

Capsule Summary

SM-528

Spalding/Buckler House (Now Demolished)

Oakville

Private

Late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century

The Spalding/Buckler house represents a significant example of nineteenth century farmhouse development. Initially constructed as a one-and-a-half story, one room house in the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century, the dwelling grew several times--reflecting changes in ideas about the interior organization of domestic architecture. While some of these additions and alterations obscured the original appearance of the building, the architectural evidence for these changes document the transition from a single room house, to a modified side-passage, double-pile dwelling, and finally to a tenant farmhouse.

As a part of either Valentine's Grove, Addition, Part of Plowden's Discovery, and Wildman's Venture, the dwelling was owned in 1888 by Zachariah Buckler who bought the property at a Sheriff's sale held in Leonardtown. The property had previously been owned by Zachariah Spalding. Zachariah Spalding, therefore, may have constructed or at least modified the dwelling during his ownership. Spalding, however, died "seized and possessed," prompting the sale of his property by the trustees of his estate to Zachariah Buckler. During the Buckler ownership the house was enlarged twice.

In 1937, the property was owned by S. Sprigg Reeves. It was during his ownership that the house and farm became tenanted by African-American farmers. Mrs. Wills, now 92, and her husband lived at the house for over forty years. She recently moved out and the house was burned to make way for a new subdivision.

SM-528, Spalding/Buckler House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural/Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-528

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Spalding/Buckler House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side of Route 235, near Sandgates Road not for publicationcity, town Oakville vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 Glenwood J. Coombs, Jr.

street & number 8446 Snowden Oaks Place telephone no.: (301) 498-6865

city, town Laurel state and zip code Maryland 20708

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Saint Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 1033

street & number folio 476

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical 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 checked="" 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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> demolished			

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Spalding/Buckler House is a one-and-a-half story, double-pile, gable roof dwelling with two gable end additions. The house lies approximately 0.2 miles down a private lane west of Maryland State Road 235 and the present day Oakville Elementary School. Oriented on an east/west axis, the dwelling is situated atop a knoll overlooking agricultural fields, a twentieth-century tobacco barn, and a pair of recently constructed residences. On June 23, 1996, the owner burned the dwelling to make way for a new subdivision.

A series of alterations in the late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century, a fire in the 1980s, and considerable termite damage greatly diminished the house's historical integrity. While constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the dwelling was subsequently divided into a two family home. The accompanying changes to the dwelling's plan and fenestration obscured much of its original fabric beneath layers of particle board, asphalt shingles, and more modern doors and windows. While the house contains at least three distinct parts or periods of construction, this description first focuses on present conditions and then on the development of the dwelling over time.

While entirely sheathed in asbestos shingles, the east elevation still exhibits three distinct sections. The southeast section is a one-story, two bay, frame ell. It consists of a six-over-six, double-hung sash window and a modern panelled door. The cornice is enclosed and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. The center section is one-and-a-half stories with a steeply sloped gable roof that falls to a box-cornice. The roof then changes to a flatter pitch in order to accommodate a one-story screened porch that encompasses nearly the entire block. Behind the porch is a single six-over-six window as well as a paired set of similar sash. This section also features a paired set of doorways--one glass paned door and a glass and panelled door--located on the northeast end. Finally, the third section of the east elevation is two stories high and has a flatter pitched gable roof. It features a paired set of two-over-six windows on each story.

Only the two-story section is visible from the north elevation. This section was constructed on a cinder block foundation. Each story contains a paired set of two-over-two, double-hung sash and a single two-over-two sash. The cornice of this section is enclosed and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west elevation again reveals the three distinct sections of the building. The two-story gable end addition contains one, two-over-two double hung sash windows on each story. The center block contains one single six-over-six window as well as a paired set of similar sash. The one-story ell has only one six-over-six double hung sash.

