

— Capsule Summary
SM-563
Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
Laurel Grove
Private

c. 1830-1850

— The Buckler slave quarter, located just south of the intersection of Laurel Grove Road and Maryland Route 235, is a one story, one room, log dwelling with a large, stone, exterior end chimney. Since its initial construction c. 1830-1850, the building experienced a number of alterations and additions. Within the past ten years, however, these additions were removed exposing the original log section. Architectural evidence suggests that the building's fenestration originally featured two opposing doors and a single, small window located in the gable end. The interior was originally whitewashed with the interstices between the logs filled with stones, brick, split wood, and an oyster shell aggregate mortar. The interior also contained a winder stair to an attic space above. The gable roof of the structure has been removed exposing the building to the weather. While significantly altered and deteriorated, the Buckler slave quarter retains a significant amount of historic fabric and provides a rare glimpse into nineteenth century slave life.

— The slave quarter once existed on part of a large plantation called "Backland" and "Spalding's Adventure" that consisted of 350 acres and 207 acres respectively. In 1864, George W. and Eleanor Buckler sold this property to George W. L. Buckler for \$5000. This confirmatory deed notes that the actual transaction had occurred on January 20, 1849. It also notes that the property was located between the Three Notched Road and William Reeder's lands. Much of the property remained in the Buckler family until 1933. The quarter may have been related to the Parson House (SM-169) located to the northwest.

SM-563, Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
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: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Laurel Grove Slave Quarter

and/or common

2. Location

N side of Route 235, 0.1 mile SE of intersection of Rt. 235 and Mt. Zion Church Road.
street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Laurel Grove _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 6

state Maryland _____ county St. Mary's _____ TM 14, P. 164

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 Ford L. and Linda Dean

street & number 3965 Three Notch Road _____ telephone no.: (301) 884-3612

city, town Mechanicsville _____ state and zip code Md 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse _____ liber 182

street & number _____ folio 378

city, town Leonardtown _____ state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. SM-563

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			

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 Laurel Grove slave quarter is located on the northeast side of Three Notch Road (or Route 235) just south of the intersection of Three Notch and Laurel Grove Roads (Route 247) in Laurel Grove, Maryland. The quarter is situated on a small knoll overlooking the road and oriented on an east/west axis. The building is approached via a 0.05 mile dirt drive and located immediately behind a modern modular home on a grassy subdivided parcel. The building is currently open to the weather and deteriorating.

The Laurel Grove slave quarter is a one-and-a-half story, one room, log dwelling with a large, exterior end, stone chimney and gable roof. The hewn logs are joined at all four corners with full dovetail notches. Some of the logs exhibit evidence of whitewash. Chinking between the logs is composed of split wood, brick, and a light tan, oyster shell aggregate mortar. The original roof of the log house has been removed, but scars on the stone chimney suggest it was a gable roof. The log house was once incorporated into a larger dwelling. Within the past ten years, however, these later additions were removed revealing the present log building.

The west or primary elevation features a centrally located original doorway and a window added after the log house was first erected. The logs around the window opening were cleanly and evenly sawn and do not have any peg holes to indicate the presence of an original jamb. The logs that surround the doorway are not visible, but the door is located directly across from the other entry on the east elevation which suggests that it dates to the building's initial construction.

The north elevation features a later door that replaced an earlier window. Only a single jamb for the window survives. The jamb is pegged into the ends of the logs that were roughly cut for the window space. The other jamb was taken out when the doorway was installed.

Much like the west elevation, the east elevation consists of an original door and a later window. The logs for the window were cut cleanly and evenly and exhibit no mortises for pegs. While the jamb for the door is not original, an inspection of the log ends around the door revealed mortises for pegs.

The south elevation contains the most distinctive feature of the quarter--a large stone chimney. The stone chimney, constructed of irregularly laid local ironstone, is held together with a combination of portland cement and a light tan mortar. The base of the chimney measures approximately six-and-a-half feet by three feet. The chimney stack is set back approximately six inches from the log wall. Within this space, on either side of the stack, is a vertical plank fastened to the chimney with fully formed cut nails. The purpose of these planks are not known although they probably served to keep the log walls true against the chimney. The outline of clapboard can also be seen in the mortar along the edge of the chimney, suggesting that the building may originally been covered with clapboard. Evidence located near the top of the chimney suggests that a gable roof addition was once attached to the south of the present log building.

