rebellion, violence and racism in a way we haven't done at Williamsburg. How we do that is extremely important. We must be true to the record or we stand in danger of rewriting history ourselves. The subject of slavery is certainly painful, which is one of the reasons it needs to be dealt with. We need to learn from all of history, including the uncomfortable parts of history."

A Presence Unacknowledged

John Michael Vlach, a professor of American civilization at George Washington University who is writing a history of plantation architecture, said that until recently there had been no acknowledgment of the black presence on plantations.

Joan B. Maynard, executive director of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History in Brooklyn, said: "The fortunes of the Big House could not have existed without the so-called dependencies. When we approach our children to tell them history, we have to tell the full story. It's remarkable, given what happened, that so many survived with dignity."

Detailed knowledge of slaves' lives at Carter's Grove, while elusive, has increased because of increased research and extensive excavation on the site, said Edward A. Chappell, the director

Slave life in colonial South is resurrected.

of architectural research for Colonial Williamsburg. In 1970, William M. Kelso, now director of archeology at Monticello, began 15 months of excavation at Carter's Grove, finding 13 pits lined with boards, dating to the late 18th century.

Archeologists first thought these had been tanning vats. Subsequent excavations at the nearby Kingsmill Plantation and elsewhere, however, found slave quarters with storage pits, or root cellars, under the houses.

Writing of his boyhood home in Franklin County, Va., Booker T. Washington recalled, "In the center of the earthen floor was a large, deep opening covered with boards, which was used as a place in which to store sweet potatoes during the winter."

Using Surviving Examples

In reconstructing the Carter's Grove quarters, Mr. Chappell drew on existing examples of the period, notably a one-room 12-by-16-foot clapboard-covered frame slave dwelling at Prestwood, near Clarksville, Va. The lone survivor of nine slave houses was near collapse and was recently stabilized by the Prestwood Foundation, a nonprofit organization seeking money to preserve the place.

"Blacks experienced varying conditions according to marital status, position in the work force and owners' inclinations," Mr. Chappell said. At Car-

ter's Grove there is one large frame house where eight people are believed to have lived. It has a brick fireplace and chimney. The other two houses are smaller, made of logs, with stick-and-mud chimneys. The three buildings housed two dozen field hands.

Living in slaves' quarters was probably not unlike J. F. D. Smyth's 1784 description of a house that six slaves and an overseer shared: The house "was not lathed or plastered, neither ceiled nor lofted above," he wrote. "One window, but no glass in it, not even a brick chimney, and as it stood on blocks, about a foot above the ground, the hogs lay constantly under the floor, which made it swarm with flies."

Clues to Life at Monticello

At Monticello, archeological work begun in 1980 yielded discoveries about Mulberry Row, a 1,000-foot-long avenue once lined with 17 slave structures specified by Thomas Jefferson. Of the 100 or so slaves at Monticello, Mr. Kelso said, some lived in a spartan 12-by-14-foot log cabin with a dirt floor and a "dangerously flammable" wooden chimney; others lived in a 34-by-17-foot stone house with a stone and brick fireplace, wooden flooring and a neo-classical facade with an elevated pediment. In "the archeology of poverty," Mr. Kelso and his team salvaged more than 53,000 items from the row, including bone toothbrushes and a medicine bottle.

