

QA-45
Roberts House
Sudlersville
Private

18th century

Beginning as a story-and-a-half, single room plan dwelling, the Roberts House grew to its present 2 1/2 story, five bay form in three successive stages of construction. Little visible fabric survives from the earliest period, dating to the 18th or very early 19th century, but the expansions and renovations undertaken during the second quarter of the 19th century remain clearly expressed in the interior woodwork. One unusual detail is a whitewashed, exposed nogging wall in the kitchen wing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Roberts House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Md. Route 290 1/4 mile south of U.S. 301

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Anna A. R. Ware

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 28

Folio #: 517

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roberts House is located on the east side of Maryland Route 290 approximately one-quarter mile south of U. S. Route 301. The house and several farm buildings rest on high ground which drops away on the north into a low marshy area along Red Lyon Branch.

From a distance, the Roberts House appears to be a relatively plain frame house, five bays wide and two-and-one-half stories high with a single flush brick chimney at each end of a pitched gable roof. A frame wing projects from the east gable of the main house. It is two stories high and three bays wide, with a modern exterior brick chimney on the east gable. A modern one story frame kitchen addition projects from the rear wall of the wing.

A closer examination of the building, however, reveals that the main house was built in three separate stages. The slightly offset spacing of the two west bays on the south facade and a seam in the brick foundation are the most obvious clues that the house was built in more than one period. Further investigation reveals that the original

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

house dates to the 18th or very early nineteenth century, and now comprises the two west bays of the enlarged house. This early dwelling was nearly square in plan and was only one-and-one half stories high. In the early 19th century, probably circa 1830, a three bay, two-and-one-half story addition was made to the east gable of the original house. This expanded the single room plan to a center hall plan. Not long after this addition was made, probably no later than the early 1850's, the original story-and-a-half section was raised to two-and-one-half stories, and the interior was completely renovated. The two story frame kitchen wing was probably also added about this same time.

The principal facade of the enlarged house faces south, away from the creek. The front entrance is located in the center bay, and consists of a wide paneled door with Greek moldings and a four-light transom, but without sidelights. It is flanked on either side by a pair of six-over-six windows. There are five six-over-six windows on the second floor and four six-over-six pitched-roof dormers on the third. Two cellar windows are located directly below the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

west windows on the first floor. These provide light and air to a full cellar below the original part of the house. The foundation of this section is laid in three-course bond, while the foundation below the later section is slightly lower and is crudely laid in a random bond.

A pair of small four-light attic windows flanking the chimney are the only openings in the west gable, while the only opening in the east gable is a four-light attic window to the left of the chimney. Most of this gable wall is covered by the later two story wing.

The rear facade more clearly reflects the two principal sections of the house. The earlier western part projects approximately 12 inches from the eastern addition, and the foundation of the later section clearly butts up against the original cellar foundation. There are six-over-six windows on each floor in the two west bays, and a single six-over-six dormer to the left of center. The original cellar windows on this facade are no longer functional. The west window has been converted into a bulkhead cellar entrance and the east window has been blocked. A simple exterior

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

door is located in what is now the center bay of the rear facade, with two six-over-six windows to the left of the door on the first floor and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. The window directly above the rear door is slightly lower than the other second floor windows, allowing light onto the interior stair landing. A pair of six-over-six dormers are situated on this section of the roof.

The early siding has been covered with modern aluminum siding, but a box cornice with mid-19th century bed mold and crown mold remains on both facades. Tapered rakeboards have survived on the west gable eaves, but on the east gable they have been replaced.

The first floor of the main house is laid out in a center hall plan, with the west parlour floor one step higher than the hall and the east parlour. This room, though earlier than the rest of the house, was completely renovated in the mid-19th century. The fireplace is centered on the west gable wall, but has been blocked off. The mantel remains intact, and there is a four-door cupboard built into the alcove to the left of the fireplace. The mantel consists of a board surround with handsome fluted pilasters, plain

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

side blocks, and a molded shelf supported by a complex molding. All of the moldings are typical of the Greek Revival period, and the fascia board is rabbeted with flat geometric bands, also typical of this period. The paneled doors on the cupboard have Greek ovolo panel molds, and the architraves on both the cupboard and the windows and door are banded in a manner similar to the fascia of the mantel. The corner blocks in the architraves are somewhat unusual, with very simple fretwork instead of the more usual bullseye patterns.

