

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 10 1987**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Owens, James, Farm (preferred)

and or common Watts Residence; Chaney Residence

2. Location

street & number 5682 Greenock Road N/A not for publication

city, town Bristol vicinity of

state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. E. Steuart Chaney

street & number 5682 Greenock Road

city, town Lothian N/A vicinity of state Maryland 20711

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

street & number Church Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Non-contributing	Number of previously listed Register properties scheduled in this nomination:
<u>7</u>	<u>3</u> buildings	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects	Original and historic functions and uses: agriculture, residential
<u>8</u>	<u>3</u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The James Owens Farm, located in rural southwestern Anne Arundel County, includes a well-preserved collection of 19th century farm buildings of which the centerpiece is a large mid-19th century, two-story brick cross-gable late Greek Revival/Italianate dwelling. Symmetrical in design, the dwelling is the result of one construction period. The two-story, cross-gable main block consists of a central passage single pile plan with a rear wing composed of two, two-story wings with gable roofs set perpendicular to the main block and joined by a two-story stair passage. The final composition resembles a T-plan with a thick stem. It is constructed of brick laid in 7:1 common bond, and has a slate shingle roof. The exterior and interior finishings display a high degree of integrity with little or no alteration. Outbuildings include an early 19th century cornhouse, and early 19th century tobacco barn, a mid-19th century board-and-batten kitchen, carriage house, and smokehouse, and a late 19th century chicken house all of frame construction. Northeast of the dwelling there is evidence of a Victorian terraced garden. An early 20th century tobacco barn and two late 19th century tenant houses, which were extensively altered in the early and mid-20th century, are part of the farm complex, but do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

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Owens, James, Farm
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The James Owens Farm is located in rural southwestern Anne Arundel County on the north side of Greenock Road (State Route 259), approximately one mile north of the crossroads town of Bristol. It consists of approximately 81 acres of land, the greater part of which is actively cultivated.

Symmetrical design, the Greek Revival/Italianate style dwelling is the result of one construction period. The two-story, cross-gable main block consists of a central passage single-pile plan with a rear wing composed of two, two-story wings with gable roofs set perpendicular to the main block and joined by a two-story stair passage. The final composition resembles a T-plan with a thick stem.

An ornate one-story hip-roof porch covers the facade, the southeast elevation. It is embellished with Italianate posts and brackets and has a shallow coffered ceiling. A similar one-story frame porch fills the north corner of the main block and wing on the northeast elevation. A partially enclosed one-story frame porch with the same Italianate trim fills the west corner of the southwest elevation. A one-story frame bay window extends from the northeast gable end of the main block.

The house is constructed of brick laid in 7:1 common bond. The roof is covered with slate shingles. There are two pairs of interior centrally-placed brick chimneys, one in the main block and the other in the wing.

There are entrances into the house on each elevation. The principal entrance is centrally-placed on the facade (southeast elevation). It is composed of a six-panel door with a mid-19th century box lock, flanked by three-pane sidelights and surmounted by a three-pane transom. The entrance on the northeast elevation is located under the porch and is a "jib window" or one with a paneled moveable apron. The window above the apron is a 6/6 sash window. It opens onto the northeast porch affording access to a terraced garden located northeast of the house. The terraces are still clearly visible.

There are two entrances into the rear wing on the southwest elevation, one into the enclosed porch and another under the extended porch hood. The rear entrance, located in the recessed center bay of the northwest elevation, provides access to the stair hall. It is composed of a six-panel door with a 3-panel transom.

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Owens, James, Farm
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Windows are predominantly 6/6 sash with flat brick arches. Arched 6/3 sash windows light the gable ends of the main block and the cross-gable on the facade at the attic story. Large 6/9 sash windows light the first story bays of the facade. The lower sash, which extends to the floor, can be raised providing access to the porch.

In addition to the ornate Italianate porches, the exterior is embellished with scrolled modillions at the cornice on all elevations and on the two side porches and bay window.

The interior reflects the same proportions and detailing of the exterior of the house. As with the exterior, the interior displays a high degree of integrity with little or no alteration. It has been further enhanced by the recent restoration conducted by the present owners. Window and door architraves are original and utilize the same molding profile throughout the house. They feature plain board surrounds with an inner astragal and a quirk ogee and astragal backband.

The principal entrance opens into a central passage which is composed of an entrance hall and a stair hall in the rear wing. The doorway leading from the entrance hall into the stair hall is one of the most interesting elements of the house. It is composed of double louvered doors with raised panels below, surmounted by a fanlight. An ornate double-crosseted architrave with recessed square panels in the corners surrounds the doorway. When viewed from the stair hall (looking southeast), the architrave is the same except for the lack of the small square panels.

