

WI-43
Venture Manor
Quantico vicinity
Private

c. 1750-1780, c. 1815

Venture Manor is architecturally significant for several reasons. The story-and-a-half frame house dates to the third quarter of the eighteenth century, thereby making it one of a small collection of pre-Revolutionary War frame dwellings surviving in Wicomico County. The house on the Poplar Hill labor camp (WI-38) and the Bound's Lott (WI-4) are two other early frame structures in the county. Measuring 36 feet by 16 feet, the story-and-a-half house probably followed a hall/parlor disposition that was altered during an early nineteenth century reworking of the house. The symmetrical five-bay fenestration along with the Federal interior finishes appear to date around 1815-20. None of the interior woodwork is datable to the eighteenth century, although the frame was clearly built with wrought nails. The rafter pairs are laid flat in a manner common to the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The dormers, which were probably added around 1815-20 as well, have an unusual arched decoration in the gable front end board. The eighteenth century house acquired a stepped or "telescope" service wing during the early nineteenth century with a hyphen and kitchen extending from the east end. Although no longer on its original site, the kitchen remains in the back yard with remnants of beaded weatherboards and an unfinished loft access by a ladder stair.

The history of Venture Manor is largely associated with the Pollitt and Byrd families during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In 1761 William Byrd patented

a tract called "Venture" west of Rockawalkin Creek for fifty acres, and a second patent known as "Hackley" dates to the 1670s. Jesse Byrd was assessed for each tract in 1783, and he is listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment for 150 acres "situate near Rockawalking Branch 1 framed wood dwelling house 1 story 36 by 16 ft., 1 round pole corn house 16 by 6." While Jesse Byrd was listed as the owner, Jacob Mezick resided on the property, probably as an overseer or a tenant. The 36 x 16 frame house most likely followed a hall/parlor plan when first built. The only surviving historic fabric is the braced timber frame with a common rafter roof.

The Venture and Hackley tracts were sold out of the Byrd family in December 1811 to Robert Ellegood, and two months later he transferred ownership to William Pollitt. According to Pollitt family tradition the house was reworked after their acquisition, which is verified by the early nineteenth century exterior and interior features. The floor plan was rearranged to center a center hall, and a Federal style staircase with slender newel posts and balusters was installed. The room on the west side of the hall retains an early nineteenth century mantel. William Pollitt, of Worcester County, left the Venture and Hackley tracts to his sister-in-law, Nelly Pollitt, who may have been responsible for the architectural transformation of the house. Nelly J. Pollitt resided on this farm and raised her children. She bequeath ownership of the plantation to her son, Levin I. Pollitt (1814-1892), through her will written in 1836 and

probated five years later. Irving Pollitt is listed in the 1870 U. S. Census for Wicomico County as a 55-year farmer with real estate valued at \$2,500 and personal property worth \$450. His 36-year old wife Anne Ralph Pollitt is listed along with six children. The Pollitts retained ownership of the farm through the balance of the nineteenth century. A late nineteenth century photograph of the farmhouse documents a stepped service wing--a hyphen and kitchen--that extended eastward from the main block. In 1916 the Pollitts decided to restyle the eighteenth century dwelling with the addition of a large two-story, hip roofed addition and the removal of the hyphen and kitchen. The hyphen was destroyed and the kitchen was moved into the back yard where it remains standing. Included in the process of reworking and restyling the house, part of the old eighteenth century dwelling was converted to the kitchen.

The farm remained in Pollitt family hands until the death of W. Ralph Pollitt (1878-1960), when the farm was sold. The current owners purchased the property in 1963.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Venture Manor

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-43

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Rural Agrarian Intensification
1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
Industrial-Urban Dominance 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s):
Farm Complex
-farmhouse
-barn
-kitchen
-garage
-pump house

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WI-43

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Venture Manor

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6395 Firetower Road not for publicationcity, town Quantico vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input 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 Mrs. G. Willard Oakley

street & number 6395 Firetower Road telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 36, P. 202
liber 807

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 143

city, town Salisbury state Md 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-43

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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.

Venture Manor is located on the east side Firetower Road approximately one-half mile north of Nanticoke Road (MD 349) in the vicinity of Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, two-part frame house faces south with the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating from two distinct periods, the Venture Manor house includes a third quarter of the eighteenth century, story-and-a-half weatherboard frame dwelling and a two-story, five-bay hip roofed main block erected in 1916. Prior to the 1916 addition, the story-and-a-half dwelling followed the stepped or "telescope" form with a single story hyphen and a slightly taller kitchen that extended eastward from the story-and-a-half main block. During the early twentieth century reworking of the house, the old stepped service wing, including the hyphen and kitchen, were removed. The hyphen was destroyed and the old kitchen was moved a short distance, and it remains standing today in the back yard. Part of the old story-and-a-half dwelling was consequently converted into a kitchen during the early twentieth century.

