

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ridgell House

and/or common Ridgell House

2. Location

street & number 3/4 mile south of St. James Road at approximately
the center of the property not for publication

city, town Lexington Park vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	N/A (formerly: private residence)
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Department of Natural Resources

street & number Tawes State Office Building telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 225

street & number folio 17

city, town Leonardtowntown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey

date March 1983 federal state county local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Survey No. SM-364

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Ridgell House is an "L" shaped plan, two story gable roofed frame residence erected c. 1890, presumably by the Ridgell family. The house is built in three sections, one room deep, two rooms wide in the main section and joined at one time by a hyphen or roofed breezeway to a detached kitchen.

The Ridgell House is located approximately three-fourths of a mile south of St. James Road and approximately one-half of a mile east of Maryland Route 235, approximately five miles southeast of Lexington Park. The house is now part of the Elms property, located slightly southwest of the center of the property and approximately in the center of the semi-circular tract identified as Birch's Neck in a 1941 survey.¹ Access to the house is via an unpaved road approximately three-fourths of a mile long leading south from St. James Road near the center of the Elms property.

The Ridgell House faces north toward St. James Road and is in very poor to ruined condition. The house consists of three distinct sections. The main house is a two-story frame structure two bays wide and one room deep, measuring approximately sixteen by twenty-four feet. A single exterior stove chimney was at one time centered on the west end of the gable roof. This chimney has now almost completely collapsed. An early or perhaps original frame wing, approximately sixteen feet square, projects from the west gable end of the main house. This wing was originally two stories by two bays wide with the same depth as the main house. This wing is now in ruinous condition, and only the lower walls are standing. A one-story frame outbuilding or detached kitchen is located immediately to the south of the wing and was at one time joined to the wing by a one-story hyphen or roofed breezeway. Consistency of materials, building style and condition of the house, wing and outbuilding indicate that all parts were completed at about the same date, 1890-1900, presumably during the Ridgell's ownership (1893-1942).

The house and wing rest on wood post foundations without a basement. Framing timbers, exterior siding boards, interior flooring of standard 3" wide boards and lathing have been machine cut. Machined nails can be found throughout the structure. Exterior weatherboards are one-fourth of an inch thick, overlapped about one-fourth of an inch, unbeaded, and nailed directly to the framing timbers. The weatherboard siding is trimmed with 1 x 3 cornerboards on all corners. Roofing timbers are nailed to a roofplate set flush with the exterior walls; the overhang is minimal, two inches or less beyond the exterior walls. The roofing material on the main house and addition is corrugated sheet metal joined in ten-inch sections and nailed directly to wooden rafters. The present roof appears to be original.

¹County Land Records CBG 14/50, George W. Joy, Jr., Surveyor, 9 December, 1941.

8. Significance

Survey No.

SM-364

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 checked="" 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 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
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <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	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ridgell House is notable for architectural significance, historical associations with an early occupation site, and as an example of black land ownership in the late nineteenth century.

The Ridgell House is an excellent example of a late nineteenth century farmhouse that combines a traditional plan and form with a series of wings to form an unusual dwelling complex. The main section of the house is a two-story gable roofed structure with a side hall plan. In form, plan and detail it is similar to housing found throughout Tidewater Maryland and Virginia dating from the second half of the nineteenth through the early years of the twentieth century. The now partly collapsed wing was evidently added to the west end of the house soon after the main structure was completed. In plan, size and form this wing is a common feature of this kind of structure. In contrast, the detached secondary building with a covered breezeway or hyphen is an unusual feature, as is the semidetached L-plan of the entire complex. The result is a larger and more sophisticated building than would be suggested by the original house. A number of individual details of the house is also worthy of note. The original two-story section rests on round log pilings set into the ground. The use of earthfast posts to support buildings is an architectural device that has been employed in the Tidewater region since the seventeenth century and continues to be used today to support small agricultural buildings and domestic outbuildings. While a variety of evidence indicates that this technique was used with dwellings it is increasingly uncommon to find surviving examples.

Other details of particular interest include the pent closet on the detached wing, the small poured concrete cellar, and a brick-lined well to the north of the kitchen wing.

