

QA-593

**Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse
732 Romancoke Road
Stevensville vicinity, Queen Anne's County**

Constructed ca. 1900

Private

The Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse is located on Kent Island, in Queen Anne's County. It is situated a little over one-and-two-thirds miles southwest of Stevensville and faces east, fronting on Romancoke Road (Maryland Route 8). Built circa 1900, the house is a two-story, five-bay-wide, wood frame building with two front entries; it may thus have been a double house. The interior was not accessible at the time of survey. A non-historic, prefabricated metal shed sits at the rear of the property.

In the mid-nineteenth century, carpenter and wheelwright Laurence L. Quinn owned the land on which the house stands. His adjacent wheelwright and blacksmith shop formed the core of a small settlement that was located on the west side of Romancoke Road and south of Broad Creek. Although the house's exterior suggests that it was constructed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, it may contain portions of Laurence Quinn's mid-nineteenth century house that stood at this location. For much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the property was owned by farmers who may have cultivated the 13 to 17 acres associated with the house. The date or reasons for its configuration as a double house remain unclear. The limits of the survey and the condition of the building make it impossible to discern its physical evolution.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-593

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Quinn's Shops, Edmund B. Palmer Farm

other Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 732 Romancoke Road not for publication

city, town Stevensville, MD 21666-2786 vicinity

county Queen Anne's County

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

name American Legion, Department of Maryland, Inc., Kent Island Post No. 278

street and number 800 Romancoke Road telephone

city, town Stevensville state MD zip code 21666

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber SM-625 folio 99

city, town Centreville, MD tax map 56 tax parcel 176 tax ID number 04-045246

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 0	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-593

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Summary

The Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse is located on Kent Island, in Queen Anne's County. It is situated a little over one-and-two-thirds miles southwest of Stevensville and faces east, fronting on Romancoke Road (Maryland Route 8). Built circa 1900, the house is a two-story, five-bay-wide, wood frame building with two front entries; it may thus have been a double house. The interior was not accessible at the time of survey. A non-historic, prefabricated metal shed sits at the rear of the property.

Description

The Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse sits on a generally level, grassy lot that is about four feet above the grade of Kent Point Road. A circa-2000, molded cinder-block retaining wall lines the property at the road's edge. The lot slopes down on the south to the asphalt-paved parking area for the adjacent American Legion Post Number 278. Two symmetrically planted, mature trees frame the façade of the house, and are the most distinctive landscape feature. Scattered shrubs and perennials line the foundation, and mature trees of various types dot the property.

The Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse is a two-story, five-bay-wide structure with a side-gable roof. Two, one-story additions are attached to the rear of the house. The house's foundation is not visible; it is clad with metal panels made to resemble rock-faced concrete block. The walls are clad with vinyl weatherboard, but wood weatherboard is visible underneath the vinyl in some places. Molded wood trim lines the boxed eaves, and unadorned bargeboards and cornice returns decorate the gable ends. The roof is clad with standing-seam metal. One interior brick chimney is situated off-center, one-third of the way from the south end, and metal flashing at the north end of the roof ridge indicates the location of a former interior-end chimney. A one-story front porch with turned wood posts and decorative scroll-sawn brackets spans the length of the façade. The porch has replacement plywood flooring, and the ceiling is constructed of beaded board nailed up as open slats.

The first-story fenestration on the façade of the Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse comprises two doorways and three window openings. These openings have all been boarded up. Three evenly spaced window openings pierce the façade's second story. Each of these openings is occupied by a replacement, one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl window. The north elevation of the Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse is devoid of fenestration, except for two, four-light, fixed wood windows located in the gable. The house's west (rear) elevation has one boarded window in the first story, which is otherwise dominated by the two additions attached to it. The west elevation's second story features three, one-over-one, replacement, vinyl windows. The house's south elevation features a three-sided, one-story bay, with a boarded window opening in each side. The second story incorporates a one-over-one, replacement, vinyl window. A louvered metal vent is located in the gable.