The interior reveals evidence that it was whitewashed with the ceiling joists left exposed. A large open hearth without a mantle occupied the south side of the interior, while remains of a winder stair survive in the northeast corner. While the tread and stringer appear to be later replacements, the stair header, mortised into two ceiling joists, appears to be original.

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/
<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: 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.

^{Laurel Grove}
 The ~~Buckler~~ slave quarter, located just south of the intersection of Laurel Grove Road and Maryland Route 235, is a one story, one room, log dwelling with large, stone, exterior end chimney. Since its initial construction c. 1820-1850, the building experienced a number of alterations and additions. Within the past ten years, however, these additions were removed exposing the original log section. Architectural evidence suggests that the building's fenestration originally featured two opposing doors and a single, small window located in the gable end. The interior was originally whitewashed with the interstices between the logs filled with stones, brick, split wood, and an oyster shell aggregate mortar. The interior also contained a winder stair to an attic space above. The gable roof of the structure has been removed exposing the building to deterioration. These, however, were removed when the northbound lanes for Route 235 were constructed. While significantly altered and deteriorated, the Buckler slave quarter retains a significant amount of historic fabric and provides a rare glimpse into nineteenth century slave life.

The slave quarter currently sits on part of a large plantation called "Backland" and "Spalding's Adventure" that consisted of 350 acres and 207 acres respectively. In 1864, George W. and Eleanor Buckler sold this property to George W. L. Buckler for \$5000. This confirmatory deed notes that the actual transaction had occurred on January 20, 1849. It also notes that the property was located between the Three Notched Road and William Reeder's lands. Much of the property remained in the Buckler family until 1933. According to Michael Humphries and David Roberts several other board-and-batten covered, log slave quarters were once located in the same vicinity near Three Notch Road.

SM-563, Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Deed Reference: Liber 182, Folio 378

Grantee: Ford L. and Linda Dean

Grantor: Charlotte W. Dean

Date: October 10, 1972

Notes: Called "Chestnut Hill," the property contains 10.32 acres and was surveyed in plat book DBK 9, Folio 79.

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 188

Grantee: John D. and Charlotte W. Dean

Grantor: George L. and Mamie D. Buckler

Date: January 4, 1933

Notes: John D. Dean died on July 31, 1968 and was survived by his wife Charlotte. Here the property contains 26 1/2 acres.

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 4, Folio 415

Grantee: George L. and Mamie D. Buckler

Grantor: John M. Reeder

Date: October 14, 1920

Notes: This deed notes that the property contains 20 acres more or less.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 8, Folio 469

Grantee: John M. Reeder

Grantor: E. St. Clair Buckler and Clara C. Buckler

Date: April 22, 1910

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing seventy five acres.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 8, Folio 467 (Release)

Grantee: E. St. Clair and Clara C. Buckler

Grantor: Samuel K. George

Date: April 22, 1910

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 129 (Mortgage)

Grantee: Samuel K. George

Grantor: E. St. Clair Buckler

Date: October 22, 1906

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 527 1/2 acres.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 127

Grantee: E. St. Clair Buckler

Grantor: Phil H. Tuck, atty

Date: October 22, 1906

Notes: The property was sold at a public auction ofr \$4600. The circuit court case was initiated by a default on the mortgage between Hamilton E. Buckler and E. St. Clair Buckler to Samuel K.

George (Liber EBA 2, Folio 349). This deed notes that the property consisted of two parcels here combined.

SM-563, Laurel Grove Slave Quarter
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Parcel #1

Deed Reference: Liber JTB 4, Folio 283

Grantee: George W. L. Buckler

Grantor: George W. and Eleanor Buckler

Date: February 15, 1864

Notes: This deed notes that the property consisted of "Backland" (350 acres) and "Spalding's Adventure" (207 acres). Both tracts were purchased for a total of \$5000. This appears to be the parcel that the quarter is located on.