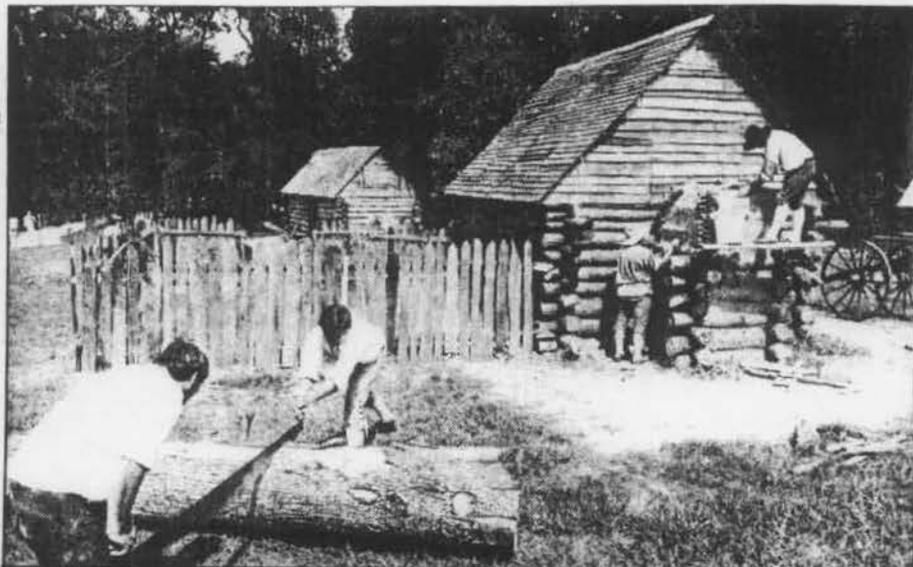
Theresa A. Singleton, a curator of historical archeology at the Smithsonian Institution, said the earliest slaves "used guns for hunting, built their own dwellings, occasionally learned to read and write, and prepared their own meals to suit their tastes — even though written records show that slaveholders forbade their slaves to practice these activities."

Leland Ferguson, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of South Carolina, is investigating the Low Country of South Carolina, where the population in some districts in the 18th century was 80 to 90 percent black.

Seeking Traces of Africa

At Middleburg plantation near Charleston, S.C., Professor Ferguson is also seeking out clay-plaster walled structures retaining African elements like smoke holes instead of chimneys that "may have been much more like architecture in Africa than previously imagined."

At Mount Vernon, Va., where the slave population numbered 317, the house tour focuses on interior decoration and the life styles of George and



The New York Times/Marry Katz

The 18th-century mansion of Carter's Grove near Williamsburg, Va., and, a short distance away, the slave quarters being reconstructed by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. At right, a workman restoring a storage pit using crude nails and rough-cut lumber, 18th-century style.



Martha Washington. Two quarters that housed slaves were reconstructed by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in 1950 and are open for self-guided tours. Conceived in the 1950's, some interiors are now considered "overfurnished," said Christine Meadows, the curator, and will be reinterpreted.

