

Plantation Analysis

This chapter provides a discussion of existing antebellum plantations in Prince George's County by integrating the architectural, archeological, and historical research relevant to an understanding of the agriculture and slavery in the county. Subsections are organized temporally; the temporal divisions correlate with those outlined in "Agriculture and Slavery: A Context for Prince George's County, Maryland." Each subsection addresses important aspects of plantation organization and includes a discussion of architecture, slave quarters, and slave burials. "Architecture" refers to the type and function of agricultural structures necessary for the operation of plantations of various slaveholding sizes as defined in "Agriculture and Slavery." Although they are an important component of plantation architecture, "slave quarters" are discussed separately because of the cultural (in addition to functional) complexities associated with their use. This discussion examines the known types and distribution of slave housing across time on the variously sized plantations. The "slave burial" subsection discusses the nature and distribution of slave burials across temporal periods and between plantations of different sizes. Each section concludes with a "Summary" pertaining to each time period and plantation size.

Early Period—1696–1730

The period extending from 1696 to 1730 is the least documented of the three temporal divisions investigated. For this period, the analysis of the organization and operation of plantations is based on the few examples of period plantations that remain on the landscape today. Most structures from the Early Period, including the plantation house, utilized post-in-ground architecture and did not survive into the twentieth century. Archeological evidence derives primarily from limited investigations conducted on and immediately around the manor houses and includes information on spatial layouts and the material culture associated with these early historical sites. In addition to the archeological record, primary records, such as probate inventories, can be used to infer plantation activities through their descriptions of tools and chattel, including slaves, for which they account. Although these records do not specifically detail spatial relationships, they nonetheless provide valuable information regarding plantation operations and the types of ancillary structures necessary to support or house the inventoried goods.

Plantation Architecture

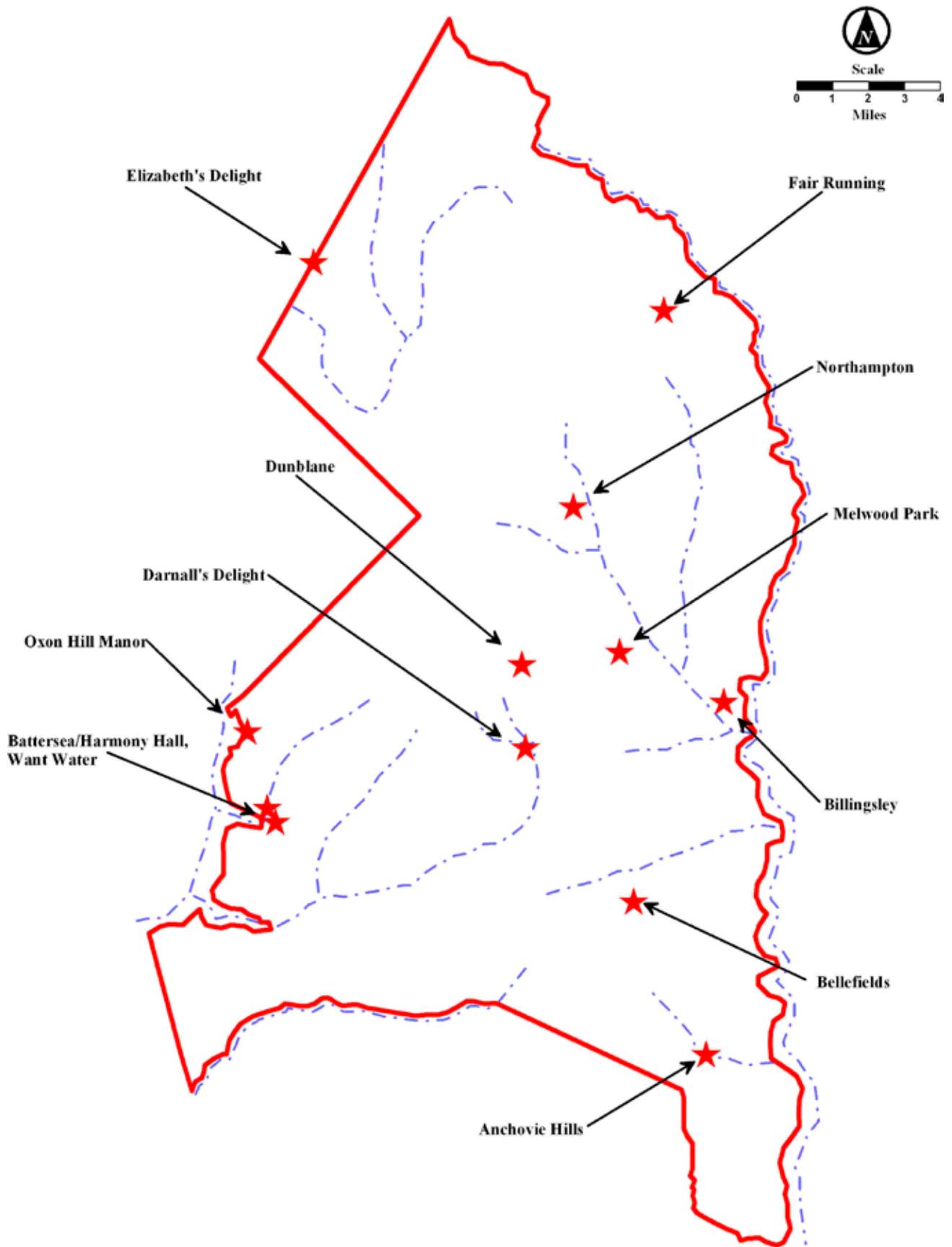
A total of 12 known Prince George's County plantations were constructed during the Early Period (Figure 20, also Table 8):

- Fair Running (PG:71B-15, a.k.a., Issac's Discovery)
- Northampton (PG:73-12)
- Dunblane (PG:78-10)
- Melwood Park* (PG:78-15)
- Oxon Hill Manor (PG:80-1)
- Battersea/Harmony Hall (PG:80-11)
- Want Water (PG:80-24)
- Bellefields* (PG:82A-26, a.k.a., Simm's Delight)
- Darnall's Delight (PG:82A-41, a.k.a. the Woodyard)
- Billingsley* (PG:82B-3)
- Anchovie Hills (PG:87A-17)
- Elizabeth's Delight (M:37-5)

* Denotes all or portion of original, Early Period structure remains standing

A gas explosion in 1969 destroyed Dunblane. The original 1710 Oxon Hill Manor house burned in 1895; the current Oxon Hill manor house was constructed in 1929. The house at Darnall's Delight, which dates to the late nineteenth century, was found to be in dilapidated condition as of 1982; currently Darnall's Delight exists only as an archeological site. The plantation house at Elizabeth's Delight is located within Montgomery County although the landholdings extend into Prince George's County.

The remains of the late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth centuries Want Water and Northampton plantation houses exist only as archeological sites. The remains of two suspected slave quarters located on the Northampton site date to the early or middle part of the nineteenth century (see section "Slave Quarters"). Fair Running has been extensively altered. Finally, although popularly believed to date to 1723, the house at Harmony Hall likely dates to the middle or late eighteenth century based on recent historic research (Sonderman et al. 1993:11-13). Nonetheless, archeological excavation identified early-eighteenth-century and possible late-seventeenth-century deposits suggestive of plantation operations during the Early Period.