On the south elevation a change in roof pitch is visible on the one-story addition. The gable roof falls to a flatter pitch to the rear of this section. The ell also contains a single glass paned door. The elevation reveals two exterior end stove flues that service the main central block. The western flue is constructed of cinder block while the other square shaped stack is constructed of brick laid in an all stretcher bond. Between the two

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 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 Unknown **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Spalding/Buckler house represents a significant example of nineteenth century farmhouse development. Initially constructed as a one-and-a-half story, one room house in the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century, the dwelling grew several times--reflecting changes in ideas about domestic architecture. While some of these additions and alterations obscured the original appearance of the building, the architectural evidence for these changes document the transition from a single room house, to a modified side-passage, double-pile dwelling, and finally to a tenant farmhouse.

The original one room dwelling exhibited braced frame construction and brick nogging. The interior was ornamented with plaster walls and the joists were beaded and whitewashed. A small boxed stair permitted entry to the half-story above. In the 1830s-1840s, a rear addition was constructed, the front room was divided, and the attic story enlarged--totally encompassing the earlier building. This change from an open one room plan to a side-passage plan dwelling reflected the growing desire for a separation and specialization of domestic space.

As a part of either Valentine's Grove, Addition, Part of Plowden's Discovery, and Wildman's Venture, the dwelling was owned in 1888 by Zachariah Buckler who bought the property at a Sheriff's sale held in Leonardtown. The property had previously been owned by Zachariah Spalding. Zachariah Spalding, therefore, may have constructed or at least modified the dwelling during his ownership. Spalding, however, died "seized and possessed," or in debt, precipitating the sale of his property by the trustees for his estate to Zachariah Buckler. During the Buckler ownership the house was enlarged twice.

In 1937, the property was owned by S. Sprigg Reeves. It was during his ownership that the house and farm became tenanted by African-American farmers. Mrs. Wills, now 92, and her husband lived at the house for over forty years. She recently moved out and the house was burned to make way for a new subdivision.

SM-528, Spalding-Buckler House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

(cont.)

chimneys are two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows that light the half-story of the main central block.

There are two entries into the main central block. The northern-most door provides entry into an L-shaped room. Part of this room exists within the main block, but the removal of a wall made it into one single space that connects the interior of the main block to the two-story northern addition. This room also contains a closet. The other entry into the main section opens into a single space that contains an enclosed stair to the second floor, a circular eight-inch opening for a stove flue, and a doorway into a rear room. The rear room of the main block contains a partitioned bathroom, an eight-inch opening for a stove flue, a doorway to the northwest room of the two-story ell and another doorway to the one-story addition. The one-story addition contains two doors to the exterior—one each on the , part of the exterior end chimney of the main block that was painted a reddish color, and another circular opening for a stove flue.

The second floor of the main block contains four spaces. Each space exhibited plastered walls that were in places falling away. These exposed places revealed riven or split lathe connected to hewn rafters by wrought nails. The rafters were pegged to common ties and pegged at the peak.

Upon further investigation, the house was found to contain at least three or four building periods. The main central block contains the first two periods with its front two rooms representing the original portion dating to the 1810s or earlier. The crawlspace beneath this entire section reveals the most compelling evidence for this hypothesis. Here the foundation for the original structure was comprised of eight-inch brick walls with at least one row of headers and several rows of stretchers on the east and west elevations. On the north and south elevations, the foundation consisted of a locally excavated concretion of iron, sand, and clay—often called ironstone. Mortar held pieces of this irregularly placed material together. This foundation supported one foot-by-one foot hewn sills connected at the corners through lap joints and held by a pair of pegs from underneath. The sills supported barked log joists laid in a east/west axis that were lapped onto the sills. A hewn intermediate sill provided added support for the logs.

The interior of the original portion also contains important evidence. The original first floor plan of the house probably contained one room—a large interior space measuring fifteen feet-five inches deep by twenty three feet-six inches wide with a boxed stair to the half story above. The four beaded joists that lead immediately to the boxed stair (that was covered with vertical boards) reveal evidence of both whitewash and a later (period II) covering of plaster and lath—all other joists do not show whitewash but do show tool marks an evidence of a later covering of plaster and lath. An examination of the hewn corner post located in the northwest corner of the original block shows an attached down brace and mortise holes for an arch braces as well—indicating braced frame construction. Brick nogging located in the space above the wall plate and between the lapped joists reveals evidence of being plastered over. The walls, therefore, could have been originally composed of hewn wall studs with the interstices filled with brick nogging and the whole then plastered over. A removed doorway located on the west wall has door jambs with ghosts for a door surround but also exhibit check-marks to receive plaster.

