

# Easement

QA-115

Queenstown Courthouse  
100 Del Rhodes Avenue  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
Public  
1708

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

This one-story building originally was constructed ca. 1708 as the courthouse for Queen Anne's County. It served officially as the county courthouse, the primary judicial building in the county, until 1782. The western end of the building was the original courtroom. It is a timber-framed building containing one room. The eastern end, constructed ca. 1820-1840, is brick and probably served as a kitchen; the brick section contains a wide fireplace. The building served a variety of uses throughout its history. It was professionally restored as a courthouse and town office in 1977.

This property is significant under National Register Criteria for Evaluation A and C. It is associated with the eighteenth-century founding of Queenstown and the establishment of Queen Anne's County. The building also is significant as a representative of early eighteenth-century architecture and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a typical courthouse in its appearance and construction.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. QA-115

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### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

### Summary

This one-story building originally was constructed ca. 1708 as the courthouse for Queen Anne's County. It served officially as the county courthouse, the primary judicial building in the county, until 1782. The western end of the building was the original courtroom. It is a timber-framed building containing one room. The eastern end, constructed ca. 1820-1840, is brick and probably served as a kitchen; the brick section contains a wide fireplace. The building served a variety of uses throughout its history. It was professionally restored as a courthouse and town office in 1977.

The building sits in the middle of its parcel. The landscaping around the building is modern. The building is surrounded by a picket fence that was based on the design of the historic fencing that surrounded St. Luke's Church in Church Hill during the eighteenth century. Brick sidewalks are found along the street frontage.

### Description

The western end of the building was constructed ca. 1708 as the first courthouse in Queen Anne's County. The one-story building is timber-framed. The exterior walls are clad with flush weatherboards nailed with reproduction rosehead nails. The gable roof has an east-west orientation and is sheathed with wood shingles. The main entry is located in the middle of the south elevation. The doorway contains a vertical beaded board door. The main door is flanked by casement windows protected by vertical board shutters bolted over the window openings. Windows also are located on the east gable end and on the north elevation. A brick chimney projects from the center of the roof at the approximate location of the original east gable end of the initial building.

During research for restoration of this building, it was determined that the building was moved to its current location during the early nineteenth century. It was placed on its current brick foundation and the brick wing was added as a kitchen when the courthouse was converted to a dwelling. Original material in the courthouse includes all of the ceiling joists, corner posts, most of the studs and diagonal braces, and a great deal of the oak sheathing, particularly on the gable ends. In addition, original jambs remained from the door and windows. The actual glass casements are reproductions based on archeological evidence. The exterior shutters also are reproductions based on archival evidence dated 1714. The courthouse section was restored without electricity or utilities.

The one-story eastern end of the building is constructed of brick laid in 9:1 bond on the south elevation and an irregular bond on the north elevation. The wing originally was whitewashed; it is now painted white. Two doors and one window are located in the south elevation. One doorway contains a six-panel wood door set under a three-light transom. The window is a six-over-six-light, wood-frame unit. The north elevation contains an offset six-panel wood door flanked by six-over-six-light, wood-frame windows. Research revealed that the bricks used in the addition are older than the date of the wing's construction. It is hypothesized that the bricks were used from a previous building on the site that burned. The brick wing became the town office in 1977.

This building possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is a carefully restored property in that the original materials and the workmanship on original joists and framing elements were retained as possible. Based on the physical evidence of the locations of window and door units, the original design of the building was restored. The building does not strictly possess integrity of location because it was moved to its current location before the brick wing was added ca. 1820-1840. Although its exact location in Queenstown has not been determined, the building remains in Queenstown near the center of the town. Its setting in the center of its separate parcel surrounded by open space projects the feeling and association of Queenstown in the eighteenth century when the town contained only five or six dwellings, the courthouse, and the jail (Criterion Consideration B).

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-115

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

<b>Significance dates</b>	1708	<b>Architect</b>	Unknown
<b>Specific dates</b>	1977	<b>Builder</b>	Unknown

Evaluation for:  
 National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

This property is significant under National Register Criteria for Evaluation A and C. It is associated with the eighteenth-century founding of Queenstown and the establishment of Queen Anne’s County. The building also is significant as a representative of early eighteenth-century architecture and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a typical courthouse in its appearance and construction.

### Resource History

The Queenstown Courthouse was constructed in 1708, two years after the creation of Queen Anne’s County from Talbot County. In 1706, Elizabeth Coursey sold 100 acres to the Chief Justice for a courthouse and chapel. The location of Queenstown officially was established by an act of the Maryland Assembly passed in 1707. The courthouse thus became the nucleus of the Queenstown, one of three towns in Queen Anne’s County established during the eighteenth century. The other two towns are Church Hill and Stevensville on Kent Island.