The Ridgell House is situated on a tract of land within the Elms Property identified at least as early as the mid-nineteenth century as Birches Neck. Although a clear chain of title cannot be established for the tract owing to a courthouse fire in 1831, archeological evidence has been located from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, suggesting continuous occupation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-364

See attachment

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property located on 1021.5 acres Elms property

Quadrangle name St. Mary's City & Point No Point, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attachment

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor		
------------	--	--	--

organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	March 1983
--------------	---------------------------	------	------------

street & number	21 State Circle/ Shaw House	telephone	269-2438
-----------------	-----------------------------	-----------	----------

city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland 21401
--------------	-----------	-------	----------------

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.

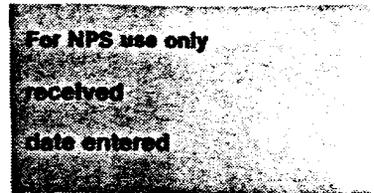
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

SM-364

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Ridgell House St. Mary's County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

The north facade of the house is two bays wide, with a door in the east bay and an altered window opening on the west. There are two window openings on the second story.

On the east gable end of the house, there is a single window opening in the north bay of the first story and a single window opening in the south bay of the second story.

The south facade is similar to the north facade, with a door in the east bay of the first story and windows in the west bay at the first story and both the east and west bays of the second story.

The west end of the main section is partly concealed by the west addition. Exterior weatherboards remain on the wall and were apparently never given an interior finish. A twelve-inch wide opening in the siding runs the full height of the gable end and is all that remains of the former chimney.

The interior of the main house consists of a side hall and parlor plan, with the stair passage to the east and the parlor to the west. The open-string stair rises against the east gable wall in a straight run to the second floor. A door in the west partition wall of the passage opens into the parlor, which measures approximately fifteen by fifteen and-one-half feet. This room was heated by a stove chimney on the west gable end. A door to the left of the chimney leads into the west wing.

The second floor consisted originally of two rooms; the former partition wall is now removed. No ceiling remains; thirteen rafters support lateral nailing boards to which the sheet metal roof is attached.

The wing probably is an early addition to the house because the exterior siding is visible on the west gable end of the main house and the exterior siding of the north and south facades is interrupted to form seams between the two sections.

Only the lower walls of the two-story frame wing to the west still survive. On the north facade, there is a door to the west on the first story with a window opening immediately to the east of the door. The only opening in the surviving portion of the west gable end is a small window in the north bay of the first story. The south facade is similar to the north facade with a door to the west of center and a window immediately to the east. The interior of the wing is in ruins. The remains of an enclosed stair (along the west wall) survive, and there appears to have been a built-in cupboard in the northwest corner.

The kitchen/storage building measures approximately fourteen-and-one-half by sixteen-and-one-half feet. It is a one-story gable-roofed frame structure resting on concrete piers. A cellar with poured concrete walls underlies the center of the structure, measuring approximately ten by fifteen feet. The structure has a center doorway on its north facade. The east and west walls are identical, each containing two windows. A brick stove chimney is centered on

SM-364

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

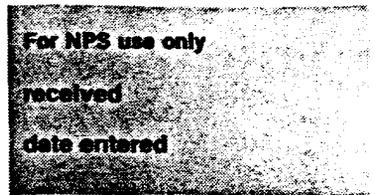
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Ridgell House

Continuation sheet St. Mary's County, Maryland Item number

7

Page 2



the south gable end and flanked by a door with a transom to the east and a small lean-to or pent closet to the west. This pent is an addition and measures four by five feet. A window in the south wall is the only opening in the pent, which is covered with plain weatherboard siding and a corrugated metal roof.