The first addition spans the south half of the main block's west elevation, while the second addition is attached to rear of the first one. The one-story frame additions have shed roofs with an almost flat profile. These additions are, like the main block of the house, clad with vinyl siding, and all of their windows and doors have been boarded up. A small wood deck is attached to the rear of the first addition on its northern end, while a single-flue, exterior, brick chimney is placed on the addition's southern end. An entry vestibule projects from the south elevation of the first addition; it contains a boarded-up doorway and window opening.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-593

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates circa 1900

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Summary Statement of Significance

In the mid-nineteenth century, carpenter and wheelwright Laurence L. Quinn owned the land on which the house stands. His adjacent wheelwright and blacksmith shop formed the core of a small settlement that was located on the west side of Romancoke Road and south of Broad Creek. Although the house's exterior suggests that it was constructed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, it may contain portions of Laurence Quinn's mid-nineteenth century house that stood at this location. For much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the property was owned by farmers who may have cultivated the 13 to 17 acres associated with the house. The date or reasons for its configuration as a double house remain unclear. The limits of the survey and the condition of the building make it impossible to discern its physical evolution.

Historical Narrative

In 1855, Roderick W. Earickson sold 13 acres of a 210-acre tract to wheelwright, Laurence L. Quinn.¹ By 1866, Quinn's property included a house and wheelwright shop located on the west side of the public road from Broad Creek to Kent Point; the small settlement included two houses north of Quinn's property and one house south of Quinn.² By 1877, Quinn had constructed a blacksmith shop on the east side of the road across from his wheelwright shop.³ Laurence's sons, William and Louis, were trained as blacksmiths and lived with their father.⁴ In 1877, the settlement included the four houses and two shops; the area close to the settlement included six other houses to the north and south.

This small settlement was created at an advantageous location approximately one-half mile south of Broad Creek. The 17th-century settlement on Broad Creek was the oldest in Queen Anne's County⁵; it was linked to mainland Maryland by ship and to the eastern areas of the county by road. Kent Point Road (later Romancoke Road), the public road by Quinn's property, connected Broad Creek to the northern and southernmost parts of Kent Island. The skills of a wheelwright and a blacksmith were critical to the horses, wagons and coaches that transported passengers and produce throughout the island along this road.

¹ See attached chain of title for this and subsequent deed references.

² J.G. Strong's *Map of Queen Anne's County* (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866).

³ *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, MD* (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877).

⁴ 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 62, Sheet 20.

⁵ Harry C. Rhodes, *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town* (Queenstown, Maryland: The Queen Anne Press, 1985), p. 5.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.582 acres
Acreage of historical setting 13 acres, and 17.11 acres
Quadrangle name Kent Island Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 56, grid 15, parcel 176, in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kathryn Gettings Smith and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historians		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	November 16, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	202-223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Name: Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse
Continuation Sheet

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Although considered a farm, Quinn's thirteen-acre parcel was considerably smaller than the average farm in Queen Anne's County in the second half of the nineteenth century.⁶ The farm would have provided enough acreage for growing crops to supplement Quinn's income, and to provide food for his family and two boarders, a wheelwright and a painter.⁷ During this period, it is possible that Quinn's farm produced fruits and vegetables for sale. By the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Eastern Shore grain farmers had difficulty competing with the Great Plains states for the national market, so farmers increasingly turned to fruit production. The soil of Queen Anne's County was particularly suited for raising peaches, but other fruits such as pears, apples and small fruit proved profitable. In 1891, the county shipped approximately 100,000 baskets and boxes of peaches, 20,000 baskets of pears, and 5,000 crates of strawberries and blackberries.⁸ In addition to the canning operations developed in the county, the fruit was transported by rail and ship to the nearby market of Baltimore.

In 1886, the heirs of Laurence L. Quinn sold the farm to Quinn's son William. In 1897, William defaulted on a mortgage held by his brother, Louis C., and the property was conveyed to Louis, who was a farmer in the Queenstown area. The two-story, five-bay frame house on the property was probably constructed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, during the ownership of William or Louis Quinn. It is possible that Louis Quinn built the existing frame house as a tenant dwelling. During Louis Quinn's ownership between 1897 and 1903, the farm was operated by a tenant or tenants; by 1900, William Quinn had moved his family to a rented farm in the Queenstown area.⁹ The building has two front entries, and may have been built to house more than one family.