Parcel #2

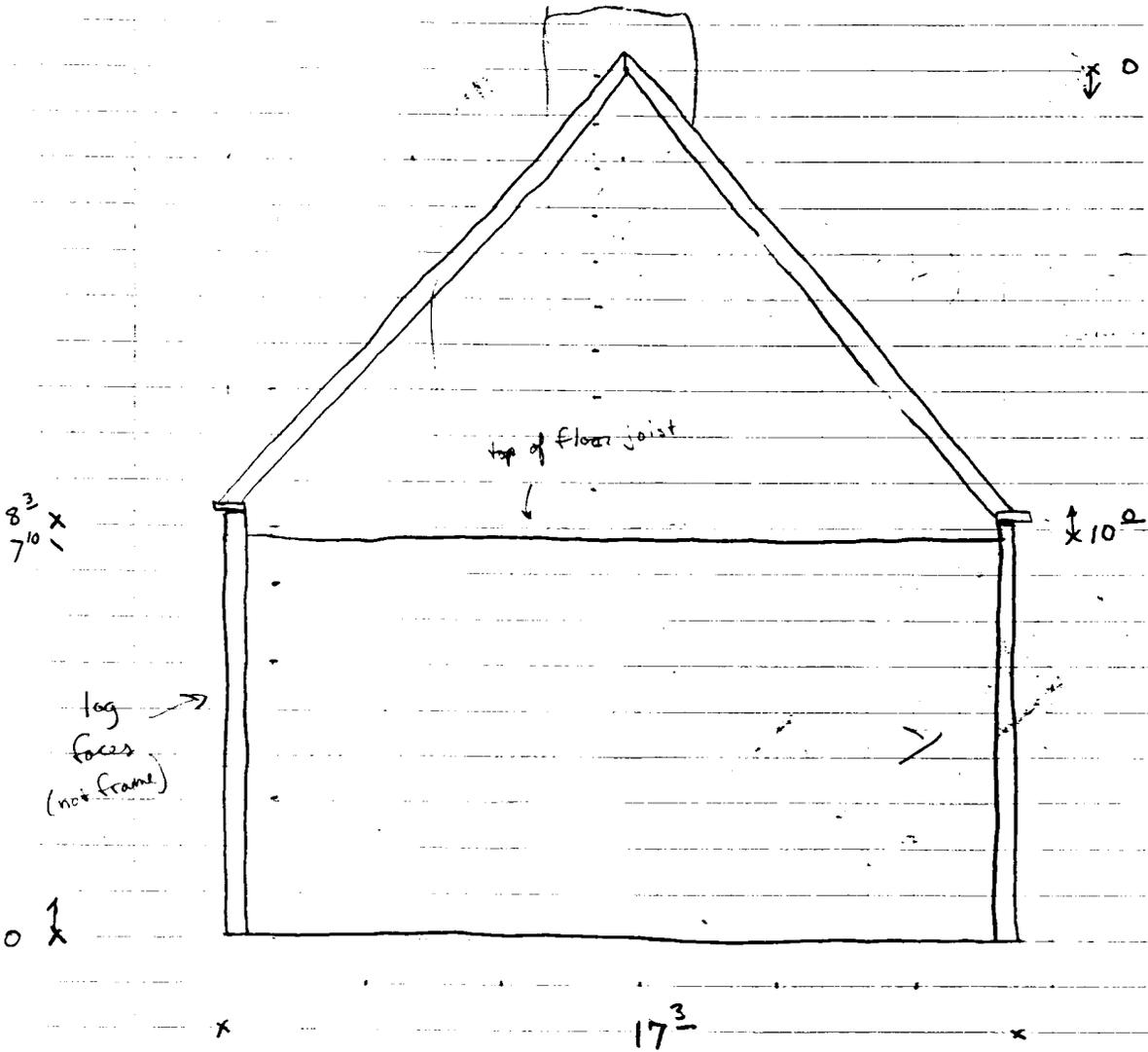
Deed Reference: Liber JAC 6, Folio 263

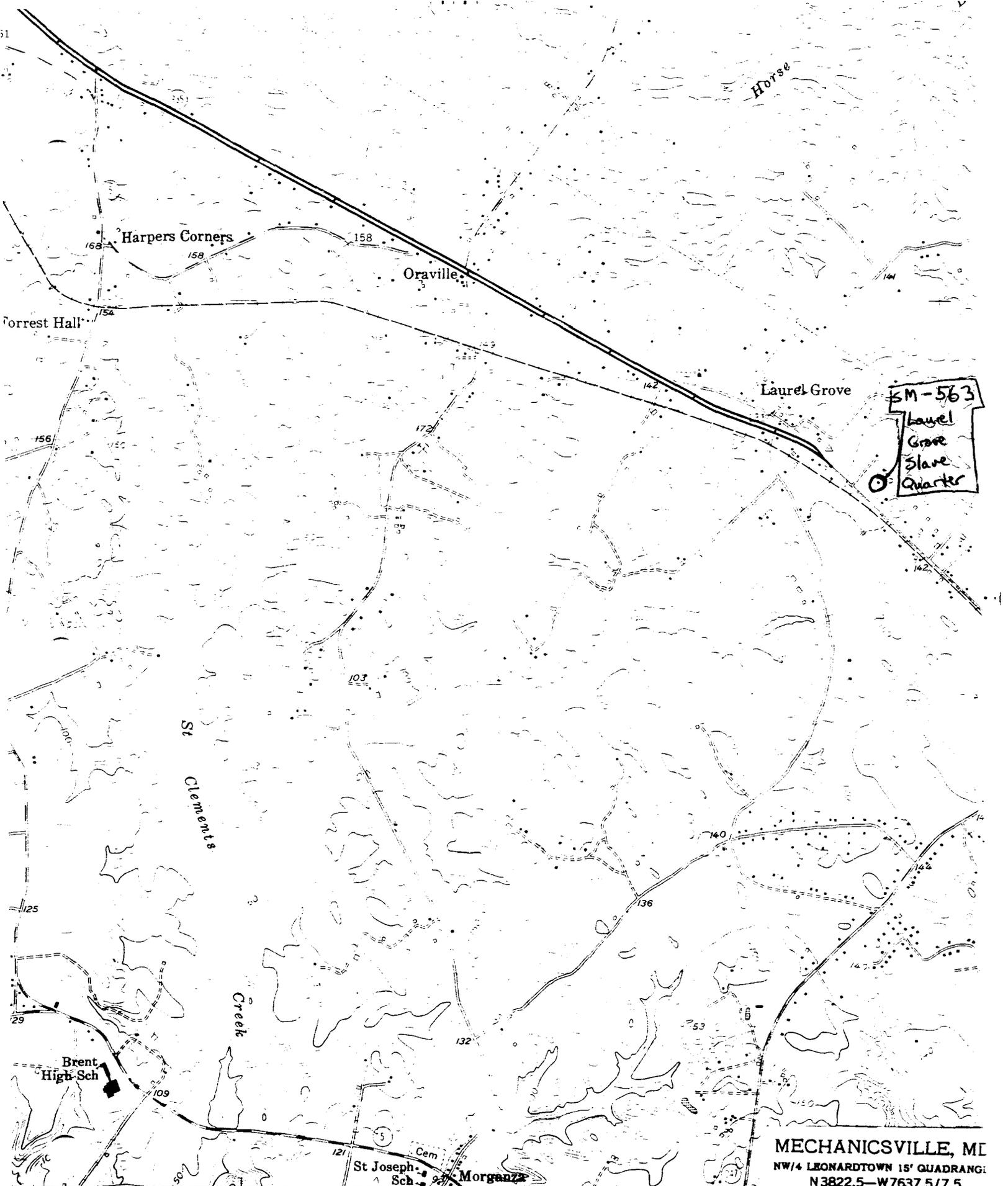
Grantee: G. W. L. Buckler

Grantor: Thomas and Ann Bond

Date: January 8, 1873

Notes: This deed notes that this tract is "part of the land devised to the heirs of Charles M. Bond by his mother Elizabeth Bond." The property is described as consisting of 12 acres and located on the "east side of the Three Notch Road beside the corner facing G. W. L. Buckler's store."



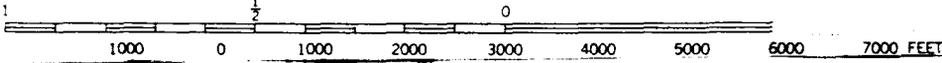


SM-563
 Laurel Grove Slave Quarter

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

1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1974
 AMS 5660 I NW—SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24,000



880 000 FEET 42°30' 351 LOVEVILLE 1.5 MI. LEONARDTOWN 7.3 MI 352 (LEONARDTOWN) 5660 I SW 353



SM-563

Laurel Grove Slave Cemetery

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancetta

W.D. CHPO

W 1 2 elevations

1 of 6

7/21/87







SM-563

Lanier Grove Slave Quarter

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

RA 2HPO

Corner Natches - detail - I + N elevations

1 of 6

Feb/97

