

historic structure report  
historic data section

november 1981

*Pkg. 103*

*D-1822*

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE  
THE "SWEENEY PRIZERY"

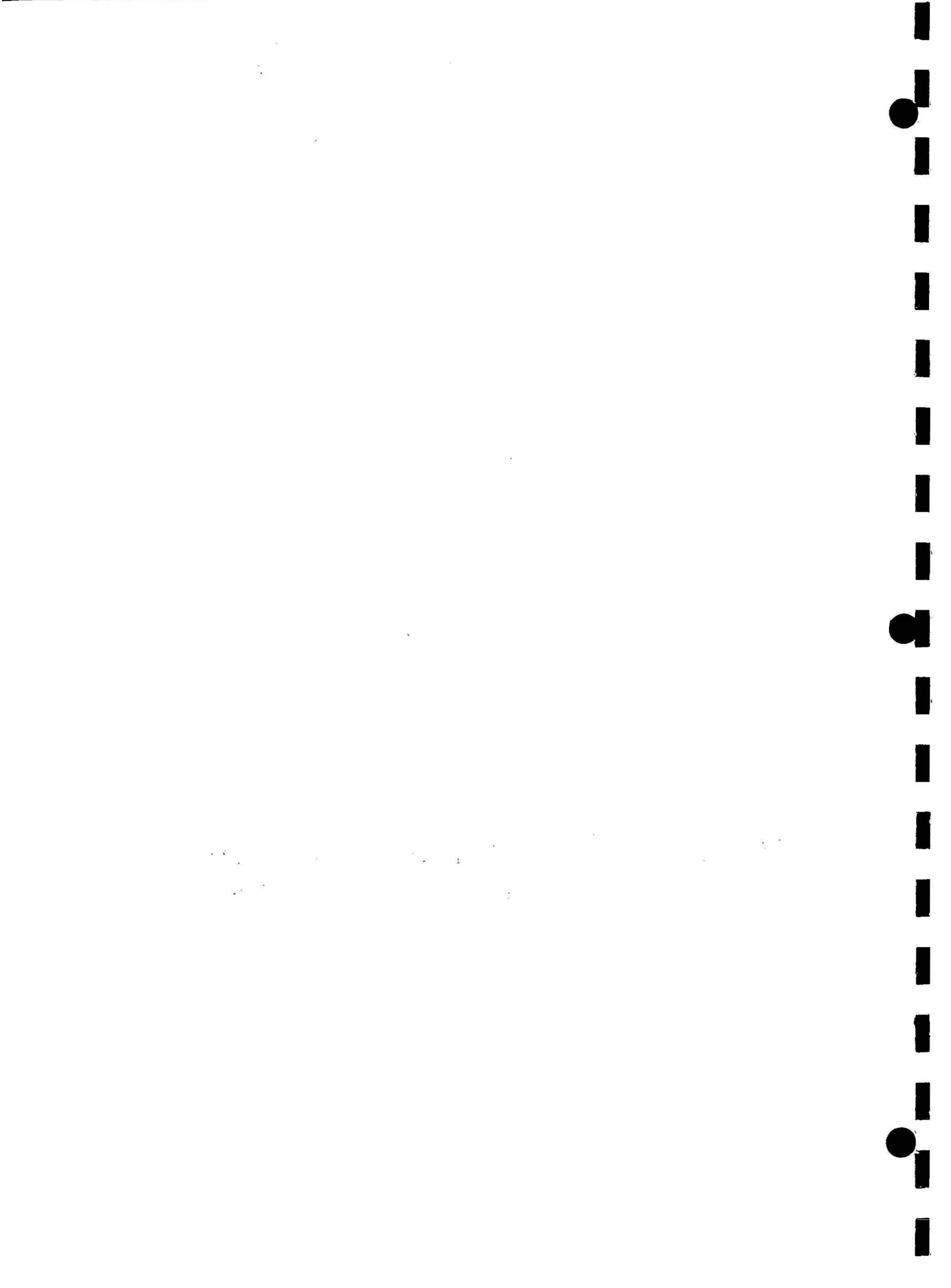


NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK/VIRGINIA

ON MICROFILM

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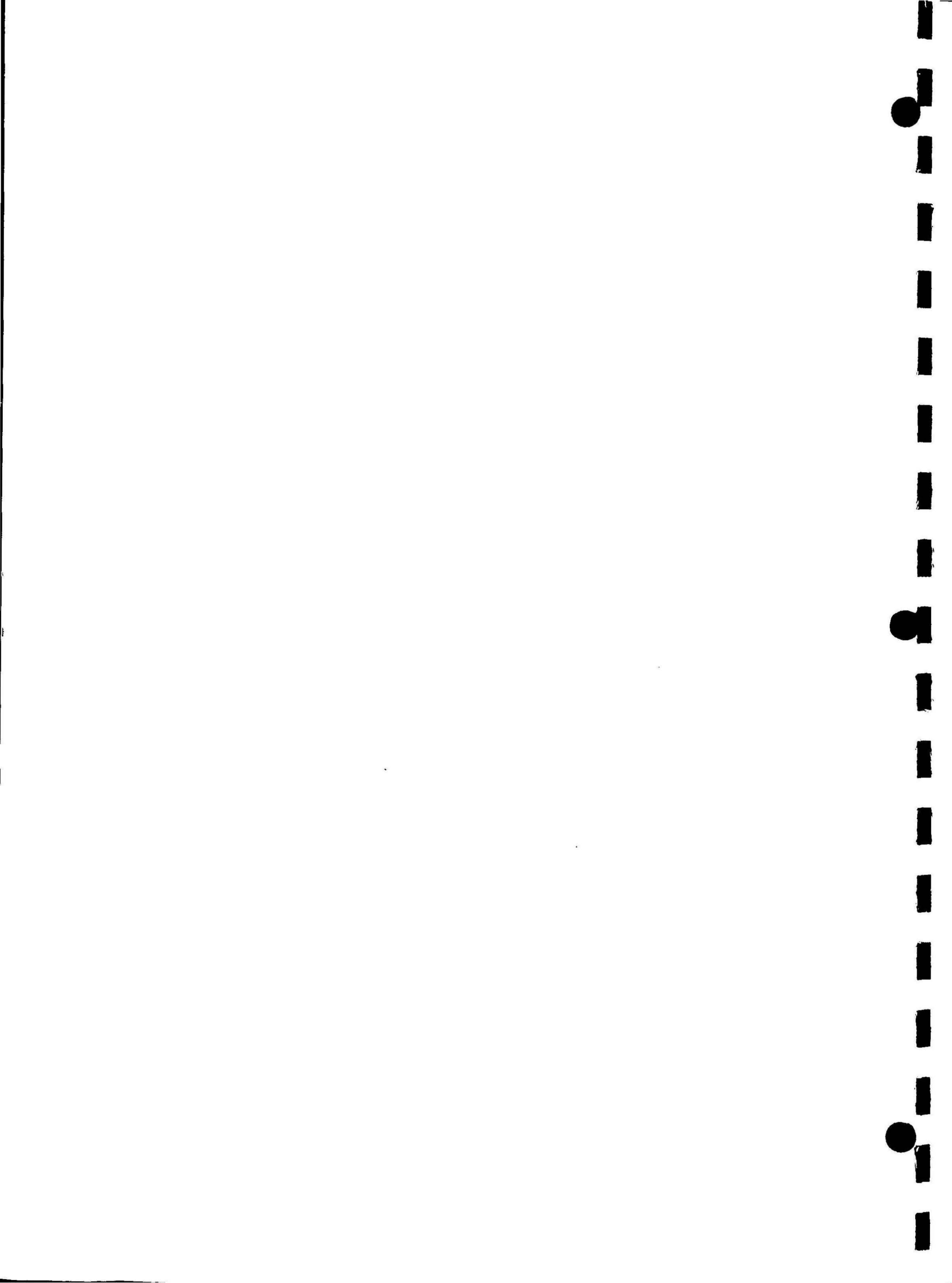
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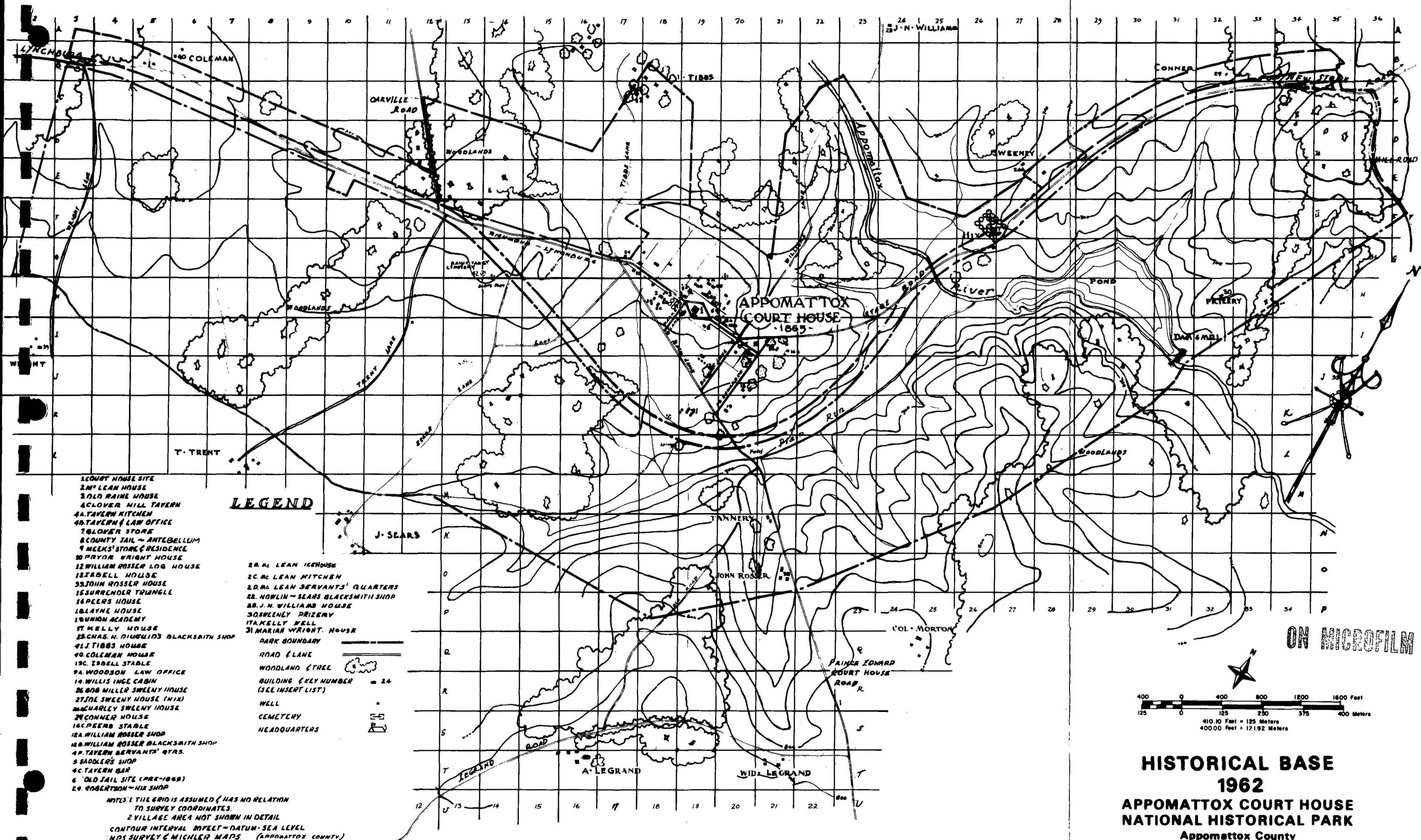


HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT  
HISTORICAL DATA SECTION  
THE "SWEENEY PRIZERY"  
APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA  
PACKAGE NO. 103 (PROJECT TYPE 35)

By  
Harlan D. Unrau

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DENVER SERVICE CENTER  
MID-ATLANTIC/NORTH ATLANTIC TEAM  
BRANCH OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DENVER, COLORADO





- 1 COURT HOUSE SITE
- 2 M<sup>o</sup> LEAN HOUSE
- 3 OLD RAINE HOUSE
- 4 CLOVER HILL TAVERN
- 4A TAVERN KITCHEN
- 4B TAVERN & LAW OFFICE
- 7 CLOVER STORE
- 8 COUNTY JAIL - ANTEBELLUM
- 9 WEEKS STORE & RESIDENCE
- 10 PRYOR WRIGHT HOUSE
- 12 WILLIAM ROSSER LOG HOUSE
- 13 ISBELL HOUSE
- 15 JOHN ROSSER HOUSE
- 15 SURRENDER TRIANGLE
- 16 PEERS HOUSE
- 18 LAYNE HOUSE
- 19 UNION ACADEMY
- 19 KELLY HOUSE
- 23 CHAS. H. DUBOIS BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 41 J. TIBBS HOUSE
- 49 COLEMAN HOUSE
- 15C ISBELL STABLE
- 9A WOODSON LAW OFFICE
- 14 WILLIS INGE CABIN
- 26 BOB MILLER SWEENEY HOUSE
- 27 JOE SWEENEY HOUSE (NIX)
- 28 CHARLEY SWEENEY HOUSE
- 29 CONNER HOUSE
- 16C PEERS STABLE
- 12A WILLIAM ROSSER SHOP
- 12B WILLIAM ROSSER BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 4F TAVERN SERVANTS' QTRS.
- 5 SADDLER'S SHOP
- 4C TAVERN BAR
- 6 OLD JAIL SITE (PRE-1865)
- 24 ROBERTSON-NIX SHOP

**LEGEND**

- 28 M<sup>o</sup> LEAN ICEHOUSE
- 2C M<sup>o</sup> LEAN KITCHEN
- 2D M<sup>o</sup> LEAN SERVANTS' QUARTERS
- 2E NOWLIN-SEARS BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 28 J. H. WILLIAMS HOUSE
- 30 SWEENEY PRIZERY
- 17A KELLY BELL
- 31 MARIAN WRIGHT HOUSE
- PARK BOUNDARY
- ROAD & LANE
- WOODLAND (TREE)
- BUILDING (KEY NUMBER = 24  
(SEE INSERT LIST))
- WELL
- CEMETERY
- HEADQUARTERS

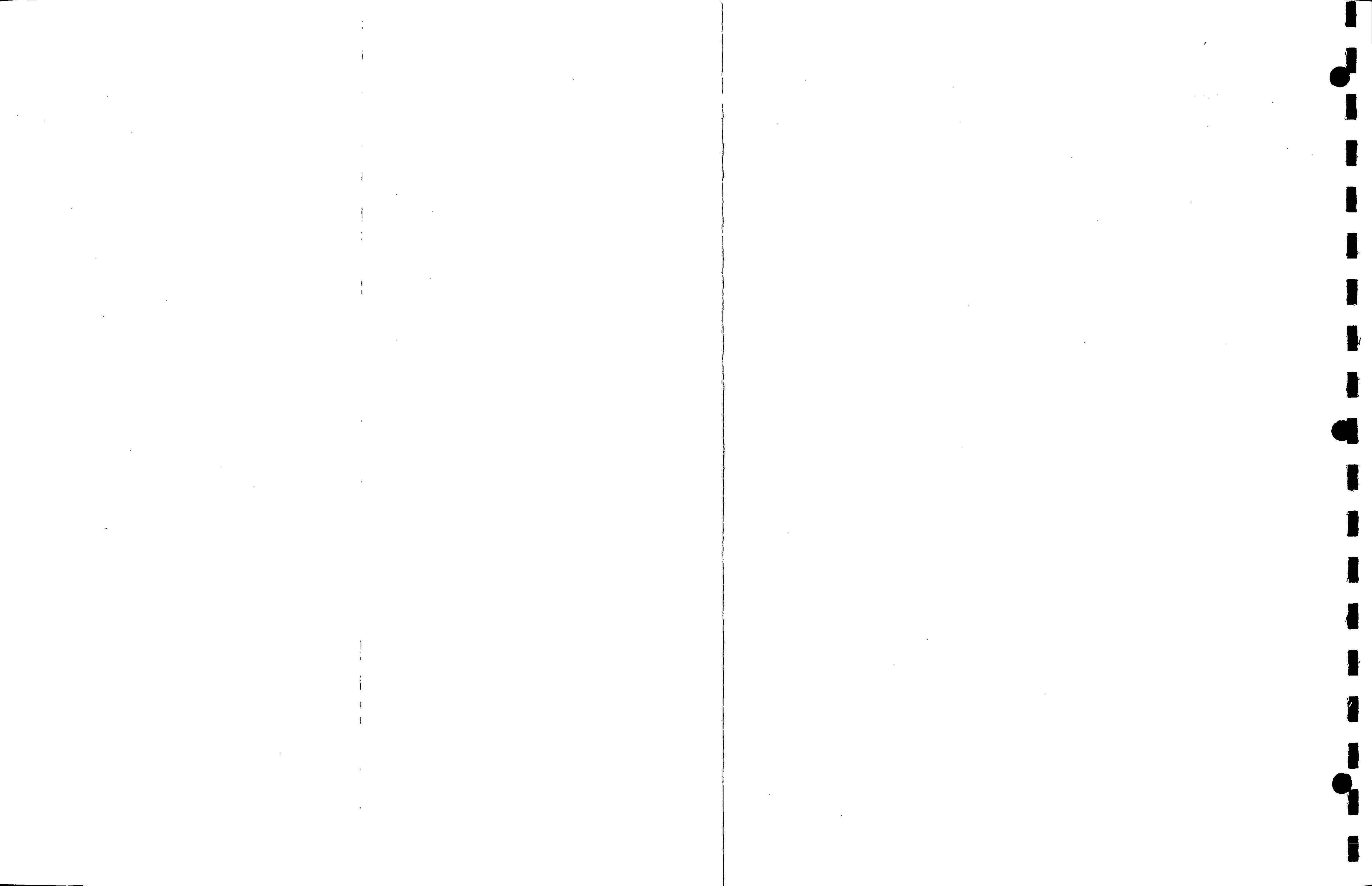
NOTES: 1 THE GRID IS ASSUMED & HAS NO RELATION TO SURVEY COORDINATES.  
 2 VILLAGE AREA NOT SHOWN IN DETAIL  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET - DATUM - SEA LEVEL  
 NPS SURVEY & MICHLER MAPS. (APPOMATTOX COUNTY)

**ON MICROFILM**

N

400 0 400 800 1200 1600 Feet  
 125 0 125 250 375 500 Meters  
 410.10 Feet = 125 Meters  
 400.00 Feet = 121.92 Meters

**HISTORICAL BASE  
 1962  
 APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE  
 NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
 Appomattox County  
 VIRGINIA**



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1. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Historical Base, 1962, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox County, Virginia," by Denver Service Center, May 1976.
2. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Status of Property, Appomattox Court House National Battlefield Site, Appomattox Court House, Virginia," May 3, 1937.

## PREFACE

This historic structure report (historical data section) has been prepared to satisfy in part the research needs as stated in the task directive (dated November 26, 1979; amended by memorandum May 12, 1980) concerning the "Sweeney Prizery" at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park under Package No. 103 (Project Type 35). The historical data section is intended to provide basic data for the stabilization/preservation treatment of the structure and for the future interpretation of the site.

A number of persons have assisted in the preparation of this report. Special thanks are due to Superintendent Luis F. Garcia-Curbelo and his staff for providing helpful direction to the project. Ronald Wilson, Historian, and Raymond Godsey, Chief of Maintenance, were most helpful in taking me on a tour of the Prizery, providing insights into the nature of the research required for the report, discussing the various repositories and source materials to be consulted, and suggesting local historians that should be interviewed.

Harlan D. Unrau

June 23, 1980

## STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The "Sweeney Prizery," a tobacco barn built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in which tobacco was packed or prized in hogsheads and which was converted to use as a farm tenant house in the nineteenth century, is significant primarily because of its association with the events just prior to General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, thus ending four years of bloody civil strife. On Saturday, April 8, Lee's ragged veterans trudged over the muddy roads of Appomattox County, desperately seeking to escape the grasp of Grant's ever-lengthening arm. That night Confederate soldiers encamped over a wide area around Appomattox Court House, encompassing Clover Hill, the Mariah Wright farm, and "Pleasant Retreat," the estate owned by Major Joel Walker Flood, Jr., on which the "Sweeney Prizery" was located. At daybreak on Palm Sunday, April 9, the Confederates attacked across the field west of the village in an effort to continue their escape toward Danville. They brushed the federal cavalry aside only to disclose strong units of blue-coated infantrymen. Before noon, Union infantry, spread in a skirmish line, advanced north across the Wright farm to the south edge of town. A few minutes later, one of Lee's officers came riding out, bearing a white flag of truce. The Union infantry halted its advances, and General Lee and General Grant rode into town to meet in the home of Wilmer McLean and to arrange the surrender terms.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- a. The Sweeney Prizery, Building Number 28, situated on land owned by the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and located about 2000 feet east of Virginia State Route No. 24 and about 900 feet north of the Appomattox River, is a prime historic structure for which exterior restoration and adaptive interior restoration have been proposed as recorded in the List of Classified Structures.
- b. The proposed use is adaptation for an environmental study center.
- c. The General Management Plan as approved in September, 1977, states on page 93 that "The Sweeney Prizery will be stabilized for adaptive use as an environmental study area".
- d. The Sweeney Prizery is reported to be one of the oldest structures in the Appomattox area dating back to the 18th Century. While it played only a minor role in the surrender, it is a prime historic structure. The exterior restoration necessary should be completed in as simple a manner as possible for it is to be assumed that in its original condition it was somewhat crude and basic. This restoration will ensure the historic scene, also being desirable for interpretive purposes because of the adaptive interior restoration for an environmental study center.

INTRODUCTION

A study of the so-called "Sweeney Prizery" is fraught with difficulties. One of the foremost problems is the virtual absence of any documentation relating to the original construction and the early ownership and utilization of the structure. The lack of documentation is the result of two local county courthouse fires in which nearly all county land, probate, and court records were destroyed. The Prizery building was located in Buckingham County until the formation of Appomattox County in 1845 when the land on which it was located was included in the new county. In 1869 the Buckingham County Court House was devastated by fire, destroying all county records dating back to 1761 when the county was organized with the exception of two surveyor plat books. Later in 1892 the Appomattox County Court House burned and most of its records dating back to 1845 were destroyed with the exception of the county land books.<sup>1</sup> The absence of county records, as well as the lack of any local area newspapers until the late nineteenth century and the lack of well-documented published or printed town or county histories, makes a historical study of the Prizery difficult. As a result, a body of local tradition, folklore, and unsubstantiated theories have grown up about the original construction and the early utilization and ownership of the Prizery.

Hence the purpose of this report will be to present both the little available documentary material and the unsubstantiated folklore associated with the Prizery. Since a formal study of the Prizery has never been undertaken it is intended that this study will present a comprehensive review of the documentary history of the building and a brief evaluation of the merits of the various stories that have grown up around the structure.