Source: Ottery Group from MIHP Forms

Figure 20: Location of Early Period Plantations in Prince George's County

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:61-013	Gallant House	Owen Carroll (circa 1835–1869)	National	Medium	None	3124 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi	MIHP Form
PG:62-003	Oaklands	Richard Snowden (1798–1823), Ann Louisa Snowden and Lt. John Contee (1823–1840), children of Ann Louisa Snowden and John Contee (1840–1878)	National	Large	5 outbuildings (all postbellum)	8314 Contee Road, Laurel	MIHP Form; AAHA 2003, 2004a, and 2004b
PG:62-004	Snow Hill	Samuel Snowden, Jr (1800–1823), Sarah Snowden (1823–1865)	National	Large	Log smokehouse circa 1800	13209 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel	MIHP Form
PG:62-006	Montpelier	Thomas Snowden (1750–1770), Major Snowden (1770–1803), Nicholas Snowden (1803–1835), Maria Snowden and Theodore Jenkins (1835–1866)	Colonial	Large, Medium	18th century summerhouse, 18th century gazebo, 20th century outbuilding	9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel	MIHP Form
PG:62-013	Walnut Grange	John Carlyle Herbert (1805–1846), Mary Snowden Herbert (1846–1857), Richard Duckett Hall (1859–1863)	National	Medium	None	6300 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville	MIHP Form
PG:64-001	Snowden/Snowden Hall	Rezin H. Snowden (1829–1857), John Snowden (1857–1872)	National	Large	Ice house, smoke house, carriage house, slave quarters (unsure if still standing—provided by informant)	Patuxent Research Center, Bldg. 016, Laurel Bowie Road, Laurel	MIHP Form
PG:65-008	Green Hill/Chillum Castle Manor	William Dudley Digges (?–1831), Nora Digges (1831–1863)	National	Medium	None	2009 Van Buren Street, West Hyattsville	MIHP Form
PG:66-001	White House Tavern/Brown's Tavern	John Brown (1834–postbellum)	National	Large	None	10260 Baltimore Avenue, College Park	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:66-005	Deakins Hall	Leonard Deakins (1746-1824.), William Francis Deakins (1824 - postbellum)	National	Small	Adjacent cemetery	6404 Queen's Chapel Road, University Park	MIHP Form
PG:67-005	Sportland/Yarrow	James Edmonston (1768-1793), Ruth Edmonston/Nathan Edmonston (1793-1820), Benjamin and Richard Welch and heirs (1820-1850s), Ethan Allen Jones (1850-postbellum)	Colonial	Large	None	5933 Natasha Road, Berwyn Heights	MIHP Form
PG:68-001	Ash Hill/Hitching Post Hill	Robert Clark (circa 1840)	National	Large	None	3308 Rosemary Lane, Hyattsville	MIHP Form
PG:68-005	Riversdale	Henri Joseph Stier (1801-1803), George Calvert and descendants (1803-1887)	National	Large	Brick dependency	4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park	MIHP Form, Callcott 1991, Riversdale Park 1997, archeology reports
PG:69-011	Mount Hope	Fielder Magruder, Jr. (1839-postbellum)	National	Medium to Large	Possible circa 1800 structure. Spring (PG:69-13)	1 Cheverly Circle, Cheverly	MIHP Form
PG:70-017	W.T. Duvall House (Buena Vista)	William T. Duvall (1856-postbellum)	National	Small	No outbuildings	4811 Glenn Dale Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:70-020	Marietta	Gabriel Duvall (1812-1844), Marcus Duvall (1844-postbellum)	National	Large, Medium	2 early 19th century outbuildings	5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale	MIHP Form, letters describing outbuildings and slave quarters
PG:70-022	Marcus Duvall House and Cemetery/Wigwam Farm	Marcus Duvall (b. 1824-postbellum)	National	Medium	None	South of 11900 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale	MIHP Form
PG:70-025	Prospect Hill	George W. Duvall (1820-postbellum)	National	Small, Medium, Large	Barn, ice house, tenant house, smokehouse, overseers house	11501 Old Prospect Hill Road, Glenn Dale	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:71A-011	Willow Grove	John Bowie, Sr. (1705–1759), Capt. William Bowie (1759–1791), Walter Bowie, Sr. (1791–1810), Walter Bowie Jr. (1810–1839), Richard W.W. Bowie (1859–postbellum)	National	Large	Bowie cemetery (moved), including brick-lined crypts, tobacco barn	MD 450 (opposite Holy Trinity Church), Bowie	MIHP Form; Gill 2006; RCG&A 1997
PG:71A-013	Fairview	Baruch Duckett (1800–1810), William Bowie (1810–1826), William Duckett Bowie (1826–postbellum)	National	Large	Barn, milkhouse (circa 1800), Slave quarters, cemetery	Fairwood Subdivision, 4410 Church Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form, EACA 2004
PG:71A-014	Bowie – Arnold House (Darmall's Grove earlier)	Anne M. Bowie (widow of William Bowie) remarried Charles Worthington (1832–post-bellum)	National	Unknown	Bank Barn, Icehouse	4311 Church Road, Bowie	MIHP Form, 1798 Direct Tax
PG:71B-003	Williams Plains	John Johnson (1770–1824), Basil Duckett Mullikin (1829–postbellum)	National	Large	None	16200 Whitemarsh Park Drive, Bowie	MIHP Form
PG:71B-004	Belair	Samuel Ogle (1737–1752), Benjamin Tasker Sr. & Jr. (1753–1770), Benjamin Ogle (1770–1809), Benjamin Ogle II (1809–1844), George C. Ogle (1844–1871)	Colonial	Large	2 story brick building used as office/kitchen (circa 1748), barn, cider mill, and milk house (all circa 1757)	12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie	MIHP Form
PG:71B-015	Fair Running/ Isaac's Discovery	Joseph Peach (1727–1764), John Peach (1764–circa 1766), Joseph Peach, II (circa 1766–1775), Joseph Peach, III (1775–1814), Barton Duvall (1814–?), Philip and Mary Ann Duvall (?–1850), Richard and Truman Cross for Elizabeth Page (1850–postbellum)	Early, Colonial, National	Unknown	5 outbuildings (1798): kitchen, negro house, meathouse, corn house, stable	7704 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:71B-016	Melford	Allen Bowie Duckett and Richard Duckett (most of 19th century)	National	Large	Barn, meathouse, office (19th century), slave quarters (circa 1850, unconfirmed)	17107 Melford Boulevard, Bowie	MIHP Form; Hoffman, et al. 2007; The Ottery Group 2005
PG:72-002	Beall's Pleasure	Thomas Ewell (1813-circa 1814), John and William Thomas (circa 1814-1835), Levi Sherriff (1835-1856), George Beall Sherriff, Lemuel Levi Sherriff, Jr., and Dionysius T. Sherriff (1856-1866)	National	Medium	Several 20th century outbuildings	7460 Landover Road, Landover	MIHP Form
PG:72-004	Waring's Grove	Thomas Waring (1756-1796), Zachariah Berry (1796-1820), Zachariah Berry II (1820-1859), Zachariah Berry III (1859-1870)	National	Large	Ice house and smoke house (no longer standing), several 20th century outbuildings	900 Brightseat Road, Landover	MIHP Form; Gibb 2004; JMA 2004
PG:72-010	Van Horn-Mitchell House	Archibald Van Horn (1803-1817), Walter T.G. Beall (1817-1842), James Fowler (1842-1893)	National	Medium	None	4706 Mann Street, Fairmount Heights	MIHP Form
PG:73-002	Three Sisters	Hilleary Family [+Turner and Williams] (1683-18??), Nimian Willett (18??-1826), heirs of Ninian (1826-1835), John Beale Magruder (1835-postbellum)	Colonial	Large	None	10408 Cleary Lane, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:73-005	Belvidere	Belt Brashears (17??-1815), George W. Duvall [Prospect Hill] (1815-??), George W. Duvall II (1856-postbellum)	National	Unknown		11401 Belvidere Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:73-006	Warington - Barn	Marsham Waring (??? - 1860)	National	Large	Tobacco barn	2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:73-007	The Cottage at Warington	Washington Hilleary (1842-1860), Mary Virginia Mackubin (1860-postbellum)	National	Small	None	3102 Lottsford Vista Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:73-009	Rose Mount	Joseph Kent Roberts (1840 - 1883)	National	Large	Tenant house, barns, cemetery	9600 Landover Road, Landover	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:73-012	Northampton	Strigg family (early 18th century-postbellum)	Early/Colonial/National	Large	2 slave quarters (National Period)	10900 Block Lake Arbor Way, Landover	MIHP Form; MAAR 1988
PG:73-016	Mount Lubentia	Dennis Magruder (1779-1832), Dennis Magruder Jr. (1832-1835), Dewit Kent (1835-1839), Otho Berry Beall (1839-1840), Washington J. Beall (1840-mid 1850s), William John Bowie (mid-1850s-1886)	National	Large	Corncrib (pre-1895), stable (19th century), dairy (18th century)	603 Largo Road, Largo	MIHP Form
PG:73-018	Chelsea	Humphery Belt (1761-1798), Zacharia Berry (1798-1866) [absentee, tenant]	National			601 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:74A-006	Pleasant Prospect	Isaac Duckett (1788-1823), Lt. John Contee (1823-1839), Captain John Contee (1839-1863)	National	Medium to Large	Smokehouse, corncrib, brick stable (dates unconfirmed)	12806 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form; Kreisa et al. 2007; URS 2004
PG:74A-007	Bermondsey	Charles Clement Hill	National	Large		2202 Bermondsey Drive, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:74A-010	Mullikin's Delight	James Mullikin and descendants from late 17th century through 1880s	National	Large		2307 Church Road, Mitchellville	MIHP Form
PG:74A-015	Partnership	Benjamin Hall (late 18th century-1803), Henry Lowe Hall (1803-1817), Benjamin Hall Clark (1817-1844), Thomas E. Berry (1844-1878)	Colonial	Large		13710 Central Avenue, Largo	MIHP Form
PG:74A-018	Bowieville	Mary Mackall Bowie Wootton Bowie (1818-1825), William J. Berry (1825-1840s), descendants of William J. Berry through 20th century	National	Medium, Large	Tobacco barn, farm outbuildings (first half of 19th century)	522 Church Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form, updated National Register Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:74B-013	Hazelwood	Thomas Lancaster (1747-1772), Isaac Lansdale (1772-1777), Thomas Lancaster Lansdale (1777-1803), Corneleia Lansdale (widow) 1803-1823, William Turner Wootton (1823-1824), Joseph Cowman (1824-1848), Henrietta Cowman/Dr. Archibald George (Husband) (1848-1860), Samuel K. George (1860-postbellum)	Colonial/ National	Medium	Meathouse, privy,	18611 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:74B-014	Goodwood	George Calvert (1799-1830s), Charles H. Carter (1830s-?), remained in Carter family	National	Large	No outbuildings	17200 Clagett Landing Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:74B-015	Cool Spring Manor	William Digges Claggett (1830-postbellum)	National	Large	Cemetery, brick well, African-American cemetery, possible tenant house	17610 Clagett Landing Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; RCG&A 2003
PG:75A-001	Concord	Zachariah Berry Sr. (1790s-1845), Zachariah Berry Jr. (1845-1859), Thomas Berry (1859-1880s)	National	Large	5 outbuildings (20th century), several older outbuildings	8000 Walker Mill Rd, District Heights	MIHP Form
PG:76A-013	Mount Welby	Nicolas Lingan (1797-1811) Dr. Samuel DeButts (1811-1843), Isaac George of Fairfax. Probably used as investment land w/tenants (1843-1853), Joseph H. Bowling (1853-1863), George Mattingly (1863-postbellum)	National	Medium	Hexagonal outbuilding, root cellar structure, brick stable, several postbellum	6411 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Oxon Cove Park	MIHP Form
PG:76B-007	Kildare	George S. Tolson (?-1853), Dr. Peter Heiskell (1853-1893)	National	Medium	All 20th century	2505 Brinkley Road, Fort Washington	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:76B-009	Hart Park Sheriff/Meirose/Mattingly House	Anne Talbott (1830s-1853), Alfred Thomas Sheriff (1853-postbellum)	National	Small		1011 Lindsay Road, Oxon Hill	MIHP Form
PG:78-005a	Cleremont/Dr. Richard W. Bowie House	Dr. Richard W. Bowie (1850 - 1859) then to widow, possibly Margaret (nee Somervell)	National	Medium to Large		3808 Ritchie-Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:78-010	Dunblane	John Magruder (1723-1750), descendants of John Magruder	Early	Large	Cemetery	10009 Westphalia Road, Westphalia	MIHP Form
PG:78-014a	Keokuk	Eleanor Berry (1826 - 1835), Otho Beall (1838 - 1853), William Z., Washington J., and Zacharia Beall (1853-1854), William Z. Beall (1854-1858), Washington J. Beall (1859-postbellum) pos. in trust w/ tenants	National	Unknown	Frame slave quarters, tobacco barns, 20th c. sheds	4101 Ritchie-Marlboro, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form, Barrett 2005
PG:78-015	Melwood Park	William Digges (1729-1740), Ignatius Digges (1740-1825), William Pumphrey (1825-1870)	Early	Small, Medium, Large		10908 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; Gibb 2005a
PG:78-017	Backland	Rector Pumphrey (1840s-postbellum)	National	Large	None	11700 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:78-018	The Cottage	Charles Claggett (1840s-1894)	National	Medium, Large	Wellhouse, ice house, meat house (contemporary to mansion), tenant farm house and agricultural outbuildings (early 20th century)	11904 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:79-001	Bowie-Johnson House (Thorpland)	Sarah Maria Bowie (circa 1854) (mid-1850s-postbellum)	National	Small	None	14501 Town Farm Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:79-002	Montpelier of Moore's Plains	Stephen Belt (1850-postbellum)	National	Medium	20th century	1714 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:79-004	Mount Pleasant	John Waring (1750-1813), Henry Waring (1813-?), descendants of Waring until late 1800's	Colonial	Large		3403 Mount Pleasant Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:79-006	Bleak Hill	Richard S. Hill (1853 - post-bellum)	National	Large	A slave quarter was nearby to southwest and at lower elevation may have predated house. 20th century tenant, two 20th century barns, one 19th century barn	4105 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; Sperling, et al. 2006b; Hoffman et al. 2005b, 2005c
PG:79-010	Compton Bassett	Clement Hill Jr. (1700-1743), descendants of Clement Hill Jr. through the 1960s	Colonial	Large	Chapel, meathouse, dairy (early 19th century), farm outbuildings, tobacco barn (early 20th century)	16508 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:79-013	Kingston	David Craufurd (1728-1749), David Craufurd II (1749-1801), Col. David Craufurd III (1801-1859), Dr. Frederick Sasser (1859-postbellum)	Colonial	Large	None	5414 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form, Gibb 2005b; Hannold 1985, Pearl 2007
PG:79-028	Darnall's Chance	James Wardrop (1741-1799), John Hodges of Thomas (1799-1833), Horatio Scott (1833-1857), Edward Grafton W. Hall (1857-1887)	Colonial	Large	Several 18th century outbuildings (no longer standing), remains of small barns and sheds, cemetery	14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive (just east of Schoolhouse Pond), Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:79-031	Nihil	George Graham (1840s-postbellum)	National	Large	Tenant house, tobacco barn	13100 Dille Drive, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:79-034	Oakland/Cream and Butter	Samuel Harper (?-1841), Thomas William Claggett (1841-1851), Robert A. Claggett (1851-postbellum)	National	Large	None	12502 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:79-038	Pentland Hills	John Hodges of Darnall's Chance (1820-1830s), Benjamin Hodges (1830s-postbellum)	National	Medium		15400 Danchower Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; Hoffman, et al. 2006a; MAAR 1998; RCG&A 1999 and 2007; Ricard and Williams 2007
PG:79-057	Woodlawn	Washington Jeremiah Beall (1852-postbellum)	National	Large	All 20th century	1133 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:80-001	Oxon Hill Manor	Thomas Addison (1710-1774), Thomas Hanson (1774-1783), Reverend Walter Dulaney Addison (1783-1810), Zachariah Berry (1810-1845), Thomas E. Berry (1845-postbellum)	Early (original house)	Large	Cemetery -House destroyed	Oxon Hill	MIHP Form
PG:80-002	Salubria	Dr. John H. Bayne (1827-1870)	National	Small, Medium	Wellhouse, pump house, possible slave quarters	6900 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill	MIHP Form, RCG&A 2004; Sperling and Paynter 2006
PG:80-005	Admiralthoria/Notley Hall	Rozier Family (circa 1790-postbellum)	National	Large, Small	Kitchen and pos. smokehouse to north in photographs	8425 Fort Foote Road, Fort Washington	MIHP Form
PG:80-011	Battersea/Harmony Hall	William Tyler (1723-1769), Enoch Magruder (1769-1786), descendants of Enoch Magruder until 1850s	Early	Large	8 outbuildings (early 20th century)	10511 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill	MIHP Form; Sonderman et al. 1993
PG:80-024	Want Water	Thomas Addison (1710-1723), John Addison (1723-circa 1769), Enoch Magruder (circa 1769-1786), Sarah Magruder/Lyles family (1786-postbellum)	Early	Large	None	10511 Livingston Road, Broad Creek Fort Washington	MIHP Form
PG:81A-001	Poplar Hill/His Lordship's Kindness	Robert Darnall (1773-1803), passed through Darnall's nieces and nephew's families (Sewalls and Dangerfields) until 1930	Colonial	Large	Privy, smokehouse, wash house, slave hospital (contemporary to house)	7606 Woodyard Road, Clinton	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:81A-003	Marshall-Walters House/Bellfonte Mill Lot	Richard H. and William H. Marshall (1851–postbellum)	National	Large	None	7821 Woodyard Road, Clinton	MIHP Form
PG:81B-001	Bellevue	Anne Magruder Lowe (1788–1798), Lloyd M. Lowe (1798–1851), John F.M. Lowe (1851–1856), James M. Steed and descendants (1856–1960s)	National	Unknown	Early agricultural outbuildings–House destroyed	3301 Steed Road, Fort Washington	MIHP Form, updated history 2003
PG:81B-004	Wyoming	Luke Marbury (1734–1758), Luke Marbury II (1758–1809), William Luke Marbury (1809–1836), Marbury descendants until 1873	Colonial/ National	Large	Early agricultural and animal husbandry outbuildings, garage, tool shed (late 19th–early 20th century)	11530 Thrift Road, Clinton	MIHP Form; Kreisa and McDowell 2007
PG:82A-002	Pleasant Hills	William Sasscer (1807–1820), Zaddock Sasscer (1820–1863?)	National	Large, Medium	Smokehouse (mid–19th century), granary and 2 tenant houses (late 19th century), stable (20th century)	7001 Croom Station Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:82A-007	Weston	Thomas Claggett V (1750–1790), Thomas Claggett VI (1791–1873)	National	Large	Smokehouse (contemporary to house), barns and outbuildings (20th century), cemetery	6601 Old Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; Hoffman, et al. 2005b
PG:82A-009	Sasscer's Green	Thomas Sasscer (1818–1860s)	National	Medium	Gate house, storage barn	7108 SE Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; Sperling, et al. 2006
PG:82A-010	Greenland/Duvall House	Duvall	National	Unknown	Cemetery	South Osborne Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:82A-013	Woodstock	Washington Custis Calvert (1850s), James Beall Belt (1860–1882)	National		Remnants of 2 older outbuildings, smoke house (20th century)	8706 SE Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:82A-016	Mount Airy (Dower House)	Benedict Calvert (1749-1780), remained in Calvert family until 1903	Colonial	Large	19th century barn, several early 20th century outbuildings	8716 Rosaryville Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:82A-026	Bellefields (Sims Delight)	Patrick Sim and Colonel Joseph Sim (1718-1793), Benjamin Oden (1794-1826), William Bowie (1826-1891)	Early	Large		13104, north side of Duley Station Road, Croom	MIHP Form
PG:82A-038	Solitude	Levi Osborn (1840-1861), Sarah Ann Osborn (1861-1875)	National	Large	All 20th century	6705 South Osborne Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:82A-039	Mount Clare/Charles Branch	Richard Oden Mullikin (mid-1850's-postbellum)	National	Large	None	6606 Woodyard Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:82A-041	Darnall's Delight/The Woodyard	Colonel Henry Darnall and descendants (1683-1730), William Black (1730-1739), Captain Richard Williams (1739-1752), Hannah and Stephen West (1752-1790), Richard West and descendants (1790-1865)	Early	Large	None-House destroyed	Woodyard Road at Rosaryville Road, Woodyard	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:82B-003	Billingsley	Col. Thomas Holiday (1687-1703), James Holiday (1703?-1740), James Weems (1740-1755), William Lock Weems (1755-1783), Nathaniel C. Weems (1783-1810), Violetta Weems (widow of Nathaniel) (1810-circa1830), John and Mary Mulliken (nee Weems) (circa 1830-1841) [likely used as investment, couple lived at Mount Oak], Benjamin Hodges (1841-1855) [occupied by his daughter Mary who married Richard K. Osborn. Mary died in 1847, Osborn remained and remarried in 1851, B. Hodges legally transferred in 1855], Dr. Richard K Osborn resident 1846-1855, owner 1855-1866	Early, Colonial, National	Large	Meat house, milkhouse, stable, 5 slave quarters, 1 log overseers house, 5 tobacco barns	6900 Green Landing Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form
PG:82B-004	Mount Calvert	John Brown (1790s-1809), William Bradley Beanes (1809-1835), Captain John Brookes (1835-1858), Judge Samuel H. Berry (1858-1870s)	National	Large	Evidence of possible slave quarters identified in archeological survey	16800 Mount Calvert Road, Upper Marlboro	MIHP Form; M-NCPPC 1999
PG:82B-009	Waverly	John W. Burroughs (1855-postbellum)	National	Large	Tobacco barn, stripping house to north; wash/wood house, meat/meal house to west; shed, cornerrib, stable further west. All w/ in 7 acres	8901 Duvall Road, Croom	MIHP Form
PG:84-001	St. James Hill	Dr. Benedict J. Semmes (1834-1863)	National	Medium	Originally detached kitchen, smokehouse	14200 Livingston Road, Piscataway	MIHP Form
PG:84-006	Edelen House/Bailey Plantation	Dr. Horace Edelin (1830-postbellum)	National	Large, Medium		2401 Floral Park Road, Piscataway	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:84-020	Belleve (Marshall House)	Robert Augustus Beall (1803-1809), Josias Beall (1809-1816), James Alexander Beall (1816-1823), Thomas Marshall (1823-1839), John H. Hardisty (1839-1868)	National	Large	None	200 Manning Road East, Accokeek	MIHP Form
PG:85A-013	Gwynn Park	William H. Gwynn (1857-1889)	National	Large	Meat house, small barn, corncrib, (all older), modern barn	7911 & 9110 Dyson Road, Brandywine	MIHP Form
PG:85A-022	Pheasant's Thicket	Benjamin Robinson (1791-1819), Alexander and William Robinson (1819-1833), Zadock Robinson (1833-1864)	National	Medium to Large	None	Crain Highway, Brandywine Vicinity	MIHP Form, Shellenhamer, et al. 2006
PG:85A-023	John N. Walls/F. A. Rowe House	John T. Boswell (1840s-18??), Joanna Walls (nee Boswell) and John N. Walls (18??-1859), F.A. Rowe (1859-postbellum)	National	Unknown	None	16201 Mckendree Road, Brandywine	MIHP Form
PG:86A-004	Brookewood	Benjamin H. Eversfield (circa 1858-postbellum)	National	Medium	Meathouse or corncrib plus modern	12807 Duley Station Road, Croom	MIHP Form; Sperling, et al. 2004
PG:86A-005	West End Farm	Caleb Clark Magruder (1854-postbellum)	National	Medium-Large	None	10709 Croom Road, Croom	MIHP Form
PG:86A-015	Mattaponi	Robert William Bowie (1818-1868)	National	Large		11000 Mattaponi Road, Croom	MIHP Form
PG:86A-016	The Plantation	William Elison Peach (1855-postbellum)	National	Medium	None	16108 Nottingham Road, Nottingham	MIHP Form
PG:86A-020	Brookefield of the Berrys	John Duvall (1806-1824), Robert Bowie (1824-1840), John Thomas Berry (1840-1884)	National	Large	Surrounded by later outbuildings, possible slave quarters	12510 Molly Berry Road, Croom	MIHP Form, The Ottery Group 2005; G&O 2004 and 2005
PG:86A-022	Mackall House	Benjamin Mackall Jr. (1759-1830), Louis Mackall (1839-1876)	National	Large	None	12712 North Keys Road, Brandywine	MIHP Form
PG:86B-002	Rosemont	Benjamin Skinner (1831-1882)	National	Medium	Large garage (date not mentioned)	13201 Martin Road, Brandywine	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:86B-004	Mansfield	Dr. John Henry Skinner (1843-1883)	National	Large	Barn dating to 1840s, cemetery dating to 1845	13610 Croom Road, Nottingham	MIHP Form
PG:86B-006	Turner House	Martha E. Skinner (circa 1803-1819), Elisha Skinner (1819-1846), John Henry Skinner (1846-postbellum)	National	Large	Burial vault	15905 Tanyard Road, Nottingham	MIHP Form
PG:86B-007	Margaret/T. Baden House	Thomas and Margaret Baden (post-1828-postbellum)	National	Medium	None	14904 Croom Road, Nottingham	MIHP Form
PG:86B-008	Waring House/R. Hyde House	John Henry Waring (1861-post-bellum)	National	Large	Barn, shed	16400 River Airport Road, Brandywine	MIHP Form
PG:86B-010	Black Walnut Thicket/Brooke-Baden House	Robert W.G. Baden (1856-postbellum)	National	Medium	None	15508 Letcher Road East, Brandywine	MIHP Form
PG:87A-009	Connick's Folly	Clement R. Connick (1857-postbellum)	National	Medium, Large	Cemetery	18803 Aquasco Road, Aquasco	MIHP Form
PG:87A-011	Green Hill	George W. Marriott (1830-1864), Joseph Davis (1864-1879)	National	Large	Barn (19th century)	19404 Aquasco Rd., Aquasco	MIHP Form
PG:87A-017	Anchovie Hills	Alexander Magruder (circa 1700-Unknown), Alexander Magruder III (Unknown-1779), Turner Family (Dates Unknown)	Early, circa 1700	Unknown	Tobacco barns, meat house, Turner family and slave cemetery	MD 382 at Croom Road, Brandywine	MIHP Form; HABS documentation (1937)
PG:87A-018	Black Swamp	James J. Rawlings (circa 1850-postbellum)	National	Medium	Historic and modern barns. 1860 census records 3 slave houses	16815 Milltown Landing Road, Aquasco	MIHP Form