The eighteenth century house measures 36 feet across by 16 feet deep and is supported by an excavated cellar, and it is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The extremely steep pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The south (main) facade is defined by a symmetrical fenestration with a center entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The front door is partially glazed. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings. Marking the roof are three gable roofed dormers filled with six-over-six sash windows. The gable roof of the dormer has a round arch motif executed in its board front. The sides of each dormer are sheathed with plain weatherboards.

The east gable end of the eighteenth century house is dominated by an exterior corbeled base chimney stack erected by the present owners during the 1960s. A single nine-over-six sash window is located on the north side of the chimney stack.

The north side of the story-and-a-half house is extended by a partially enclosed hip roof porch. The roof is supported by Tuscan columns on the west side and it is partially enclosed on the east side. A pair of gable roofed dormers mark the north slope of the roof, and each dormer has a six-over-six sash window and an arched design in the gable front.

The west side of the eighteenth century house is fully covered by the two-story, hip roofed main block erected in 1916. A brick chimney that serves the eighteenth century section rises against the gable end wall of the 1916 addition and it pierces its eave. The south (main) facade of the addition is a symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The paneled front door is flanked by four-light sidelights, and the entrance is sheltered by a hip roofed portico supported by paired Tuscan columns. Fixed above the center entrance is a long, round arched window opening fitted with arched shutters. Located to each side are pairs of

(Continued)

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

Specific dates 1916 **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.

Venture Manor is architecturally significant for several reasons. The story-and-a-half frame house dates to the third quarter of the eighteenth century, thereby making it one of small collection of pre-Revolutionary War frame dwellings surviving in Wicomico County. The house on the Poplar Hill Labor Camp (WI-38) and Bound's Lott (WI-4) are two other early frame structures in the county. Measuring 36 feet by 16 feet the story-and-a-half house, the original plan probably followed a hall/parlor disposition that was altered during an early nineteenth century reworking of the house. The symmetrical five-bay fenestration along with the Federal interior finishes appear to date around 1815-20. None of the interior finishes date to the eighteenth century, although the frame of the structure was clearly built with wrought nails. The rafter pairs are laid flat in a manner common to the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The dormers, which were probably added around 1815-20 as well, have an unusual arched decoration in the gable front end board. The eighteenth century house acquired a stepped or "telescope" service wing during the early nineteenth century with a hyphen and kitchen extending from the east gable end. Although no longer on its original site, the kitchen remains in the back yard with remnants of beaded weatherboards and an unfinished loft accessed by a ladder stair.

In 1916 the eighteenth century house was reworked once again in a building program that included the construction of the two-story, hip roofed main block. A wide center hall is flanked by a parlor on the west and a dining room on the east. Obvious efforts were made at the time to design and build a Colonial Revival addition that was compatible with the older story-and-a-half house.

The house deserves listing in Category A, which identifies properties that must be preserved for their architectural and/or historical merits. Venture Manor is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Venture Manor, WI-43

Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

nine-over-six sash windows. The base of the hip roof is finished with a wide eave.

The interior of the eighteenth century house has been reworked several times. Family tradition states that the interior was changed during the early nineteenth century, around 1805, when William Pollitt acquired the plantation. The extant interior finishes agree essentially with this oral history, although the interior woodwork appears to date around 1815-20. The center hall features a slender Federal newel post and slender rectangular balusters that support a circular profile handrail. Two-panel doors, like those found in the main block, open into the adjacent rooms. The east room has been remodeled several times during the twentieth century. Used as a kitchen after the new main block was erected, the room retains beaded board wainscoting. The end wall features a refinished mantel assembled during the 1960s. The room on the west side of the hall has been converted to the current kitchen, and an early nineteenth century mantel is fixed to the end wall framing the fireplace. An ogee molded backband frames the firebox. Located on the right (north) side of the fireplace is a recessed cupboard.

The second retains few original finishes as a result of the early twentieth century reworking of the house. Access into a tight attic space above the collar beams revealed wrought nail construction. Pairs of wrought nails fasten the collar beams to rafters which are laid flat and pinned at the peak with mortise-and-tenon joints.