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1. In 1761 Buckingham County was organized out of a portion of Albemarle County and included the land of present Appomattox County lying north of the Appomattox River. Later in 1845 Appomattox County was formed out of portions of Buckingham, Charlotte, Campbell, and Prince Edward Counties. John Hammond Moore, "Appomattox Court House -Community, Village, and Families, 1845-1870," pp. 2-9, and Polly Jones, Historical Sketch of Buckingham County, Virginia ([Richmond], 1929), pp. 3-10.

CHAPTER ONE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE USE OF A PRIZERY IN THE TOBACCO CULTURE  
OF ANTEBELLUM VIRGINIA.

Before the study of the historical evolution of the "Sweeney Prizery" is commenced, it is essential that one understands the role of a prizery in the tobacco culture of antebellum Virginia. The growing and curing of tobacco in the antebellum period was an arduous year-round task. According to one writer, the general process of tobacco culture and curing included the following principal tasks:

....In January and February the tedious preparation of the plant-bed was carried on; in March and April preparation of the tobacco field by breaking the land and making tobacco hills for the reception of the tender plants from the plant beds occupied the workers; in May sowing plaster and other fertilizer on the hills and fighting flies kept every worker busy; in June the tedious work of transplanting the plants from the beds to the hills in the tobacco field took place; in July and August the plants were plowed, hoed, topped, suckered and wormed; in September the plants were cut and hung on tobacco sticks; in October the housing and curing went on; in November the leaves were stripped from the cured plants in the tobacco house and tied in neat bundles as "hands," and finally in December were packed in hogsheads for the market.<sup>2</sup>

After the tobacco was cured, the leaves were stripped from the cured plants in the tobacco "curing" barn and tied in neat bundles as "hands."<sup>3</sup> A "hand" of tobacco usually contained about fourteen leaves,

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2. Charles Dudley Eaves, The Virginia Tobacco Industry: 1780-1860 (Lubbock, 1945), p. 30. Other works that should be consulted for a more thorough study of the culture and industry associated with the growth of tobacco are: B. W. Arnold, Jr., History of the Tobacco Industry in Virginia from 1860 to 1894 (Baltimore, 1897); Meyer Jacobstein, The Tobacco Industry in the United States (New York, 1907); and Nannie May Tilley, The Bright Tobacco Industry, 1860-1929 (Chapel Hill, 1948).

3. Two of the best sources on the historical development and architectural characteristics of tobacco "curing" barns are Charles Klamkin, Barns: Their History, Preservation, and Restoration (New York, 1973), pp. 15, 53, 57-59, 74-80, and Eric Sloames, An Age of Barns (New York, 1973), n.p.

although in some instances it had more depending on the size of the leaves. The leaves to form a "hand" were arranged with their stem-ends together so as to be as even as possible. Then the poorest stripped leaf was wrapped around the stems. The "hands" were then packed in bulk along the wall tables with the leaf points against the wall. In this condition the tobacco underwent a sweat and fermentation. When the sweat was complete, it was known by the fact that the tobacco had become sweet and sound, with the juices permanently formed in the body of the leaf. It would then stretch without breaking and was moist enough to be pressed into hogsheads or boxes.

In the stripping process, the tobacco was carefully assorted into at least three classes -- long, short, and lugs. Dark and light tobaccos were also separated, thus forming a fourth class. The long and short classes were tied up into neat bundles of about six or eight leaves, all being nearly of the same length, while the lugs were tied into much larger bundles. As the tobacco was stripped, it was bulked down until a sufficient amount was procured to commence pressing. Then it was rehung in uniform and open order and allowed to remain until the leaf and stem were thoroughly dry. As soon as it could be handled without much breaking, the tobacco was taken down and carried to a prize barn which was usually located nearby.

The prize barn, or prizery as it came to be popularly called, was the structure in which the tobacco was neatly bulked, pressed, and heavily weighted in hogsheads. The size of the hogsheads, as prescribed by law, were forty inches in the head and fifty-two in length. All types of wood were used to build hogsheads, but the kinds that were considered best were those that were strong and weighed light, such as gum, beech, birch, or poplar. However, staves made of red oak and other oaks were also used. The wood for a hogshead usually weighed approximately 100 pounds.

When the tobacco was found to be in good order at the prize barn, packing it into hogsheads was begun on the next mild day. The process of packing the tobacco leaf into the hogshead was called prizing. The prizing process commenced when

a man inside [the hogshead] with shoes off, laid the bundles in a circle, beginning in the middle, and each circle was extended until the outer circle touched the staves of the hogsheads. A single row of bundles was then laid all around the edge on the heads of the last circle, then across the hogshead in parallel rows, the middle being always raised a little higher than the outer edge. This was called a course, and these courses were continued until the hogshead was filled. The man who was packing pressed with his knees each bundle, in each course, as he placed it, and often stood upon his feet and tramped heavily but cautiously, all around and across so as to get in as much as possible. The hogshead weighed from nine hundred to one thousand pounds, if well hand-packed, and in fine order.<sup>4</sup>

When the hogshead was filled, the top was placed on the tobacco. Pressure was then applied to the tobacco with the use of powerful wooden levers (or in later years wooden or iron screws) located in the prize barn to press the tobacco evenly and tightly into the container. The wooden levers consisted of an upright post to which was attached one end of a long pole with the other end of the pole weighted with heavy weights. Under the pole was a bar which rested on the top of the hogshead. When one end of the pole was weighted sufficiently, the bar pressed the top of the hogshead downward, packing the tobacco much tighter than it could be packed by hand. Then more tobacco was put into the hogshead until it was again full and the packing or prizing process was repeated until no more tobacco could be gotten into the hogshead. The tobacco was kept on the farm until the late spring or early summer when it was taken to market.<sup>5</sup>

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4. Eaves, Virginia Tobacco Industry, p. 44.

5. Ibid., p. 44; The Farmville Herald, Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia (Farmville, 1935), pp. 151-152; and Herbert Clarence Bradshaw, History of Prince Edward County, Virginia (Richmond, 1955), pp. 300, 513-514, 774.

The task of prizing tobacco and hence the use of prize barns fell into gradual disuse after the 1830s when loose or leaf tobacco that was not packed in hogsheads began to be marketed in increasing quantities. Loose or unpacked tobacco could be sold about six months earlier than tobacco that was packed in hogsheads because the delay incident to prizing was eliminated. By 1860 approximately 25 percent of the Virginia tobacco crop was sold in this manner. After the Civil War the railroads contributed to the rising popularity of selling loose leaf tobacco by taking the unpacked tobacco leaf to inspectors and commission houses for sale, thus leading to the development of large central tobacco exchanges in the principal cities located near the main tobacco-growing regions. Thus, the prizing process was virtually eliminated in the decade after the Civil War.<sup>6</sup>

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6. Eaves, Virginia Tobacco Industry, pp. 75-76. According to Raymond Godsey, Chief of Maintenance at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, there were at least two prizeries still in operation in Appomattox in the late 1920s and early 1930s. However, it should be noted that both of these prizeries were more of a commercial type, as compared with the farm-related "Sweeney Prizery." In the antebellum period Buckingham County was the fifth leading tobacco producing county in Virginia. Lynchburg, some twenty miles west of Appomattox Court House, was the third largest tobacco manufacturing city in Virginia, the other major marketing and production centers being Richmond, Petersburg, Clarksville, and Danville. Eaves, Virginia Tobacco Industry, pp. 75-76, 109.



CHAPTER TWO

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE "SWEENEY PRIZERY" UNTIL 1936.

A. Chain of Title to Property on which Prizery is Located.

On December 17, 1936, Joel West Flood and his wife, Dorothy Evans Flood, sold the property on which the "Sweeney Prizery" is located to the United States Government for inclusion in the Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument, recently authorized by an Act of Congress on August 13, 1935 (49 Stat. 613). The property conveyed in the transaction consisted of 356.9 acres, and the cost to the government for acquiring the parcel amounted to \$8,922.50.<sup>7</sup>

The property conveyed by the Floods to the United States was a portion of the land that Joel West Flood had inherited from his father, Joel Walker Flood, Jr. Prior to his death on November 1, 1916, Joel Walker Flood, Jr., had drawn up a will dividing his large estate and land holdings, amounting to some 3,976 acres of land in Amherst and Appomattox Counties, among his third wife, Sallie Whitman (Delk) Flood, and three children, Henry Delaware Flood, Joel West Flood, and Eliza Bolling Byrd. According to the terms of the will, which was executed on November 18, 1920, Joel West Flood received from his father

in fee simple my South and North Clifton farms in Appomattox County, containing by Swans survey, Four Hundred and seventy eight acres, the Runnymede farm containing Three Hundred and eight acres, by Allison's recent survey on file, the Red Hall farm containing 264 acres, these tracts being all of the land that I own on the east side of the Lynchburg and Richmond road.

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7. Deed, Joel W. Flood and Dorothy Evans Flood to United States of America, December 17, 1936, Appomattox County Deed Book 36, Folios 120-122. In 1934 the Appomattox County land records indicate that Joel West Flood owned 1,837-1/2 acres of land valued at \$5 per acre. The total value of the land was \$9,188 and the total value of the buildings on the land amounted to \$1,500. That year he paid \$160.32 in county and district levies on the total value of the land and buildings. Land Book, 1934, Appomattox County, Folio 10, Appomattox County Court House.

In addition, he also received in life estate the 1,029-acre farm, originally known as "Rocky Farm" and later called "Eldon," on which his father resided at the time of his death. The mansion house of this farm was located approximately 1-1/4 miles northwest of the Prizery on the west side of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road.<sup>8</sup>

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8. Will, Joel W. Flood, March 26, 1913 (revised August 24, 1914), Appomattox County Will Book 1, Folios 213-216, and Deed, Between H. D. Flood and Anne P. Flood, Joel West Flood, E. Bolling Byrd and R. E. Byrd, and Sallie W. Flood, Appomattox County Deed Book 21, Folios 31-35. Joel West Flood negotiated a mortgage of \$7,500 with the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore to purchase the Clifton, Runnymede, and Red Hall farms. Mortgage, Joel West Flood to Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, September 28, 1920, Appomattox County Deed Book 21, Folios 35-38.



B. History of the Prizery Under the Ownership of the Floods.

The historical evolution of the Prizery and its ownership prior to that of Joel Walker Flood cannot be positively documented because of the destruction by fire of the Buckingham Court House in 1869 and the Appomattox Court House in 1892. However, the land books of Appomattox County dating back to 1845 and two surveyor's plat books for Buckingham County dating back to 1762 were not destroyed in the fires. These records, together with census and cartographic documentation and fragmentary materials concerning the early history of the Flood family in south-central Virginia, permit one to make some reasonable inferences about the construction, historical evolution, and utilization of the Prizery on the extensive Flood estate in present Appomattox County.

Joel West Flood, who sold the property on which the Prizery is located to the United States Government in December 1936, was the descendent of John Flood, a captain in the British Navy who, according to some accounts, settled in the corporation of Henrico and afterwards Surrey County, Virginia, before establishing his residence in Albemarle County sometime between 1740 and 1755. In October 1755 a 295-acre parcel of land was surveyed for him by Thomas Turpin. The property was located "on the branches of Hunts and on both sides of Glovers Road." His first occupation seems to have been that of an Indian interpreter, and during the French and Indian War he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel.<sup>9</sup>

According to several sources, it is probable that the 295-acre tract was located in that part of Albemarle County that became part of Buckingham County in 1761. John Flood was listed as a "tithable" in various Buckingham County records as early as 1773-74. In Margaret A.