Table 8: Known Prince George's County Plantations (cont'd)

MIHP ID	Plantation Name	Ownership	Construction Period	Slaveholding Class	Outbuildings	Address/Location	Reference
PG:87B-001	Spring Hill	John Sommerville (1820-1827), James Sommerville Jr. (1827-18??), William Worthington (18??-postbellum)	National	Unknown	None	16421 Aquasco Road, Aquasco	MIHP Form
PG:87B-002	Sommerville-Turner Farm/Greenwood	Thomas T. Sommerville (early 1800s-1863)	National	Large	Meathouse, shed, stable	21110 Aquasco Road, Aquasco	MIHP Form
M:37-005	Elizabeth's Delight	William and Elizabeth Diggs (1688-??), Henry C. Pearce (??-1865)	Early			1006 Ruatan Drive, Silver Spring	MIHP Form

Many of the former outbuildings at Harmony Hall (also referred to as Battersea or Battersee) have been found archeologically and include evidence of the pre-circa 1723 occupations. Limited archeological evidence (Sonderman et al. 1993) suggests that these original structures may have been reflective of a prevalent, late-seventeenth-century (post-medieval) architectural style consisting of a post-in-ground structure with a wattle and daub chimney and steeply-pitched roof (Table 9). Reconstructed examples of this construction style are on display at Historic St. Mary’s City (Figure 21).