The interior of the main two-story house have not changed significantly since 1916. A center hall separates a parlor on the left (west) from a dining room on the east (right). A stout, square proportioned newel post with paneled sides, along with a series of square balusters, support a molded handrail. The stringer is embellished with a scroll decoration.

The west room or parlor features a Colonial Revival mantel with a crossetted, ovolo backband surround and a heavy dentiled bed molding under the mantel shelf. The east wall of the parlor is fitted with a line of built-in bookcases.

East of the hall is the dining room, which has a brick fireplace topped by a thick mantel shelf accented with small bracket blocks. The room is trimmed with an ogee molded baseboard. Two-panel doors are framed with a square edge backband.

The second floor follows a center hall plan with a single bedroom to the west and a bedroom and bathroom on the east. Two-panel doors open into each bedroom.

(Continued)

7.2 DESCRIPTION

Venture Manor, WI-43

Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The outbuildings on the property include a turn of twentieth century barn, a stable, a pump house, a garage, and the former kitchen. A Pollitt family cemetery is also located within the yard.

Supported on a brick pier foundation the frame barn is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding, and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. The gable front structure is pierced by a garage bay on the first floor along with a board door. Six-over-six sash windows light the second floor. The barn framing consists of relatively light dimensioned lumber fastened together with wire nails.

Standing directly behind the house is a small gable roofed pump house partially enclosed with lattice. The mid to late nineteenth century pump remains in place.

The old kitchen stands to the northeast of the house, and the one-room plan frame building is sheathed with a combination of plain and beaded weatherboard siding. The beaded weatherboards remain on the north side of the kitchen under a shed porch supported by a chamfered post. The south (front) wall of the kitchen is pierced by a board door with an adjacent six-over-six sash window. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The edge of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice and the gable ends are flush. The interior is fitted with a beaded board ceiling and narrow tongue and groove board walls. Fixed in the northeast corner is an enclosed ladder stair that provides access to an unfinished loft.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

Venture Manor, WI-43

Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The history of Venture Manor is largely associated with the Pollitt and Byrd families during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In 1761 William Byrd patented a tract called "Venture" west of Rockawalkin Creek for fifty acres, and a second patent known as "Hackley" dates to the 1670s.(1) Jesse Byrd was assessed for each tract in 1783, and he is listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment for 150 acres "situate near Rockawalking Branch 1 framed wood dwelling house 1 story 36 by 16 ft., 1 round pole corn house 16 by 6."(2) While Jesse Byrd was listed as the owner, Jacob Mezick resided on the property, probably as a overseer or a tenant. The 36 x 16 frame house probably followed a hall/parlor plan when first built. The only surviving historic fabric is the braced timber frame with a common rafter roof. Distinct to early framing methods, the rafter are laid flat side down, and each rafter pair is stabilized by a collar beam fixed in place with wrought nails.

The Venture and Hackley tracts were sold out of the Byrd family in December 1811 to Robert Ellegood (3), and two months later he transferred ownership to William Pollitt.(4) According to Pollitt family tradition the house was reworked after their acquisition, which is verified by the early nineteenth century exterior and interior features. The floor plan was rearranged to center a center hall, and a Federal style staircase with slender newel posts and balusters was installed. The room on the west side of the hall retains an early nineteenth century mantel. William Pollitt, of Worcester County, left the Venture and Hackley land to his sister-in-law, Nelly Pollitt, who may have been responsible for the architectural transformation of the house.(5) Nelly J. Pollitt resided on this farm and raised her children. She bequeath ownership of the plantation to her son, Levin I. Pollitt (1814-1892), through her will written in 1836 and probated five years later.(6) Irving Pollitt is listed in the 1870 U. S. Census for Wicomico County as a 55-year farmer with real estate valued at \$2,500 and personal property worth \$450.(7) His 36-year old wife Anne Ralph Pollitt is listed along with six children. The Pollitts retained ownership of the farm through the balance of the nineteenth century. A late nineteenth century photograph of the farmhouse documents a stepped service wing--a hyphen and kitchen--that extended eastward from the main block. In 1916 the Pollitts decided to restyle the eighteenth century dwelling with the addition of a large two-story, hip roofed addition and the removal of the hyphen and kitchen. The hyphen was destroyed and the kitchen was moved into the back yard where it remains standing. Included in the process of reworking and restyling the house, part of the old eighteenth century dwelling was converted to the kitchen.