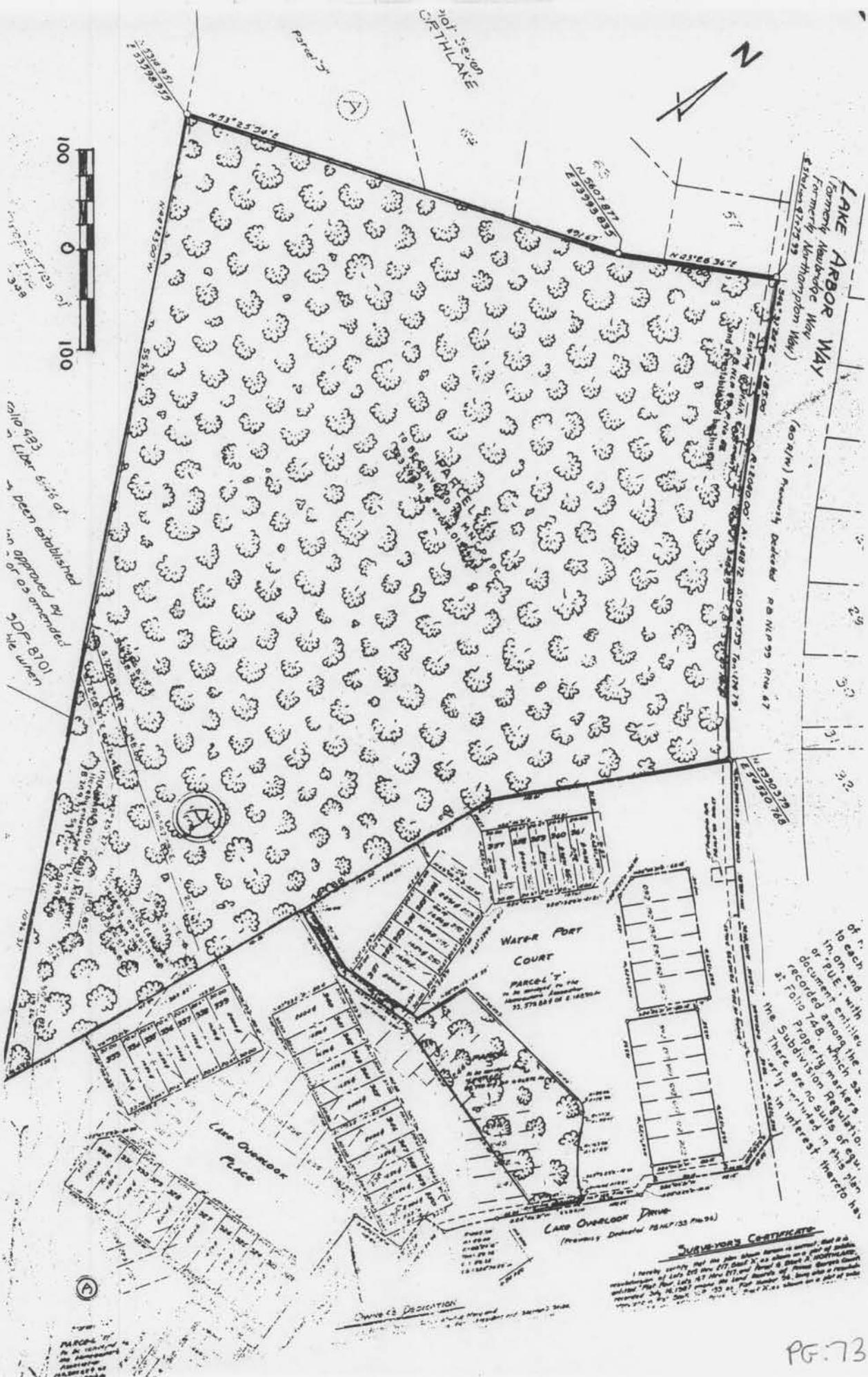
Intact slave quarters, like the 18th-century brick row at Boone Hall Plantation near Charleston, S.C., are

rare, and the precise number of existing structures is untallied. The National Register lists only a dozen.

At Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, a dilapidated slave structure is being taken down. Its boards are to be re-used in a guest house for visiting scholars and executives, said Peter Wyeth, vice president of development. "We're losing them at a great rate," said Elizabeth Lyon, deputy director of

the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, "with an accompanying loss of the rural landscape."