Just inside the entrance hall, doorways open into the two rooms flanking the passage. These original mid-19th century doors are composed of six-panels with large transoms which were added in the late 19th century. The entrance hall and flanking rooms have ornate covered plaster cornices with complex plaster moldings and plaster ceiling medallions. The entrance hall is further adorned with three plaster molded, square ceiling panels.

The southeast room flanking the entrance hall has a bay window on the northeast elevation. All of the windows in this room are embellished with elaborate pressed brass valances which are believed to be original to the land. The fireplace is centered on the interior wall and has a marbelized slate mantelpiece. Pocket doors, located on the northwest partition wall, led into the northeast room flanking the stair hall in the rear wing. This room has a plaster ceiling medallion and a marbelized slate mantel. The "jib window" (previously described) is located in this room.

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Owens, James Farm
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

The southwest room flanking the entrance hall has a plain mid-19th century wooden mantel in addition to the previously mentioned ornamentation. A doorway on the northwest partition wall leads through a pantry and into the northwest room which functions as a kitchen. This room was converted to a kitchen in the mid-20th century. A doorway in the north corner of the kitchen leads to the rear of the stair hall. At the back of the stair, a door leads to a partial basement.

The staircase, with a bold mid-19th century turned newel post and turned balusters, rise to the second floor and to a finished attic. The second floor is based on the same floor plan as the first with an extra room over the entrance hall. Door and window architraves have the same molding profile as the first floor. The northeast, southeast, and southwest rooms have the same plain mid-19th century wooden mantels as in the southwest room of the first floor. The northwest room was converted to a bathroom in the mid-20th century.

On the second floor, directly above the first floor louvered door, is another exquisite doorway treatment. Here the open segmental arched doorway is elaborately molded, paneled and framed by pilasters, reminiscent of the late Federal/Greek Revival period.

The James Owens Farm has an excellent complement of outbuildings. One of the most important is the tobacco barn which stands in deteriorating condition approximately 1/4 mile southwest of the dwelling in an open field. The early 19th century barn measures 40 x 20 feet with later sheds measuring 40 x 12 feet along the northeast and southwest elevations. The southwest shed has collapsed. The barn is a rare Tidewater example of a post-in-the-ground timber frame tobacco barn with interrupted sills and tilted false plates.

The remaining outbuildings are grouped closer to the dwelling. An early 19th century cornhouse is located northwest of the dwelling. It measures 20 x 10 feet and is of heavy timber frame construction with tilted false plates. Original hewn and pit-sawn interior slats, as well as the original beaded gable siding and tapered bargeboards survive.

Standing immediately adjacent to the west corner of the dwelling is a small mid-19th century board-and-batten building which may have originally functioned as a kitchen. Early 20th century owners used it as a servants' quarters.

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Owens, James, House
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

The entrance is in the northeast gable end facing the dwelling and is covered with a shed hood. The structure rests on masonry piers and has a relatively new wood shingle roof. The exterior walls show evidence of whitewash. Two 6/6 sash windows light the single room, one on the northwest elevation and the other on the southeast elevation. An interior brick chimney is located at the southwest gable end. Inside, a "Regal" brand stove survives from the days when this building was used as a dwelling.

The mid-19th century carriage house is located northwest of the dwelling. It measures 14 x 19-1/2 feet and is of heavy timber frame construction. Most of the exterior walls are covered with the original pit sawn vertical siding. An intriguing element of this building is the original carriage shaft holes located on the rear, northwest elevation. The carriage shafts which apparently were too long for the building, necessitated this innovative solution.

The frame mid-19th century smokehouse and late 19th century chicken house stand side-by-side directly behind the house.

Northeast of the dwelling is the remains of a terraced garden believed to be contemporary with the house. Evidence of three terraces can be seen. A few hardy boxwoods on the middle terrace are the only original plantings that survive. The upper terrace is part of the grassy lawn and the lower terrace is overgrown and wooded.

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History and Support

The fine brick dwelling which forms the centerpiece of the James Owens Farm is the only documented one of its kind in Anne Arundel County. Of the approximately 700 historic sites identified in the County to date, the James Owens dwelling is the only Greek Revival/Italianate brick house which displays such elegant proportions and finishings. The interior detailing, including deep coved plaster cornices, plaster ceiling medallions and the two exquisite door architraves in the first and second story central passage, illustrate the excellent craftsmanship of the house. It is also noteworthy for the high degree of architectural integrity. The plan and features are original with little or no alterations.