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9. Surveyors' Book, No. 1, Part 2, 1756-1790, Albemarle County, Folio 2A, Albemarle County Court House, Charlottesville; The American Historical Society, History of Virginia (6 vols., Chicago, 1924), VI, 313; Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed, Men of Mark in Virginia (6 vols., Washington, 1907), II, 118; and Bishop Meade, Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1940), II, 173.

Pennington and Lorna S. Scott's "The Courthouse Burned \_\_\_\_\_", it is stated that, according to word of mouth, the original owner of Locust Grove, an 8-room frame house located one mile east of Sprouses Corner just off Route 60, was "Captain John Flood of the British Navy, who removed to Virginia and fought in the French and Indian War."<sup>10</sup>

Henry Flood (1755-1827), the son of John, served in the American War for Independence and attained the rank of major. After the hostilities were over he settled in that portion of Buckingham County that became a part of Appomattox County in 1845. In January 1786 a 194-acre parcel of land was surveyed for him in Buckingham County by John Pattison, and in 1786-87 he was listed in various records as owning one slave.<sup>11</sup>

Although the precise location of the 194-acre tract cannot be documented, it probably was the original parcel of land that later developed into the extensive Flood family estate in Appomattox County. By 1805 Henry Flood was operating a mill and dam on the Appomattox River, known popularly as Flood's Mill, located east of what later would become the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. It is possible that he built the "Sweeney Prizery" about this time because of its location on the hill just north of the mill and dam site. Although this determination cannot

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10. Robert E. and Isabel B. Woodson, comps., Virginia Tithables From Burned Record Counties (Richmond, 1970), n.p.; Augusta B. Fothergill and John Mark Naugle, comps., Virginia Tax Payers, 1782-87, Other Than Those Published by the United States Census Bureau (Baltimore, 1966), p. 44; and Margaret A. Pennington and Lorna S. Scott, "The Courthouse Burned \_\_\_\_\_" ([Lynchburg], 1977), p. 150.

11. Surveyor's Plat Book, Buckingham County, Virginia, 1783-1799, Folio 16, and Surveyor's Book, 1762-1814, 1872-1909, Buckingham County, Folio 30, Buckingham Court House. The two surveyors' books are the only known records to have survived the Buckingham Court House fire in 1869. The books contain the boundary descriptions of each survey but do not contain any cross-references or overall county plat surveys, thus making it impossible to determine the precise location of the individual surveys in the county. Also see American Historical Society, History of Virginia, VI, 313; Fothergill and Naugle, Virginia Tax Payers, p. 44; and Nathaniel Ragland Featherston, The History of Appomattox, Virginia (Marceline, 1948), p. 163.

be documented, it would have been a good location for a prizery because of its proximity to well-traveled roads and the dam and mill site on the river in a county that was emerging as the fifth leading Virginia county in tobacco production.<sup>12</sup>

In 1810 Henry Flood, who had already become a man of some means and had acquired considerable landholdings in the area, built a large, square brick mansion, often referred to as the "Old Home," for his son Dr. Joel Walker Flood (1789-1858), a recent graduate of the medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. Located on the west side of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road northeast of the present Confederate Memorial Bridge, the "Old Home" became the residence of a long line of Floods down to the present time.<sup>13</sup>

Dr. Joel Walker Flood, the son of Henry, was educated at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and at the University of Pennsylvania. A wealthy physician/farmer, he continued to increase the large Flood family landholdings in what would later be Appomattox County after the death of his father in 1827. In 1820, at the age of 31, he owned twenty slaves, and by early 1845, the year in which Appomattox County was organized, Flood owned nearly 4,500 acres within a four-mile radius of the cluster of buildings at Clover Hill that would soon be known as Appomattox Court House. He operated his extensive plantation, which came to be known as "Pleasant Retreat," from his

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12. Deed, William and Mownen Sweeney to John Sweeney, July 15, 1805, Prince Edward County Deed Book 12, Folio 127. This deed did not include the land on which the mill was located but referred to the mill complex in its boundary description. This is the earliest reference found referring to Flood's Mill. Also see Eaves, Virginia Tobacco Industry, pp. 75-76, 109.

13. Mary Louise Gills, It Happened At Appomattox: The Story of An Historic Virginia Village (Richmond, 1849), p. 28, and Elizabeth Petty Bentley, comp., Index to the 1810 Census of Virginia (Baltimore, 1980), p. 113. The increasing wealth of Henry Flood is evidenced in the Census of 1820 in which he is listed as engaged in both agriculture and manufacturing and as the owner of 37 slaves. 1820 Census Population Schedules, Buckingham County, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg.

residence in the "Old Home," located on a 100-acre tract. His individual landholdings were listed as follows (locations were measured from the Buckingham Court House since the lands were listed before Appomattox County was organized formally):

2,014 acres	On Lynchburg-Richmond Road
100 acres	Residence
216 acres	Mill Tract, Appomattox (19 miles southwest of Court House)
159-1/2 acres	Adjoining Pattison (23 miles southwest of Court House)
800 acres	Rocky Farm (23 miles southwest of Court House)
300 acres	Adjoining Rocky Farm
8 acres	Adjoining Rocky Farm
78 acres	Adjoining Rocky Farm
339 acres	Adjoining Rocky Farm
70-3/4 acres	Adjoining Rocky Farm
300 acres	Adjoining Elijah Colley (23 miles southwest of Court House). <sup>14</sup>

Sometime during the 1845-46 period Dr. Joel Walker Flood conveyed "Rocky Farm," located three miles west of the site of the new Appomattox Court House, and most or all of the adjoining parcels to his son Henry Flood (1816-1872). Henry later served as a staff officer in the Confederate Army and became popularly known as Colonel Henry Flood. He was a lawyer by profession, finishing his education at the University of Virginia. He served as a representative of Appomattox County in the House of Delegates for one term in 1849-50. It is not known how long he lived on "Rocky Farm" since he was residing in Lynchburg by 1860-61. According to the Historical Base Map of Appomattox Court House National

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14. Land Book, 1845, Appomattox County, Appomattox County Court House; American Historical Society, History of Virginia, VI, 313; and 1820 Census Population Schedules.

Historical Park (1960), Colonel Henry Flood had a small country estate on the east side of the Lynchburg-Richmond Road approximately 1/2 mile northeast of "Pleasant Retreat" by 1865.<sup>15</sup>

After the land transaction between Dr. Joel Walker Flood and his son, Henry Flood, in 1845-46, the former owned seven parcels of land, totaling 2,623 acres, all of which were located some two to three miles east-northeast of the site of the new Appomattox Court House along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. The parcels included the following:

2,014 acres	Lynchburg-Richmond Road
100 acres	Mansion House (Pleasant Retreat)
216 acres	Mill Tract
159-1/2 acres	Adjoining Pattisons
122 acres	William Pattison's Estate
8-1/2 acres	William Pattison's Estate
3 acres	Flood's Mill

Hence the property on which the "Sweeney Prizery" is located remained under the ownership of Dr. Joel Walker Flood.<sup>16</sup>

By the time of his death in 1858, Dr. Joel Walker Flood had purchased more than 600 additional acres and added them to his "Pleasant

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15. Land Books, 1846 and 1861, Appomattox County, Appomattox County Court House; American Historical Society, History of Virginia, VI, 313; and U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Historical Base Map, Part of Master Plan, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park," by Eastern Office of Design and Construction, August 17, 1960.

16. Land Book, 1846, Appomattox County, Appomattox County Court House. According to the Census of 1850, Henry Flood was an attorney/farmer owning real estate valued at \$20,000 and 66 slaves, while his father, Dr. Joel Walker Flood, was a physician/farmer owning real estate valued at \$50,450 and 121 slaves. Their wealth and leading position in the county is evidenced by the fact that there were only nine men in Appomattox County in 1850 with fifty slaves or more. Stuart McDearmon Farrar, comp., 1850 Census of Appomattox County, Virginia, (1975), p. 3, and Moore, "Appomattox Court House," pp. 14, 170-171.

Retreat" estate. Thus, he left his widow, Eliza B. Flood, with a 3,230-acre estate at his passing.<sup>17</sup>

Eliza B. Flood remained the owner of the "Pleasant Retreat" estate until her death in 1864 or early 1865. During her last years she was apparently cared for by her grandson Joel Walker Flood, Jr. (1839-1916), the son of Colonel Henry Flood who had evidently grown up with his grandparents since the Census of 1850 listed him as living with them. In 1860 Joel Walker Flood, Jr., had acquired the 1,420-acre "Rocky Farm" from his father who was living in Lynchburg, and it is likely that he also took over the management of his grandmother's estate at that time. In 1865 the entire "Pleasant Retreat" estate, which now consisted of 2,870-1/2 acres, was transferred to the ownership of Joel Walker Flood, Jr., as a result of the terms of the will of Eliza B. Flood. Thus, at the age of 27 he found himself the owner of 4,290-1/2 acres of land in Appomattox County.<sup>18</sup>

Joel Walker Flood, Jr., became generally known as Major Flood after commanding Company H of the Second Regiment, Virginia Cavalry (known as the "Appomattox Rangers") during the Civil War. He received his education at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, and at the University of Virginia. He also represented Appomattox County in the House of Delegates and served on the county Board of Supervisors for

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17. Land Books, 1858 and 1859, Appomattox County, Appomattox County Court House. A map entitled "Map of Buckingham & Appomattox Counties, Surveyed under direction of 'A. H. Campbell, Capt. Engrs. & Chief of Topogl. Dept. DNV,' By Charles E. Cassell, Lieut. Engrs. P.A.C.S. December 25th, 1864" indicates that the Prizery area was under the ownership of Eliza Flood.

18. Land Books, 1861, 1865, 1866, Appomattox County, Appomattox County Court House; Moore, "Appomattox Court House," pp. 15-16, 170-72; and Farrar, 1850 Census, p. 3. According to Moore, the Census of 1860 listed 179 residents in Appomattox County with an aggregate wealth (in real and personal property) of \$25,000 or more. Joel Walker Flood, Jr., was the sixth wealthiest person in the county (in terms of aggregate wealth), owning real estate valued at \$25,700 and personal property (including 24 slaves) valued at \$64,500. Eliza B. Flood was the seventh wealthiest person in the county, owning land valued at \$22,400 and personal property (including 33 slaves) valued at \$61,700.

many years. A respected farmer, he served as the first county agricultural agent during his last years in 1911-14.<sup>19</sup>

Although Joel Walker Flood, Jr., sold portions of his plantation, the name of which was changed to "Eldon" during his tenure, the estate still comprised 2,247-3/4-acres, or nearly sixty percent of his total landholdings in Appomattox and Amherst Counties, at the time of his death on November 1, 1916.<sup>20</sup>

During his fifty-year tenure on the estate, Flood had four children by three different wives. By his first wife, Ella W. Faulkner, he had two children that went on to distinguish themselves: Eliza Bolling and Henry Delaware, popularly known as "Hal" Flood. Eliza Bolling married Richard Evelyn Byrd of Winchester, Virginia, a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for making the first airplane flight over the North Pole with Floyd Bennett on May 9, 1926. In subsequent years he made four expeditions to the Antarctic between 1928-47 to explore and survey the hitherto uncharted region and record scientific data concerning the South Pole.<sup>21</sup>

Henry Delaware (1865-1921), a lawyer, who began his practice in Appomattox in 1886, became a prominent figure in Virginia politics,

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19. Vara Smith Stanley, Appomattox County, Past, Present and Future: A History of Appomattox County (Appomattox, 1965), pp. 5, 26-27; American Historical Society, History of Virginia, VI, 313; Tyler, Men of Mark, II, 118; and Featherston, History of Appomattox, pp. 16-17.