(Continued)

8.2 SIGNIFICANCE

Venture Manor, WI-43

Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The farm remained in Pollitt family hands until the death of W. Ralph Pollitt (1878-1960), when the farm was sold.(8) The current owners purchased the property in 1963.(9)

FOOTNOTES

1 Ruth T. Dryden, *Land Records of Wicomico County, 1666-1810*. Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1992, p. 186 and p. 414.

2 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Jesse Byrd, Rewastico Hundred, Particular List of Lands, Delmarva Research Center of History and Culture, Salisbury State University.

3 Somerset County Land Record, U/220, 12/9/1811, Somerset County Courthouse.

4 Somerset County Land Record, U/220, 2/29/1812, Somerset County Courthouse.

5 Worcester County Will Book, MH 2/155-157, Written 3/12/1824, Proved 1/16/1816, Worcester County Courthouse.

6 Somerset County Will Book, JP 5/65, Written 11/13/1836, Proved 12/14/1841, Somerset County Courthouse.

7 Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, Wicomico County, Delmarva Research Center of History and Culture, Salisbury State University.

8 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 518/210, 3/15/1961, Wicomico County Courthouse.

9 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 554/86, 1/15/1963, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-43
Venture Manor
Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JTT 17/181

A. Lee Pollitt, executor of the
Last Will and Testament of Levin I. Pollitt

to

12/3/1895

Levin I. Pollitt, Port Gibson, Mississippi

\$1,300 "Hackley and Venture" 151 acres

(Being the same person as L. Irving Pollitt by deed dated 12/11/1895, JTT 17/182, the ½ undivided interest of A. Lee Pollitt (who died on March 21, 1951, thereon devised unto his nephew L. Irving Pollitt, Jr. JAH 4/21 subject to a life estate unto W. Ralph Pollitt, brother of A. Lee Pollitt)

SPT 5/445

Samuel A. Graham, Trustee

to

7/16/1883

Levin I. Pollitt

Chancery Case #452, Wicomico County, described in a report of the sales of the said A. Lee Pollitt, executor, to the Orphans Court which said report is recorded in the Office of the Register of Wills, LJG 2/110, 115 acres

WI-43
Venture Manor
Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

Somerset County
Will Book
JP 5/65

Last Will and Testament of Nelly J. Pollitt

to

Written
11/13/1836
Proved
12/14/1841

Levin I. Pollitt (1814-1892)

I give and bequeath unto my son Levin I. Pollitt all the lands that I now live on that was left me by William Pollitt in Somerset County called Hacklah and Venture laid out for one hundred and fifty acres by paying to my daughter Elizabeth Esther Byrd

I give and bequeath unto my son Levin I. Pollitt and only daughter Elizabeth Esther Byrd my old negro woman Peggy whcih she rather live with to them and their heirs forever, I give and bequeath all my personal estate to be equally divided between my four children Gilliss Pollitt, Nelly G. Byrd, Elizabeth Esther Byrd, and Levin I. Pollitt

Worcester County
Will Book
MH 2/155-157

Last Will and Testament of William Pollitt

to, sister-in-law,

Nelly Pollitt

Written 3/12/1814
Proved 1/16/1816

Land bought of Robert Ellegood of Somerset County, Hacklah, Venture 150 acres

WI-43
Venture Manor
Quantico vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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Somerset County
Land Record
U/433

Robert Ellegood

to

2/29/1812

William Pollitt

U/220

Thomas Byrd, Jr.

to

12/9/1811

Robert Ellegood

\$909.00 part of one tract of land called Hackley
and one tract of land called Venture

151 5/8 acres

1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment-Rewastico Hundred, Jesse Byrd