The center hall and east parlour date to the second quarter of the 19th century and retain all of the original trim. The stair rises along the west wall of the hall to a landing at the rear, turns 180 degrees and rises to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with simple tapered walnut newels, a walnut rail, and square ballusters. The carriage piece is decorated with scrolled console brackets, and the space below the carriage is finished with a large triangular raised panel. A door below the landing originally led to a closet under the stairs, but this has been converted into an interior cellar stair. The door is of particular interest, as the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

interior face retains the original painted and grained finish, consisting of yellow-ochre panels and reddish-brown styles and rails.

In the east parlour, the fireplace is centered on the east gable wall, and a door to the right of the fireplace leads to the wing. The original mantel has survived, and consists of a board surround with paneled pilasters, plain side blocks, and a heavy shelf with a rabbeted groove on the front edge and a Greek molding below. Mrs. Ware, the present owner, stripped approximately five coats of paint from the mantel, and noted that the earliest coat was black and had small red flowers painted on it. A closet has been added to the left of the fireplace, but all doors and windows retain the original trim. This consists of an architrave with a recessed panel down the center set off by ovolo moldings on each side and a flat band of applied trim down the center. This pattern, with typical bullseye corner blocks, is used consistently in the east room and the hall on both floors, and differs markedly with the trim found in the west room on both floors.

The second floor is a modified center hall plan, with an original partition in the hall, creating a small

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

unheated chamber opposite the stairs. The west room on the second floor is one-half step higher than the hall. The mantel is centered on the west gable wall and is flanked by original closets. The mantel is relatively simple, with plain pilasters and fascia and a plain shelf supported by a Greek molding. An early wooden box lock marked "No. 20" remains on the left closet door. On the right closet door there is a small brass spring latch with no identifying marks.

The east chamber features a fireplace on the center of the east gable wall with a painted and grained Greek Revival mantel. To the left of the fireplace a door has been cut through to the east room on the second floor of the wing.

The third floor plan is somewhat unusual, probably a result of the later alterations in the west portion of the house. The stair hall is partitioned, leaving a small landing at the top of the stairs, with access directly into the east chamber and into an unheated chamber at the head of the stairs. The only access to the west chamber is through the latter of these two rooms, which is presently used

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

for storage. There is no evidence of fireplaces or stove flues in either the east or west rooms, suggesting that these chambers were also unheated. All three rooms are finished with plaster, but the baseboard and door trim is plain. The door to the west chamber is paneled and has a very nice metal box lock marked "Carpenter & Co., Patentees". The door to the east chamber is also paneled, and has a spring latch with a brass knob and the makers insignia "A & FWH".

A hatch in the ceiling of the west room allows very limited access to a narrow crawl space above the collar beams. The roof framing provides clear evidence that the west section of the house has been raised. The roof above the east chamber and the hall is of common rafter construction with the rafters secured at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. Early weatherboard siding remains in place on what was the exposed west gable of this section of the building. The roof above the present west chamber is clearly later. The rafters are mitred and butted at the ridge, and this section of the roof now covers the old gable siding.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

The cellar supplies the necessary evidence to determine that the lower part of the west section is original, however. The brickwork is much finer, and the floor framing is clearly earlier. The final proof comes from pieces of early beaded weatherboard siding visible on what was the exterior face of the east gable wall of the west section. This siding has been covered by the framing of the hall and east chambers, but remains visible from the cellar. The siding is secured with wrought nails, so the original house must date to the 18th or the very early 19th century.

The two story wing on the east gable is of somewhat uncertain date. The interior was extremely plain to begin with, and has been modified considerably over the years. At present the fenestration consists of a door in the left bay on the south facade with two six-over-six windows to the left and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. There are no windows on the east gable, and the original flush chimney has been replaced with a modern exterior brick chimney. The rear facade has been largely covered by a recent one-story addition, leaving a single six-over-six window in the east bay on each floor.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

and a single six-light sash in the west bay on the second floor.