Table 9: Dominant Plantation House Architectural Styles (Based on McAlester and McAlester 2005)		
Style	Peak Date Range	Defining Characteristics
Post-Medieval	1600–1700	Prominent chimney, steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical, over-hanging second story
Tidewater	1650–1850	Frame structure, linear plan, hall-and-parlor, one-room deep
Georgian	1700–1800	Strict symmetry. Centered paneled front door under decorative crown, decorative pilasters, decorative moldings, double-hung sashes with small panes, brick or stone masonry construction
Federal	1780–1820	Strict symmetry. Semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over front door, decorative cornice (often with tooth-like dentils), side projections
Classical Revival	1770–1830	Dominant portico supported by columns, two-story central portion with one-story wings
Greek Revival	1835–1860	Low-pitched gabled or hipped roof, trim-emphasized main and porch roof lines, roofed porch entries supported by prominent columns (typically Doric)
Italianate	1840–1885	Two or three-story, low-pitched roof, widely overhanging eaves, tall and narrow windows, often with squared cupola or tower

Both manor houses at Bellefields and Melwood Park are constructed of brick in the early Georgian style while the manor house at Dunblane represents an anomaly. This house was an example of log construction with a stucco exterior (Figure 22). The high-pitched roof and general form of the building are considered to reflect a common Tidewater style. Although Bellefields and Melwood Park remain standing, Dunblane was destroyed during a gas fire in 1969. Want Water was architecturally distinct as a gambrel-roofed building with brick masonry gable ends. Billingsley stands as a one-and-one-half story Tidewater plantation house.

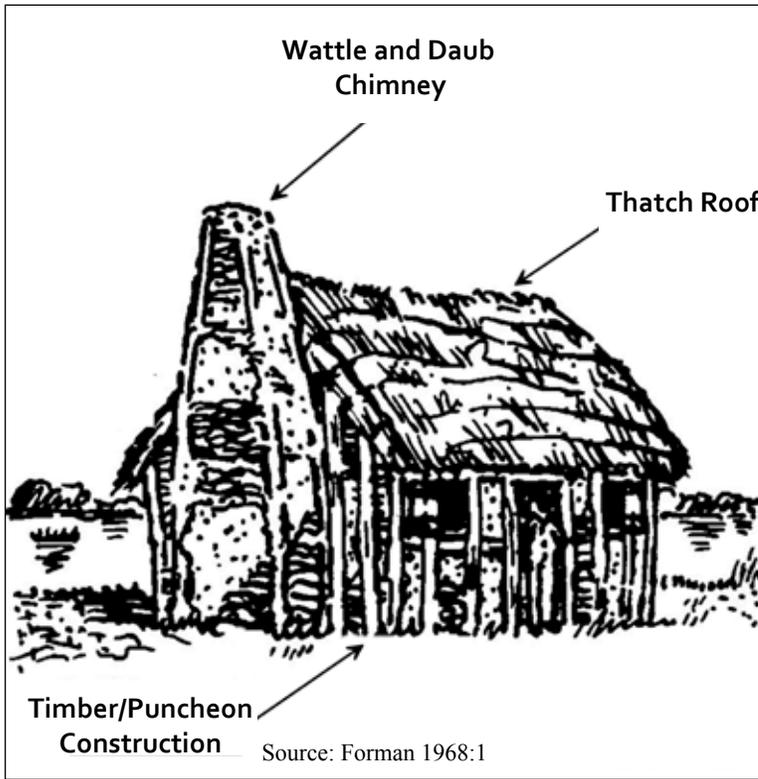


Figure 21: Sketch of Typical Seventeenth-Century Domestic Structure in Maryland



Source: MHIP Form, PG: 78-10

Figure 22: Dunblane, Early Period Log Construction with Stucco Exterior

Although the current house at Oxon Hill Manor was built in the late 1920s, Thomas Addison constructed the first-known structure on the property around 1711. The original manor house overlooked the Potomac River, near its confluence with the Anacostia River. The house survived until it was destroyed by a fire in 1895. Several archeological excavations have occurred on Oxon Hill Manor, mainly focusing on areas in and around the manor house as well as in areas of proposed development. These excavations have identified hundreds of features, yielding hundreds of thousands of artifacts. Identified features include two wells and the original manor house foundation.

Slave Quarters

No examples of Early Period standing slave quarters are known to exist in Prince George’s County. Because of this, an understanding of Early Period slave quarter construction, spatial associations, use, and other aspects is dependent entirely upon archeological and historical research utilizing primary sources, such as probate inventories.

The archeological site record in the county is somewhat sparse regarding domestic lives of slaves during the Early Period. Table 10 presents a list of archeological sites in the county that are recorded as having unspecified association with slaves and/or slavery. It should be noted that most of these sites have not been thoroughly examined or researched to assess their potential to yield important archeological information on the nature of slavery and plantation operations.

Site ID	Plantation	Reference
18PR006	Mount Calvert	MHT Site Form; Falkenburg 1999; Lucas 2004; M-NCPPC 1999; Toscano 2006
18PR136	The Woodyard/ Darnall’s Delight	MHT Site Form
18PR175	Oxon Hill Farm/ Addison House	MHT Site Form; Barse 1992; Dent, et al. 1983; Garrow and Wheaton 1986; Hurry 1984; Hurry and Kavanagh 1985; McCarthy et al. 1989; McCarthy et al. 1991
18PR305	Harmony Hall/ Battersea	MHT Site Form; Sonderman et al. 1993
18PR320	Northampton	MHT Site Form
18PR470	Unknown, possibly part of Harmony Hall/ Battersea or Want Water	MHT Site Form; G&O n.d.; RCG&A 1995
18PR703	Garrett’s Chance*	Gibb 2004
*Garrett’s Chance does not appear on the list of known plantations because no plantation house had been inventoried; remnants of this plantation are only known archeologically.		

Current research suggests that small slaveholders of the Early Period, in particular for the beginning of this period, consisted of a planter and his family, who were assisted by a small number of white indentured servants and possibly some African slaves. Under these circumstances, and considering the frontier character of Prince George's County at that time, servants and slaves likely either cohabitated with their masters or utilized outbuildings such as tobacco barns (Morgan 1975:327); however, examples within the historical record neither corroborate nor refute the notion of cohabitation or the use of outbuildings for housing bound labor.

Harmony Hall (See Plantation Analysis chapter, Plantation Architecture) is one of the few archeologically investigated sites dating to this period. Archeological investigations conducted by the National Park Service in 1985 identified features dating to the late-seventeenth through early-eighteenth centuries (Sonderman et al. 1993). These features, interpreted as a brick clamp (small kiln), borrow pit, house structure, dependency structure, and refuse pit, are attributed to the 1692–1709 Lewis family (Thomas and son, Richard). However, a review of the artifact inventory of these features opens the possibility that they originated during the later occupation by William Tyler from 1709 to 1721.¹ Whereas there is no evidence in documentary records that the Lewises held slaves, William Tyler's inventory listed two slaves, a man and a woman, as well as two indentured male European servants. Should the archeological deposits relate to the 1709–1721 Tyler occupation, they may represent some of the only direct archeological data relevant to slave life in Early Period Prince George's County.

The combination of utilizing white indentured servants and black slaves represents a common aspect of Early Period plantation labor forces (Berlin 1998:26). The evidence for social interactions between slaves and servants is well documented in both the primary and secondary record (Morgan 1975:327; Berlin 1998:45; also see Prince George's Inventories Liber BB1; MD Arch. CCII:130, 549). Although their respective living arrangements are not widely discussed, there is a presumption that slaves and servants shared domestic space, often with their masters. The Harmony Hall investigations may reflect this situation. The layout of the archeological remains of former structures at Harmony Hall is suggestive of a close spatial relationship between architecture and daily life.

Thomas Holliday's 1703 inventory indicates that his particular labor arrangement included relatively small groups of slaves dispersed across several non-contiguous parcels. The inventory places 4 of his 18 slaves at "The Quarter called Hollyday's Choice" and another four "At the Plantation called Truman Hills." According to the original land grants map (Hienton 1972), Holliday's

1 Sonderman (et al. 1993:74-76) indicates that excavated features contained diagnostically eighteenth-century ceramics; tobacco pipe stem bore analysis yielded a circa 1720 mean date. Furthermore, artifacts recovered, such as tablewares and bottles, mimic items contained in the inventory of William Tyler and not that for Thomas Lewis.

Choice is located toward the north-central portion of Prince George's County, in the vicinity of present-day Glenn Dale. The Truman's Hills land grant is in the southern part of the county, not distant from present-day Horsehead. Each parcel is separated by more than 20 miles, a considerable distance to travel during the eighteenth century.

Similarly, the inventory of Thomas Addison of Want Water (PG:80-24), an Early Period large slave holder, indicates he distributed his 77 slaves between "Carry's Quarter" (11), "Sam's Quarter" (13), "Harry's Quarter" (4), "The Mill" (1), "Barnaby Quarter" (7), "At the Store at the Landing" (5), "Swan Creek Quarter" (8), "Bachelor's Quarter" (5), and the "Great House" (23). The presence of cooking vessels and "Negro bedding" at these sites indicate that the slaves resided there on at least a temporary basis. Addison's three white indentured servants appear in the records as being associated with only the Great House, which also included black slaves. This inventory also suggests a degree of geographic dispersion between these quarters. The location of the store at the landing remains unknown, as are the locations of "Sam's Quarter," "Harry's Quarter," and "The Mill." Presumably, the Great House refers to Want Water. It is likely that "Swan Creek Quarter" refers to the Swan's Harbor parcel originally granted to John Addison, Thomas's father, in 1687 and that "Batchelor's Quarters" refers to Batchelor Harbor. These adjoining properties are located approximately one and two miles southwest of Want Water, respectively. It is possible the "Barnaby Quarter" refers to the Barnaby land grant located approximately four miles north of Want Water. By 1739, an overland road linked Aire, at the time a small town developing near Want Water, and points northward toward Barnaby.

Based on these examples it appears that some large slaveholders during the Early Period held dispersed tracts of land, or quarters, on which small groups of slaves lived and worked. The inventories often indicate that only slaves were located on distant quarters, rather than a mix of slaves with white servants.

