

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Carpenters Square (May Turpin Farm) Inventory Number: QA-131  
 Address: Wye Mills Centreville Road (MD 213) (west side) Historic district: yes  no  
 City: Wye Mills/Queenstown Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Queen Annes  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Wye Mills  
 Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency Prepared By: DOT/FHWA/E. Elinsky  
 Preparer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared: 12/3/1979  
 Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes  no Listed:  yes  no  
 Date visited by MHT Staff:  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The stuccoed brick main house of this plantation complex is architecturally significant as a prominent example of the Federal Period of architecture, embodied in its side-hall, double-parlor plan, similar to other Eastern Shore house types. The brick slave quarter, originally built with a center chimney, is a rare and intact example of this building type. A granary on the property is significant for its method of construction, showing the unique use of "staddle stone" footings. This complex is associated with agricultural development in its land use as a farm since the 18th c.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
MHT Comments: <u>Federal DOE</u>	
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	_____ Date
<u>Carol D. Schull (Keeper of NR)</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>Monday, February 11, 1980</u> Date

QA-131  
May Turpin Farm  
Wye Mills vicinity  
Private

circa 1830

There are three buildings of interest on the May Turpin Farm. The main house is a large brick dwelling typical of the Federal period, with a side hall-double parlor plan that was widely used on the Eastern Shore. In both plan and form, this house is similar to a number of other early 19th century houses in the county, including Lansdowne (QA-87), Fincastle (QA-60), and the Hiram Hammond house (QA-126), located approximately 1 1/2 miles to the south.

Directly adjacent to the house on the north is a brick outbuilding believed to be one of the few surviving examples of a slave quarter in Queen Anne's County. The unusual outshut form and two room plan with central chimney constitute a unique house type in this county, and the evidence of an open loft and dirt floor are a rare survival of architectural features found in small buildings in Tidewater Maryland throughout the pre-industrial period.

Also of interest is a well-preserved granary dating to the mid-19th century which is set on the only recorded example of "staddle stone" footings in the county.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

May Turpin farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Maryland Route 213

CITY, TOWN

Wye Mills

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

May B. Turpin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21658

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: BHT: 18

Folio #: 428

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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 checked="" 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

The May Turpin farm is located on the west side of Maryland Route 213 approximately 2½ miles north of Wye Mills. The house stands in a large grove of trees surrounded by open agricultural land.

The main house on the Turpin farm is of brick construction covered with white stucco. In overall form and plan it is typical of the large side hall-double parlour houses of the Federal period, and bears many similarities to other large houses of this period elsewhere in this region. It is 2½ stories high and three bays wide, with paired brick chimneys symmetrically placed at the south end of a pitched gable roof. Later frame additions cover portions of both gable walls.

The front facade faces east, toward Route 213. The principal entrance is located in the north bay of this facade, with two six-over-six windows to the left, three six-over-six windows ranged across the second floor, and a pair of pitched roof six-over-six dormers on the third floor. Small cellar windows that were once fitted with three-over-three sash are positioned directly

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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
<input checked="" 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

There are three buildings of interest on the May Turpin farm. The main house is a large brick dwelling typical of the Federal period, with a side hall-double parlour plan that was widely used on the Eastern Shore. In both plan and form, this house is similar to a number of other early 19th century houses in the county, including Lansdowne (QA-87), Fincastle (QA-60), and the Hiram Hammond house (QA-126), located approximately 1½ miles to the south.

Directly adjacent to the house on the north is a brick outbuilding believed to be one of the few surviving examples of a slave quarter in Queen Anne's County. The unusual outshot form and two room plan with central chimney constitute a unique house type in this county, and the evidence of an open loft and dirt floor are a rare survival of architectural features found in small buildings in Tidewater Maryland throughout

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Privately Printed, 1934.

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

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

6/11/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

Field Book QA-IX, Recorded May 20, 1979.

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

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

below each first floor window. The door opening has a paneled soffit and jambs, and the paneled door is set off by a three-light transom. The present door surround has a Federal flavor to it, but may be a modern feature. Traces of an entrance porch remain visible in the stucco rendering, which has been scored on this facade to suggest rustication. No evidence remains visible to identify the bonding pattern of the brickwork, and there is no watertable or belt course. The cornice is corbeled in brick and stuccoed, while the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south gable wall is now partially concealed by a modern one story frame addition. The gable facade of the early house is dominated by the paired brick chimneys which protrude approximately five inches from the wall surface, and are shouldered at the second floor eave level. A modern single-flue chimney has been added against this wall, rising between the original chimneys. There are six-over-six windows in the east and west bays on the first and second floor, and two small six-over-six windows between the original chimneys in the upper gable. Cellar windows remain below each first floor window, and the west cellar

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

window is still fitted with three-over-three sash and a wood frame with diamond-section horizontal bars. The gable eaves are finished with beaded and tapered rakeboards.

