

QA-191A  
Poplar Grove Quarter  
Burrisville vicinity  
Private

18th century

This small frame dwelling is one of two 18th century slave quarters known to survive in the county. It is included in a 1798 tax assessment of the Emory property and may have been constructed soon after the main house. The original hall-parlor plan with a single gable chimney has been altered to a balanced two room plan with center stove chimney and the interior has been extensively renovated. The front porch and bell-cast eaves are also relatively modern features. Even with these changes, however, sufficient evidence survives to allow significant insights into slave housing in the late 18th and early 19th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Poplar Grove Quarter, Brampton

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

North bank of Emory Creek

CITY, TOWN

Burrsville

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 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lloyd T. Emory

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

RT#2, Box 111

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

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

Liber #: BHT 3

Folio #: 63

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-191A

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 type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building known as the Poplar Grove Quarter is located on the south side of a gravel road leading east from the main house to the farm yard at Poplar Grove. It is approximately 200 yards to the southwest of the house and, according to tradition, was one of several similar buildings that formed a row along the farm road. While two other frame buildings still survive on this axis, they are much later in construction. One of these buildings served as a tenant house, the other as a garage and storage building.

The building known as the Quarter is of frame construction, one-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a small brick chimney centered on the ridge of the pitched gable roof. The building has been extensively altered over the years, and all that survives of the original structure is the timber frame.

The front facade faces north to the driveway, with a center door flanked by 6/6 windows on the first floor and no openings on the roof. The horizontal weatherboards are 20th century, and the picturesque bell-curve eave to the roof is a 20th

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

century alteration.

The east gable wall is pierced by single 6/6 windows centered on the first and second floor, and is covered with plain horizontal weatherboards secured with machine nails.

The south facade is now covered by a one story porch. There are two doors in this facade, each one opening onto the porch from one of the two first floor rooms. The east end of the porch has been enclosed and a small privy has been built on to the north end wall. Two double shed roof dormers were added on the second floor of the building in the 20th century. The south facade is covered with plain weatherboards secured with machine nails.

The west gable wall is virtually identical to the east gable, with a single 6/6 window centered on the first and second story.

The interior has been completely renovated. The original flooring has been covered with narrow pine flooring and the walls have been sheathed with vertical boards. The ceiling joists are exposed, but evidently were at one time plastered. While little of the original framing is accessible, some conclusions can be drawn.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

Framing in the roof and in the ceiling indicate that originally there was one chimney centered and set flush on the east gable wall, presumably with a steep winder or ladder stair in the alcove to the left, where a more recent stair rises today. The original plan was a hall-parlor, with the larger heated hall 15 feet wide and 16 feet long to the east and a small unheated parlor or sleeping chamber 15 feet wide and 7 1/2 feet long to the west. Mortises in a ceiling joist to the west of the center door identify the location of the original interior partition with a door near the center. Portions of the south exterior wall in the west room are now exposed due to deterioration. From here it is possible to determine that the original heavy timber frame remains partially intact, secured with mortise and tenon joints and wrought nails. Evidence of original openings on this facade is ambiguous and largely non-existent.

The second story loft is not partitioned and probably originally was left open and unplastered. The rafters are hewn and pit-sawn and are notched over tilted false plates and nailed with wrought nails. One-inch boards have been scabbed on at the eaves in this century to form the bell-curve noted earlier.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

One half-lapped collar mortise can be seen near the west end of the roof, suggesting original collars have been removed.

QA-191A

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
400-1499	<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 checked="" 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

This small frame dwelling is believed to be one of the few surviving slave quarters in the county and is one of two known to date to the 18th century. While the plan and overall size are not unlike numerous other small pre-industrial dwellings, the placement of the building on the farm lane is consistent with a strong family tradition. More important, the building perfectly matches the description of a 16 by 24 foot quarter on this farm in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. The wrought nails and tilted false plate eave construction of this building leave little doubt that this building was standing in 1798, and no other similar structure appears in the tax description.

The building has been extensively altered over the years. The original hall-parlor plan with gable chimney has been altered to a balanced two room plan with center stove chimney. The interior

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Section 9 for Poplar Grove, QA-191.