In 1903, Louis Quinn and his wife, Elizabeth, sold the thirteen-acre tract to Daniel Crouch. Listed as a farmer in the 1910 population census, Daniel Crouch was previously employed as a blacksmith and could have supplemented his farm income through the shop on the property.¹⁰ In 1918, when Crouch sold the property to Edmund B. Palmer, the shops continued to be used since the property was commonly known as "Quinn's Shops".

During his ownership from 1918 to 1943, Edmund Palmer may have used his limited acreage to create a truck farm, especially with the farm's location along a major road through Kent Island that provided good access to ship and rail transport. The period between the two world wars was a difficult one for Queen Anne's County farmers. When the prices for wheat and corn dropped after World War I, Maryland farmers diversified their crops and added more livestock. In addition, "Eastern Shore farmers used motor vehicles to improve their position in the vegetable-growing business now called truck farming."¹¹

In 1926, Palmer was able to purchase five additional acres. In the 1950s, the property was divided, and the house lot was separated from the other acreage.

⁶ 1860-1890 Federal Censuses, *Historical Census Browser* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center, 2004), accessed 11 October 2007, <<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html>>. In 1860 the average farm was 211 acres; by 1890 the average size was reduced to 174 acres.

⁷ 1880, U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 62, Sheet 20.

⁸ J. Thomas Scharf, *The Natural & Industrial Resources and Advantages of Maryland* (Annapolis, MD: C.H. Baughman & Co., State Printers, 1892), p. 96.

⁹ 1900 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Queenstown, Enumeration District 66, Sheet 11.

¹⁰ 1900 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District 64, Sheet 5.

¹¹ Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), p. 161.

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Chain of Title

- 2 July 1998 Harry C. Simone and Susan L. Simone to The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Kent Island Post No. 278, Inc.
Liber SM625, folio 99
Lot. No. 1 on Plat of Diggs Subdivision (1981); 0.582 acres
- 28 Sept 1987 Loren P. Fletcher (state of Washington) to Harry C. and Susan L. Simone of Queen Anne's County
Liber MWM290, folio 788
0.582 acres
- 28 July 1983 Loren P. Fletcher & Sharon D. Fletcher to Loren P. Fletcher
Liber MWM 200, folio 373
0.582 acres
- 6 March 1981 William Burnett Diggs to Loren P. and Sharon D. Fletcher
Liber MWM 173, folio 175
0.582 acres (part of the same lands granted and conveyed by deed from John C. Palmer—
see next entry)
- 4 January 1977 John C. & Elizabeth T. Palmer to William Burnett Diggs
Liber CWC 114, folio 610
Deed contains 2 parcels: Parcel #1—1.37 acres; Parcel #2—280 sq ft (plat and survey by
William C. Newman, March 1959)
- 15 May 1959 Bernard A. and Kathryn H. Fink of Anne Arundel Co. to John C. & Elizabeth R. Palmer of
Queen Anne's County
Liber TSP 48, folio 30
2 parcels: 1.37 acres & 280 sq ft
- 30 March 1951 Nellie G. Meredith to Bernard A. Fink
Liber TSP 1, folio 148
Part of farm or tract of land known as "The Edmund B. Palmer Farm" and "The Property
of John D. and Elsie E. Reed"; survey & plat made Feb 1951 by J.B. Metcalfe, surveyor.
0.775 acres
- 30 March 1951 Nellie G. Meredith to Kathryn H. Fink
Liber TSP 1, folio 145
All of farm or tract of land known as "The Edmund B. Palmer Farm" and "The Property of
John D. and Elsie E. Reed"; survey 24 March 1944 by Samuel G. Bye & Son, Surveyors of
Caroline County

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17.11 acres—same land conveyed to Nellie G. Meredith by Bernard A. and Kathryn H. Fink except parcel of land deeded 30 March 1951 to Bernard A. Fink.