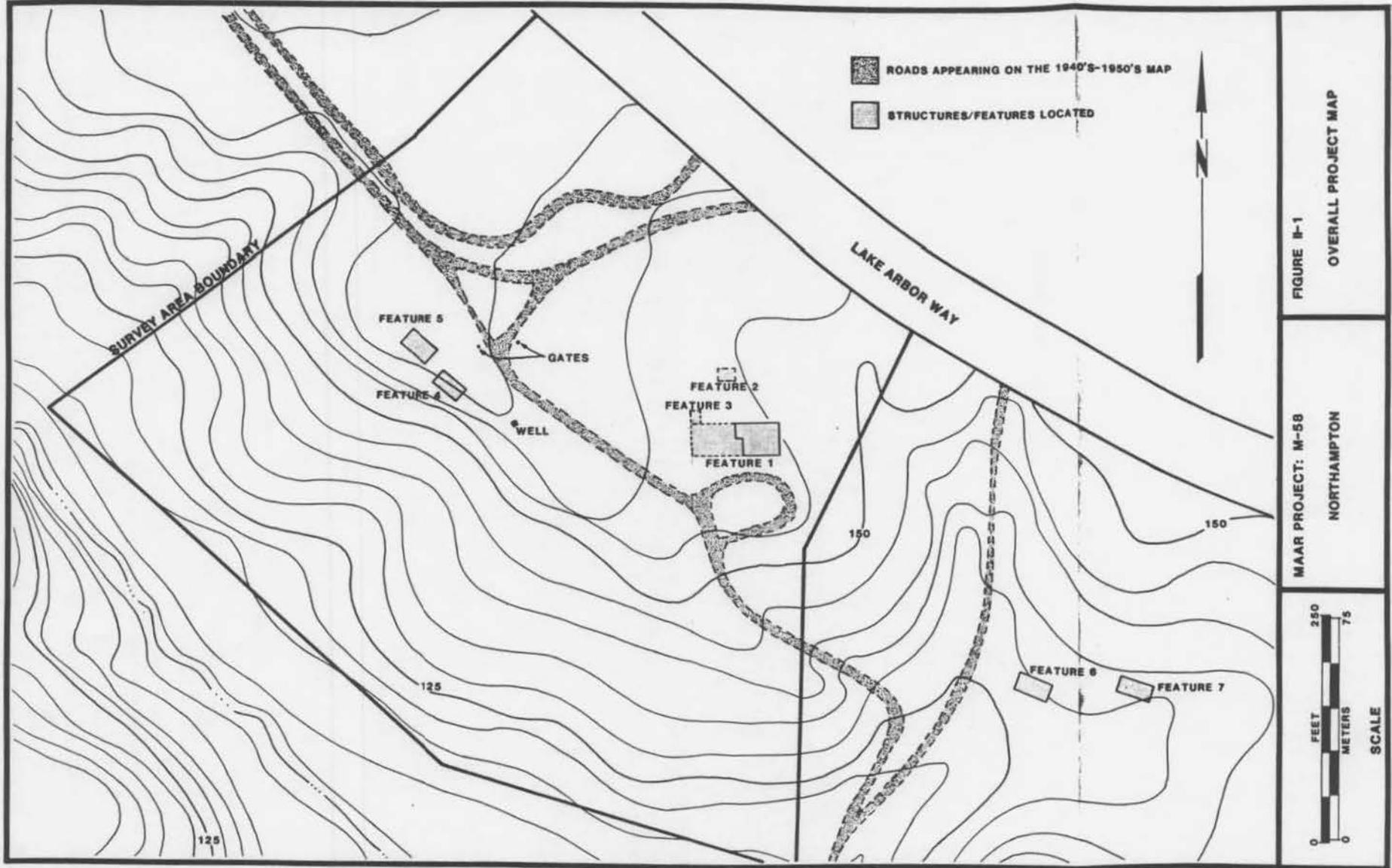
The Carter's Grove reconstruction may signal a shift in attitude. Williamsburg officials report a growing curiosity about slavery on the part of visitors. "How are we going to deal with where we came from?" Mr. Ellis said "if we continue to pretend it didn't exist?"