Slave Burials

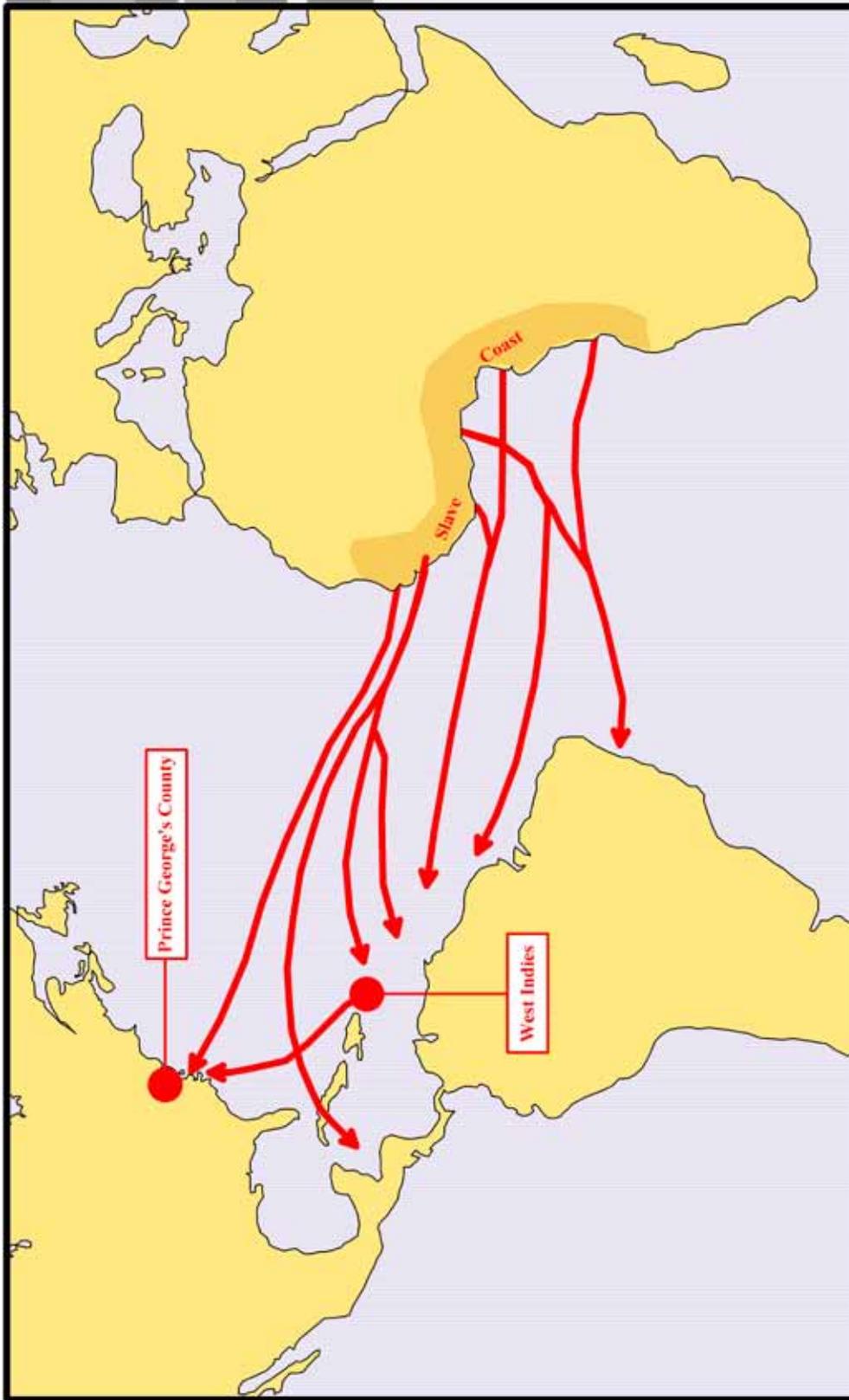
To date no slave burials dating to the Early Period have been located or excavated in Prince George's County, Maryland. Various aspects of slavery during the late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth century complicate the positive identification of slave burials. Given the close social relationship and shared working and living spaces utilized by white servants and black slaves during the Early Period (see Political Organization and Infrastructure section), it is possible that some slave burials display characteristically Christian traditions while others may involve culturally African traditions. Most archeological investigations of seventeenth- and early-eighteenth-century graves in the region recover only straight pins, evidence of the use of winding cloths, while coffin hardware occurs only rarely (Riordan 2000:2-15).

Early Period Prince George's County slaves potentially derived from diverse African cultural backgrounds. Slaves bound for the Chesapeake often originated from the Senegambia, Upper Guinea, and Congo-Angola regions of West Africa and included a variety of distinct cultures including Yoruba, Fon, Ga, Mandinke, Ibo, Bakongo, Akan, Ewe, Efik, Mende, Bongo, and Ashanti (Figure 23). Burial customs common to several of these cultures include the placement of burial goods such as "cups, saucers, bottles, pipes, and other effects were left for the spirit of the deceased; frequently these items were broken or cracked in order to free their spirits and thereby enable them to follow the deceased" (Raboteau 2004:83-85). Conversely, grave goods are rarely encountered in graves of European colonists in the Chesapeake (Riordan 2000).

Archeological excavations in the region have recovered grave goods, in particular tobacco pipes, from European interments (King 1996:40-42; Cherubin et. al 2006:8-10), a tradition more common to culturally African graves. Excavations at the Seville Plantation in St. Ann Parish, Jamaica, identified one slave burial located along the edge of a slave dwelling (Armstrong and Galle 2007). The discovery of an infant burial within the "Carpenter's Shop" at Londontown in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, suggests that this custom, considered likely Afro-Caribbean or Afro-West Indian in origin, migrated with slaves to the Middle Atlantic (Plumley and Cullen 2004).

Summary

- The size of the workforce played a significant role in the type, number, and distribution of plantation structures.
- Plantations with small slave/indenture holdings generally contained only a handful of necessary outbuildings to support agricultural production. A small plantation would, at a minimum, contain a main residence and barn. Other outbuildings might include a milk house, smokehouse, corncrib, and/or stables. Most of these structures, including the main house, consisted of temporary structures, primarily post-in-ground construction. Outbuildings would be centrally located in relatively close proximity to the main house.
- Medium-sized labor holdings would require more buildings than their smaller counterpart plantations. Unlike many small holdings, the increased number of individuals would likely require living arrangements separate from the main house. Medium-sized holdings would increase dietary demand, requiring added storage and preparation capacity.
- Several medium-sized plantations included slaves with labor specialties and possessed specialized tools. Buildings absent on smaller slave/indenture holdings but present on medium holdings might include workshops for carpentry, blacksmithing, distillation, brewing, and cobbling.
- The main houses of medium-sized plantations likely also utilized temporary, post-in-ground architecture.



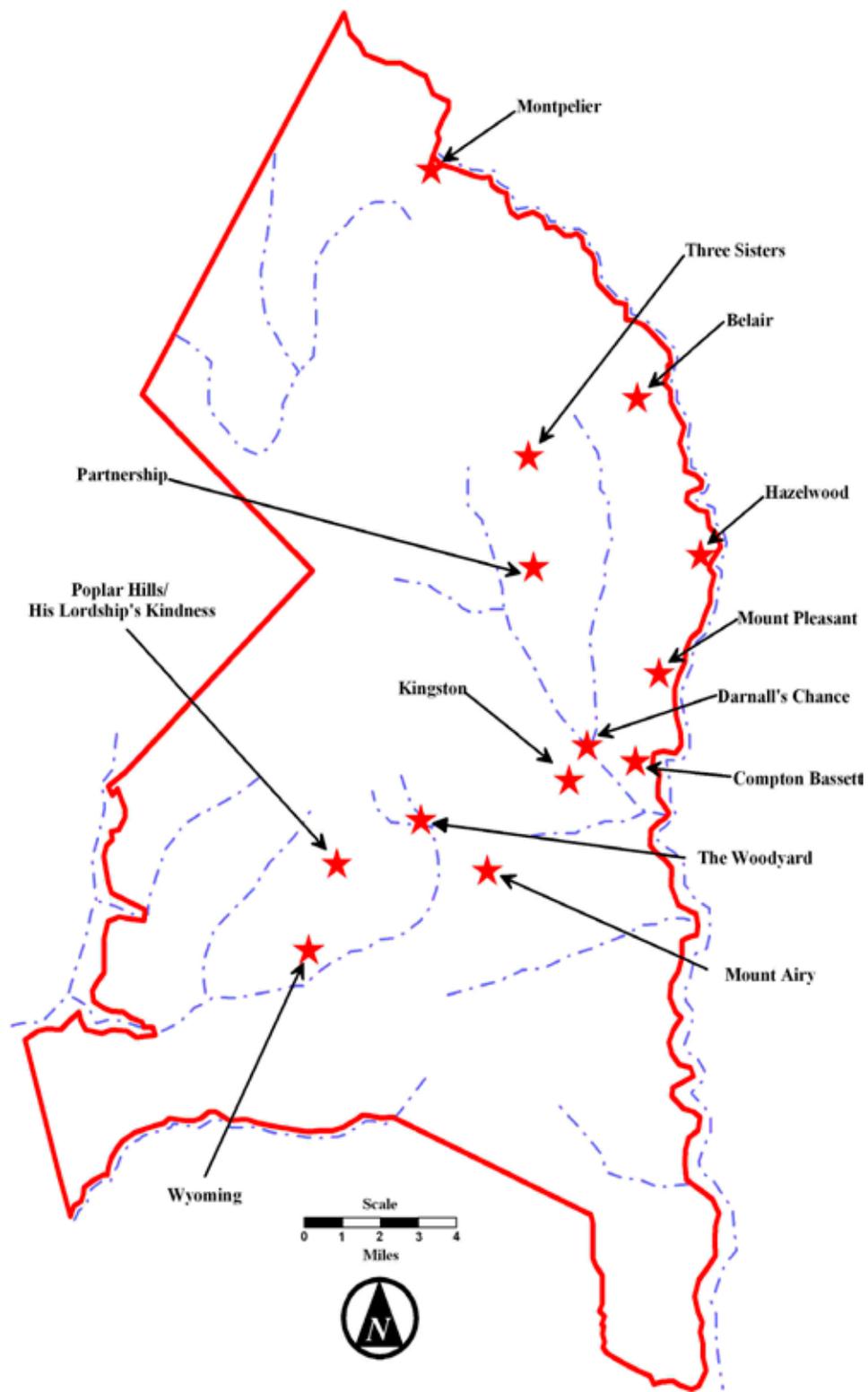
Source: Ottery Group, Adapted from Slavery in America n.d.

Figure 23: African Origins of American Slaves, 1600–1800 [adapted from Slavery in America n.d.]

- Like small-holdings, the main house for medium-sized slaveholders served as the focal point for plantation activities. However, the larger workforce increased the amount of land a planter could dedicate to agriculture and, as such, they likely required additional sheds and barns to service agricultural production in distant fields.
- The more affluent planters chose more permanent construction methods for their manor houses such as post-on-brick foundations or all brick construction.
- The possession and cultivation of noncontiguous parcels, or Quarters, with slave labor appears to be exclusive to the largest slaveholders. This strategy required the establishment of small enclaves of slaves and construction of domestic and agricultural structures. These satellite plantations, often referred to as quarters in the historical records, were not necessarily tied geographically to the manor house but could have been distributed across the then-sparsely populated county.
- Slave burials on large-sized plantations may have been in the vicinity of the main house or on one of the satellite quarters.
- The location of those few extant Early Period examples of plantation architecture, as well as historical research, indicate a geographic preference for the establishment of plantations with access to active waterways. Oxon Hill Manor, Harmony Hall, and Want Water each have direct access to the Potomac River. Northampton, Melwood Park, and Billingsley are located along the Western Branch of the Patuxent; Fair Running is located on the Horsepen Branch. Dunblane and Darnall's Delight occurred near Piscataway Creek. Given the nascent overland road system and the paucity of carts or wagons in Early Period inventories, plantations of all sizes utilized the county's riverine networks as the primary means of transportation.

Colonial Period—1731–1790

Twelve of Prince George's County's extant plantation houses were constructed during the Colonial Period (Figure 24, also see Table 8). In addition, all of the Early Period plantations remained in operation during much of the Colonial Period. Historically, the Colonial Period marks the growth of the plantation system and economic solidification of the institution of slavery. Large increases in tobacco exports from the county created a rapid escalation in the wealth among Prince George's gentry. This influx of wealth resulted in significant changes in the size and construction of plantation manor houses and outbuildings. At the same time, large plantations established during the Early Period continued to expand agricultural production that, by necessity, required increasingly complex physical layouts and labor organization.



Source: Ottery Group from MIHP Forms

Figure 24: Location of Colonial Period Plantations in Prince George's County



Source: MIHP Form, PG: 78-10

Figure 25: Belair Mansion, Example of Georgian Architecture. Note Dependencies and Terracing

Plantation Architecture

The Colonial Period represents a time of social stratification (see Colonial Period—1731–1790 section). A wealthy planting class became defined by their dependence on large slaveholdings to cultivate the land. The surviving examples of Colonial Period plantations in many ways embody the social trends of that time. Most of the extant plantation houses from this period exhibit formal Georgian or Federal characteristics that were built exclusively for members of the large slaveholding class (Figure 25). Names such as Snowden, Hilleary, Hall, Hill, Waring, and Calvert are some of the more well-known Prince George’s County families of the period.