The nature of tobacco cultivation and the numerous waterways along the Chesapeake Bay encouraged dispersed settlement. In an effort to encourage town development, the Maryland General Assembly passed laws establishing towns as focal points for shipping tobacco. Queenstown was designated as one shipping point on the Chester River.

Towns developed slowly during the eighteenth century. In the case of Queenstown, the courthouse and the jail comprised the core of the town. In 1762, Benjamin Mifflin described the town as containing five or six dwelling houses besides the prison and courthouse (*Queen Anne’s Day Supplement* “Courthouse was County seat for 75 years” 1979).

The Queenstown Courthouse is one of two buildings in the town that is associated with the eighteenth-century history of the town. The other building is Bolingsly, a National Register listed property constructed ca. 1733. This manor house originally was located outside the town boundary, but was incorporated within the town limits in 1892.

The courthouse remained in Queenstown until 1782 when Centreville officially was designated as the county seat due to its central location. As early as 1775, official county business was conducted in locations other than Queenstown. After 1782, the Queenstown Courthouse was transferred into private ownership and served a variety of uses, including a private dwelling, an orphanage, and a store. Sometime before ca. 1820, the building was moved from its original location, possibly north of Del Rhodes Avenue, to its current location. At that time, the brick kitchen addition was added to the building. In ca. 1915, a wood-frame addition was added to the front of the building. This section housed a variety of stores.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-115

Queenstown Courthouse  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, Maryland

## Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

In 1976, the building was rescued from proposed demolition and restored to its eighteenth-century appearance. The restoration identified and retained much original material from the eighteenth century. Eighteenth-century workmanship was noted in the structure of the building, which includes joists, corner posts, and studs. Original cladding material was retained on the exterior walls. Structural evidence revealed the locations of windows and the door on the south elevation. This simply-styled building is significant under Criterion C as an example of an eighteenth-century courthouse. The building also meets the Criteria set forth for Criterion Consideration B: Moved Properties.

MHT CONCURRENCE:	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 12/17/99
Date 4/27/00	Reviewer, NR program <i>[Signature]</i>

*[Handwritten signature]*

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-115

Queenstown Courthouse  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, Maryland

## Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture  
Government

#### Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Courthouse

Known Design Source: Unknown

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-115

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### Queen Anne's Day Supplement

May 1979 Paper prepared for annual celebration. Centreville Public Library vertical files.

Rhodes, Harry C.

1985 *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town*. The Queen Anne Press, Queenstown, Maryland.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

<.25 acre

Queenstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### **Verbal boundary description and justification**

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries listed on tax map 51A, parcel 108 within Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title Katherine Grandine, Historian/Senior Project Manager, Architectural Services