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

9/18/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

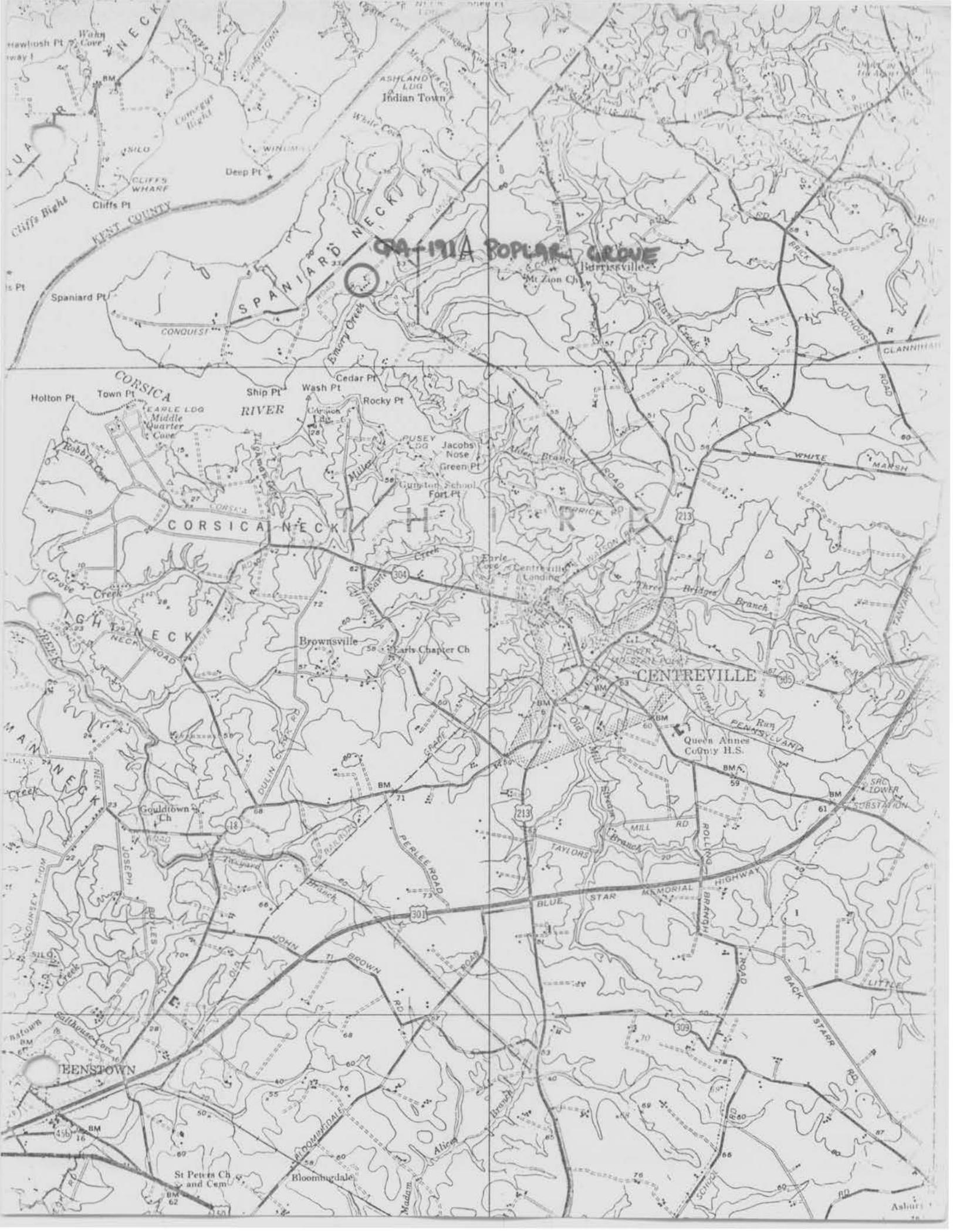
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-23; Recorded March 19, 1981.

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



GA-171A POPLAR GROVE

Barrisville

Mt Zion Ch

Spaniard Neck

Emory Creek

CORSICA RIVER

CORSICA NECK

CENTREVILLE

Queen Annes County H.S.