SM-364

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Ridgell House

Continuation sheet St. Mary's County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 3

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this site, however, is its ownership by blacks following the Civil War. By the 1870's the farm was owned and operated by a black man, Joshah Reed. The house is believed to date to the 1890's, however, after the land passed out of black ownership. The property was then acquired by the Ridgell family who occupied the house continuously until the early 1940s and intermittently thereafter until the family sold it in 1955.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage: a) 1001.44 acres (Elms) + b) 20.091 Pulliam/Wise in holding acquired
12 October 1982 = TOTAL 1021.531 acres

Verbal Boundary Description:

a) Elms
Liber 225/Folio 17
INQUISITION (Petition for Condemnation)
17 December 1974
State of Maryland, Plaintiff
Robert F. Comstock, et. al., Defendants
Damages: \$1,3412,100.00

....all that tract or parcel of land situate and lying in the 1st Election
District of St. Mary's County, and being more particularly described as
follows:

b) Pulliam/Wises in holding:

Liber 128/Folio 286

DEED

12 October 1982

FROM: William H. and Patricia Ann Pulliam and Ralph Wise

TO: The State of Maryland for the use of the Department of Natural Resources.

Consideration: \$400,000.00

....all that lot of ground situate in St. Mary's County, State of Maryland and described as follows, that is to say:

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM - 364

Magi No. 1903645604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ridgell House

2. Location

.75 mile south of St. James Road at approximately the center
street & number of the Elms Property not for publication

city, town Lexington Park vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Department of Natural Resources

street & number Tawes State Office Building telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Court House liber 225

street & number folio 17

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-364

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Ridgell House is located approximately three-fourths of a mile south of St. James Church Road and approximately one-half of a mile east of Maryland Route 235, approximately five miles southeast of Lexington Park. The house is now part of the Elms Property, located slightly southwest of the center of the property and approximately in the center of the semi-circular tract identified as Birch's Neck in a 1941 survey.¹ Access to the house is via an unpaved road approximately three-fourths of a mile long leading south from St. James Church Road near the center of the Elms Property.

The Ridgell House faces north toward St. James Church Road and is in very poor to ruined condition. The house consists of three distinct sections. The main house is a two-story frame structure two bays wide and one room deep, measuring approximately sixteen by twenty-four feet. A single exterior stove chimney was at one time centered on the west end of the gable roof. This chimney has now almost completely collapsed. An early or perhaps original frame wing, approximately sixteen feet square, projects from the west gable end of the main house. This wing was originally two stories by two bays wide with the same depth as the main house. This wing is now in ruinous condition, and only the lower walls are standing. A one-story frame outbuilding or detached kitchen is located immediately to the south of the wing and was at one time joined to the wing by a one-story hyphen or roofed breezeway. Consistency of materials, building style and condition of the house, wing and outbuilding indicate that all parts were completed at about the same date, 1890-1900, presumably during the Ridgell's ownership (1893-1942).

The house and wing rest on wood post foundations without a basement. Framing timbers, exterior siding boards, interior flooring, standard three-inch wide boards, and lathing have been machine cut. Machined nails can be found throughout the structure. Exterior weatherboards are one-fourth of an inch thick, overlapped about one-fourth of an inch, unbeaded, and nailed directly to the framing timbers. The weatherboard siding is trimmed with one by three cornerboards on all corners. Roofing timbers are nailed to a roof-plate set flush with the exterior walls, the overhang is minimal, two inches or less beyond the exterior walls. The roofing material on the main house and addition is corrugated sheet metal joined in ten-inch sections and nailed directly to wooden rafters. The present roofs appear to be original.

The north facade of the house is two bays wide, with a door in the east bay and an altered window opening on the west. There are two window openings on the second story.

¹County Land Records CBG 14/50, George W. Joy, Jr., Surveyor, December 9, 1941.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-364

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <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	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ridgell House is notable for architectural significance, historical associations with an occupation site, and as an example of black land ownership in the late nineteenth century.

The Ridgell House is an excellent example of a late nineteenth-century farmhouse that combines a traditional plan and form with a series of wings to form an unusual dwelling complex. The main section of the house is a two-story gable roofed structure with a side hall plan. In form, plan and detail it is similar to houses found throughout Tidewater Maryland and Virginia dating from the second half of the nineteenth through the early years of the twentieth century. The now partly collapsed wing was evidently added to the west end of the house soon after the main structure was completed. In plan, size and form this wing is a common feature of this kind of structure. In contrast, the detached secondary building with a covered breezeway or hyphen is an unusual feature, as is the semidetached L-plan of the entire complex. The result is a larger and more sophisticated building than would be suggested by the original house. A number of individual details of the house is also worthy of note. The original two-story section rests on round log pilings set into the ground. The use of earthfast posts to support buildings is an architectural device that has been employed in the Tidewater region since the seventeenth century and continues to be used today to support small agricultural buildings and domestic outbuildings. While a variety of evidence indicates that this technique was used with dwellings, it is increasingly uncommon to find surviving examples.