Large slaveholders constructed the vast majority of the extant examples of Colonial Period plantations in Prince George’s County. The architectural styles and arrangements of outbuildings become more formal and specialized compared to those built during the Early Period (see Table 9). Plantation complexes consisted of specialized outbuildings designed as functional and aesthetic complements to the plantation landscape. Functionally necessary structures, such as corncribs or privies, were constructed utilizing more durable materials and methods such as post-on-brick foundations or all brick construction. Special-use structures such as smokehouses, icehouses, and washhouses are also more commonly associated with the Colonial Period in Prince George’s County (Figure 26). Additionally, plantation houses of this period included structures not necessary for plantation operations, as seen in the gazebo and summer house at Montpelier. Similarly, formal gardens appear as a prominent aspect of the landscape architecture of affluent plantation houses.



Source: From MIHP Form, (1) PG: 62-6, (2) PG: 81A-1, (3) PG: 71B-4, (4) PG: 81A-1, (5) PG: 79-10

Figure 26. Colonial Period Plantation Outbuilding Examples in Prince George's County: 1. Summer House-Montpelier; 2. Smokehouse-Poplar Hill; 3. Ice House-Belair; 4. Wash House-Poplar Hill; 5. Chapel-Compton Bassett

Although Darnall's Delight/The Woodyard was originally established during the preceding time period, historical research on this plantation during the Colonial Period is useful for understanding how the organizational layout becomes increasingly complex. Specifically, the probate inventory for Stephen West of Darnall's Delight/The Woodyard provides insight into the activities of a large slaveholder and the organization of a large Colonial period plantation.

Stephen West operated the large and complex plantation during the middle to late eighteenth century. At the time of his death he owned 116 slaves, a considerable labor force during the period.

The inventory of slaves shows a range of ages from 6 months to 70 years and older; several inventoried slaves were described simply as "very old" and not capable of labor.

Of note in the inventory are the various trades pursued at West's plantation and performed by slave labor to support the expanding agricultural output of the plantation. The document records one carpenter, two blacksmiths, and one weaver. The enumeration of goods further helps to distinguish the various outbuildings needed to produce the variety of materials necessary for the success of the plantation operations. The outbuildings include "Franks Shop," "Mondays Smith Shop," and "Punches Shop" as well as a distillery. Among the names of West's slaves, also inventoried in his probate, are Frank, Monday, and Punch. Tools inventoried indicate woodwork at Frank's shop, smithing at Monday's Shop, and yarn or rope work at Punches Shop (Prince George's Inventories i:90-106; GMU n.d.).

Small and medium slaveholders of the Colonial Period also followed trends established in the Early Period. Very little labor specialization is indicated; therefore, few specialized shops would be expected. Broadly, the assets held by medium-sized slaveholders increased when compared to Early Period plantations of similar size. The increase in possessed goods probably reflects the wealth generated by tobacco production, even on a relatively small scale. By contrast, small plantations continued to own few material goods and appear to have operated for mostly subsistence level output. Although some crop diversification is suggested by the increased output of corn and, in particular, wheat, it appears that the size of the labor force defined the scale and breadth of landscape alterations and agricultural productivity.

Slave Quarters

No definitively Colonial Period slave quarters remain standing in Prince George's County. Outside of Upper Marlboro, two standing frame slave cabins with brick nogging that were originally thought to date to the middle- to late-eighteenth century, were subsequently determined to be mid-nineteenth century structures (Winstel 2006, see Slave Quarters section). A mid-eighteenth century overseer's house (PG:82A-44) stands in close geographic proximity on this property owned historically by David Craufurd (Crawford). The modest

structure stands on a high point of land outside of Upper Marlboro. The location may have been chosen for its commanding view, representing both a functional asset and a symbolic expression of power. The Craufurd overseer's house stood as a representation of the overseer class that formed during the Colonial Period.

As discussed above in the Slave Quarters section, the lack of extant slave quarters dating to the Colonial Period leaves only the archeological and historical records that are available for in-depth research. Table 11 presents archeological sites that have unspecified association with slaves and that are recorded as dating to the period between 1731 and 1790.

Although it was a center of social and work activities on large plantations, the area immediately surrounding the manor house was not where the majority of slaves resided. West's inventory, and those of other large slaveholders of the period, also places the majority of slaves residing at the various quarters (see Wardrop 1760, Prince George's Inventories DD Liber 1:Folio 49), meaning that slaves lived at distant locations across the larger plantation landscape. In addition to the "Home House Plantation," West's probate lists five separate areas of his land holdings. These include the "Lower Quarters," "Harrys

Table 11. Colonial Period Plantation Archeological Sites		
Site ID	Plantation	Reference
18PR135	Belair	MHT Form
18PR164	Unknown	MHT Site Form
18PR476	Unknown	MHT Site Form; G&O n.d.; RCG&A 1995
18PR478	Unknown	MHT Site Form; G&O n.d.; RCG&A 1995
18PR482	Unknown	MHT Site Form; G&O n.d.; RCG&A 1995
18PR496	Willow Grove	MHT Site Form; Gill et al. 2006; RCG&A 1997
18PR510	Willow Grove	MHT Site Form; Gill et al. 2006; RCG&A 1997
18PR528	Unknown, Possibly part of Harmony Hall/Battersea or Want Water	MHT Site Form; G&O n.d.; RCG&A 1995
18PR557	Pentland Hills	MHT Site Form
18PR781	Unknown	MHT Site Form; AAHA 2006
18PR791	Keokuk	MHT Site Form; Barrett 2005
18PR879	Unknown	MHT Site Form; AAHA 2007a
18PR887	Unknown	MHT Site Form; Ward and Canter 2007
18PR900	Dunblane	MHT Site Form; Kreisa 2007b

Quarters,” “Arons Plantation,” “S. Pumphrey’s Plantation,” and “Paul Woods Plantation.” West’s inventory accounts for slaves named Harry, Aron, and Paul Woods, all male slaves aged between 37 years (Aron) and 50 years (Harry). The parentage of many of the younger slaves is recorded as are several slave marriages.

There are no known surviving slave quarters from the Colonial Period in the county and only a few archeological investigations have been conducted on suspected slave quarter sites (AHAA 2007a; Kreisa et al. 2007). While such structures may yet be discernable as archeological sites on the landscape, the positive identification of slave quarters solely through archeological investigations presents one of the most significant challenges to the scholarship on slaves that focuses on this and earlier periods in the history of the county. It is highly probable that many quarters have simply been erased from the landscape because of their often temporary construction method (using pier or sill-on-ground construction) and because slaves typically held few material possessions. Plowing over of such site locations would render them almost unrecognizable as distinct archeological sites.

Archeological investigations outside Prince George’s County, but within tobacco growing regions of the coastal Middle Atlantic offer some relevant information (see www.daacs.org). Excavations at the Fairfield Quarter in Abington Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia, identified two suspected slave quarter structures dating to the eighteenth century. Both structures are associated with subsurface storage pits and are suspected to represent ground-laid sill or simple pier construction (Brown 2006). This form of impermanent architecture conforms to that recorded on suspected slave cabin archeological sites identified in Calvert and Charles counties on Southern Maryland’s Western Shore (Chaney 2006). Burnt earth stains along the edges of the Fairfield Quarter structures suggest single, exterior chimney placement along one gable end. The localized recovery of large amounts of window glass indicates glazed fenestration. Archeologists at the Fairfield Quarter believe that the significant brick deposits identified in plowzone context reflect the destruction of a nearby kitchen structure and not chimney fall from the cabins. If correct, this suggests that the cabin chimney was constructed from less permanent materials (such as daub) than the kitchen structure (Brown 2006).

Investigations at George Washington’s Mount Vernon plantation, across the Potomac River from Fort Washington in Prince George’s County, revealed a completely different, and possibly anomalous, form of slave housing. Slave housing included a two-story, brick masonry structure, identified in a historic plat as the “Quarters for Families,” containing at least six bays, with brick chimneys on either gable end. Artifacts indicate occupation between circa 1759 and 1793. This quartering arrangement is considered uncommon. The slaves housed in the “Quarters for Families” consisted primarily of domestic servants, “hypothesized as enjoying a position of preferment due to their proximity to and presumed intimacy with the Washington household” (Pogue 2003). The quantity and quality of the material culture recovered support this interpretation.

The Utopia II, III, and IV sites in James City County, Virginia, likely offer a better indication of the types of slave quarters likely to have been used in Prince George's County during the Colonial Period. The Utopia sites seem to represent a temporal progression with Utopia II dating to the first and second quarter of the eighteenth century, Utopia III dating to the second and third quarter of the eighteenth century, and Utopia IV to the third and fourth quarter of the eighteenth century (Fesler 2005). Archeological investigations revealed that, at each site, quarters consisted of post-in-ground structures with storage pits situated near gable end hearths. Each of the Utopia sites contained multiple slave cabins, four at Utopia II and three at both Utopia III and IV.

Research conducted on the Utopia sites allowed archeologists to assess not only a single quarters area occupied during a specific period, but instead a series of quarters variously occupied over time. In his doctoral dissertation, Garret Fesler (2004) observed two presumably related phenomena, the decrease in the size of individual slave quarters and the simultaneous decrease in the number of storage pits within each slave quarter. Fesler argued that these two trends reflect the formation of distinct family units at the site.

Fesler's archeological analysis of the Utopia sites in Virginia conforms to the implications provided by historical data for Prince George's County, Maryland. Throughout the course of the eighteenth century, the ratio of male to female slaves in Prince George's equalized. At the same time, the overall number of slaves kept in the county increased, as did the likelihood that slaves would be held with significant numbers of other slaves. All of these factors increased a slave's ability to find mates and create nuclear families. Furthermore, the trend for slaves to remain within Prince George's, frequently living their entire lives within a small geographic area, increased the potential for the nuclear families to develop into extended family groups. The runaway advertisements attest to the formation of extended families as well as to the autonomy slaves would claim in the maintenance of family relationships despite the potential for extreme consequences. Little is known about extended kinship relations among eighteenth century slaves in the Middle Atlantic. Current archeological and historical research suggests that slave family networks achieved a greater level of complexity and cultural significance than previously recognized.

Archeologically, determining the ethnic and cultural affiliations of the historic occupants of a site is difficult. Nonetheless, the continued, if reduced, influx of culturally African or Atlantic Creole slaves into the Middle Atlantic may have resulted in the retention of some discernibly African or Afro-Caribbean traits. The persistence of African traditions among enslaved populations in North America has been historically documented (see Ball 1837:19; Blassingame 1979:3-48; Medford 2004; Raboteau 2004) Certain forms of cultural continuity can manifest archeologically. For example, excavations inside the Carroll House in Annapolis recovered a cache of 12 quartz crystals and a smoothed black stone covered by an inverted ceramic bowl. The base of the bowl bore an "asterisk-like design on its interior base." Researchers

noted the similarities between this cache and “*minkisi*,” or charms, in the Congo. Likewise, it has been noted that the symbol etched in the bowl closely resembled the *Yowa*, the Bakongo *cosmogram*, or symbol (Russell 1997:64).

Although the archeological data from Colonial Period slave sites is limited, previous historical research is useful in identifying factors that may be relevant in the study of slave quarter spatial organization. Researchers have suggested that slave family networks achieved a greater level of complexity and cultural significance than previously recognized (Fesler 2005 and 2007; Kulikoff 1976:274-317; Morgan 1998:498-558). Familial relationships may thus have affected the spatial organization of slave quarters on medium and large slaveholding plantations, although little is known about extended kinship relations among eighteenth century slaves in the Middle Atlantic. Although granted no protections under the law, the example of Stephen West’s inventory implies that that some slaveholders recognized the importance of allowing the maintenance of kinship ties among their slaves. This recognition may also have been manifested in the organization of slave quarters along family lines.

Slave Burials

No slave burials dating to the Colonial Period have been identified or investigated in Prince George’s County. Information provided by local residents to archeologists conducting a Phase I survey off Chew Road between Upper Marlboro and Croom, suggested the possible location of a slave cemetery, potentially dating to the Colonial Period based on the temporal association of a nearby archeological site. Initial attempts to identify burial locations through visual inspection and soil resistance probing failed. Subsequent use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) suggested the locations of 35 possible interments. These potential burial locations have not been further investigated archeologically (AAHA 2007:48).