- 30 March 1951 Bernard A. & Kathryn H. Fink to Nellie G. Meredith
Liber TSP 1, folio 143
All of farm known as Palmer Farm & Reed Property; 1944 survey
17.11 acres
- 17 June 1944 Marilee Holden to Bernard A. Fink of Baltimore City
Liber ASG Jr 9, folio 431
All of farm...; mortgage given by Bernard A. Fink to Edmund B. Palmer
17.11 acres
- 17 June 1944 Bernard A. & Kathryn Habicht Fink of Baltimore (temporarily residing in Queen Anne's
County) to Marilee Holden
Liber ASG Jr. 9, folio 430
[same as previous]
17.11 acres
- 15 April 1944 John D. Reed Sr. & Elsie E. Reed of Baltimore (temporarily residing in Queen Anne's
County) to Bernard A. & Kathryn Habicht Fink of Baltimore
Liber ASG Jr 9, folio 283
17.11
- 30 October 1943 Edmund B. Palmer to John D Reed Sr. and Elsie E. Reed of Baltimore
Liber ASG Jr. 8, folio 412
18 acres—composed of two several lots or tracts of land adjoining one another obtained by
Palmer by 2 deeds and "heretofore reduced by him to one tract of land now called or
known by the names above mentioned." [The Edmund B. Palmer Property, The Edmund
B. Palmer Farm]
- 13 August 1926 John F. & Grace B. Ruth to Edmund B. Palmer
Liber BHT 5, folio 509
5 acres & 29,767 sq ft
Land on west side of public road leading from Stevensville to Kent Point and beginning at
a point where the farms of Palmer and Ruth "now join"; no buildings & improvements
mentioned; no book/folio cite for previous deed from Samuel W. Duvall & wife to John F.
Ruth.
- 1 August 1918 Daniel W. and Mary P. Crouch (wife) to Edmund B. Palmer
Liber JFR 1, folio 156
13 acres
Land on the public road leading from Stevensville to Kent Point, called "Smithfield" &
"Connors Neck , commonly known as "Quinn's Shops"

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- 1 August 1903 L.C. Quinn & Elizabeth L. Quinn to Daniel W. Crouch
Liber JEG 5, folio 265
13 acres
"Smithfield" & "Conners Neck"
- 31 March 1897 Philemon B. Hopper, (trustee and attorney named in the mortgage from William L. Quinn
to L.C. Quinn 6 Jan 1886) to L.C. Quinn
Liber WHC 6, folio 25
13 acres
"Smithfield" & "Conners Neck"
- 6 January 1886 L.C. Quinn & Elizabeth H. Quinn, Sarah R. Quinn, Alexine Quinn and Emma Quinn (heirs
of Laurence L. Quinn) to William L. Quinn
Liber SCD 7, folio 544
13 acres
"Smithfield" & "Conners Neck"
- 4 June 1855 Roderick W. Earickson, Physician, and Frederica M.E. Earickson to Laurence L. Quinn
Liber JP 2, folio 400
13 acres
Part of his tracts called Smithfields and Conners Neck

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Number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Historical Census Browser. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center, 2004. Accessed 11 October 2007. <<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html>>.