The accompanying outbuildings are noteworthy for their survival and variety. These buildings range in date of construction from the early 19th century, displaying the ongoing productivity of the farm and the continued use of the ancillary structures.

The cornhouse and tobacco barn utilize an 18th century Chesapeake framing system that continued to be used into the early 19th century in the Chesapeake region. The tobacco barn with its post-in-the-ground framing is an example of a building tradition roots that was kept alive and transplanted to an American setting. Based on literary sources and archaeological evidence, post-in-the-ground construction was the predominant architectural tradition in the South. These buildings were intended to serve as temporary structures that would be replaced when sufficient wealth had been accumulated. Very few examples survive.

The collection of buildings at the James Owens Farm provides excellent documentation that impermanent vernacular building traditions were still used in the early 19th century in the Chesapeake region, and co-existed with the construction of more permanent buildings.

The dwelling and most of the outbuildings were constructed in the mid-19th century during the ownership of James Owens, a prominent farmer and landholder in southern Anne Arundel County. At his death in 1895, he owned six farms amounting to over 2,000 acres of land. An earlier dwelling, on this farm, may have accommodated James Owens and his family, for in 1837 he was deeded 100 acres of "Portland Manor" by his father, James Owens. This was one year after his marriage to Mary Johnson. In the deed, James Owens, Sr. conveyed all buildings except one "50 feet tobacco house" to his son, James Owens, Jr., indicating that there were other buildings on the property.¹

¹Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber WSG #22, folio 654; Anne Arundel County Marriage Records (Hall of Records).

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In 1841, James Owens, Sr. conveyed an additional 77 acres, adjoining the 100 acres, to his son, James Owens, Jr. This 177 acres of "Portland Manor" was acquired by James Owens, Sr. in 1831 from Nicholas Darnall and Caroline Darnall, his wife, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.²

The early 19th century tobacco barn and cornhouse date from the ownership of the Darnall family. The 177 acres purchased by James Owens, Sr. was part of a 1,000 acre tract which included part of "Portland Manor" and part of "Shank Shaw," jointly owned by Nicholas Darnall and his brother, Henry Darnall, who had deceased by the time of the conveyance to James Owens, Sr.³

Nicholas and Henry Darnall were two of four mulatto sons of Bennett Darnall.⁴ Not only did they inherit Bennett Darnall's property at his death in 1814, but they and their two brothers, William and Philip Darnall, were specially granted their freedom in Bennett Darnall's will. Bennett Darnall had manumitted his sons and their mother in three previous deeds of manumission. But, as Bennett Darnall stated in his will, he executed the deed several times "for greater caution fearing that the said former deed(s) might not be sufficiently discriptive (sic) of the persons intended."⁵

²Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber WSG #26, folio 70; and Liber WSG #16, folio 437.

³Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber WSG #16, folio 437; and Probate Records-Testamentary Papers, Valuation of Property of Bennett Darnall, Box 130, folder 42.

⁴Bennett Darnall was the great-grandson of Col. Henry Darnall, son of the secretary to Sir George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore and related to the Calvert family on both of his parents' sides. Col. Henry Darnall was granted 1,090 acres of "Portland Manor" in 1699.

⁵Probate Records, Will of Bennett Darnall, Liber J. G. #3, folion 43; and Manumission Records, Liber 1797-1807, pp. 127, 128, 223, 224 and Liber 1807-1816, pp. 116-117.

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At Bennett Darnall's death, Nicholas and Henry Darnall were 10 and 12 years of age, respectively. John Mercer of Cedar Park and the 10th Governor of Maryland (1801-1803) was appointed their guardian. Some of the property was sold in order to send Nicholas and Henry Darnall to Philadelphia for a Quaker education. The remainder of the property was farmed and the profit went to the livelihood of the Darnall orphans. It was most likely during this period that the tobacco barn and cornhouse were constructed.⁶

⁶Probate Records-Testamentary Papers, Box 116, folder 19; and Valuation of Property, Box 116, folder 13; Box 130, folder 42; and Box 149, folder 28.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates	circa 1850	Builder/Architect	unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The James Owens Farm embodies the distinctive characteristics of a prosperous Western Shore farmstead during the agricultural - industrial transition period of Maryland's development. It displays a superior late Greek Revival/Italianate brick farmhouse constructed for James Owens a successful tobacco farmer and a full complement of frame outbuildings indicative of the stability of this particular agricultural operation. Two of the outbuildings represent a method of construction unique to the Chesapeake Tidewater region and are the only documented examples of their type in Anne Arundel County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Footnotes under Section 8.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 81.418 acres