20. Just prior to his death in 1916, the 2,247-3/4 acres had been valued at \$4 per acre for a total assessed value of the land of \$9,988. The buildings had been valued at \$1,200, thus making the total value of the land and the buildings to be \$11,188. On this assessed total he had paid \$11.19 in state tax and \$151.07 in county and district taxes. Land Book, 1916-17, Appomattox County, Folio 7, Appomattox County Court House.

21. Gills, It Happened At Appomattox, pp. 27-29, and Richard B. Morris, ed., Encyclopedia of American History (New York, 1976), p. 995. It is interesting to note that well-known sons were born to Richard Evelyn Byrd and his wife. The sons were Thomas, a prominent Virginia businessman, Harry Flood, a Governor of Virginia who became a powerful member of the United States Senate, and Richard, Jr.

holding the office of Commonwealth prosecuting attorney in Appomattox County (1891-1901) and representing the county in the House of Delegates (1887-1891), the State Senate (1891-1901), and the U. S. House of Representatives (1901-1921). As the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs from 1913 to 1919, he authorized the joint congressional resolution declaring a state of war to exist between the United States and Germany signed by President Woodrow Wilson on April 6, 1917.<sup>22</sup>

After the death of a second son, Holmes, at an early age, Joel Walker Flood, Jr., and his third wife, Sallie Whitman (Delk), had a son Joel West Flood (1894-1964). It was this son that ultimately inherited the land on which the "Sweeney Prizery" is located in 1920 under the terms of his father's will and then conveyed the property to the United States Government in December 1936.

Joel West Flood was born at "Eldon" on August 2, 1894, and received a well-rounded education at Appomattox Agricultural High School, Washington and Lee University, the University of Virginia, and Oxford University in England. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1917, and commenced a legal practice in Appomattox. During World War I he served from March 29, 1918, until his discharge on July 18, 1919, as a private in Company A, 305th Engineers, 80th Division, and saw action in two battles on the Western Front. After returning to Appomattox he was elected in November 1919 as the Commonwealth's attorney of Appomattox County and served in that position until 1932. In 1920 he inherited 2,079-acres of Appomattox County farm land, including the "Eldon" plantation, under the terms of his father's will. In February 1922 he was appointed to the staff of Governor E. Lee Trinkle and later he was named chairman of the War History Commission of Appomattox County. During the 1920s he was the director of the Tobacco Factory of Appomattox and

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22. Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography (5 vols., New York, 1915), V, 373-374; Tyler, Men of Mark in Virginia, II, 118-120; Biographical Directory of the American Congress: 1774-1971 (Washington, 1971), p. 952; and The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, XIX, 206.

of the local Fair Association and was president of the Appomattox Telephone Company. He served as the special assistant to the Attorney General of Virginia from 1928 to 1932 at which time he was elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-Second Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Henry St. George Tucker. After serving in the House of Representatives from November 8, 1932, to March 3, 1933, he returned to Appomattox to resume his law practice and agricultural pursuits. In 1939-40 he held the position of assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, and in January 1940 he was elected as a judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Virginia, serving in that position until his death at Richmond, Virginia, on April 27, 1964.<sup>23</sup>

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23. Biographical Directory of the American Congress: 1774-1971, p. 952, and American Historical Society, History of Virginia, VI, 313.

### C. Construction and Utilization of Prizery.

While the date of the original construction of the "Sweeney Prizery" cannot be positively documented, it seems reasonable to conclude that it was built by Henry Flood in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. During its early years it was used presumably as a prize barn for packing tobacco on the Flood estate first known as "Pleasant Retreat." Although no remnants of the extant building indicate its use as a prizery, its location in a prominent tobacco growing area near the Appomattox River and the Lynchburg-Richmond Stage Road would have been a good one for such an enterprise. Since the need for prizeries began to wane after the 1830s as farmers sent increasing amounts of loose-leaf or unpacked tobacco to market, it can be presumed that the Prizery was converted to a tenant house on the Flood estate some time between the late antebellum period and the first two decades after the Civil War.

Little is known about the tenants who have lived in the Prizery after its conversion. According to Dr. Clyde G. O'Brien, currently living in Appomattox, three of his relatives lived in the Prizery during the early twentieth century. C. B. Gilbert lived in the structure for an undetermined period until about 1915 when Will O'Brien took up residence there. He lived in the Prizery until the early 1930s. Edward O'Brien moved into the Prizery some time in the early 1930s and was living there when the Floods sold the property to the United States Government in December 1936.<sup>24</sup>

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24. Personal interview of Dr. Clyde G. O'Brien by Harlan D. Unrau, May 7, 1980. A National Park Service survey of the Prizery in 1940 refers to the Prizery as the St. Clair or Flood Tenant House, indicating that members of the St. Clair family may have lived there at one point. Since the Sweeney name has been associated with the Prizery, it is possible that some members of the Sweeney family also may have once lived in the structure.

D. Significance of the Prizery.

The principal significance of the Prizery lies in its association with the events that led to the end of the Civil War. The area around the Prizery was a part of the Confederate encampment area on the night before General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant at the nearby Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, thus ending four years of bloody civil strife. On the night of April 8 the Army of Northern Virginia encamped over a wide area around Appomattox Court House, encompassing Clover Hill, the Mariah Wright farm, "Pleasant Retreat," and Colonel Henry Flood's estate.<sup>25</sup> Ever since Lee evacuated Petersburg and Richmond on April 2, he had been heading westward along the Lynchburg-Richmond Stage Road toward Lynchburg, twenty miles beyond Appomattox, where he hoped to move the remnants of his army, now numbering less than 30,000 men, by railroad to North Carolina and join forces with General Joseph E. Johnston. On Saturday, April 8, Lee's ragged veterans had spent another grueling day trudging over the muddy roads of Appomattox County, desperately seeking to escape the grasp of General Grant's ever-lengthening arm. At daybreak on Palm Sunday, April 9, the Confederates, in a gamble to break through the Federal lines and move toward Lynchburg, attacked across the field west of the village of Appomattox Court House and brushed the Federal cavalry aside only to disclose strong units of blue-coated infantrymen. Before noon, Union infantry spread in a skirmish line, advanced north across the Wright farm and to the south edge of the town. A few minutes later, one of Lee's officers came riding out bearing a white flag of truce, and the Union infantry halted its

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25. While it is difficult to pinpoint the units that were in the vicinity of the Prizery, the park's Troop Movement Map, drawn in 1960, identifies Pickett's and Kershaw's Divisions and Anderson's and Longstreet's Corps as being nearest to the site of the Prizery. Lee's headquarters were about one-half mile northwest of the Prizery. According to Moore in his study of Appomattox Court House, one Confederate soldier, John Bell Vincent, noted in his diary, now at the Virginia Historical Society at Richmond, that he was "on Capt. Flood's farm" near Appomattox Court House at the time of Lee's surrender.

advances at the Wright House. Soon Generals Grant and Lee rode into town to meet in Wilmer McLean's house and arrange the surrender terms of the Army of Northern Virginia.<sup>26</sup>

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26. There are no known sources, either primary or secondary, that mention the Prizery in their description of the events and military actions around Appomattox Court House on April 8-9, 1865. For further information on the events of the last week of hostilities see the following works: E. P. Alexander, Military Memoirs of a Confederate (New York, 1907), pp. 595-602; Sir Frederick Maurice, An Aide-De-Camp of Lee (Boston, 1927), pp. 253-280; Philip Van Doren Stern, An End to Valor: The Last Days of The Civil War (Boston, 1958), pp. 222-228; Burke Davis, To Appomattox: Nine April Days, 1865 (New York, 1959), pp. 307-409; Burleigh Cushing Rodick, Appomattox: The Last Campaign (New York, 1965), pp. 79-189; Bruce Catton, A Stillness At Appomattox (New York, 1953), pp. 406-428; James I. Robertson, Jr., ed., From Manassas to Appomattox: Memoirs of the Civil War in America, by James Longstreet (Bloomington, 1960), pp. 618-631; Henry Edward Tremain, Last Hours of Sheridan's Cavalry (New York, 1904), pp. 328-333, 439-464; Clement A. Evans, ed., Confederate Military History (12 vols., Atlanta, 1899), III, 546-557; Morris Schaff, The Sunset of the Confederacy (Boston, 1912), pp. 118-302; and Moore, "Appomattox Court House," pp. 94-116.

CHAPTER THREE

THE "SWEENEY PRIZERY" UNDER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:  
1937-1980.

After the "Sweeney Prizery" was transferred to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1936, it received little attention for some years pending the determination of its use in the overall planning for the interpretation and management of the park. The files at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park indicate that the interior of the Prizery, then referred to as the St. Clair or Flood Tenant House, was first measured in April 1940. The measurements and drawings (which may be seen in Appendix A) show the configuration of the interior rooms of the ground floor and the second floor of the structure as it existed after the last tenants were removed. The park files indicate that general interior measurements (which may be seen in Appendix B) were made in July 1958 prior to the "partial mothballing" of the structure the following year to prevent the accelerating rate of structural deterioration.

Preliminary to the stabilization work that was carried out on the "Sweeney Prizery" between May 14 and June 3, 1959, a brief examination was made of the existing conditions of the structure. According to a report prepared by Orville W. Carroll in August 1961 the existing structural conditions of the Prizery prior to the stabilization work were as follows:

The Sweeney Prizery is a 1-1/2 story frame house. Its one unique quality lies in the fact that by being built on a hillside, it possesses a "daylight basement," an unusual feature found in this area.

. . . The Prizery is a story and a half frame structure constructed over a stone foundation that provides access from a grade entrance into the basement rooms. Each of the three floors are divided into two rooms separated by a centrally located stairway. The first floor was expanded in later years to include the shed-roof addition. . . . This addition might have been added to the main house at the same time a major remodeling project occurred to the Prizery. . . .

Very little time was spent in studying the architectural features of the structure to determine its original appearance. It was noted however, after the weatherboarding was removed, many changes from the original plan had been made. Both end chimneys are definitely later additions, possibly taking the place of an earlier central chimney. Evidence of a full length porch across the southeast wall can be verified by the notches still existing in the two corner posts on this elevation. . . .

Other alterations to the original window and door locations were noticed and it is thought that four exterior doors once existed in the original plan; two on the southeast wall and two on the northwest wall. The doors in the southeast wall were closed off when the porch was removed and new weatherboarding applied; windows were changed and possibly the end chimneys built during the same time. Additional study of the frame will be required to verify the belief that a central fireplace and chimney once existed as suggested by the spliced floor joists and rafters on the first and second floors. . . .

. . . The lower portion of the frame is almost entirely gone. Damage from termites have penetrated into both sills, studs and floor joists of the first floor, rendering them almost useless. Above the first floor level, the structure is basically sound, but a considerable amount of reconstruction will be required before the building can be safely used.

The stabilization work that was carried out represented "the minimum amount of work required to prevent further decay of the structure and a minimum amount of physical disturbance of the architectural elements considered necessary as contributing evidence for a future restoration." According to the report by Carroll the stabilization work consisted of

first removing the post-1865 porch and all additions on the northwest side of the original house and all deteriorated weatherboarding. The interior of the structure was then

shored in the basement and on the first floor to prevent any weight from settling on the unsafe stone foundation and also to prevent total collapse of the wall framing members that are rotted at their bases. . . .

Horizontal nailing strips were placed on the exterior frame and covered with corrugated sheet metal. . . .