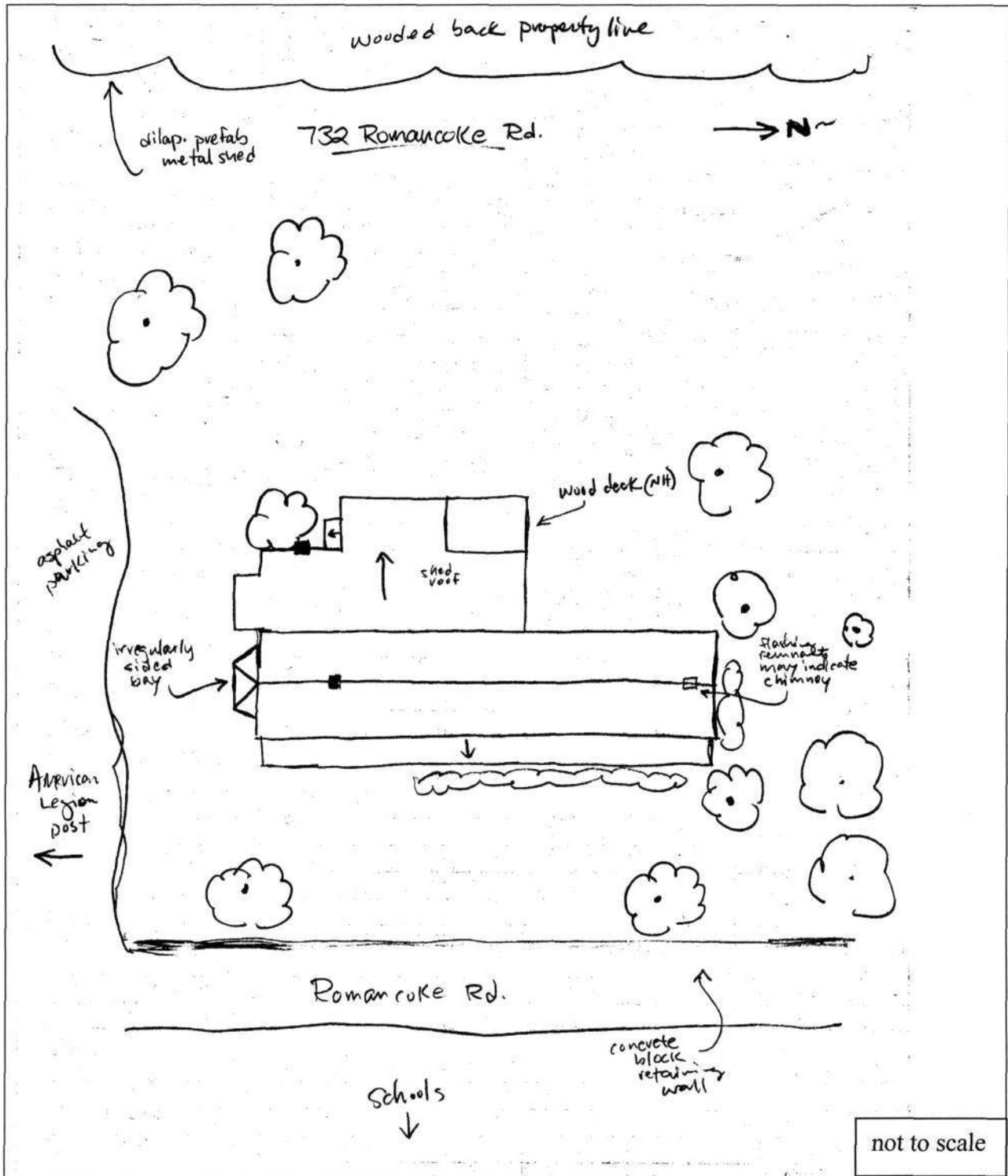
An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, MD. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877.

J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County. N.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866.

Rhodes, Harry C. *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town*. Queenstown, MD: The Queen Anne Press, 1985.