Quadrangle name Bristol, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna M. Ware

organization Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey date March 1987

street & number Arundel Center telephone (301) 280-1210

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. M. A. R.* 7-29-87

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews date 9/21/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

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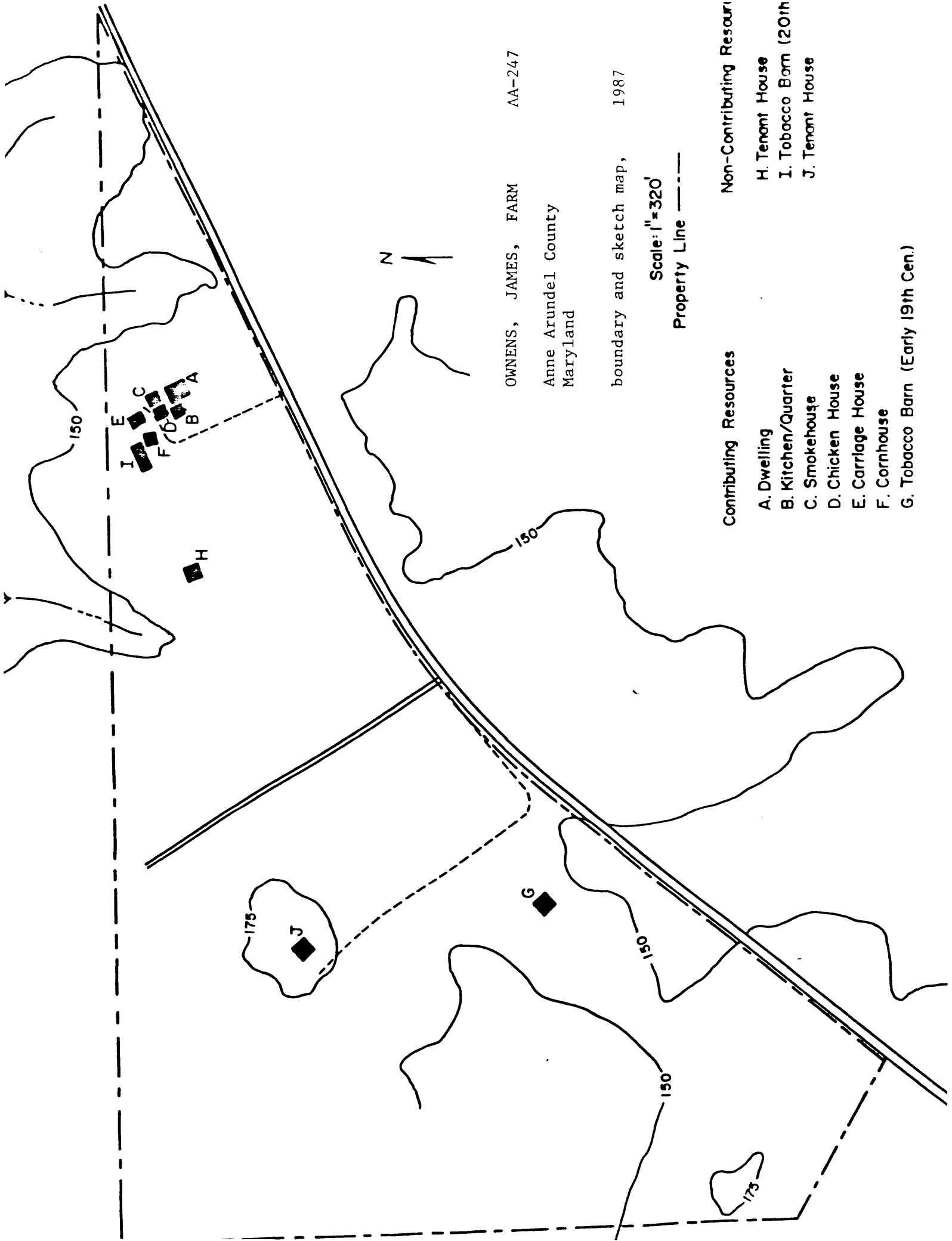
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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries are drawn on the attached map.

The boundary of the nominated property follows the legal property line and encompasses the contributing historic resources. Comprising 81.418 acres, the property contributes to the historical and architectural character of the nominated resources. It is the surviving portion of the 187-1/2 acre farm assembled by James Owens, Jr. in 1841. In the spring of 1987, the present owners sold an easement for the 81.418 acre farm to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The owners wish that all 81.418 acres be listed in the National Register.