Other details of particular interest include the pent closet on the detached wing, its small poured concrete cellar, and a brick-lined well to the north of the kitchen wing.

The Ridgell House is situated on a tract of land within the Elms Property identified at least as early as the mid nineteenth century as Birches Neck. Although a clear chain of title cannot be established for the tract owing to a courthouse fire in 1831, archeological evidence has been located from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, suggesting continuous occupation.

RIDGELL HOUSE

#7 Description Page 2

On the east gable end of the house, there is a single window opening in the north bay of the first story and a single window opening in the south bay of the second story.

The south facade is similar to the north facade, with a door in the east bay of the first story and windows in the west bay at the first story and both the east and west bays of the second story.

The west end of the main section is partly concealed by the west addition. Exterior weatherboards remain on the wall and were apparently never given an interior finish. A twelve-inch wide opening in the siding runs the full height of the gable end and is all that remains of the former chimney.

The second floor consisted originally of two rooms; the former partition wall is now removed. No ceiling remains; thirteen rafters support lateral nailing boards to which the sheet metal roof is attached.

The interior of the main house consists of a side hall and parlor plan, with the stair passage to the east and the parlor to the west. The open-string stair rises against the east gable wall in a straight run to the second floor. A door in the west partition wall of the passage opens into the parlor, which measures approximately 15 by 15 1/2 feet. This room was heated by a stove chimney on the west gable end. A door to the left of the chimney leads into the west wing.

The wing probably is an early addition to the house because the exterior siding is visible on the west gable end of the main house and the exterior siding of the north and south facades is interrupted to form seams between the two sections.

Only the lower walls of the two-story frame wing to the west still survive. On the north facade, there is a door to the west on the first story with a window opening immediately to the east of the door. The only opening in the surviving portion of the west gable end is a small window in the north bay of the first story. The south facade is similar to the north facade with a door to the west of center and a window immediately to the east. The interior of the wing is in ruins. The remains of an enclosed stair along the west wall survive, and there appears to have been a built-in cupboard in the northwest corner.