Gouldtown Ch

Brownsville

Bloomburgdale

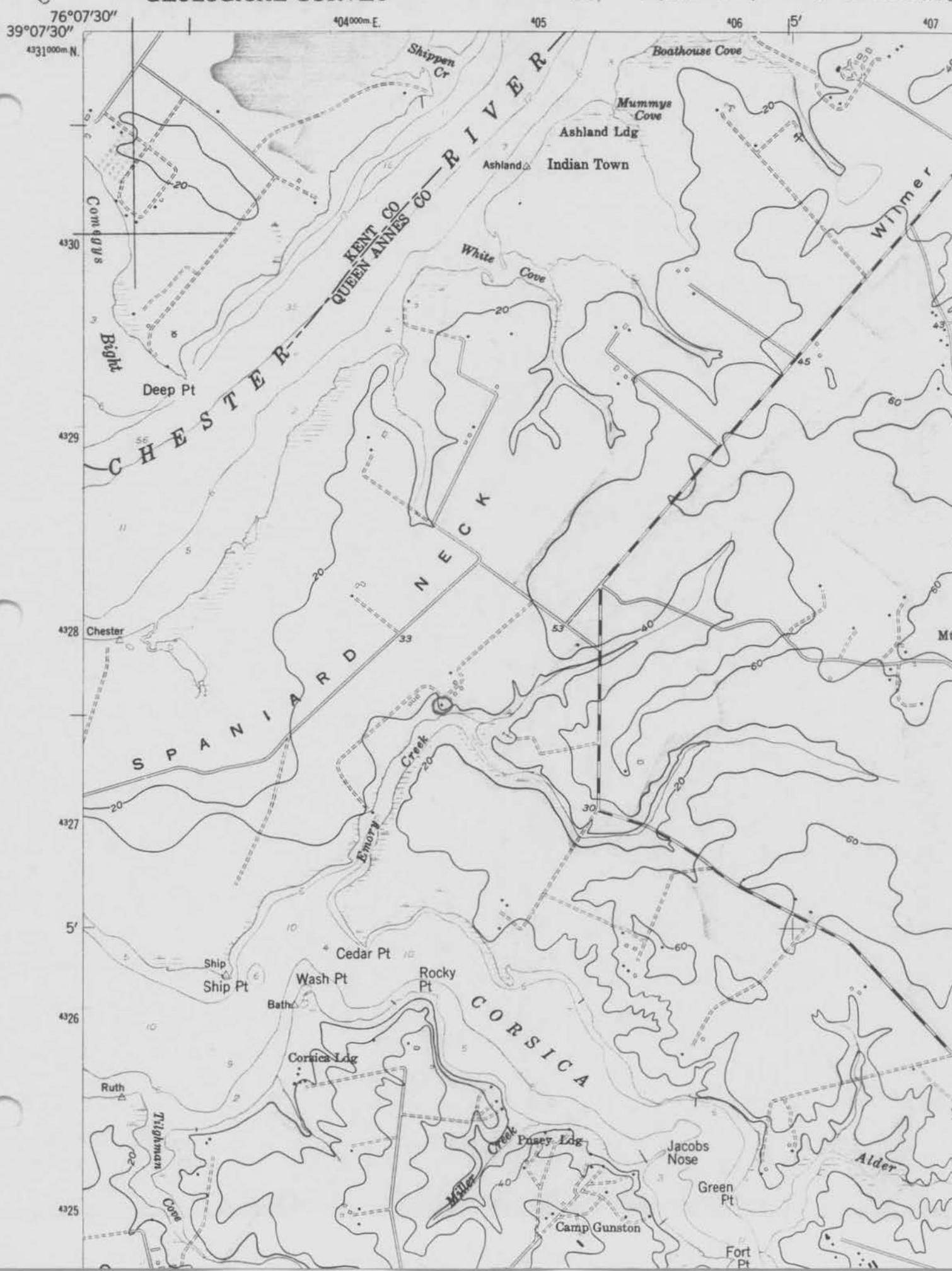
BEENSTOWN

St Peter Ch and Cem

Ashtons

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

QA-1914 Poplar Grove Quarter





QA-191A

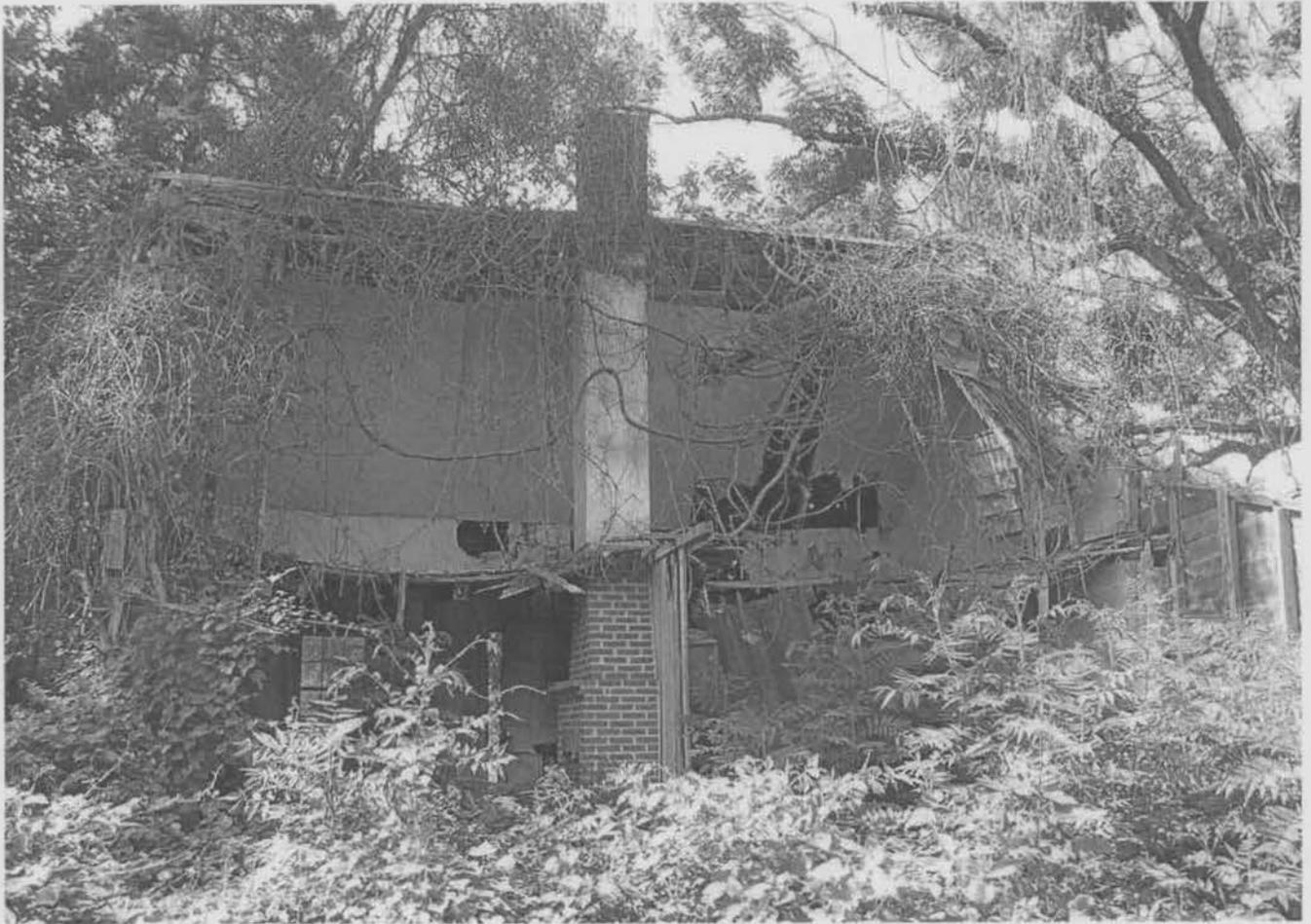
Poplar Grove Quarter

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



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Poplar Grove Quarter

**Mary McCarthy**  
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Poplar Grove Quarter

**Mary McCarthy**

**Spring/Summer 2003**

**Digital color photo on file at MHT**



QA-191A Poplar Grove Quarter  
Centreville vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
View from Northeast