The west or rear facade was originally similar to the front facade, but the door in the north bay has been changed to a window, and the outline of an entrance porch is the only visible evidence of this change. A bulkhead cellar entrance is now located in the north bay of this facade, but this is probably a result of modern alterations, and was originally located on one of the gable walls. This facade, as well as both gable walls, is rendered with stucco but is not rusticated.

The north gable is partially covered by a two story frame addition. The east portion of this facade remains exposed, with a six-over-six window on the first and second floor, and a three-over-three cellar window located directly below the first floor window. The east bay is not expressed in the upper gable, leaving a single diminutive six-over-six window in the west bay. The rakeboards are plain and untapered.

The interior is not accessible at the present time.

Granary

Included among the farm buildings to the southwest of the main house is a large, timber frame granary, probably dating to the mid-19th century. It is forty feet long and twenty-six feet wide, with a steeply pitched roof. Now covered with asbestos shingle siding and a tin roof, only the general form of the building suggests its age from the exterior. Double doors in the center of the south facade and a large single door hung on wrought strap hinges at the north end of the east gable are the only openings.

The interior is divided into four bays, with the eastern three bays serving as a granary and the west bay as a corn crib. The portion of the building used as a granary has been divided into several storage areas on both the main floor and in the loft, while the crib is open to the roof. An enclosed stair in the southeast corner of the building provides access to the loft.

The principal framing consists of heavy hewn posts, sills, and top plates, with each post reinforced with one or two downbraces. The posts in the center of the building are chamfered and have carefully shaped

bearing plates supporting the heavy hewn girt that runs longitudinally down the center of the building. The ceiling joists are notched over this center girt and are paired. The roof is made of heavy hewn and sawn common rafters set at a 44 degree pitch. They are set onto a flat false plate with a birdmouth notch and are mitred, butted and nailed at the ridge. The combination of hewn timbers and mitred ridge connections is somewhat unusual, and may suggest a transitional, mid-19th century building, in which old methods of framing are mixed with industrial age jointing techniques.

Of particular interest are the "staddle stone" footings that support the building. These consist of dressed granite piers with flat granite "bearing plates" which also serve as deterrents to rodents. It is unclear whether these foundation stones are original, but they are the only recorded example in Queen Anne's County.

Slave Quarter

Immediately to the north of the large brick house on the Turpin farm is a small brick outbuilding. Although the original use of this building cannot be positively ascertained, architectural evidence strongly suggests it was either a slave quarter or a combined kitchen and quarter.

The building is of rather unusual form, with a pitched-roof front section that measures approximately 16 feet wide and 14 feet deep, and an original outshut that stretches an additional 11½ feet to the rear. The brickwork is laid in five course bond without a watertable. The roof has been rebuilt but copies the original roof in form and pitch. A one-flue exterior chimney has been added to the west gable of the front section, replacing the original chimney located in the center of the building.

The front facade faces south, with a door located in the center bay and a small six-light sash window to the left of the door mounted on side hinges to serve as a casement. A large six-over-six window is centered on the east gable of the front section, while simple doors in both the east and west walls of the rear

section allow access to the outshut.