There are studies from sites outside of the county and the state that may offer insights into the nature of African-American regional burial practices among slaves during the Colonial Period (see Jamison 1995; Medford 2004; Raboteau 2004). Comparative data from contemporary archeological sites in the Chesapeake and Jamaica are also available on the DAAC’s website, which provides useful information and data from known sites.

Summary

- Although the impact of Colonial Period medium and large slaveholdings continued in a manner similar to that established in the Early Period, there are notable changes.
- Significantly more plantation houses from the Colonial Period remain today than those dating from the Early Period. This could be explained by various factors including durability of construction methods (i.e., brick masonry construction), intentional or accidental destruction, or incorporation of

earlier architectural forms into newer forms added during the Colonial Period.

- Plantations during this period increasingly favored more permanent structures such as post-on-brick or full-brick masonry construction. This trend is seen in outbuilding construction, in particular, for structures such as smokehouses.
- Related to this is the trend toward integrating outbuildings into the plantation house landscape. Increasingly, in the immediate vicinity of the plantation house, the wealthiest planters considered style as well as functionality in outbuilding construction.²
- During the Colonial Period, the population of Prince George's County increased significantly, resulting in the establishment of estates in the interior portions of the county lacking direct water access to the port town export centers. In response, a roadway network developed, enabling the overland transport of goods (Kulikoff 1976:333).

National Period—1791–1864

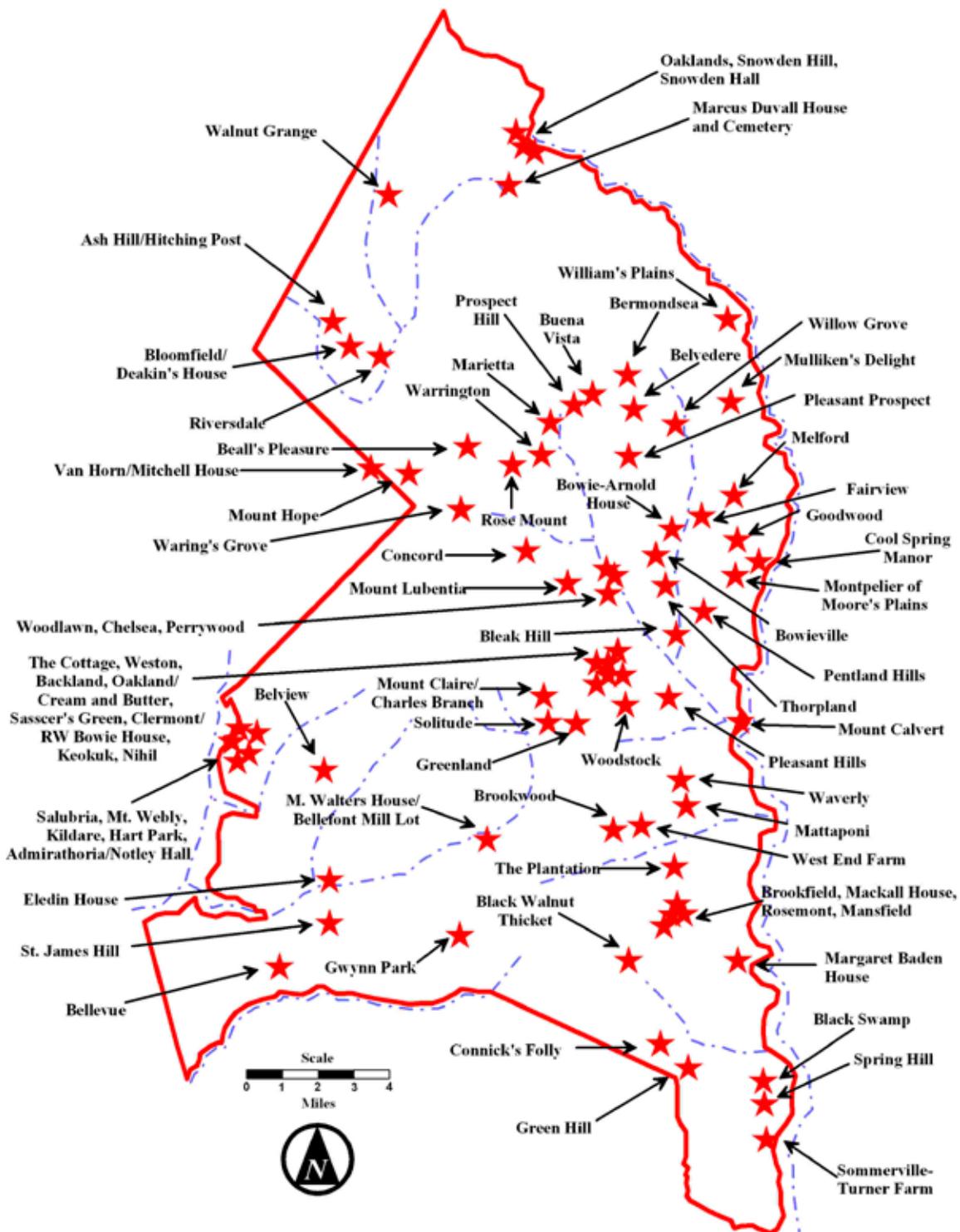
Of the three temporal divisions, the National Period is the best documented historically and the majority of extant plantations in Prince George's County date to this period (Figure 27, see Table 8). In addition, more small- and medium-sized plantations remain standing today than those from either of the two earlier periods. As a result, a much greater diversity exists in the size, layout, and style of plantation architecture between the known National Period plantations than among those dating to earlier periods. Large slaveholders established a strong majority of extant National Period plantation houses.

Plantation Architecture

Most extant plantation houses, and the only standing examples of slave dwellings in Prince George's County, date to this period. However, those surviving examples today generally contain only the plantation house and now lack the agricultural outbuildings necessary when the plantation house served as the core of a working plantation. Although this limits the amount of information available for spatial analysis, considerably more can be gleaned about this period than those preceding.

Appropriate to their social standing, large slaveholders continued to build large, complex plantation houses with substantial, permanently constructed, and special-use dependencies and outbuildings. Planters of this period favored a more Federal-style architecture, often with Greek Revival or Italianate details

² The Belair, Montpelier, Poplar Hill, Hazelwood, and Wyoming plantations in Prince George's County contain extant outbuildings incorporated into the architectural landscape. In Baltimore County, the Hampton National Historic Site, a plantation house completed circa 1790 outside of Towson, provides an excellent example, as well.



Source: Ottery Group from MIHP Forms

Figure 27: Location of National Period Plantations in Prince George's County

(Figure 28, see Table 9). A review of MIHP forms provides a number of examples of these grand, Federal-style manor houses from the National Period including Walnut Grange (PG:62-12), Marietta (PG:70-20), Melford (PG:71B-16), Beall's Pleasure (PG:72-2), Partnership (PG:74A-15), and Mount Calvert (PG:82B-4).



Source: MIHP Form, PG: 72-2

Figure 28: Beall's Pleasure (PG:72-2)—Example of Federal Style Architecture

Several planters owning small- and medium-sized plantations chose similar, if more modest, architectural styles; examples include Deakins Hall (PG:66-5) Beall's Pleasure (PG:72-2), Hazelwood (PG:74B-13), and Brookewood (PG:86A-4). At Brookewood, a small, dilapidated post-in-ground corncrib stood immediately behind the plantation house, illustrating the continued use of temporary construction methods for agricultural outbuildings on small and medium-sized slaveholdings (Figure 29). Several Tidewater-style plantation houses from the National Period also occur on the list of known Prince George's County plantations. The house that once stood at Sasscer's Green (PG:82A-9) was an excellent example of this modest, steeply-pitched roof design (Figure 30, see Sperling et al. 2006a).



Source: MIHP Form, PG: 86A-4

Figure 29: Corncrib at Brookewood



Source: MHIP Form, PG: 82A-9

Figure 30: Sasscer's Green—Example of Modest Tidewater-Style House

The agricultural context for Prince George's County provides numerous indications regarding the organization of National Period plantations. As previously discussed (see National Period section of the Agriculture and Slavery chapter), a greater proportion of plantations with large slaveholdings were found in the prime tobacco-growing regions of the county. Conversely, a higher number of small- and medium-sized slaveholding plantations were located in the northern and western

regions of the county, where soils can only sustain marginal tobacco cultivation. Plantations in these areas ostensibly contained outbuildings associated with wheat cultivation and animal husbandry rather than the more tobacco-centric structures common to the southern portion of the county. Riversdale (PG:68-5) offers a notable exception to this trend. Although located in marginal tobacco-growing lands, the Calverts originally relied on the staple crop of tobacco. However, during the early- nineteenth century, the precariousness of this reliance resulted in crop diversification at Riversdale (Calcott 1991).

Slave Quarters

Few examples of National Period slave quarters have been identified in Prince George's County. Ironically, the most representative example of typical slave quarters architecture, the one that best reflects the type of residence familiar to enslaved Prince Georgians, likely never served as slave quarters. The Charles Duckett Freeman's cabin (PG:82B-34), a hewn log cabin, mirrors the archetypical slave cabin as described in the accounts of emancipated slaves (see Simms 1941:61; Williams 1941:71; Deane 1941:6; Macks 1941:51). Charles Duckett was born a slave and in 1835 Charles and his brother Peter, aged three and seven respectively, were acquired by Henry B.B. Trueman, aged 13 at the time, from his father, Henry Trueman (PG Chattel Records; Slave Schedules 1850). In 1864, at the age of 32, Charles Duckett joined the United States Navy for a two-year term; his Civil War experience included service as landsman aboard the *U.S.S. Massachusetts*, a steamer supply ship (Howard University 2007). Upon completion of his service, Charles returned to Henry B.B. Trueman's Woodville plantation where he raised a family and tenant

farmed. It is suspected that Charles constructed the cabin after his return from war (Haley-Amen 2007). In the 1970s, the cabin was disassembled, removed from its stone pier foundation, and relocated to the Patuxent River Park.

Architecturally, the one-room cabin measures roughly 16-by-14 feet (Figure 31). Full dovetail notching joins the hand-hewn, squared Chestnut logs at the corners. Fenestration consists of a small, unglazed window located on the east gable end and another small, unglazed window on the north façade west of a roughly centered doorway.

Access to the structure is gained through a similar doorway roughly centered on the south façade. A large undressed stone chimney is located along the west gable end. The interior includes a massive log lintel above the western gable fireplace. Although currently possessing a packed dirt floor, stone piers once supported board flooring.

Evidence suggests that the structure contained more crossbeams than currently present, which supported a full second-story sleeping area (Pearl 1989). Although the simple, rough-hewn log cabin likely represents the most common form of slave housing, other styles were also utilized (see Simms 1941:61; Williams 1941:71; Deane 1941:6; Macks 1941:51).

The Molly Berry slave quarters associated with Brookefield of the Berrys (PG 86A-20) affords one such example (Ottery Group 2004:4-7). This frame, Virginia House-style structure measured 20 by 16 feet, with steeply pitched gable ends. The modest structure was three bays long by one bay wide, unlike the one-over-one arrangement also found at the Duckett Freeman's Cabin and those described in the *Slave Narratives*. This style of architecture was brought to the Chesapeake during the middle to late-seventeenth century and remained a popular architectural form for two centuries



Source: MIHP Form, PG: 82B-34

Figure 31: Duckett Freeman's Cabin

More substantial examples of architecture designed for slave occupancy also occur in Prince George's County. Two buildings on the Northampton Plantation (PG:73-12), the original home of the Sprigg family, were reported standing during the 1930s (see Figure 32) and then as ruins in the 1980s. These structures, which are thought to date to the late-eighteenth century, provide two distinct alternatives to the log cabin



Source: MIHP Form, PG: 73-12

Figure 32: Duplex Slave Quarters at Northampton (from HABS)

architecture considered the most prevalent form used in the county. One cabin consists of a one-and-one-half story, gabled, frame structure founded on stone (Bostrup 1936). The house possesses a central, centerline chimney. The second example at Northampton consists of a brick duplex, also one-and-one-half stories, with twin central entrances, and a central, centerline brick chimney (Figure 32). It is possible that the frame slave structure represents the “negro house” recorded on the 1798 tax assessment. The duplex is considered unique in Maryland, due both to its “saddlebag” form as well as the permanency of the brick architecture (Pearl 1988).