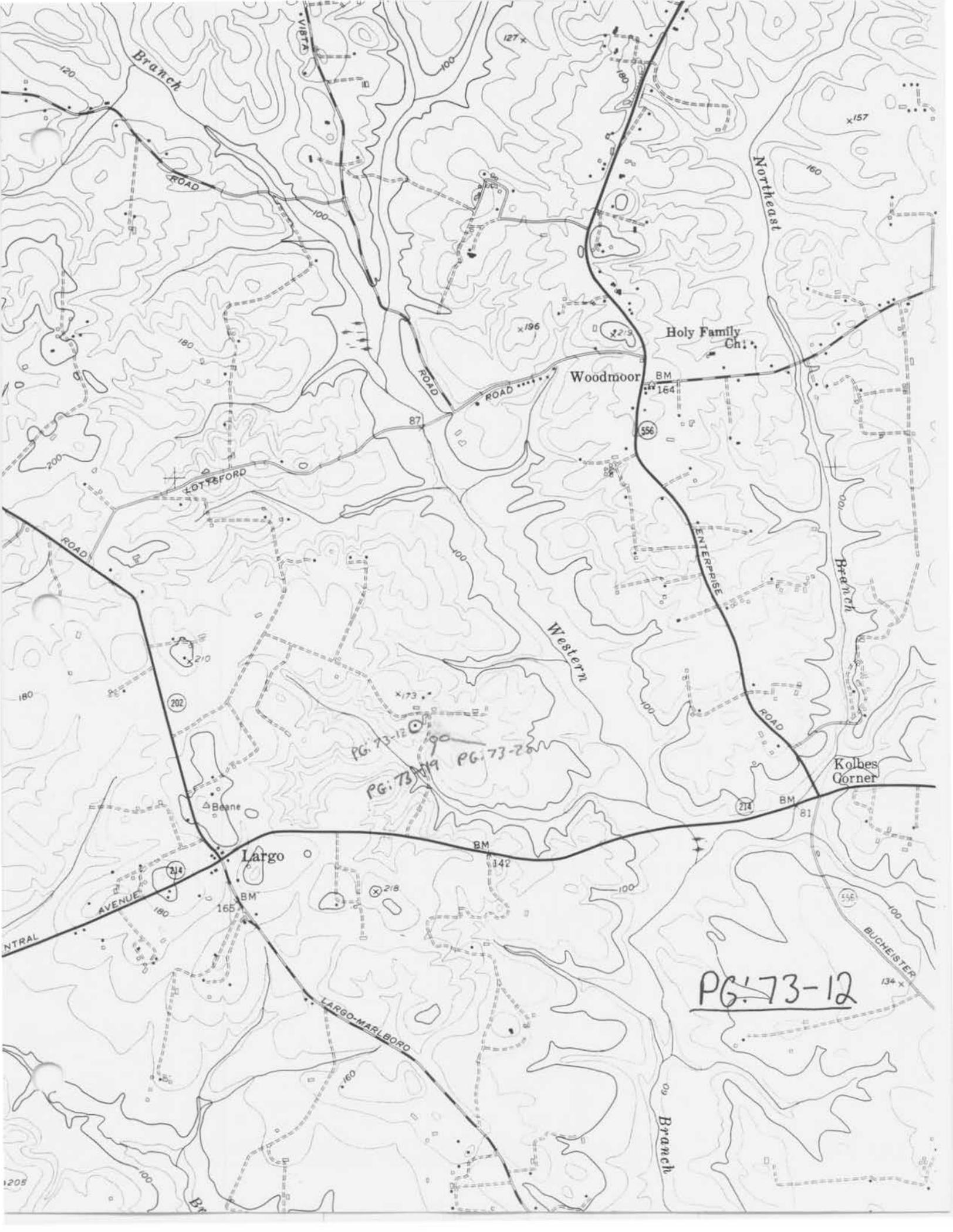
This plan has been established
 in accordance with the provisions of
 the Act of 1907, as amended,
 and approved by JDP-8701
 on 10/15/1915.

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SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE
 I hereby certify that the plan shown herein is correct, that it is
 a true and correct copy of the original plan, and that the same
 was prepared by me or under my direct supervision, and that I am
 a duly licensed Surveyor of the State of Michigan, and that I am
 the author of the same, and that I am not a party to any suit
 of any kind in which the land shown on this plan is in
 dispute, and that I am not a party to any such suit.



PG:73-12



Branch

Northeast

Holy Family Ch.