The existing sheet metal roof was scraped and painted with a metal lead primer to prevent further rusting. . . .

. . . Some repointing of the chimneys was necessary to prevent any loose stones from falling out. Composition of the mortar used was made so it could be easily removed when the building is restored.<sup>27</sup>

In March 1976 a Classified Structure Field Inventory Report was prepared for the Prizery, providing structural data both on the exterior and interior of the building (data may be seen in Appendix C).

The Prizery was stabilized in 1978-79 to prevent further structural deterioration in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by John B. Ingle, Architect, Division of Resource Preservation, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. The work, which was carried out by Young Builders under contract, included the following:

1. Stone masonry in the rear wall and the two end chimneys were removed and put back piece by piece.
2. Portions of the rear or lower wall where masonry was missing were rebuilt.

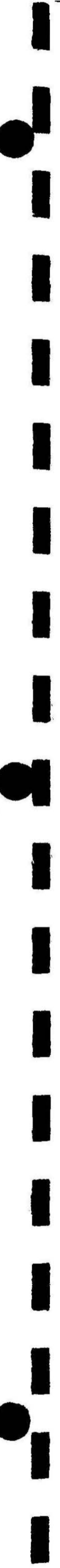
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27. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Historic Structures Report, Part III on Stabilization of the Sweeney Prizery, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Virginia," by Orville W. Carroll, August 1961, pp. i-ii, 2-4.

3. Old materials, such as flooring, were put back in place.
4. Two stick louvers were put in the upper floor to insure proper ventilation.<sup>28</sup>

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28. Telephone interview with John B. Ingle, May 15, 1980. For more information on the subject of the 1978-79 stabilization, one should consult United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Stabilization of Sweeney Prizery File," by Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, John B. Ingle, 1978-79.



CHAPTER FOUR

FOLKLORE, TRADITIONS, AND UNDOCUMENTED THEORIES  
CONCERNING THE "SWEENEY PRIZERY".

In the absence of much documentation concerning the construction, ownership, and utilization of the "Sweeney Prizery," numerous stories, legends, and theories have grown up around the structure. Some of this folklore has come to be accepted in part over the years by National Park Service personnel and local historians. This chapter will briefly discuss the most prominent stories that the author came across during the course of his research and will attempt to offer a short evaluation of the merits of each story.

A. Construction of Prizery, ca. 1735.

The date of the original construction and early ownership and use of the Prizery is impossible to document positively. The earliest claim for the construction of the building has been set around 1735 by local Appomattox County historians, but those making the claim agree that such an assertion cannot be documented.<sup>29</sup>

B. Construction of Prizery by Alexander Sweeney in 1790s.

During the first historical research efforts at the recently-established Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument in the early 1940s, National Park Service personnel determined that the Prizery was originally constructed in the 1790s by Alexander Sweeney. This assertion was based on the statements of Edward O'Brien, the last tenant to live in the Prizery and the great grandson of Alexander Sweeney, and Joel West Flood, the last private owner of the Prizery who sold the property to the United States in 1936. Taking the claim of Edward O'Brien as fact, the approximate date of the 1790s was determined by taking the age of O'Brien (then about 65 years old) and figuring

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29. J. Robert Jamerson, a local historian and genealogist living in Appomattox, granted me a personal interview on May 8, 1980. During the interview, he informed me that he had been told that the Prizery was built around 1735, but he knew of no documents to verify such a claim.

"the probable time of his ancestor's tenure."<sup>30</sup>

There are several problems with this interpretation of the original date of construction of the Prizery. It should be noted that the two statements by O'Brien and Flood are the only ones linking the name of Alexander Sweeney with the Prizery. It is also interesting to note that Dr. Clyde G. O'Brien, a nephew of Edward O'Brien currently living in Appomattox, told me in an interview on May 7, 1980, that during the period when he visited his relatives in the Prizery [ca. 1915-1937] he never thought or heard of the Prizery as being formerly owned or constructed by any member of the Sweeney family.<sup>31</sup>

C. Ownership by Moses Sweeney, ca. 1825 - 1840s.

According to J. Robert Jamerson, Moses Sweeney, the grandfather of the world famous banjo player Joel Walker Sweeney, operated a post office and prizery in the "Sweeney Prizery" around 1825. At that time Moses Sweeney, who appears to have settled in Buckingham County after the Revolutionary War, was listed as being the post master of a post office at Flodds, Virginia. It is the conclusion of Jamerson that Moses Sweeney was living in or near the Prizery at that time while operating both the prizing operation and the post office in the building. Jamerson bases his conclusion in part on the fact that both operations would have been located in a public place and that the Prizery was in such a location because of its proximity to the mill and dam complex and the Lynchburg-Richmond Stage Road.

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30. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument, Interpretive Statement, Master Plan, 1942," n.p. Also see United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument, Historic Base Map, 1941," n.p. The latter document refers to the structure as "Alexander Sweeney's Antebellum Tobacco 'Prizery' (packing house)."

31. Personal interview of Dr. Clyde G. O'Brien by Harlan D. Unrau, May 7, 1980.

While the Census Records and surviving Buckingham County land records indicate that Moses Sweeney moved into the area after the Revolutionary War and lived there until his death in the 1840s (the 1820 Census Population Schedules list him as a farmer owning 14 slaves), there is no documentation to support positively the theory of Jamerson relative to the connection of Moses Sweeney with the Prizery.<sup>32</sup>

The connection of Moses Sweeney to a post office in the Prizery is further disputed by the research of Moore in his "Appomattox Court House" study. He writes that a post office developed during the 1820s and 1830s at the brick tavern built by Alexander Patteson in 1819 on the Clover Hill plantation he had purchased five years before. According to Moore, this post office was known as "Floods" and was named for Thomas H. Flood, the first postmaster and a relative of the Floods of "Pleasant Retreat." In 1837 the "Floods" post office became "Clover Hill" and on February 3, 1859, it was formally designated "Appomattox Court House."<sup>33</sup>

#### D. Connection of Various Sweeney Family Members with the Prizery

Various efforts over the years have been made by researchers to link the Prizery to numerous Sweeney family members. One such case appears in the files of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Research by Mrs. E. A. Watson of Lynchburg, Virginia, in October 1949

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32. To attempt to document this theory, the author of this report researched various county census records as well as the surviving land records of Buckingham and Appomattox Counties. All research efforts on this subject led to inconclusive results. The history of the Moses Sweeney family in Buckingham County, with particular emphasis on Joel Walker Sweeney, is treated in Burke Davis, "The Swinging Sweeneys," The Iron Worker, XXXIII (Autumn, 1969), 2-12; Stanley, Appomattox County, pp. 12-14; Gills, It Happened At Appomattox, pp. 33-36; and Moore, "Appomattox Court House," pp. 216-217. There is a possibility that some data relative to the Moses Sweeney connection with the Prizery might surface in the George H. Collins Papers in the Virginia State Archives at Richmond since that collection contains some personal papers of Joel Walker Sweeney.

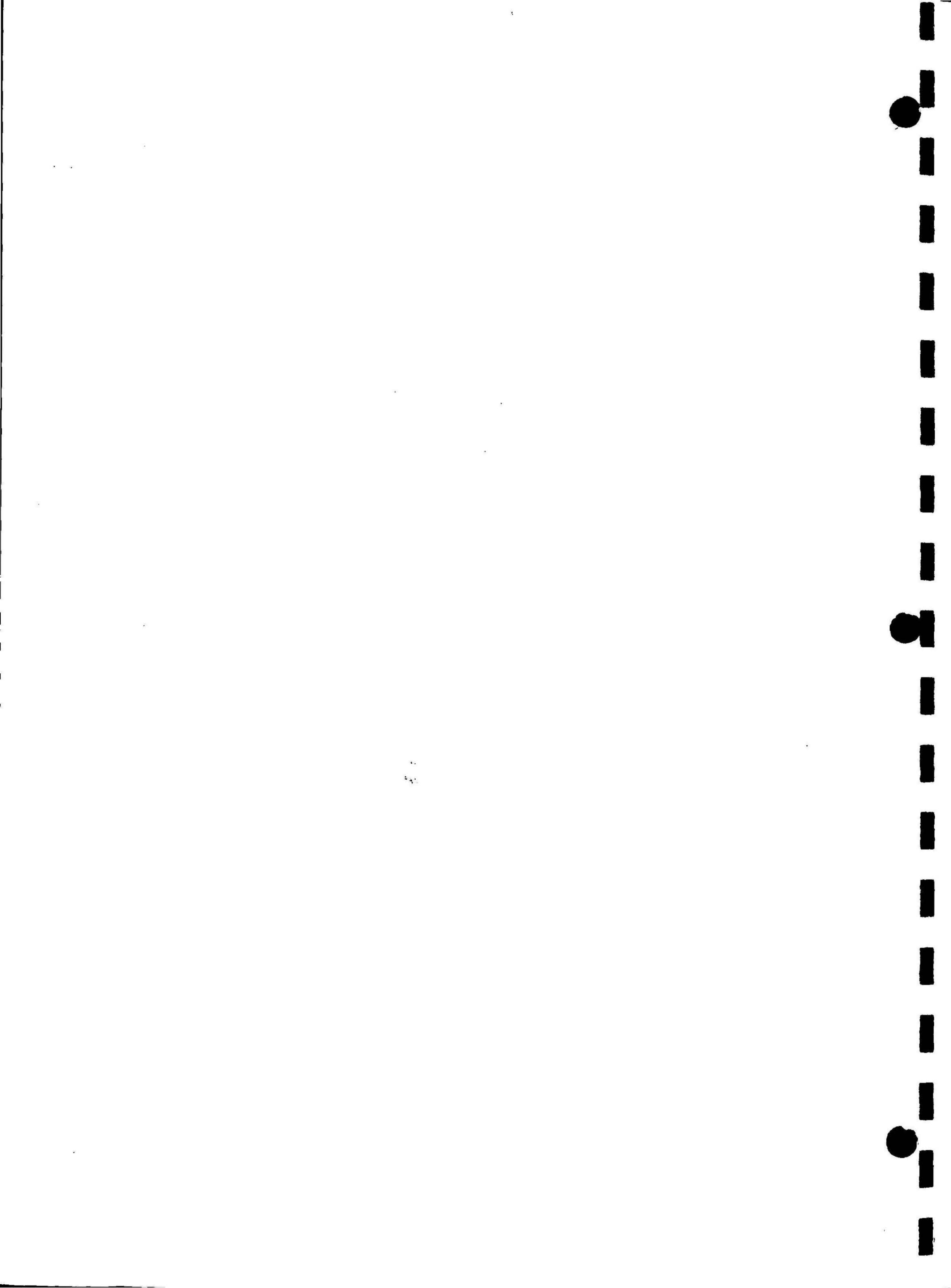
33. Moore, "Appomattox Court House," p. 80.

traced the purported ownership of the Prizery from 1809 to 1858 through John Sweeney, William Sweeney, Lydia Wingo Sweeney, T. D. Sweeney, and Henry F. Bocock. Since the research was referenced to the land deed books of Prince Edward County, the author of this report checked those records at the Prince Edward County Courthouse. The research led to the conclusion that Mrs. Watson's land deed search concerned property that was south and west of the Prizery location along Plain Run on the south side of the Appomattox River.