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

date November 1999

street & number 241 E. Fourth Street, Suite 100

telephone 301-694-0428

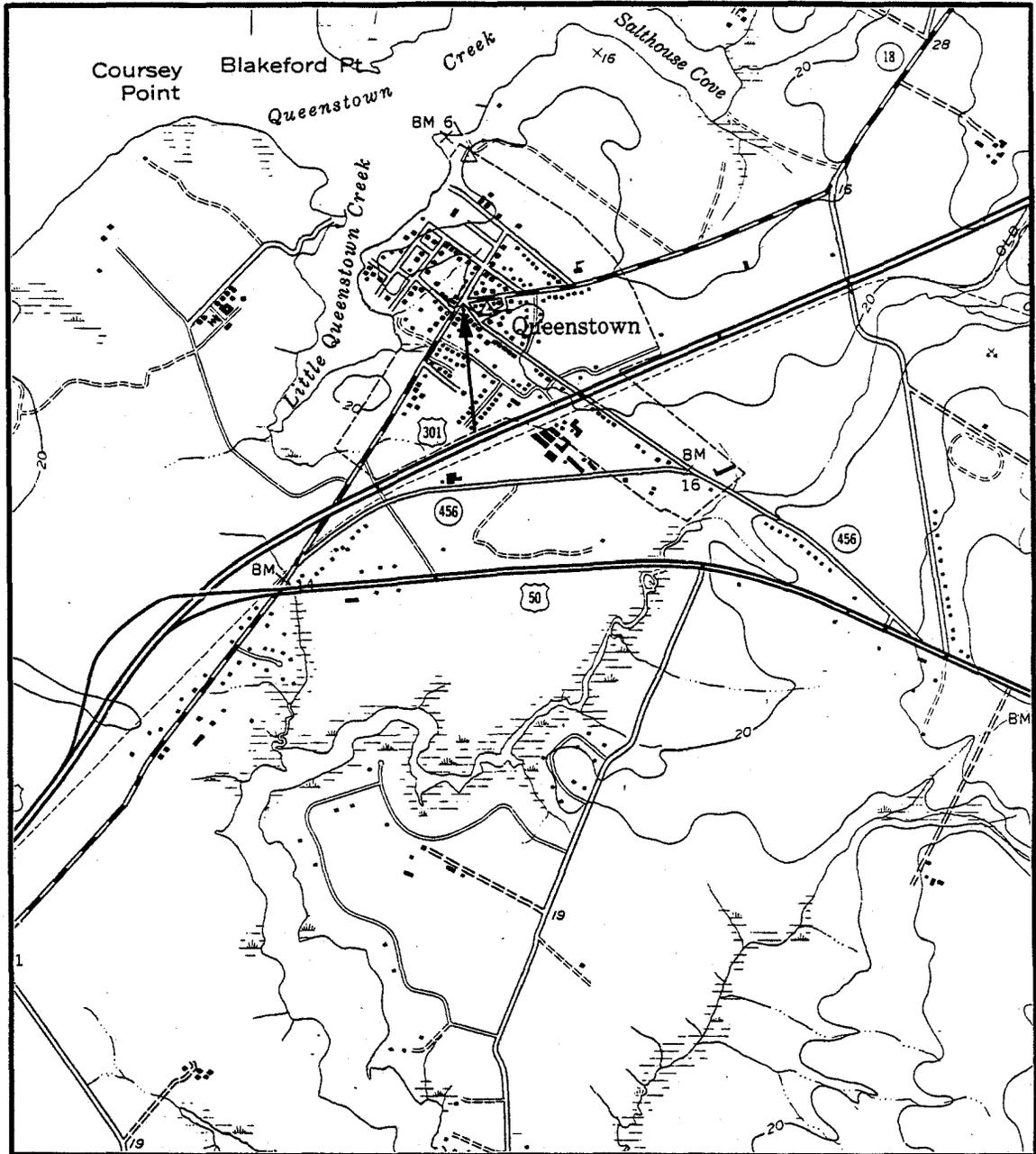
city or town Frederick, Maryland 21701

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MHT No. QA-115  
 Queenstown Courthouse  
 Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
 Queenstown USGS Quadrangle Map



<p>MN GN 10 1/2° 187 MILS 0° 45' 13 MILS</p>	<p>SCALE 1:24000</p> <p>0 1/2 1 MILE 0 2000 4000 FEET 0 1/2 1 KILOMETER</p>	<p>QUEENSTOWN, MD QUADRANGLE LOCATION</p>
<p>R. Christopher Goodwin &amp; Associates, Inc. 241 EAST FOURTH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701</p>		

**INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

The same is the following for all photographs:

1. inventory #: QA-115
2. historic name: Queenstown Courthouse
3. location: Queenstown, Queen Anne's County
4. photographer: P. Giglio
4. date of photograph: November 1999
5. location of negative: MD SHPO