RIDGEELL HOUSE

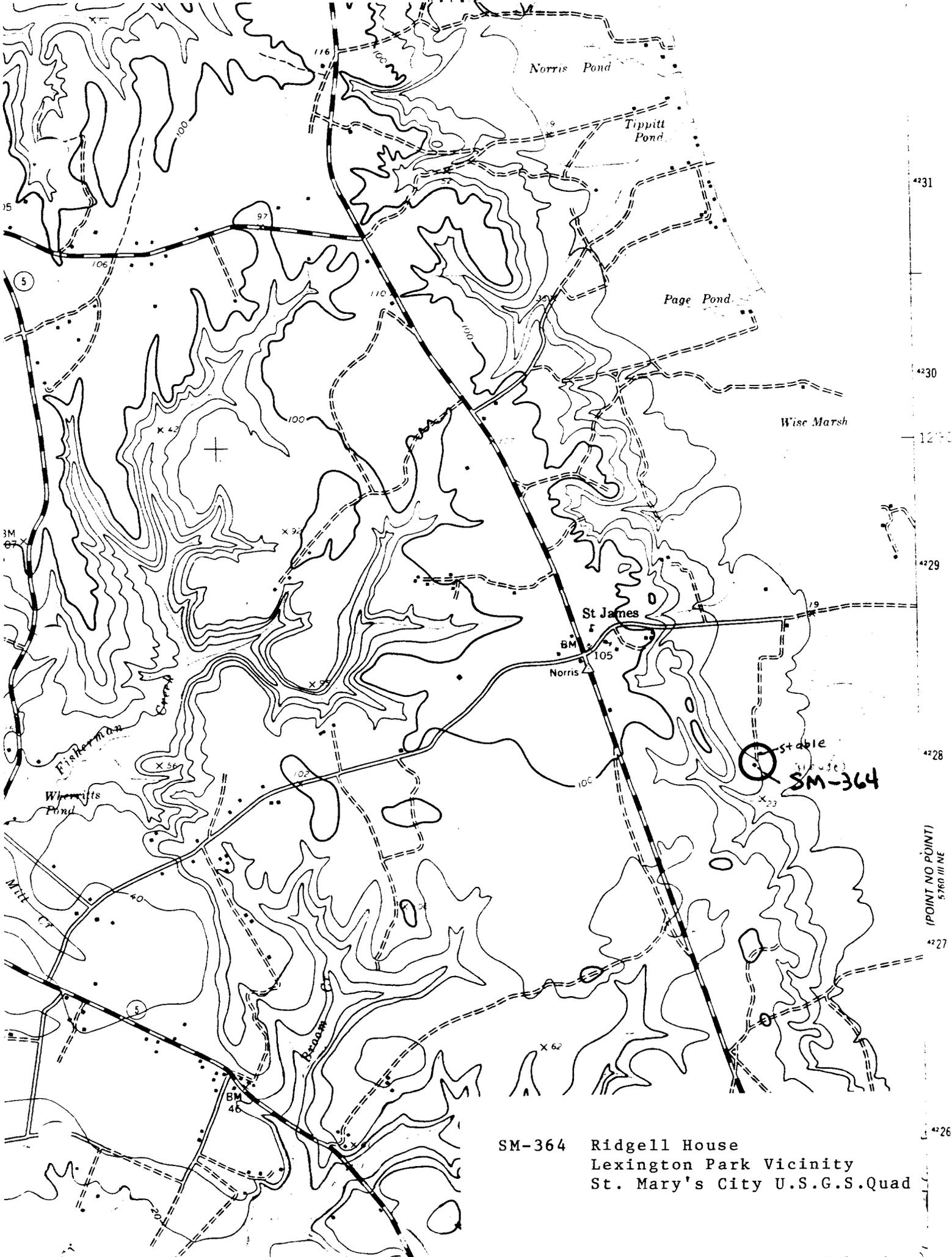
#7 Description Page 3

The kitchen/storage building measures approximately 14 1/2 by 16 1/2 feet. It is a one-story gable-roofed frame structure resting on concrete piers. A cellar with poured concrete walls underlies the center of the structure, measuring approximately ten by fifteen feet. The structure has a center doorway on its north facade. The east and west walls are identical, each containing two windows. A brick stove chimney is centered on the south gable end and flanked by a door with a transom to the east and a small lean-to or pent closet to the west. This pent is an addition and measures four by five feet. A window in the south wall is the only opening in the pent, which is covered with plain weatherboard siding and a corrugated metal roof.

RIDGELL HOUSE

#8 Significance Page 2

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this site, however, is its ownership by blacks following the Civil War. By the 1870s, the farm was owned and operated by a black man, Josiah Reed. The house is believed to date to the 1890s, when the land passed to Reed's descendents, the Ridgell family. The property was continuously occupied by the Ridgells until the early 1940s and intermittently thereafter until the family sold it in 1955.