Woodmoor

Western

Kolbes Corner

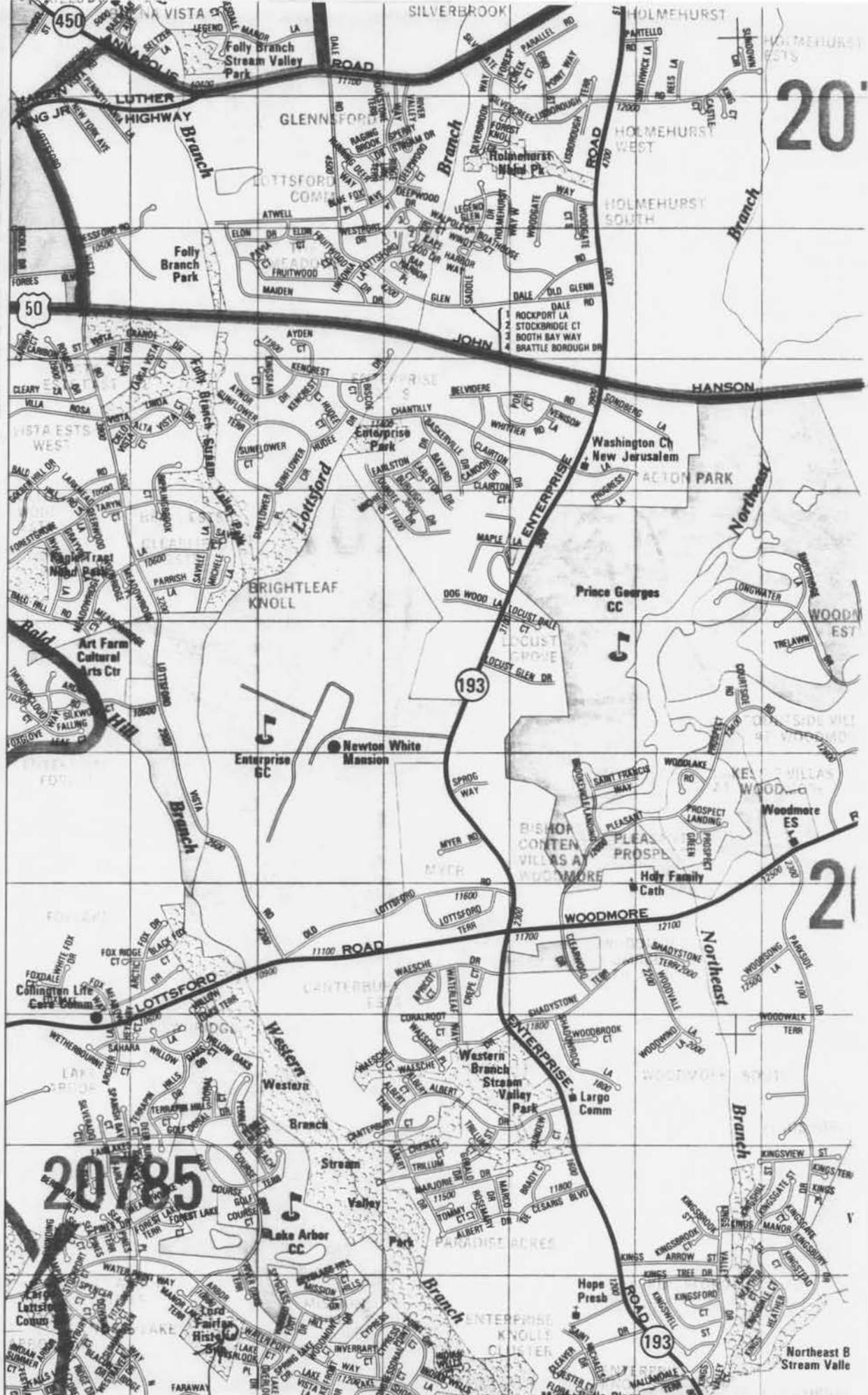
Largo

PG: 73-12

LARGO-MARLBORO

Branch

BUCHESTER



20'

20'