**Photo #**

1. View south
2. View southwest
3. View north

# Easement

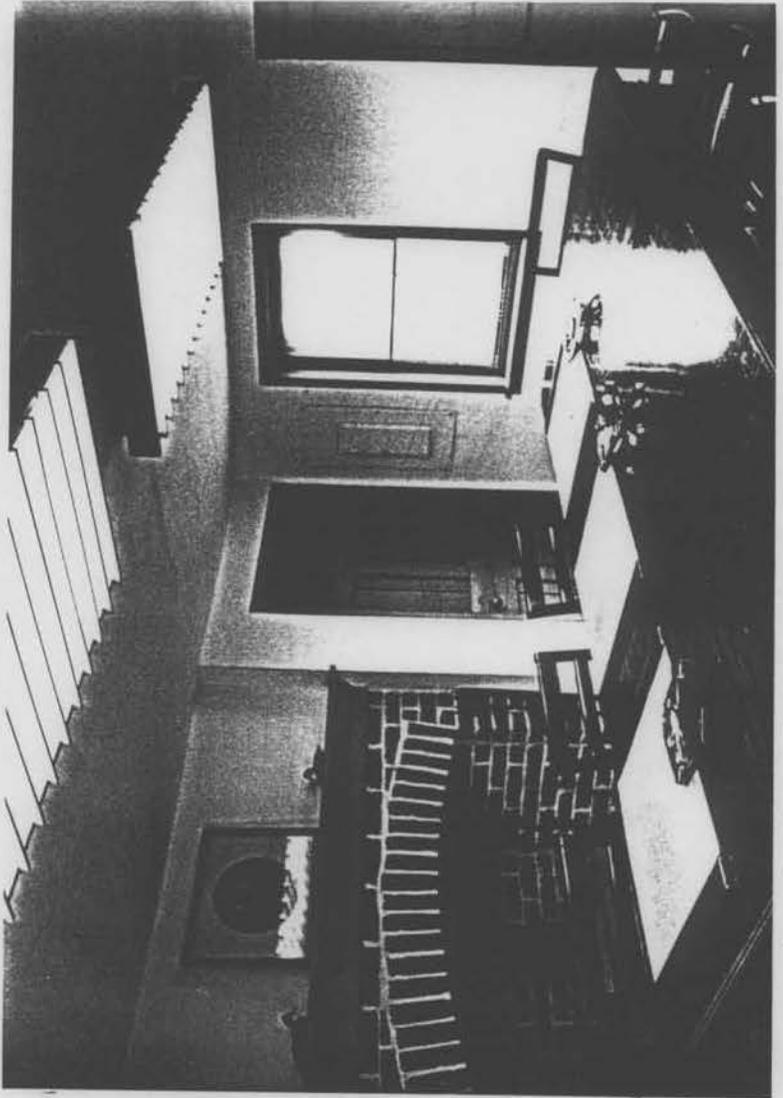
QA-115



QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE	Courthouse from south	
EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. B, Page 2 of 8	SCALE:	
	PREPARED: 5/80 TCA	NORTH
SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE

# Easement

QA-115



QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE

Interior-1st floor south and east walls, Commissioners' Meeting Room

SCALE: Room

PREPARED: 5/80 TCA

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO.B, Page 7 of 8

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

# Easement

QA-115



QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE

Interior-Northeast wall, Stair-  
hall, 2nd floor

SCALE:

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. B, Page 8 of 8

PREPARED: 5/80 TCA  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH

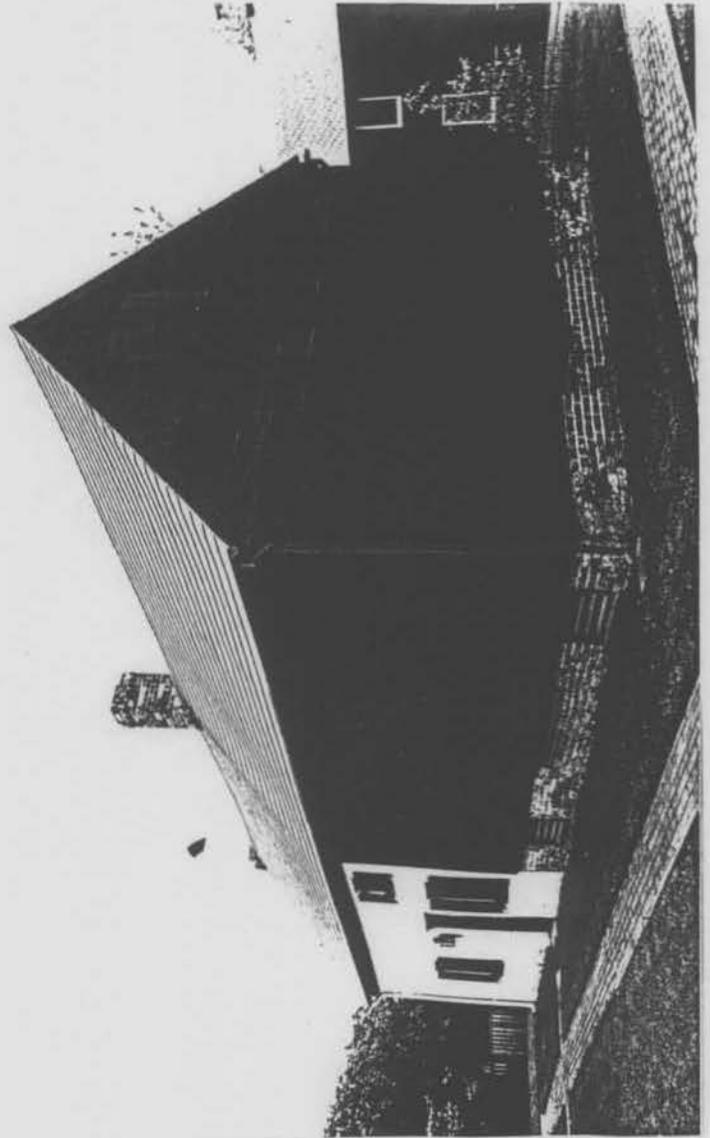
SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