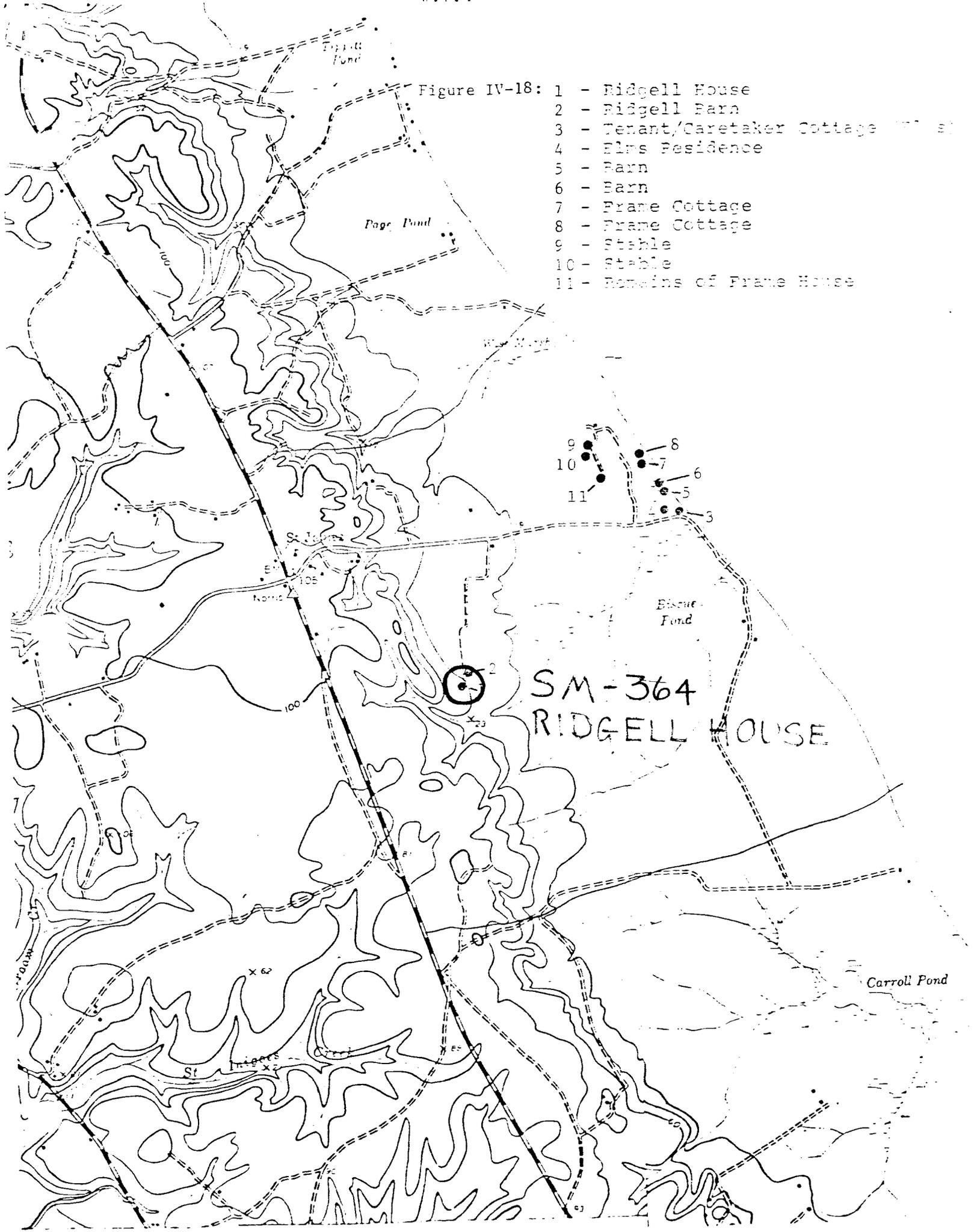


SM-364 Ridgell House
Lexington Park Vicinity
St. Mary's City U.S.G.S. Quad

4231
4230
4229
4228
4227
4226

(POINT NO POINT)
5760 III NE

- Figure IV-18:
- 1 - Ridgell House
 - 2 - Ridgell Barn
 - 3 - Tenant/Caretaker Cottage
 - 4 - Elms Residence
 - 5 - Barn
 - 6 - Barn
 - 7 - Frame Cottage
 - 8 - Frame Cottage
 - 9 - Stable
 - 10 - Stable
 - 11 - Remains of Frame House





SM-364

Ridgell House (Elms Property) SM-364
St. Marys County, Md
Susanne Moore
Jan 1983
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
NE corner
1/6



SM-364

Ridgell House (Elms Property) SM-364
St Marys County, Md
Susanne Moore
Jan 1983
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
North elevation
2/6



SM-364

Ridgell House (Elms Property) SM-364
St. Marys County, Md
Susanne Moore
Jan 1983
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
NW Corner
3/6



SM-364

Ridgell House (Elms Property) SM-364
St. Marys County, MD
Susanne Moore
Jan 1983
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
SW corner
4/6



SM-364

Ridgell House (Elms Property) SM- 364
St. Marys County, MD
Susanne Moore
Jan 1983
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation, kitchen/storage building
5/6



SM-364

Ridgell House (Elms Property) SM-364
St. Marys County, MD
Susanne Moore
Jan 1983
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
SE Corner
6/6