Proximity to the main house may have influenced construction of the framed cabin at Northampton. Ruins within 500 feet of both cabins include a larger domestic structure considered contemporary with the frame slave cabin and presumably representing the former manor house, which also incorporated frame-on-stone and brick masonry construction (Pearl 1988). It is possible that the continuation of this construction material was an attempt at aesthetic conformity. The duplex design of the later brick structure included a single, central brick chimney (Creveling, personal communication, 2007). The use of a duplex form is also more adaptable to housing larger unrelated groups of

individuals or as housing for two families. The central hearth is also a labor-efficient style both in construction, requiring only one chimney, and in fuel expenditure

Again, a degree of caution must be taken when considering these quarters within the context of slave housing in Prince George's County and even within the context of slave housing on the Northampton plantation. First, these quarters represented part of the historic core of the Sprigg family, one of the most prominent families in the county. The Spriggs could be considered large slaveholders by the standards of Prince George's County. Although not approaching the nearly 200 slaves owned by Clement Hill in the 1860s, in 1840 Samuel Sprigg owned 117 slaves; by 1850, that number was somewhat reduced to 71 slaves, which still represented a substantial number. In 1860, Osborn Sprigg, the son of Samuel and Violetta (nee Lansdale) Sprigg, owned 59 slaves (Family Search 2007). Although diminished over two decades, in 1860, Osborn Sprigg is ranked in the top 15 percent of slaveholders (by number of slaves) in the Queen Anne District (Census 1840; Slave Schedules 1850, 1860). Therefore, the known slave cabins at Northampton represent only a fraction of housing necessary for that plantation. The fact that these structures at Northampton survived into the twentieth century likely reflects a greater permanence of construction. It is presumed that quarters used to house Sprigg's other slaves were constructed with less durable materials that have long since deteriorated.

Two other examples of slave cabin architecture provide additional information about slave housing in Prince George's County during the nineteenth century. These buildings, located immediately west of the town of Upper Marlboro, were originally believed to date to the late-eighteenth century (Hannold 1985). However, recent inspection by Orlando Ridout V, a Maryland Historical Trust architectural historian, determined that the construction materials and building style indicated mid-nineteenth century construction. Stylistically, both cabins consist of one-and-a-half story rectangular frame structures with moderately pitched gable roofs. Nogging, a technique rarely seen in Prince George's County architecture, fills gaps between the hewn timber frames. The use of these structures as slave quarters has not been positively determined.

These two cabins are closely situated but appear as individual entities rather than components of a larger quarters area. A suspected overseer's house (PG:82A-44) occupied a small rise a short distance east of the cabins. The distance between the cabins and the overseer's house approximately doubles that between the cabins, yet the cabins would be within the line of sight of the overseer's house.

Based on aerial photography, the land on which the cabins are situated appears marginal for agricultural use. A small creek ran through the cabin area and at no point for which aerial photographs are available was the land in agriculture. The *Prince George's County Soil Survey* indicates that the cabins are

built on or adjacent to Sandy Land, Steep (SaE) soils which are “not well suited to any farm use” (Kirby et. al 1967:56). It is possible that these two qualities, being near an active water source and on agriculturally marginal lands, invited use as slave quartering areas.

The historical record clearly indicates that log cabins served as the primary form of slave quarters during the National Period of Prince George’s County. Dennis Simms, a slave on the Contee tobacco plantation immediately before emancipation in Maryland, described the dominant housing style: “We lived in rudely constructed log houses, one story in height, with huge stone chimneys, and slept on beds of straw” (Simms 1941:61). Simms asserted in his interview that more than 100 slaves worked the Contee Plantation for Richard and Charles Contee. Simms’ brief account does not state whether all the slaves lived within a centralized quarters area or whether they were distributed across the expansive plantation.

“Parson” Resin Williams, a free black born in 1822 at Fairview in Prince George’s County, recalls similar slave housing: “[T]he slaves at Bowie mostly lived in cabins made of slabs running up and down and crudely furnished” (Williams 1941:71). The narratives of other slaves held in neighboring counties confirm the stylistic preference towards log cabins for slave quarters throughout the region. James Deane describes the place of his birth as a:

“...typical Charles County log cabin....The cabin had two rooms, one up and one down, very large with two windows, one in each room. There were no porches, over the door was a wide board to keep the rain and snow from beating over the top of the door, with a large log chimney on the outside, plastered between the logs, in which was a fireplace with an open grate to cook on and to put logs on the fire to heat” (Deane 1941:6).

Richard Macks, also a slave in Charles County, described a similar slave quarter:

“I lived with my mother, father and sister in a log cabin built of log and mud, having two rooms; one with a dirt floor and the other above, each room having two windows, but no glass.” (Macks 1941:51).

The historically documented use of outbuildings, such as detached kitchens, as well as the conversion of agricultural outbuildings for slave occupancy further complicates the discussion of housing. During the National Period, the reuse of agricultural or other plantation outbuildings as slave quarters in Prince George’s County remained common. Rosalie Calvert of Riversdale (PG:68-5) describes how “(t)he dairy has been moved behind the clumps on the way to Peggy Adams’ place, and [the addition of] a brick chimney converted it into a good house for negroes” (Calcott 1991:65). However, Rosalie

Calvert later remarked about improvements made on a recently purchased plantation, stating that her husband, “also built two houses for the negroes and one for the overseer, all of brick, plus a tobacco house” (Calcott 1991:318). The comments suggest that the style of quarters varied from plantation to plantation, regardless even of common ownership. Based on both reports of the composition of slave quarters, it is possible that plantations added buildings, or adapted standing structures according to specific needs at a given time, with consideration first afforded to extant buildings suited for alteration. The construction of entirely brick masonry slave quarters seems anomalous in

Site ID	Plantation	Reference
18PR149	Unknown, probable Snowden Property	Payne and Baumgardt 1990
18PR521	Unknown	MHT Site Form; G&O n.d.; RCG&A 1995
18PR549	Unknown	MHT Site Form
18PR580	Bowieville	MHT Site Form
18PR692	Salubria	MHT Site Form; Sperling and Paynter 2006
18PR696	Unknown, possibly free black	MHT Site Form; Ward 2003
18PR707	Fairview	MHT Site Form; Gwiazda et al. 2004
18PR715	Brookewood	MHT Site Form; Sperling et al. 2004
18PR734	Fairview	MHT Site Form; Gwiazda et al. 2004
18PR735	Bowie-Arnold House	MHT Site Form; EAC/A n.d.
18PR787	Brookefield of the Berrys	MHT Site Form; The Ottery Group 2005; G&O 2004 and 2005

the primary record and may either reflect a desire for permanency or perhaps for more aesthetic motives that would be more in keeping with the stylistic appearances of the main plantation house.

Several archeological investigations have occurred on historic Prince George’s County plantations of the National Period (Table 12). Archeological investigations at the Keokuk (PG:78-14a) plantation identified a post-in-ground structure in the vicinity of the main house. Historical research suggested that this structure had been a slave quarters; modern informants described the former structure as a blacksmith shop (Barrett 2007; Berkley 2006).

Other archeological investigations conducted over the past few years have identified sites that may have some association with the lives of slaves, but the lack of extensive or long-term study of these sites leaves much to conjecture.

These studies include an archeological data recovery at the Pentland Hills (PG:79-38) plantation (Ricard and Williams 2007:98), Phase II archeological testing of Site 18PR416, located on the medium- to large-sized slaveholding, National Period Pheasant's Thicket (PG:85A-22) plantation located in the vicinity of Brandywine (Shellenhamer et al.:2006), and others that are listed in Table 11.

Slave Burials

Aside from formal churchyard burial of African-American slaves or freed slaves, only one plantation cemetery has been identified to date. In 2003, excavation of percolation tests on a property once part of Cool Spring Manor, a Bowie family plantation, impacted several graves and resulted in the unintentional exhumation of human remains. Initial analysis by Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution assessed the remains as African American. Archeologists identified an additional 13 grave shafts (RCG&A 2003). Graves were arranged in distinct rows with a generally north-northwest orientation. The graves were not individually excavated, precluding the identification and recovery of grave goods (RCG&A 2003). Additional unsuccessful attempts to locate slave cemeteries have been made (for example, see Barrett 2006). In one instance, local residents informed an archeologist of the presence of a slave cemetery on a property proposed for development. Initial remote sensing results identified anomalies; however, these have not yet been investigated (AAHA 2007a).

The majority of first-hand accounts about slave burials during the National Period derive from slaves who served on large plantations in Prince George's and bordering counties. Most of the available literature indicates that the interment of slaves either inside the plantation cemetery or immediately outside it occurred with some regularity. Richard Macks, speaking about a large Charles County plantation, differentiated between "tombstones" for the white burials and, "headstones and a cedar post" for black burials (Macks 1941:54). This differentiation may suggest the use of formal, carved marble stones for the graves for whites and unmarked fieldstones for slave burials. It is possible that these burial practices may have been particular to the plantation on which Richard Macks served, rather than broader regional trends for slave burials on large plantations during the National Period.

One testimony in the *Slave Narratives* indicates that slaves and masters were buried in the same cemetery, at least on the Bowie Plantation, Fairview, near Upper Marlboro. "When death occurred, a rough box would be made of heavy slabs and the negro buried the same day on the plantation burying lot with a brief ceremony, if any" (Williams 1941:71). Recently, Anna Holmes, a descendant of African Americans who worked at Fairview and possibly were once kept as slaves, met and talked with Oden Bowie, the heir of the Bowie plantation. He showed Holmes the location of her relatives' burial, inside the Bowie family plot (Raghaven 2005). The remembrances of one slave held in Charles County also suggest slave burial close to the white cemetery, "[w]e had

a graveyard on the place. Whites were buried inside of railing and the slaves on the outside. The members of the white family had tombstones, the colored had headstones and a cedar post to show where they were buried” (Macks 1941:54).

Summary

- The vast majority of known Prince George’s County plantations date to the National Period. Plantation sites of this period exhibit a wide range of architectural styles.
- Based on the extant examples, planters of all socio-economic levels favored more permanent architectural methods for the construction of their manor houses.
- Large planters of the National Period constructed large, brick masonry plantation houses, often in Federal style with Greek Revival and Italianate characteristics. This stylistic preference permeated social boundaries and appears on the plantation houses of medium- and small-sized slaveholdings. Small and medium slaveholders also commonly utilized the modest Tidewater-style and simple farmhouse designs.
- Many of the same land use trends prevalent during the Early and Colonial Periods continued. In particular, based on historic and archeological data, large slaveholders divided their labor forces between noncontiguous quarters.
- Slaves held in small- and medium-sized plantations tended to be more centrally located, in proximity to the main house.
- The only first-hand historical documentation regarding the preferred construction style for slave quarters related to the National Period clearly notes that the most common form of slave housing consisted of log cabins in a simple one room over one room configuration (Simms 1941:61; Williams 1941:71; Deane 1941:6; Macks 1941:51).
- Cabins normally possessed dirt floors while choice of fenestration was varied among cabins. Ironically, no known antebellum examples of this cabin type remain in Prince George’s County.
- The use of more permanent techniques in their construction provided for their preservation into the present time; however, these same techniques distinguished them from the norm.
- The population of Prince George’s County remained fairly constant between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, with notable exceptions such as the drastic spike observed during the 1820 federal census and subsequent downward correction in 1840.
- Older, frequently larger and more prosperous plantations concentrated along the larger, historically navigable waterways while increasingly complex road networks connected landlocked plantations.