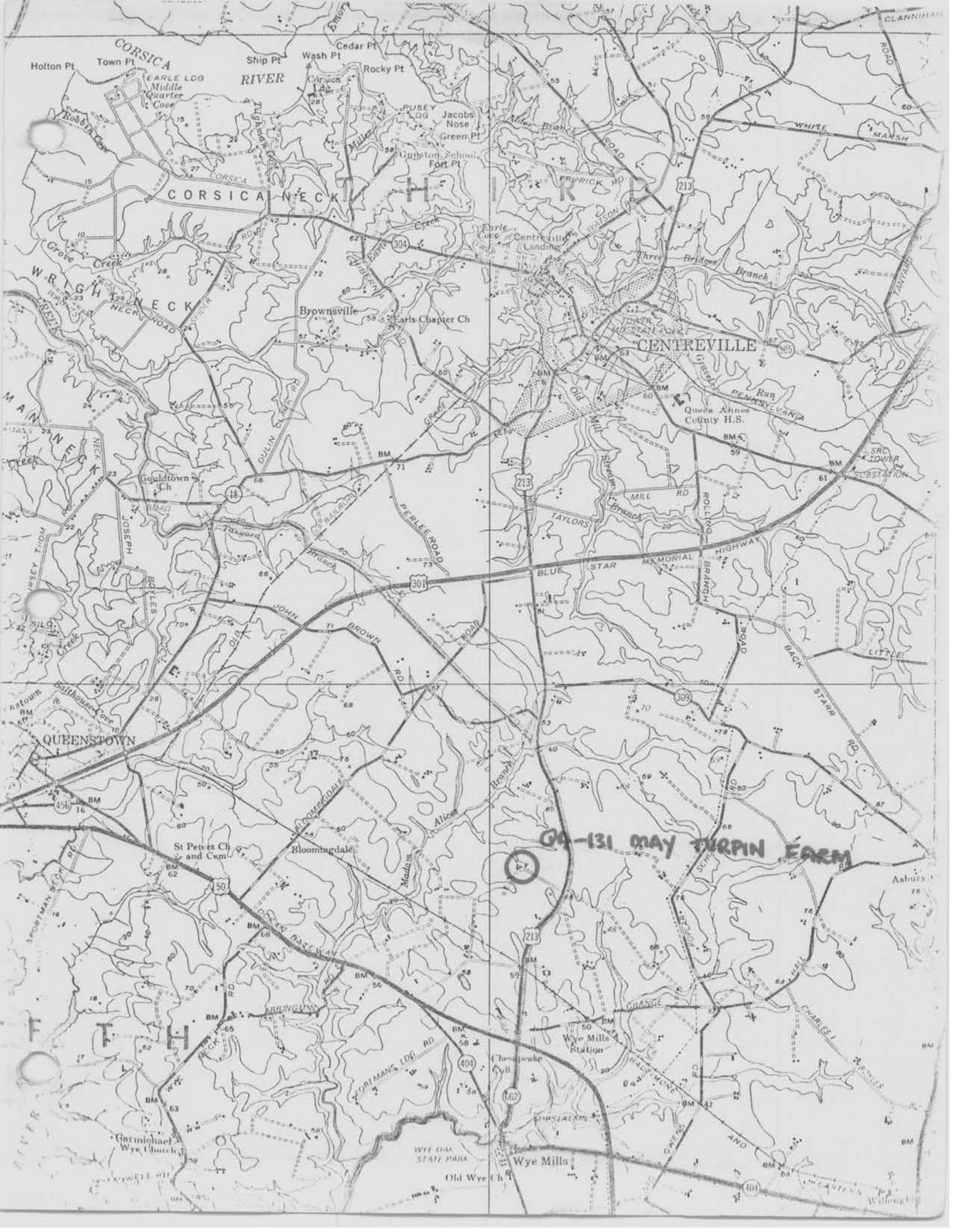
The interior is divided into a single room in the front section with an open loft and a slightly smaller room in the rear outshut. There is no interior access between the two rooms, but seams in the brick partition wall indicate the location of an original shared chimney stack that has been demolished. This projected out into the front room, with fireplaces in both the front and rear rooms. A small fireplace in the west wall of the front room was cut in when the original chimney was demolished. Both rooms clearly had dirt floors, and the rear room had whitewashed brick walls, while traces of plaster remain on two of the walls in the front room. The loft in the front room was apparently always open, as there is no evidence of flooring nails on the top face of the joists, though boards were sometimes laid across the joists without being nailed down. The existing joists all appear to be original, as they are bedded in the masonry of the front and rear wall. Two of these are clearly pit sawn, while a third is obviously circular sawn, suggesting a date of construction of circa 1840.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the pre-industrial period.

Also of interest is a well-preserved granary dating to the mid-19th century which is set on the only recorded example of "staddle stone" footings in the county.



GA-131 MAY TIRPIN FARM

CORSICA

CORSICA NECK

CENTREVILLE

QUEENSTOWN

W. R. W. NECK

WYE MILLS

RIVER

W. R. W. NECK

BLOOMINGDALE

Old Wye Ch

Gouldtown Ch

St Peter's Ch and Cem

Chesapeake Mill

Quinn Anne County H.S.

St Michael's Wye Church

Wye Mills Station

SRD TOWER SUBSTATION

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

WYE OAK STATE PARK

WILFORD

EARLE LOG Middle Quarter

Gunston School Fort Pt

WHITE MANSR

Robb's Cove

Jacobs Nose Green Pt

Three Bridges Branch

Grove

Earle Centreville Landing

Run DE MARVELAND

W. R. W. NECK

Centreville

ROLLING BRANCH

JOSEPH

Centreville

BACK STAR RD

BOYLES

Centreville

LITTLE

JOHN BROWN

Centreville

STAR MEMORIAL

STILLHOUSE CREEK

Centreville

BLUE STAR

SPORTSMAN RD

Centreville

ROLLING BRANCH

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

Centreville

BACK STAR RD

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

Centreville

STAR MEMORIAL

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

Centreville

BACK STAR RD

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

Centreville

STAR MEMORIAL

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

Centreville

STAR MEMORIAL

BRIDGEMAN'S LOG

Centreville

STAR MEMORIAL

QA-131  
May Turpin  
Farm

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





QA-131 May Turpin Farm

Building to rear of house  
(since destroyed)