While at the Prince Edward County Court House other land deeds associated with various Sweeney family members were checked. This was done because it was thought that there might be a chance that the Prizery property would be listed in that county due to its proximity to the Appomattox River that divided Buckingham and Prince Edward Counties before the formation of Appomattox County in 1845. The research in the Prince Edward County land records led to the conclusion that none of the Sweeney-owned lands in that county included the property on which the Prizery is located.<sup>34</sup>

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34. It is interesting to note that early National Park Service studies identified the aforementioned Flood dam and mill complex as the Sweeney dam and mill. This identification was later dropped, although the name of Sweeney has continued to be connected with the Prizery.



RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the opinion of the author that this report substantially provides all the available research data required for the stabilization/preservation of the "Sweeney Prizery" as well as the future interpretation of the site. Research for this report was carried out in the following repositories:

Appomattox, Virginia

Appomattox County Library  
Appomattox Court House  
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park  
Personal Interview with Dr. Clyde G. O'Brien  
Personal Interview with J. Robert Jamerson

Boulder, Colorado

University of Colorado Library

Buckingham Court House, Virginia

Buckingham Court House

Charlottesville, Virginia

Albemarle County Court House

Denver, Colorado

Denver Public Library

Farmville, Virginia

Prince Edward County Court House

Lakewood, Colorado

Branch of Micrographics, Graphics Systems Division, Denver Service Center  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office Library

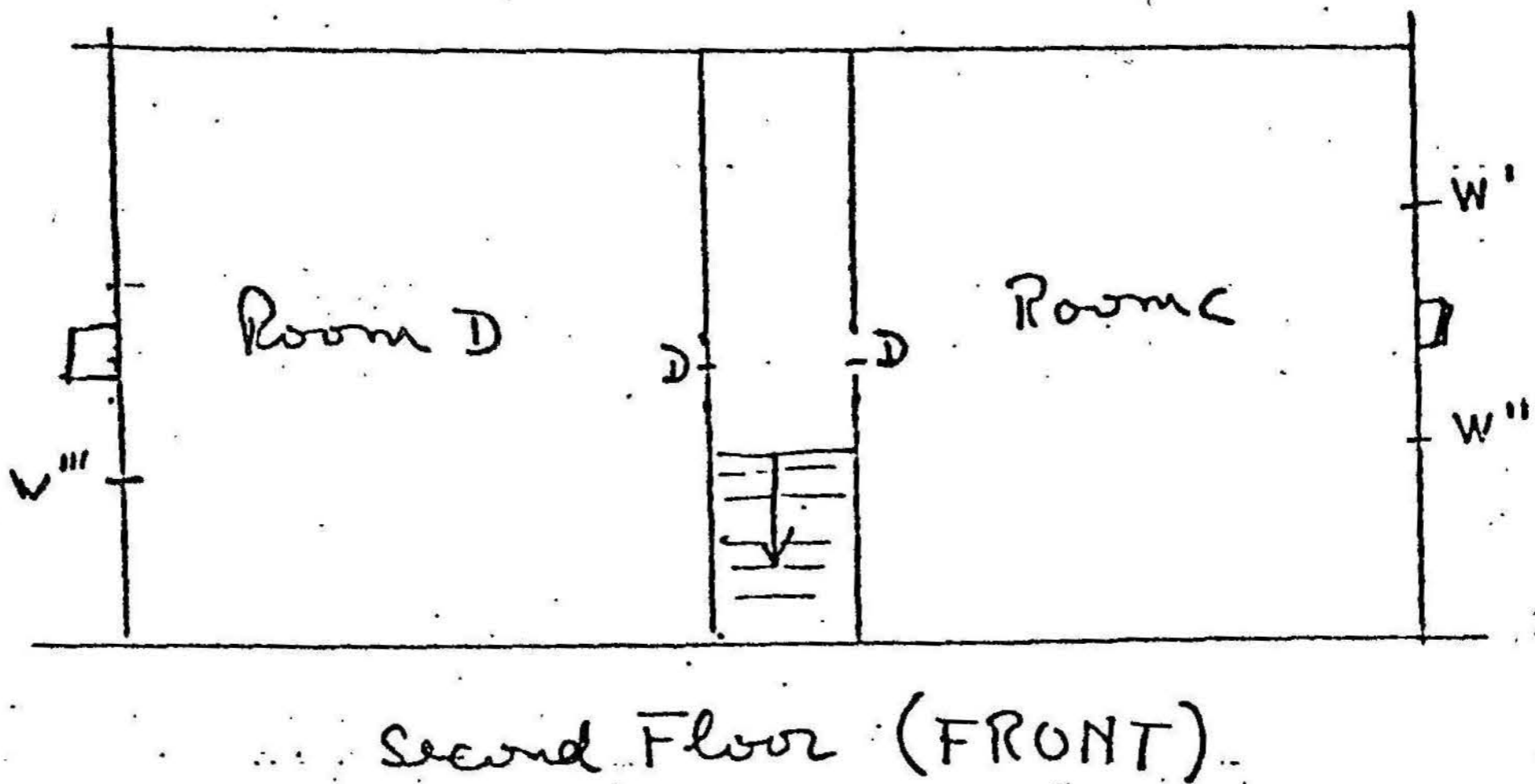
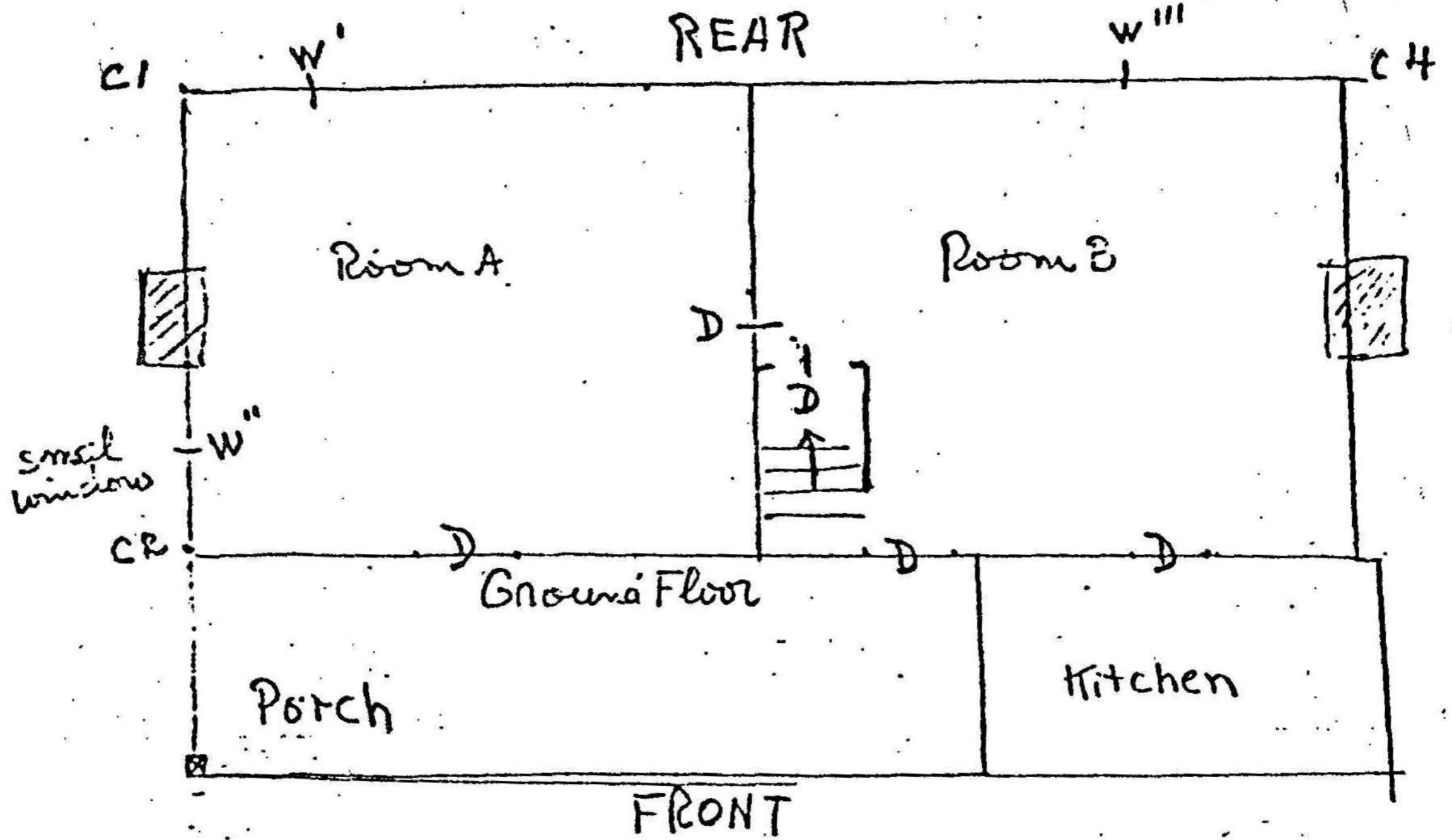
Lynchburg, Virginia

Jones Memorial Library

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

St. Clair or Flood House: Notes on Structure, April 26, 1940



## Room A.

Height of Room - 8 ft 10 inches floor to bottom of flooring, second story

width + length - 15 ft 6 in. x 15 ft 6 in.

Second floor supported by 7 exposed beams: beams rough sawn  
4 x 7 1/2 inches running from front to rear.

Interior finish: 6 1/2 inch finished boards; probably ship-lapped; laid  
parallel to the floor: boards; ceiling + beams:

Flooring: Pine

Window, W': Distance C1 to window jamb = 37 inches: floor to  
sill = 34 inches: window opening = 35" x 40": distance top of  
window to bottom of ceiling beam = 23": distance jamb to  
inside corner of room = 9' 4"

Window, W'': Centered between fireplace + corner C2: size =  
24 1/2" x 28": distance sill to floor = 40"

Outside door: Handmade: 6 boards (6 1/2 inch boards) + 3  
cross pieces: nailed: centered on front wall.

Inside door: Door opening = 6' 1" x 30": centered on inside  
wall: bending + trim = 2 1/4 inch stock:

## Room B

Dimensions: 19' 6" square

Height: Same as Room A.

Beams: 9 beams: same size as Room A.

Interior Finish: inside wall: boarded to 2x3's, boards 11 + 12 inches wide, laid parallel to floor as in Room A.

Other walls: boards 11 + 12 inches wide laid perpendicular to floor with 4x1 leading over joints.