During the second period (c.1830-1840), the original house was incorporated into a one-and-a-half story double-pile plan dwelling. The original one room was divided into two sections—a passage and a parlor with a large room added to the rear (Note: The joists in this rear room were

SM-528, Spalding-Buckler House
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

(cont.)

not decorated in any manner and show evidence of being plastered over.) A square-shaped, brick chimney flue constructed of an all stretcher bond was constructed on the southeast gable end--serving both the main block and gable end addition. The foundation of the newer rear section was of the locally excavated concretion that supported hewn sills and barked log construction--similar to that of the original dwelling. These two sections, therefore, each contained their own independent floor framing. During this period, the interior was furnished with split lath attached to studs by wrought nails and keyed with plaster covering the walls and ceilings of the first floor (except for the boxed stair) and the half-story above. The loft contained three rooms. Two rooms of equal size, a passage, and a smaller room.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, a small one-story addition, measuring nineteen feet-three inches by twelve feet-six inches was constructed on the southern end of the main building. This one room addition could be entered through the exterior by two doors or through the rear room of the main dwelling.

In the first quarter of the twentieth century, a two story addition was added to the north gable end of the main dwelling. This addition contained no entrances, so the occupants installed another door on the primary elevation of the main dwelling and removed part of a wall in order to provide access to a private room. This addition also had a rear room entered only through the rear room of the main dwelling and two, equally sized spaces upstairs entered via the boxed stair.

SM-528, Spalding/Buckler House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds can be found at the Land Records Office in the Saint Mary's County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland.)

Reference: Liber 1033, Folio 476

Grantor: Glenwood Coombs, Jr.

Grantee: Glenwood Coombs

Date: 2-22-96

Note: Drawing of subdivision is in plat book--MRB: No. 16 Folio 46

Reference: EWA Liber 864, Folio 364

Grantee: Glenwood J. Coombs, Jr.

Grantor: Glenwood J. Coombs, Jr. and Mary Geneva

Date 2-22-96

Note: Property is listed as Outparcel B, 49.06 acres. Also listed in plat record EWA: No. 41, Folio 101. Property is sold fee simple.

Reference: MRB Liber 448, Folio 85

Grantee: Glenwood J. Coombs, Jr. and Mary Geneva

Grantor: James A. Kapp

Date: 12-13-88

Note: Property is listed as containing 59.8224 and deeded fee simple.

Reference: MRB Liber 444, Folio 293

Grantee: Glenwood J. Coombs, Jr. and Mary Geneva

Grantor: James A. Kapp

Date: 11-25-88

Note: The property is listed as containing 60.1150 acres and sold for a total of \$155,977.90. Not sure why there are two deeds for the same transaction.

Reference: MRB Liber 067, Folio 86

Grantee: James A Kapp

Grantor: G. Bradford Reeves and Oliver R. Guyther--trustees for Patricia Kapp's Estate

Date: 3-13-80

Note: The property is now listed as a part of one of two parcels. The two parcels are described as parcel A: Valentine's Grove, Addition, Part of Plowden's Discovery, Wildman's Venture--192.17 acres and parcel B: Part of Plowden's Discovery 26 acres and Wildman's Venture 119.49 acres.

Reference: DBK 215, Folio 202

Grantee: Patricia A. Kapp

Grantor: Edward S. Burroughs and Robert Wigginton--trustees for S. Sprigg Reeves Estate

Date: 8-2-74

Note: Same property is deeded fee simple.

SM-528, Spalding/Buckler House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

(cont.)

Reference: JMM Liber 10, Folio 320

Grantee: S. Sprigg Reeves

Grantor: Bessie May Buckler of Washington, DC

Date: 7-31-37

Note: Parcel A is now listed as containing 248 acres and Parcel B 140 acres.

Reference: JMM Liber No. 9, Folio 409

Grantee: Bessie May Buckler--wife of C. Howard Buckler

Grantor: T. Van Clagget--assignee for Zachariah S. Buckler who died "seized and possessed."