Physically, the property is rural, defined by flat cleared fields with hilly wooded areas along the property boundaries. The northern boundary is marked by the property line, beyond which is partially cleared and wooded land. Headwaters of two creeks which flow into the Patuxent River originate in this vicinity. The western boundary also follows the property line, beyond which lies partially cleared and wooded land. The southern boundary is marked by Greenock Road. This is an early road and has historically served as a boundary for this parcel. The majority of the historic resources are located in the eastern portion of the property beyond which lies wooded land, north of Greenock Road.



OWNENS, JAMES, FARM AA-247

Anne Arundel County
Maryland

boundary and sketch map, 1987

Scale: 1"=320'

Property Line - - - -

Contributing Resources

- A. Dwelling
- B. Kitchen/Quarter
- C. Smokehouse
- D. Chicken House
- E. Carriage House
- F. Cornhouse
- G. Tobacco Barn (Early 19th Cen.)

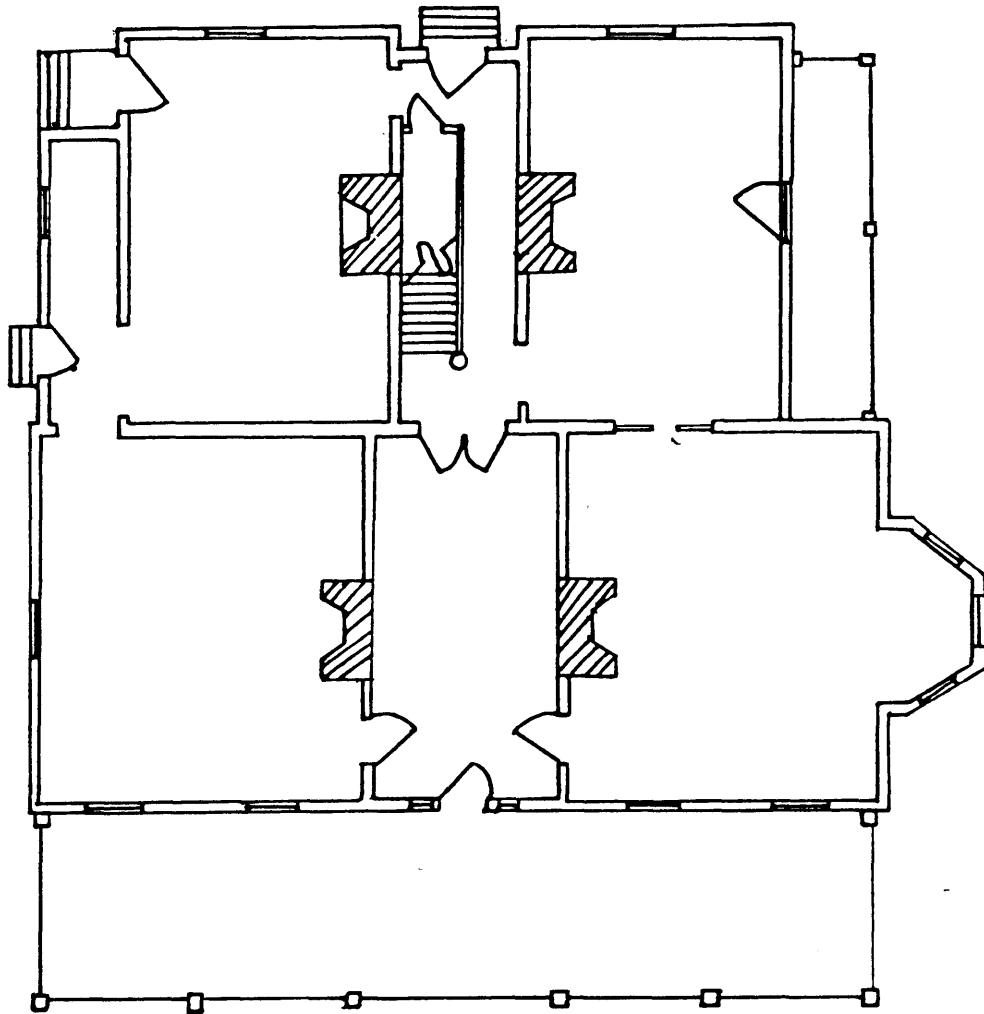
Non-Contributing Resources

- H. Tenant House
- I. Tobacco Barn (20th)
- J. Tenant House

OWENS, JAMES, FARM

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Anne Arundel County
Maryland



first floor plan

not to scale

drawn by Donna M. Ware