According to Mrs. Ware, both the interior plan and the fenestration of the south facade have been changed. The door used to be in the center bay of that facade, flanked by a single six-over-six window on each side. There were two rooms on the first floor, a large room to the east that served as the kitchen and a narrow pantry to the west. An enclosed winder stair in the northwest corner provided access to a single room at the west end of the second floor. A steep ladder stair to the left of the kitchen fireplace allowed access to two more rooms at the east end of the second floor. Mrs. Ware recalls that the west room on the second floor was always considered to be a guest room, while the east rooms were said to have been used by house servants or slaves. The winder stair has been removed, however, and the partition between the kitchen and the pantry has been shifted to the east. This has reduced the size of the old kitchen somewhat, but allows room for an entry hall between the front of the house and the 20th century kitchen addition to the rear. The ceiling

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.10 DESCRIPTION

of the early kitchen remains open, with the exposed joists and the lower face of the floorboards above covered with numerous coats of whitewash. The floor joists also remain exposed in the northeast room on the second floor, but these are stained dark, apparently with soot. The most interesting feature of this wing is the exposed wall construction surviving on the north wall of the kitchen. The heavy post-and-beam wall construction is left exposed, with brick nogging bedded in mortar serving as infill. The nogging is covered with a thin coat of plaster, and the studs, posts, and an upbrace at the corner are all whitewashed. Mrs. Ware can remember when all three walls remained intact, but the nogging was eventually removed from the other walls and replaced with insulation and board paneling.

It is unclear whether this wing was always two stories or was raised from a story-and-a-half. The wall framing is not accessible on the second floor, but the roof is surprisingly late in construction, with the rafters mitred and butted at the ridge, a practice generally associated with the mid- and late-19th century. By contrast, the first floor

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.11 DESCRIPTION

framing and the exposed brick nogging seem indicative of the pre-Civil War period.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-45

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 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

The relatively plain exterior appearance of the Roberts House belies a complex and extremely interesting example of the growth of a small 18th century dwelling house. Beginning as a story-and-a-half, single-room plan, this house grew to its present two-and-one-half story, five bay form in three successive stages of construction. Although little visible evidence remains of the earliest period, the two expansions and renovations undertaken during the second quarter of the 19th century remain clearly expressed in the interior woodwork. Each phase of the work is clearly reflected in the detailing of the mantels, trim, hardware and doors. Of particular interest are two surviving examples of painted and grained woodwork, numerous examples of signed hardware, and the unusual fretwork corner blocks used in the west parlour and chamber.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The wing is also of interest, featuring a segregated second floor plan, exposed joist ceilings, and the only recorded example in Queen Anne's County of an exposed brick nogging wall.

Also of interest is a post-and-plank meat house to the rear of the house and a 19th century carriage house in the farm yard.

QA-45

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

3/6/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

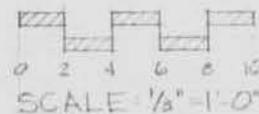
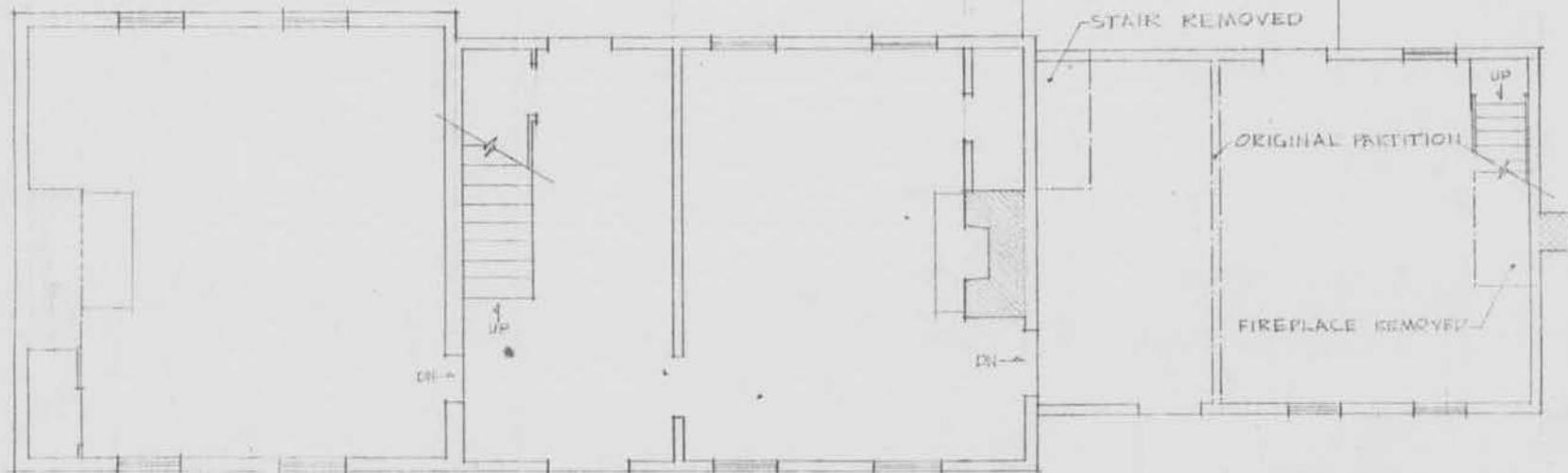
Maryland

Field Book QA-VII, Recorded January 23, 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



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-45

ROBERTS HOUSE
SUDLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

FEB. 14, 1980.