Date: 3-14-36

Note: First National Bank of St. Mary's County foreclosed on C. Howard Beckler. The property was sold at a sheriff's sale in Leonardtown. Bessie May Buckler purchased the property and is recorded in the EBA 17 Folio 163.

Reference: EBA Liber 17, Folio 162-163

Grantee: Charles M. Emmons and Mary E. Emmons

Grantor: Philip H. Buckler, et al

Date: 5-21-18

Note: Parcel A is listed as "late being the residence of Martha E. Spalding" while parcel B is listed as "late being the residence of Philip J. Buckler."

Reference: EBA Liber 17, Folio 161

Grantee: Emmons, Charles M. And Mary E.

Grantor: Frederick Buckler executor for Zachariah S. Buckler of Washington, D. C.

Date: 5-20-18

Note: The property was sold at a sheriff's sale in Leonardtown on April 9, 1918. It is listed as being the farm of Zachariah Buckler and the late Phillip J. Buckler. Property A was sold for \$4510 while property B was sold for \$4300. Unfortunately, this deed does not contain a listing for the previous deed reference. Upon consulting the alphabetical listing for Zachariah S. Buckler, a reference for a deed was found that contained parts of parcel A and parcel B.

Reference: JFF Liber 11, Folio 81-83

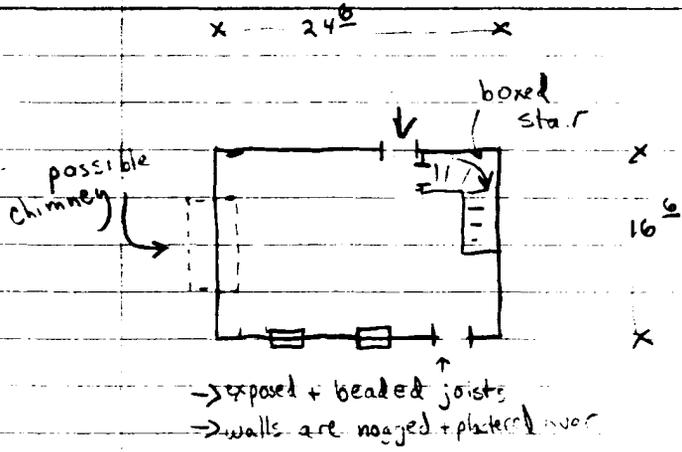
Grantee: Zachariah S. Buckler

Grantor: John W. Graves and Daniel C. Hammett--trustees for the estate of Zachariah Spalding

Date: 11-13-1888

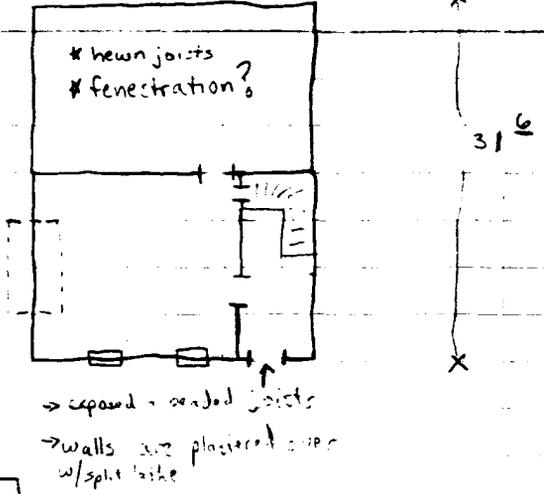
Note: Here the deed refers to court case No. 688, NE. In this case, the court names James T. Parsons plaintiff and James G. Spalding as the defendent. Spalding is described as holding a one-half interest in the lands Valentine's Grove, Addition, and Plowden's Discovery. The property is listed as containing 310 acres. The property is sold to Buckler for \$500.00. Again no reference for a previous deed is given prompting another search through the alphabetical deed reference book.