# Easement

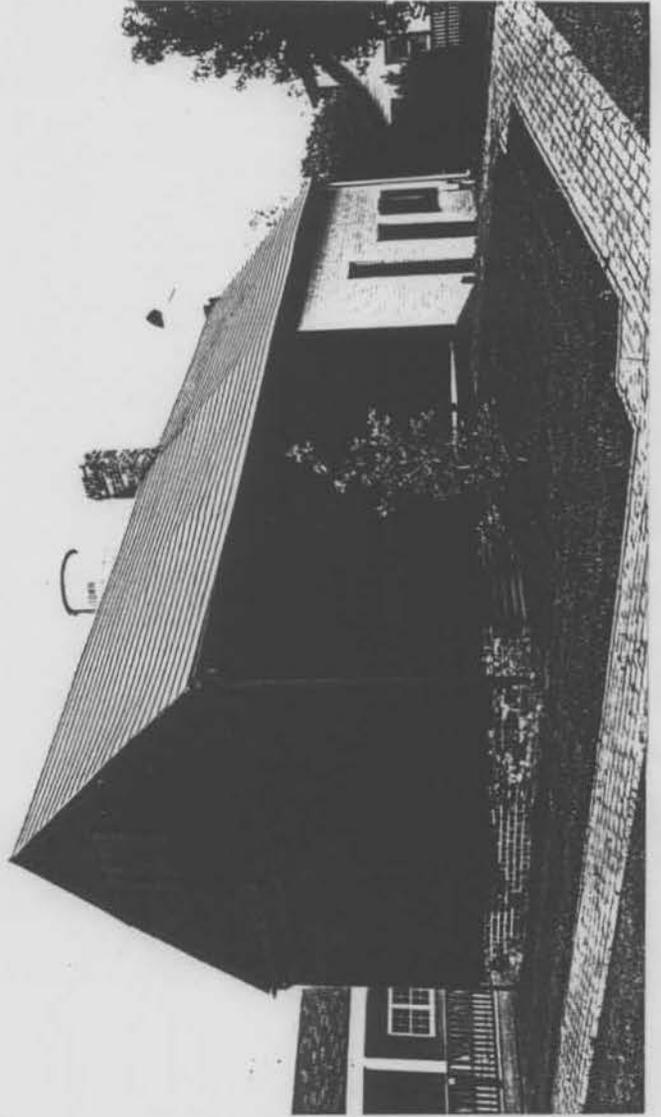
QA-115



QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE	Detail-Northwest facade of courthouse	
EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. B, Page 5 of 8	SCALE: PREPARED: 5/80 TCA MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	NORTH
SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE

# Easement

QA 115



QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE

Southeast facade of courthouse

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. B, Page 6 of 8

SCALE:  
PREPARED: 5/80 TCA  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

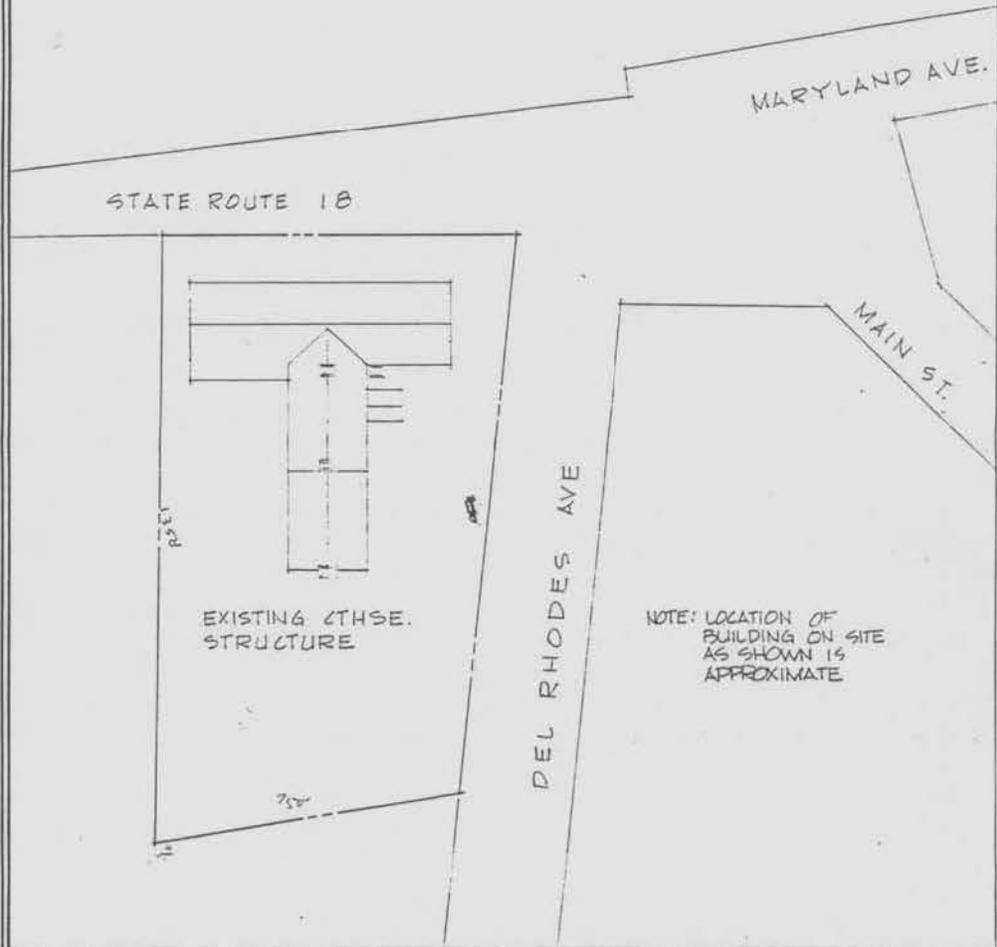
NORTH

# Easement

QA-115

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION  
QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE