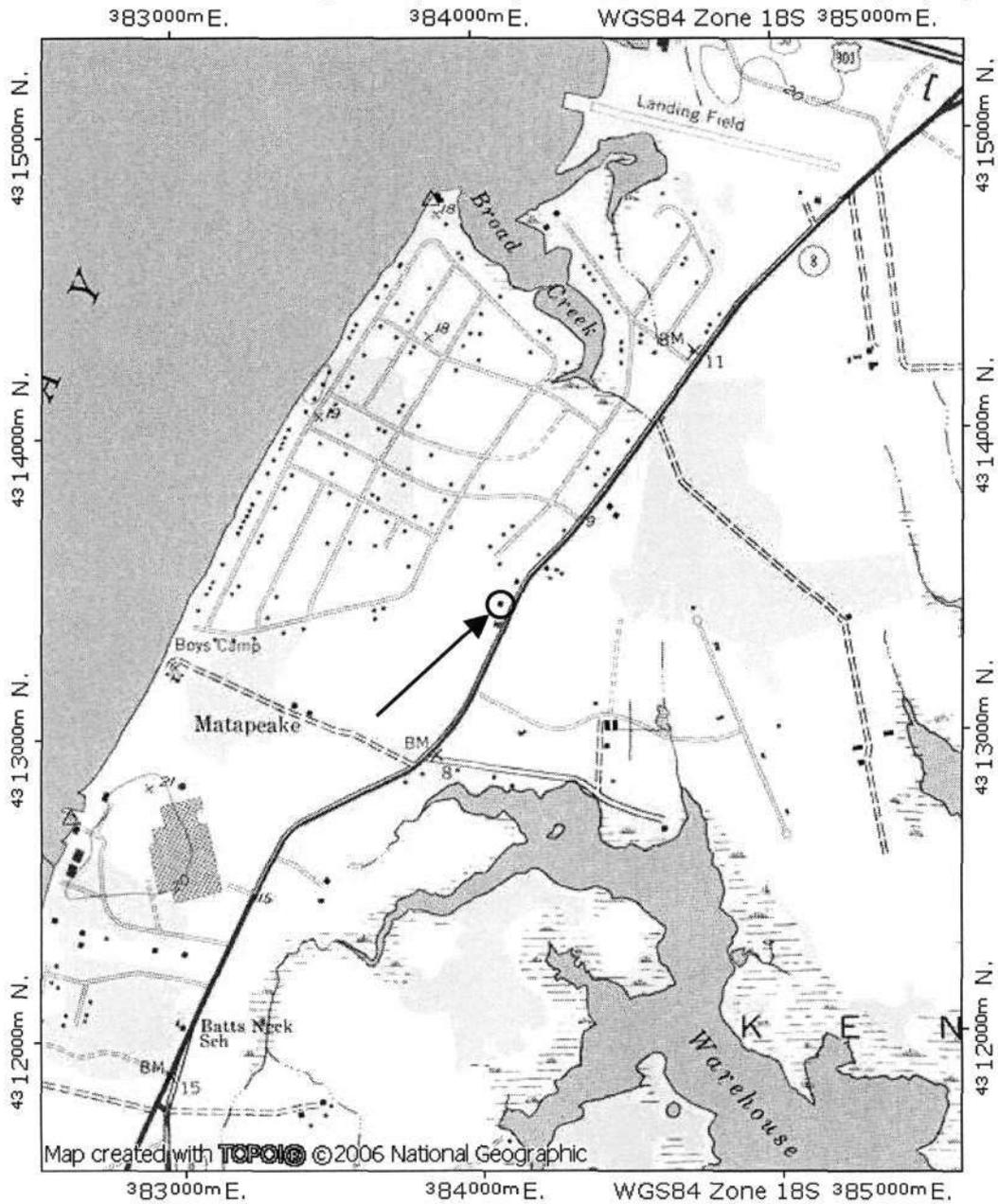
Scharf, J. Thomas. *The Natural & Industrial Resources and Advantages of Maryland*. Annapolis, MD: C.H. Baughman & Co., State Printers, 1892.

U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1880, 1900.

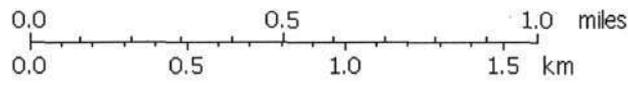


Site Plan
 QA—593
 Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse
 732 Romancock Road
 Stevensville vicinity
 Queen Anne's County, Maryland

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



QA-593
Palmer-Quinn Farmhouse
732 Romancoke Road
Stevensville vicinity
Queen Anne's County



MN T
 11 1/2°
 05/09/07



QA-593
PALMER-QUINN FARM HOUSE
732 ROMANCOKE RD, STEVENSVILLE
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD

HISTORY MATTERS, LLC

4/2007

MD SHPO

FACADE (EAST ELEVATION)

1 of 4



QA-593

PALMER-QUINN FARMHOUSE

732 ROMANCOKE RD, STEVENSVILLE

QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD

HISTORY MATTERS, LLC

4/2007

MD SHPO

SOUTH + EAST ELEVATIONS, LOOKING NORTHWEST

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QA-593
PALMER-QUINN FARMHOUSE
732 ROMANCOKE RD, STEVENSVILLE
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
HISTORY MATTERS LLC

4/2007

MD SHPO

WEST + SOUTH ELEVATIONS, LOOKING NORTH EAST

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QA-593
PALMER-QUINN FARMHOUSE
732 ROMANCOKE RD., STEVENSVILLE
QUEEN ANNE'S CO, MD
HISTORY MATTERS LLC
4/2007
MD SHPO
WEST (REAR) ELEVATION
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