SM-528
Spalding/Buckler House
Oakville, MD



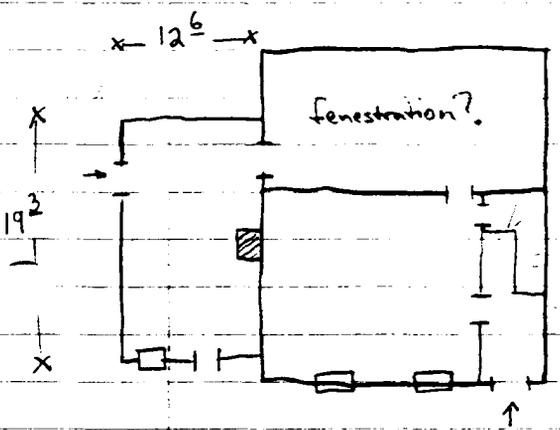
→ exposed + beaded joists
 → walls are nogged + plastered over

PERIOD I late 18th - early 19th century

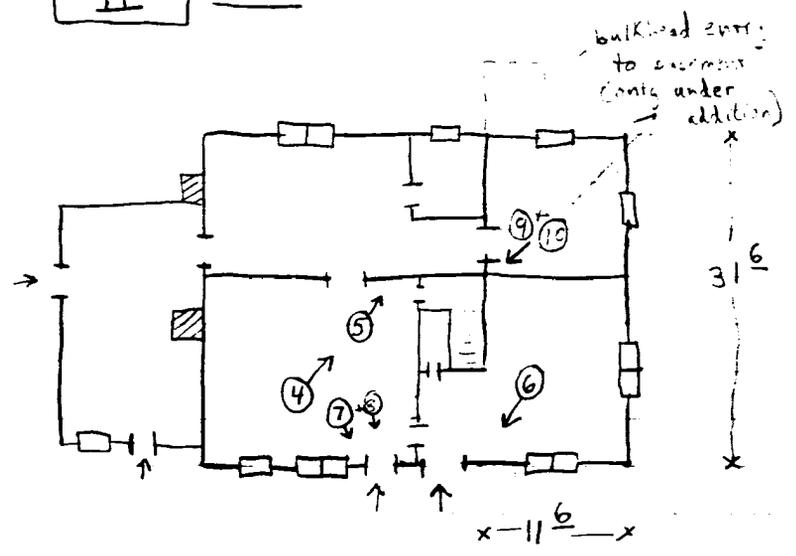


→ exposed + beaded joists
 → walls are plastered over w/ split lath

PERIOD II 1830s

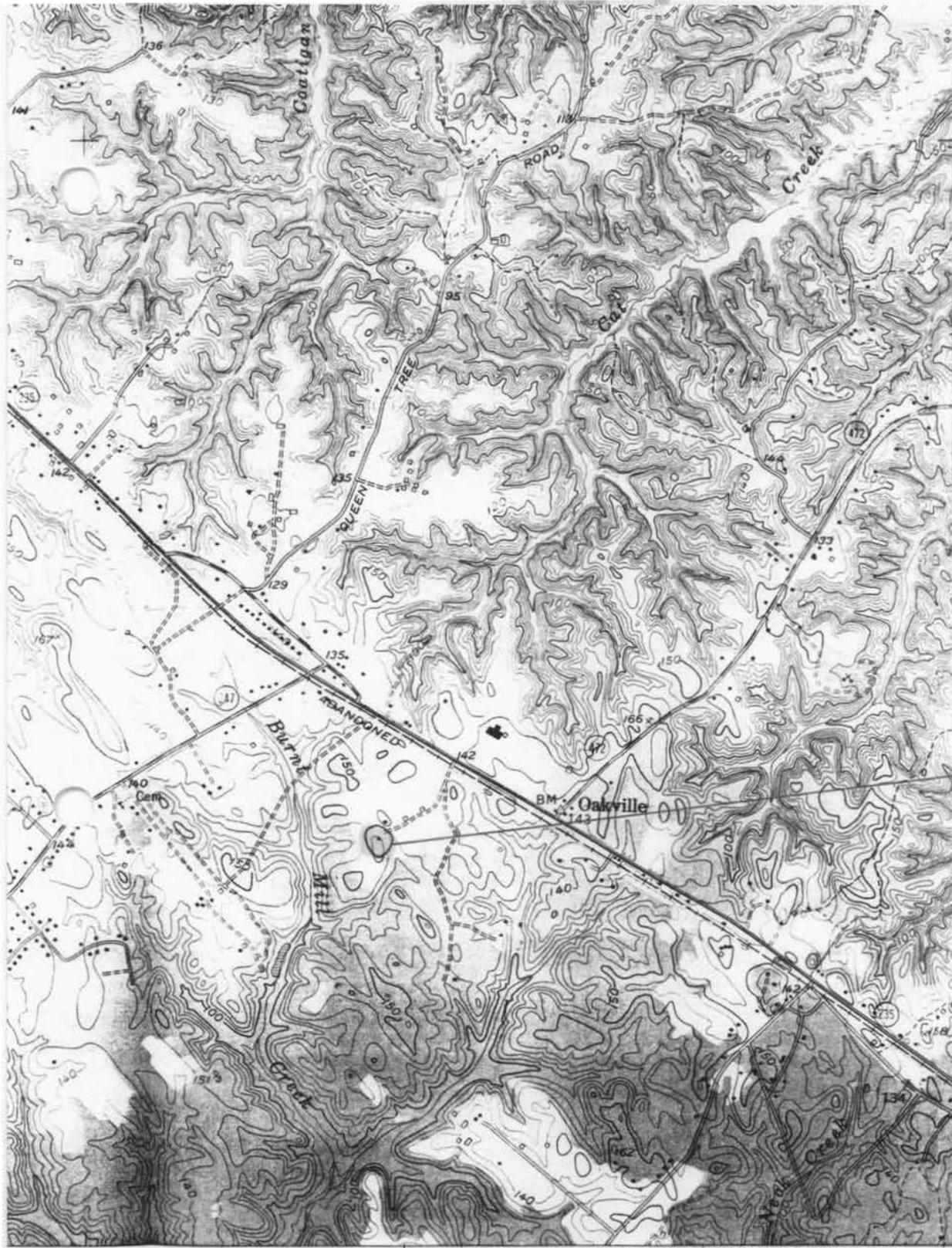


PERIOD III last quarter nineteenth century



PERIOD IV 1st quarter 20th century

* Additions to Spalding/Buckler House
 * Interior photographic schedule
 * Drawings not to scale
 From fieldnotes taken by Kirk Ranzetta



25'
4253
4252
4251
4250
4249000m N.

SM-528

38°22'30"
76°37'30"

(HOLLYWOOD)
5660 1 SE

40'

355

356

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976

357000m E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route

1 MILE



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3822.5—W7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974





SM - 528

Spall's/Buckler Grove

St. Mary's County, MD

K. Rowette

June 1996

MD - 5490

2/16

Perspective of 2x4 elevations











SM - 527

Spaid / Buckles House

St. Mary's County, MD

K. Panzetta

June 1996

10/5 2:40

7/16

Intrusive school at beaded joints + low rapping. Green foam looking E (1/2) =