QA-45



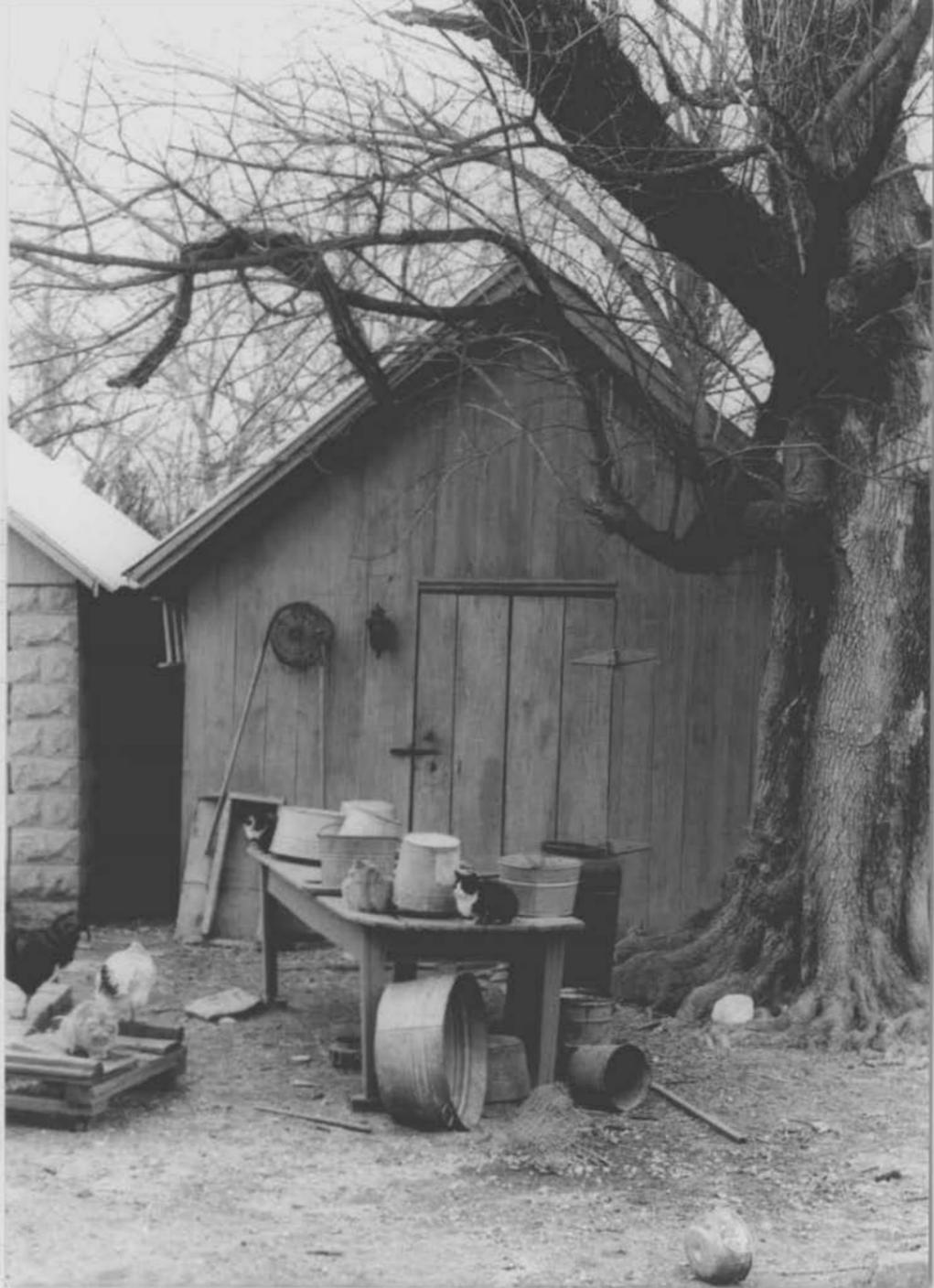
QA-45 Poluto Anne
ORV 1978

P
M



QA-45 Roberts House
ORV 1976

ORV



DA - 45 Roberts Home
OKV 1978

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