Queen Anne's County Historical  
Society file photograph

Probably James W. Valliant c. 1974

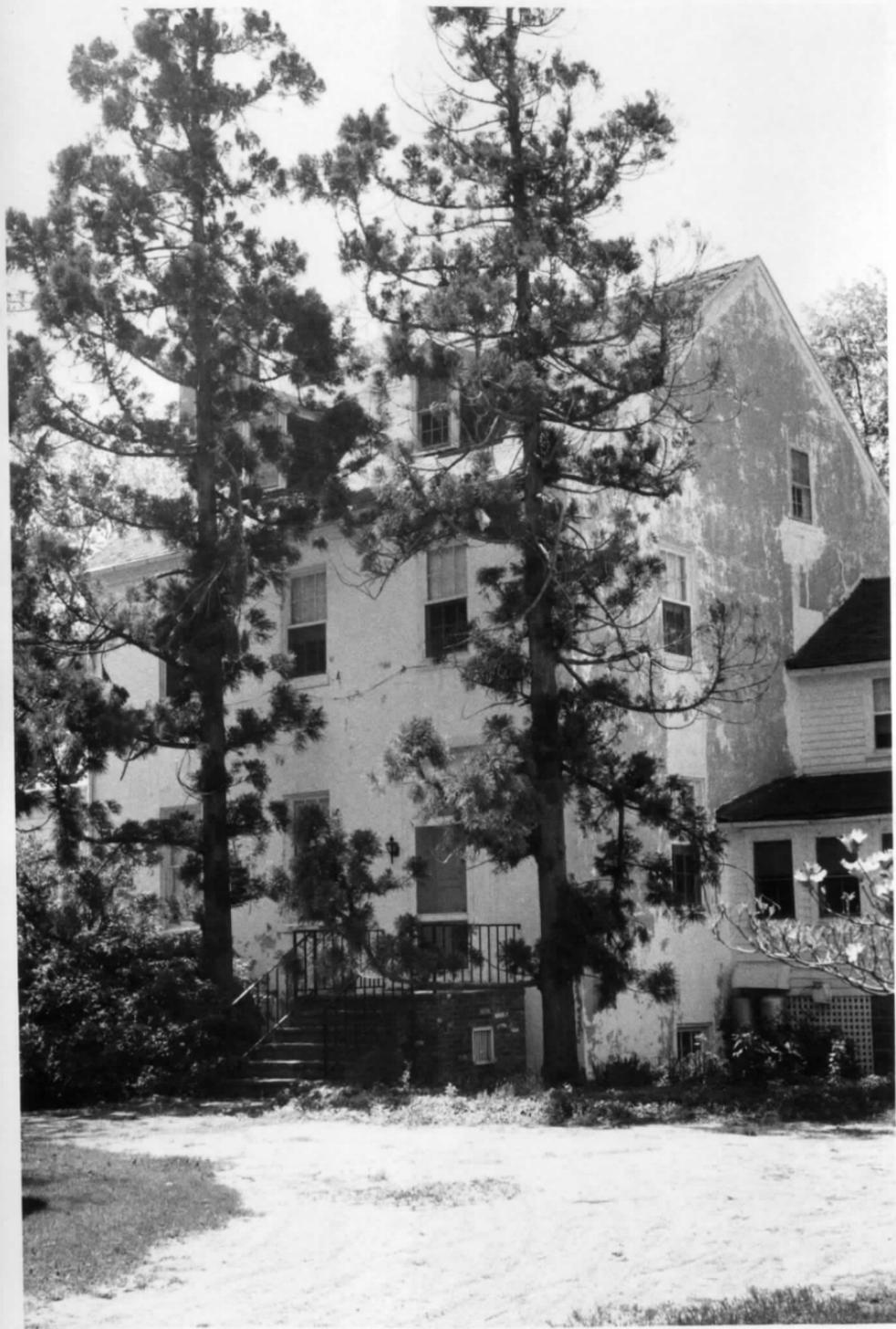
*Wade at*

*QA 131*



QA-131

May Turpin Farm  
Wye Mills vicinity  
Rita Suffness, 1979  
South Gable



QA-131

May Turpin Farm  
Wye Mills vicinity  
Rita Suffness, 1979  
Front facade from east



QA-131

May Turpin Farm  
Wye Mills vicinity  
Rita Suffness, 1979  
Quarter/Outbuilding