Said property is on the Southwest corner of Main Street and Del Rhodes Avenue, Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, being the same property conveyed from Frank G. Baldwin, Jr., Trustee for Baldwin Service Center, Inc. to James N. and Dorothy H. Porter, by deed dated September 10, 1976 and recorded among the Land Records of Queen Anne's County in Liber CWC 50, Folio 131.



BRUNING 40-21-3211D

QUEENSTOWN COURTHOUSE  
QUEENSTOWN  
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, page 1 of 1

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

SCALE: 1" = 300'

PREPARED: 6/77

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

JAC



NORTH

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

FILED 139

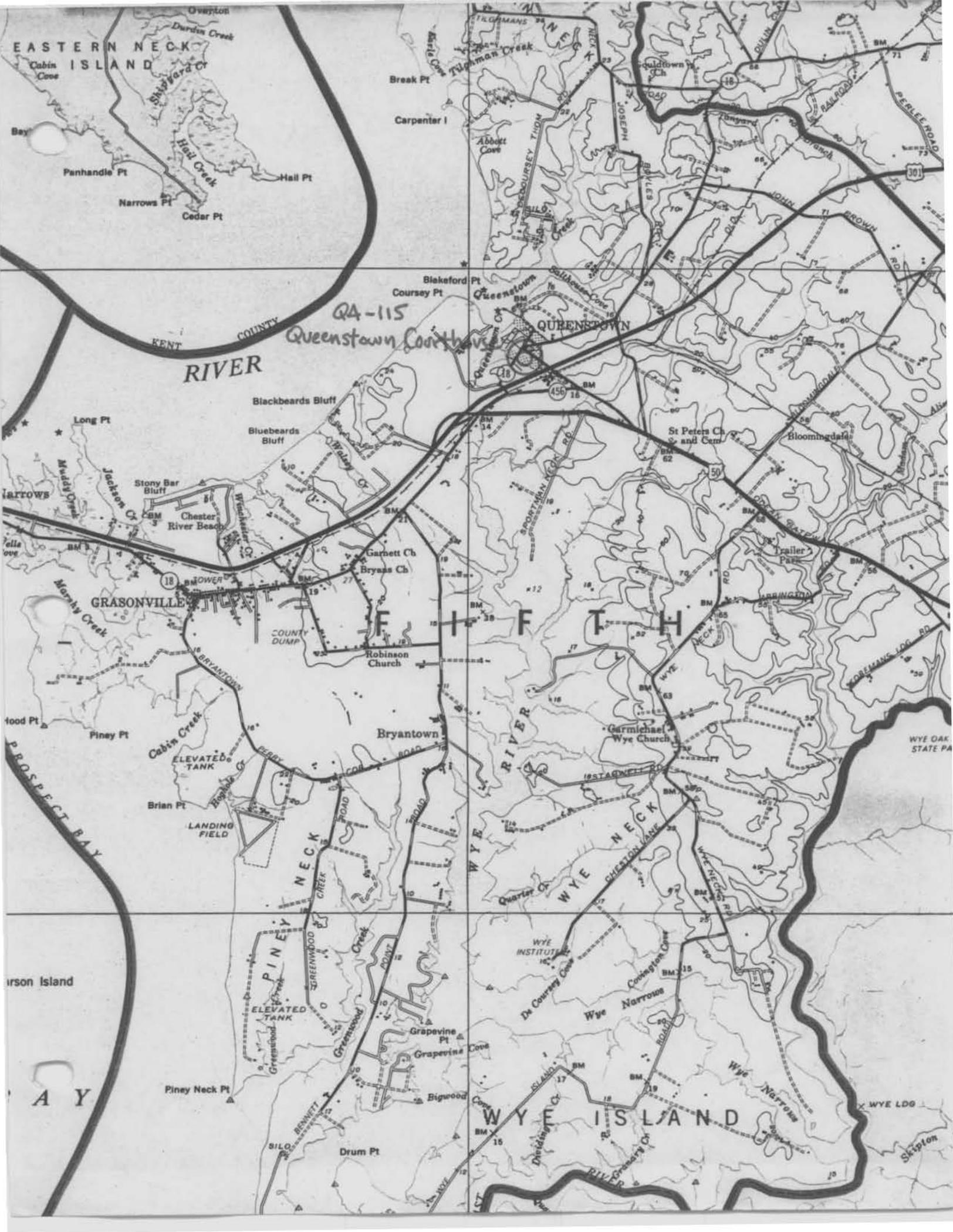


QA-115

Queenstown  
Courthouse

Main Street (MD R+18)  
and  
Del Rhodes Avenue  
Queenstown, Maryland  
QUEENSTOWN QUAD