PG: 73-12

Ardmore

Holy Fam

Woodmoor

LOTTSFORD

Superimposed
modern alignment
of Lake Arbor Way

PG. 73-12
Northampton, site
Lanham Quad, 1957

Largo

Ridgley
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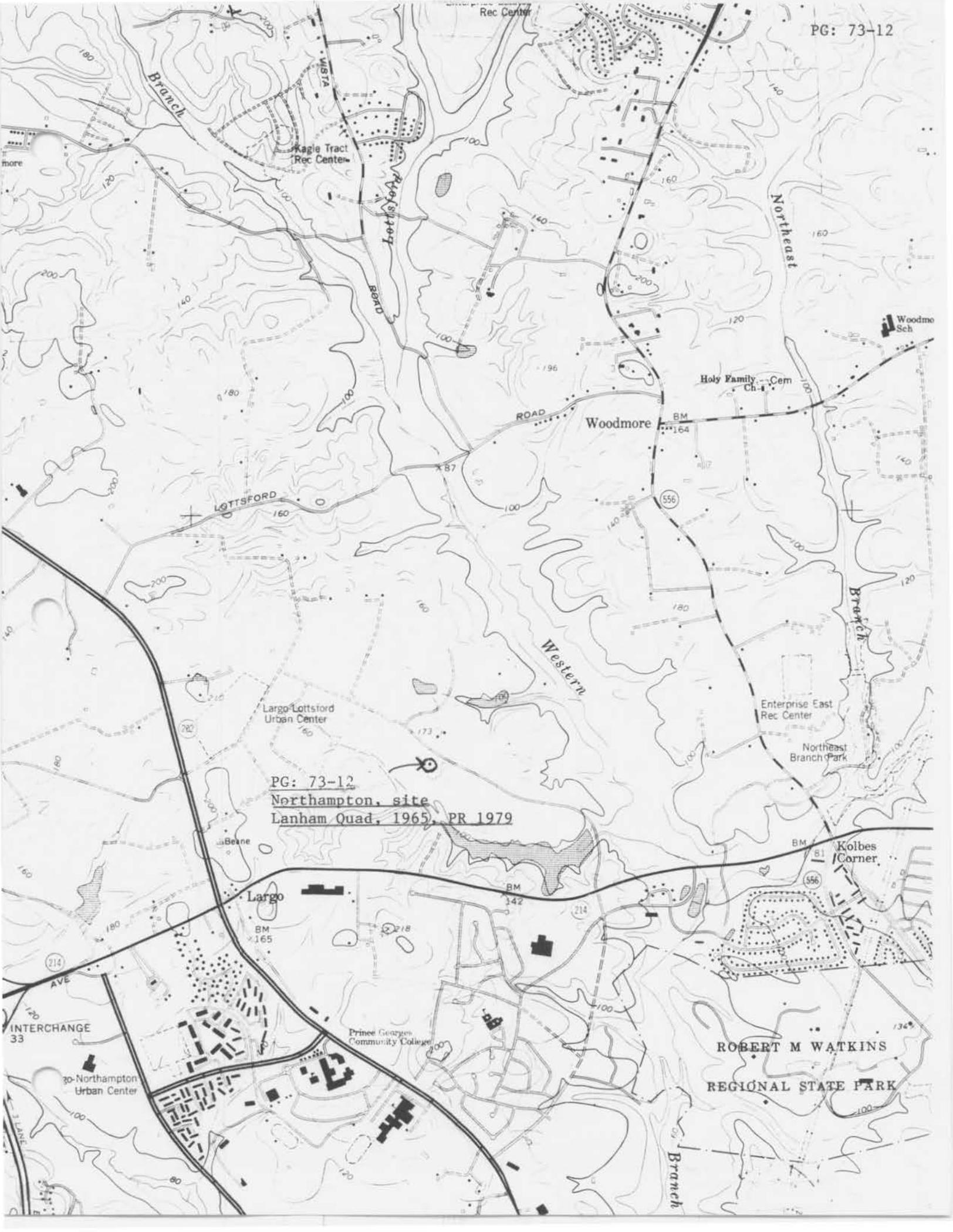
CENTRAL
AVENUE

LARGO-MARLBORO

Southwest

Branch

Branch



PG: 73-12
Northampton, site
Lanham Quad, 1965, PR 1979

ROBERT M WATKINS
 REGIONAL STATE PARK