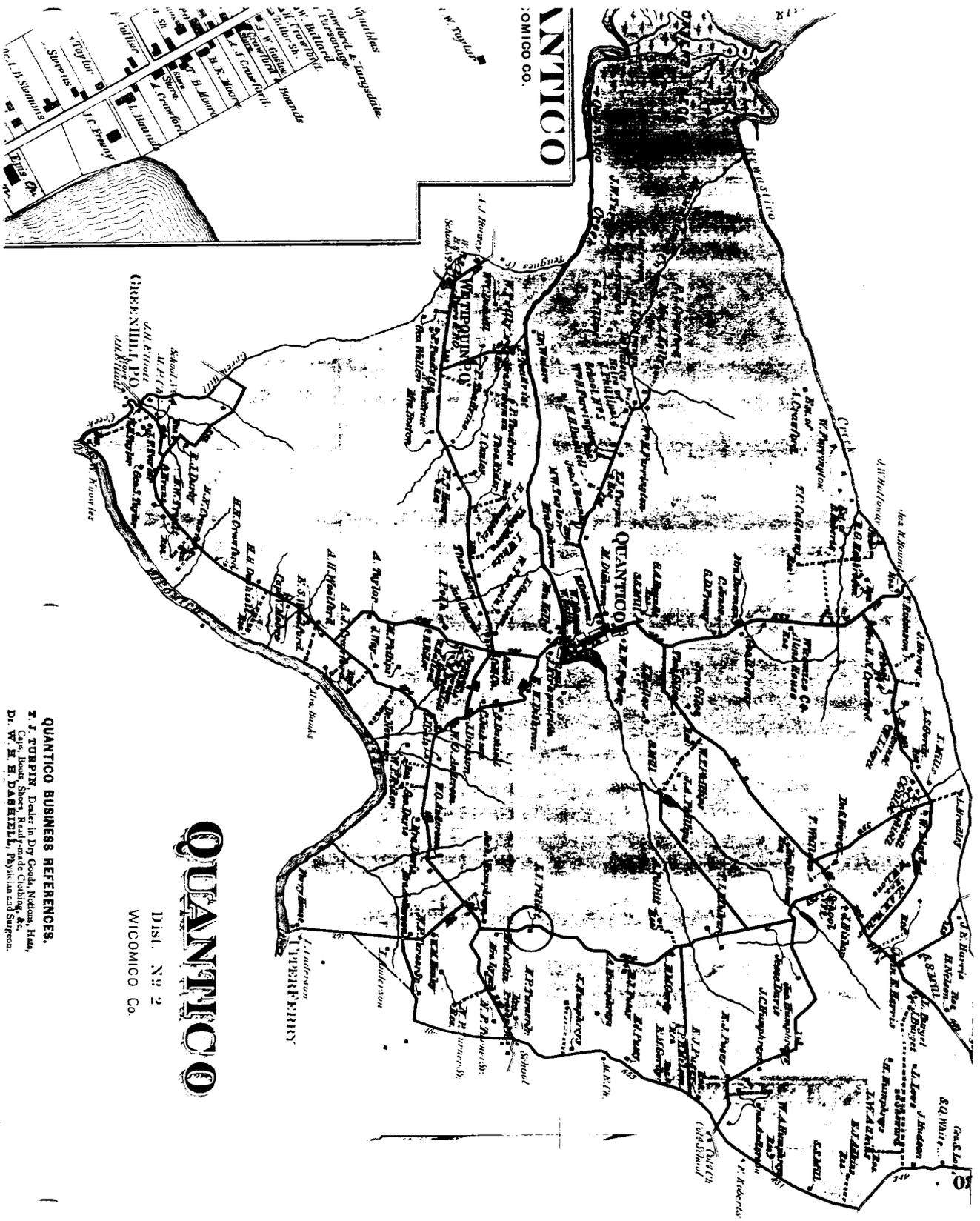
Occpant-Jacob Mezick Situate near Rockawalking Branch 1 framed wood dwelling
house 1 story 36 by 16 ft. 1 round pole corn house 16 by 6

\$400 150 acres



WI-43
Venture Manor

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



QUANTICO

Dist. No 2
WICOMICO Co.

QUANTICO BUSINESS REFERENCES.
T. J. STURPIN Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats,
Caps, Boots, Shoes, Ready-made Clothing, Etc.
Dr. W. H. DASHFIELD, Physician and Surgeon.







W1-43

Venture 1/1/19

Investment 1/1/19 = 1000000

2/1/19 1000000

3/1/19 1000000



111-43

Vertebrate 1/2 mi -

Quincy - 1/2 mi - Wrentham Co., MA

NORTH - 1/2 mi -

6/96, 1/2 mi - 1/2 mi - 1/2 mi -

1/2 mi - 1/2 mi - 1/2 mi -





VI. 43

VENUE MANAGER

QUANTITIES RECEIVED, MICHIGAN STATE

SUBJECT: FIELD - IN ST. JOHN

1/10, PAUL TOWNE, JR. (1950)

1/10, PAUL TOWNE, JR. (1950)



W1-43

Ventura Marine

Count of

Some

W/

... ..



VI-43

Venture: *Adams*

Geological work on *Adams* by *Adams*

1912-1913 500 - 1000 - 2000 - 100

6/90, 1000 - 10000 - 100000

NO. 1 / 1000 - 10000 - 100000