5/16/1993



EASTERN NECK  
ISLAND

KENT RIVER

QA-115  
Queenstown Court House

QUEENSTOWN

GRASONVILLE

FIFE NECK

WYE NECK

PINEY NECK

WYE ISLAND

Prospect Bay

Prospect Bay

Wye Neck

Queenstown Courthouse

QA-115



QA-115  
Queenstown Courthouse

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



'98 1 17

QA-115

Queenstown Courthouse

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View South

1 of 3

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QA-115

Queenstown Courthouse

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

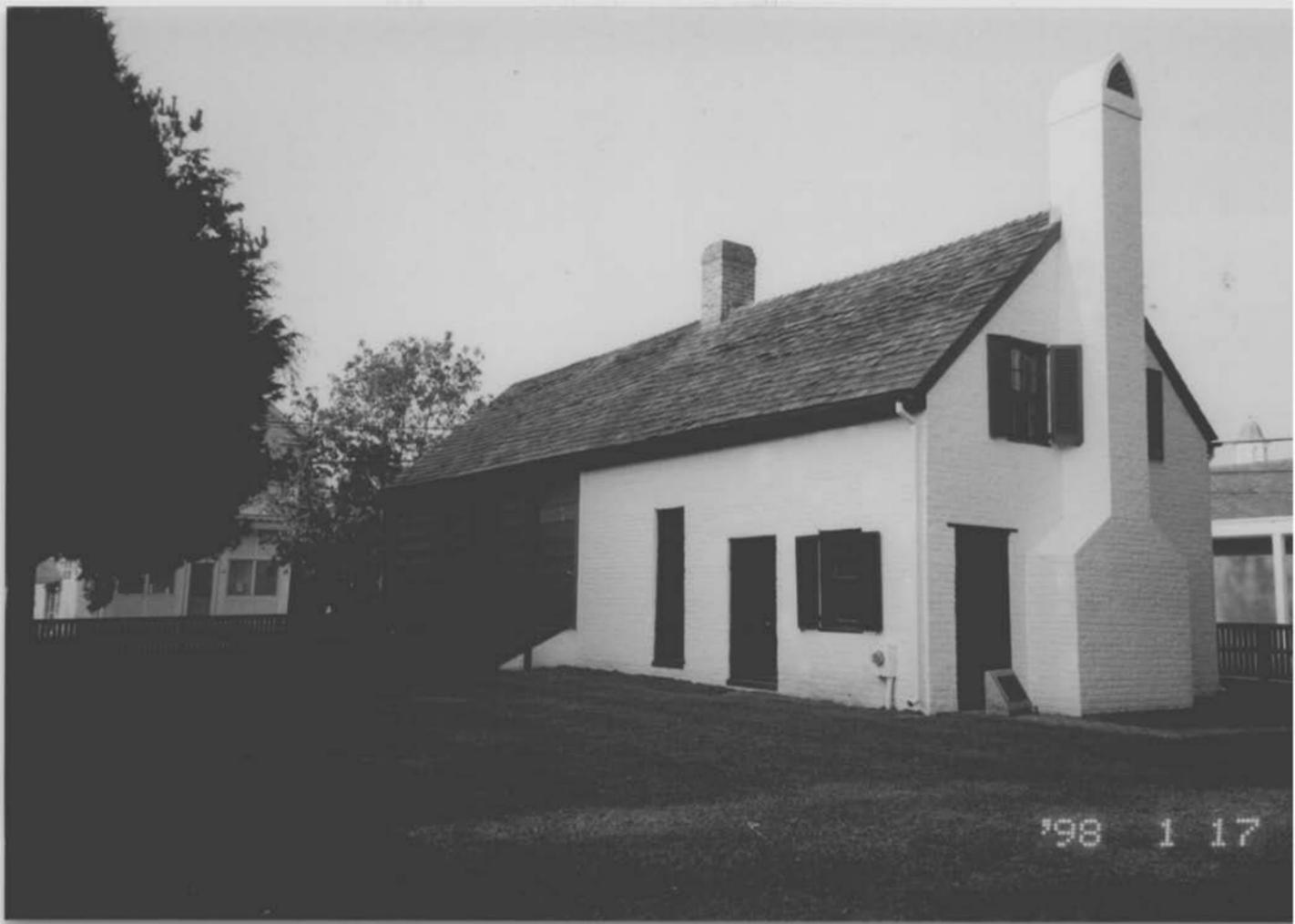
11/1999

MD SHPO

View southwest

2 of 3

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



'98 1 17