SM-528

Spalling/Chlor House

St. Mary's County, MD

Kirk Rainier

June 1976

MD 5480

8/16

Interior joint of beam, under brick masonry, first room, not t (up/down)



SM - 528

Fruit of Bachelor House
St. Mary's County, MD

K. Ranette

June 1996

MD 5480

7/16

Brick foundation - undercut by joints, down sills - looking south



M-528

Site of Spilling/Burton House (Demolished late June 1996)

St. Mary's County MD

K. Bennett

June 1996

MJ) 5400

11/16

Quinn foot print



SM-528

Site of Spalling (for the house constructed late June 1996)

St. Mary's County, MD

K. Rasmussen

June 1996

MD SHPO

2/16

P. = soaking E



SM-528

Site of Spaulding/Barker House (Demolished late June 1996)

St. Mary's County, MD

K. Ranzetta

June 1996

MD-680

=116

Photo taken at foundation wall, looking E



11 - 528

at Spalding/Burkley House (Demolished late June 1996)

St. Mary's County, MD

R. Ruzetta

MD SHPO

12/16

Key looking NW



SM-528

Site of Spotted/Builder House (New York late June 1996)

St. Mary's County, MD

K. Ranzetta

June 1996

MD 3440

-/16

Races, date of occupancy etc - recorded in



SM-528

Site of Spalding/Easton House (Bent and into Lake 1980)

St. Mary's County, MD

K. Lavette

June 1996

10:40

1/6

10:40