QA-115

Queenstown Courthouse

Queenstown, Queen Anne's County

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPD

View North

2 of 3

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



Queenstown Courthouse, Q.A. 115

West Corner

Michael Bourne

July 1997

Maryland Historical Trust

C. III - A1



Queenstown Courthouse Q.A. - 115

Southwest Facade

Michael Bourne

July 1997

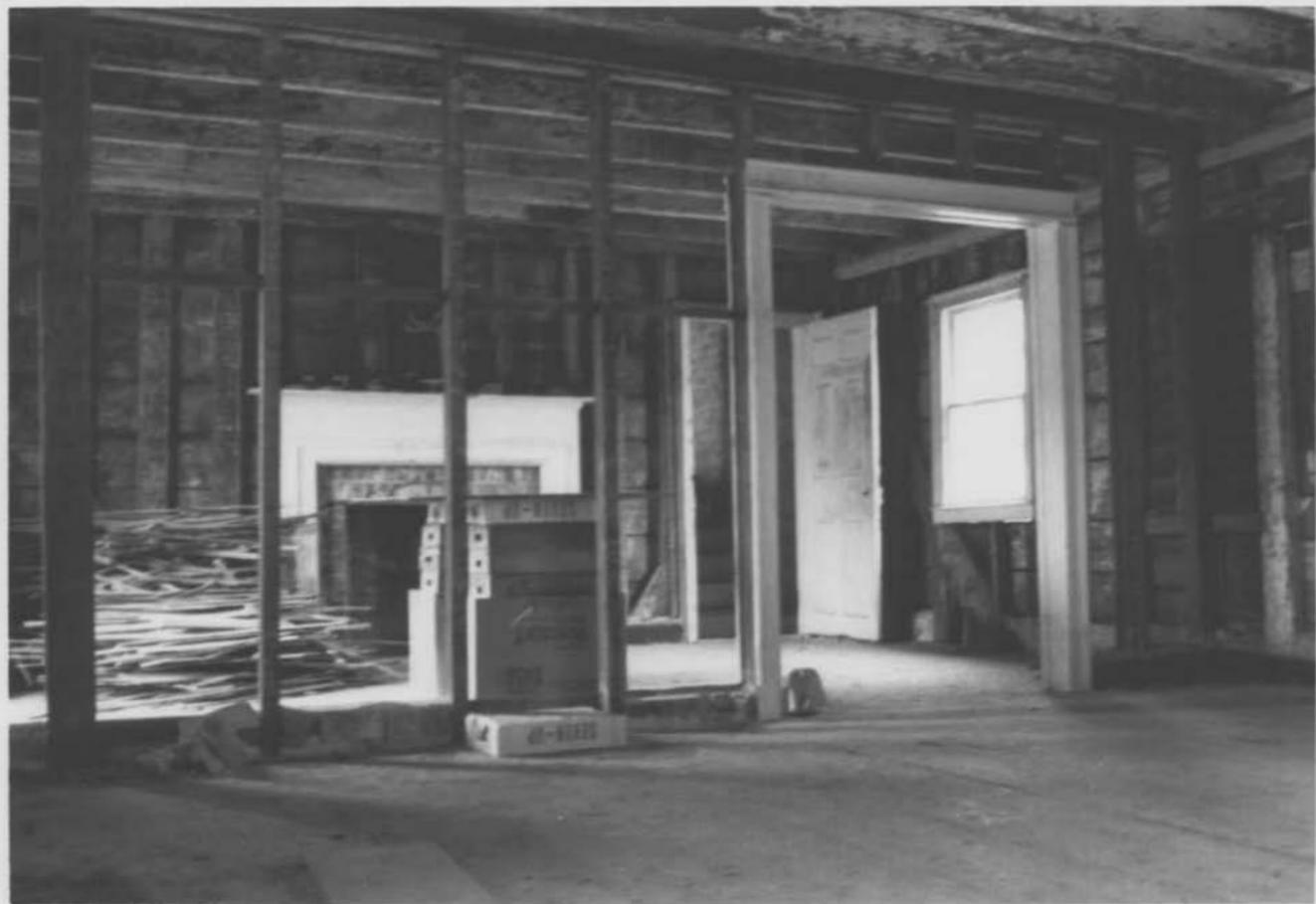
Maryland Historical Soc. Trust



Q.A. # 115



QA #115



QA-115 Queenstown Court House  
Queenstown, Maryland  
Mark Edwards, April 1978  
Interior Framing



QA-115 Queenstown Court House  
Queenstown, Maryland  
Michael Bourne, 1964  
North facade, before  
restoration