Window, W<sup>'''</sup>: small window, same size + height from floor as W<sup>''</sup>, Room A: distance corner C4 to window joint 5' 10"

## Room C:

Dimensions

Windows W' + W<sup>''</sup>: Small 20x24: 21 inches sill to floor

Finish: unfinished: all rafters + roof boards exposed:

8 rafters 4x3 centered 25 inches

Door: handmade: 70 in x 31 in.: boards beaded on one edge

## Room D:

Dimensions: Height:

Window, W<sup>'''</sup> Small 20x24; 21 inches sill to floor

Height bottom of cross ties to ridge = 31 inches

Finish: unfinished: chimney end boarded with lapped

12 x 1 1/2 boards

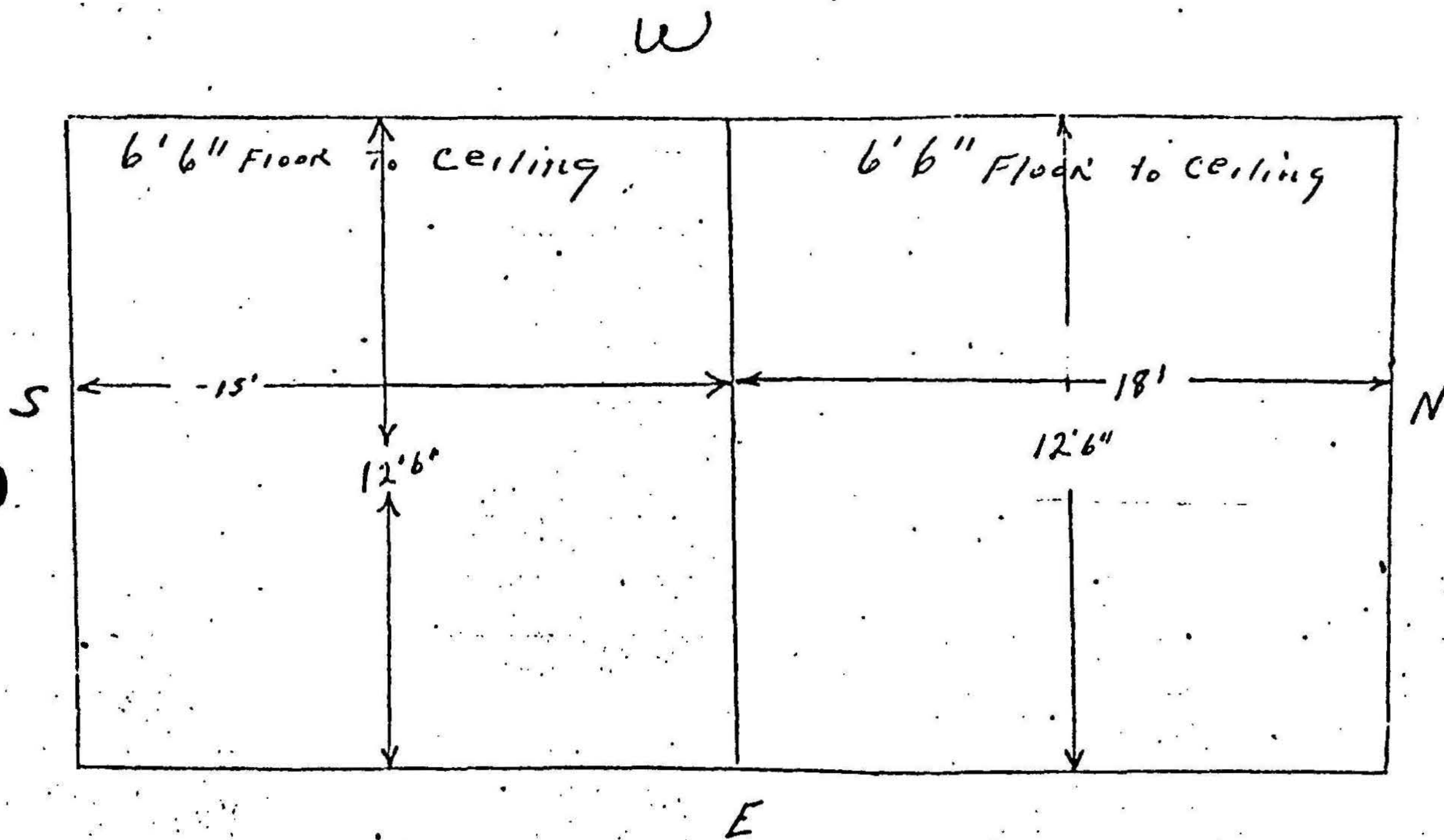
APPENDIX B

Interior Measurements, "Sweeney Prizery," July 15, 1958

Sweeney Prizery

Basement

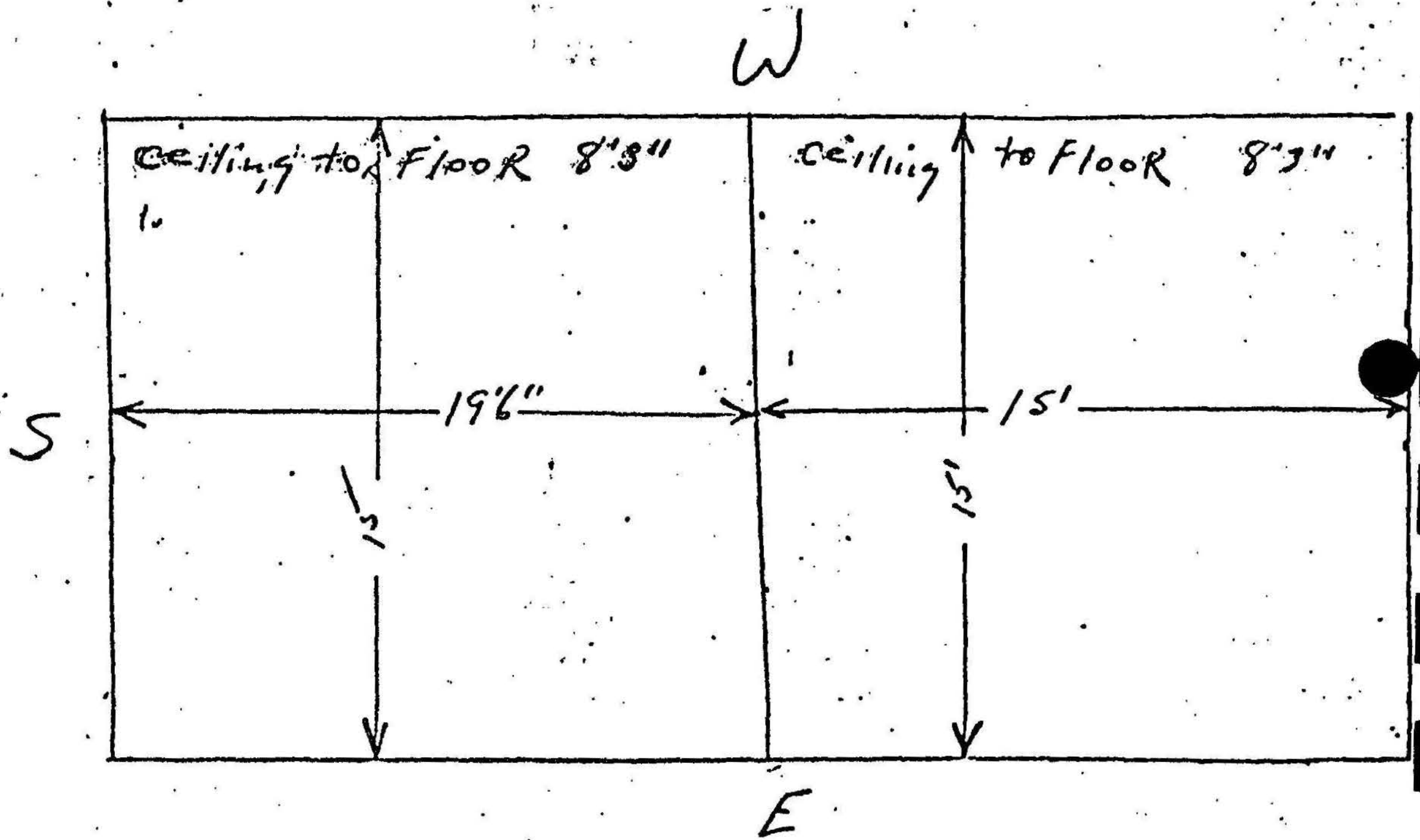
Noechel  
July 15, 1958



Sweeney Prizery

Noechel  
1st Floor

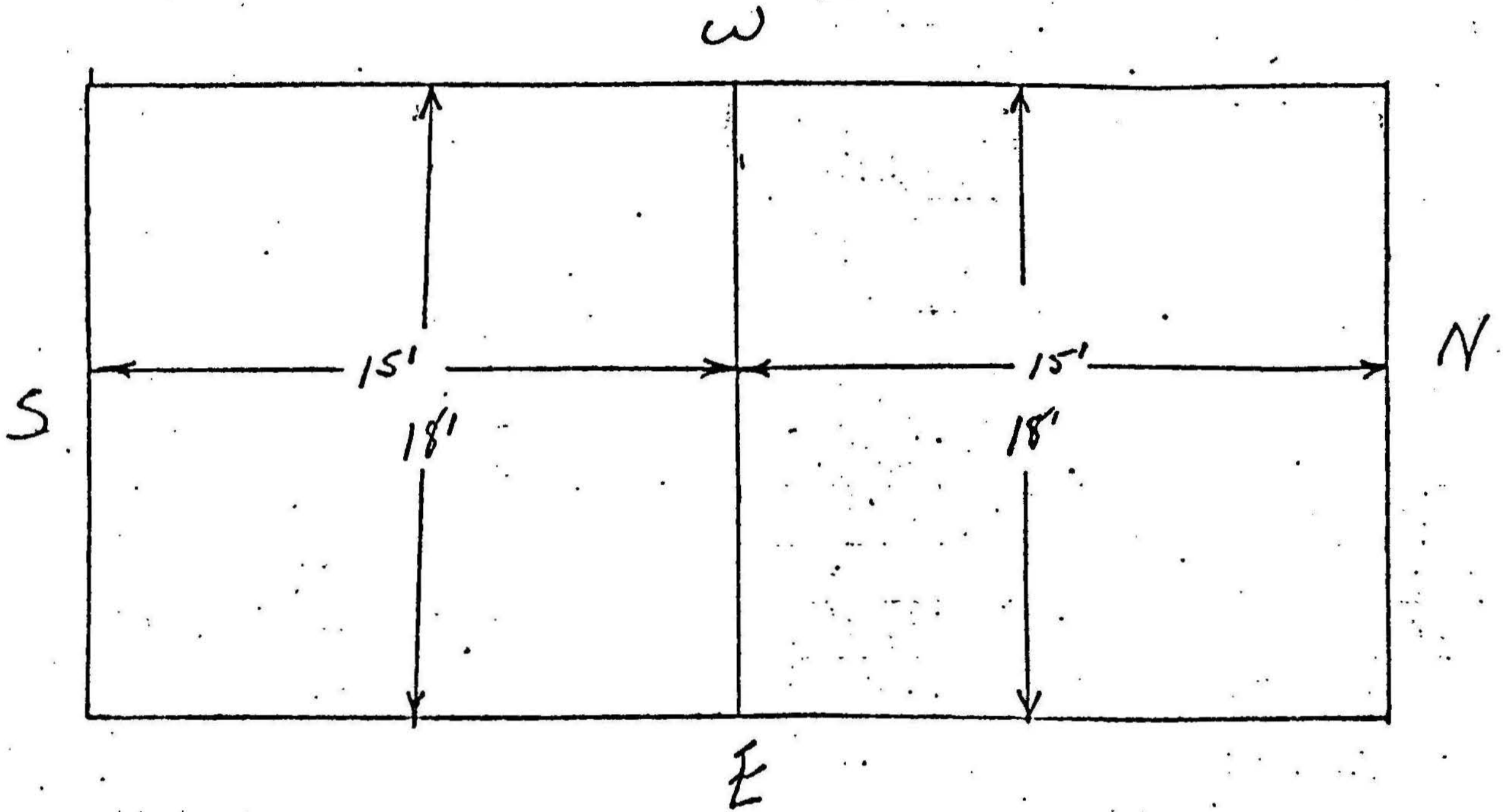
July 15, 1958



Sweeney Prizery

2nd Floor

Noechel  
July 15, 1958



## APPENDIX C

### Classified Structure Field Inventory Report - March 1976

#### Exterior

Size: 36-1/2 x 16-1/2 ft

Foundation: bank-constructed with low, full-length cellar, at grade at front (NW long side), fully exposed at rear; rough-hewn sandstone, dry-laid

Walls: some clapboard remaining (now covered with corrugated and V-crimped galvanized iron sheet), untapered, 3/4" thick, 6" to weather

Windows: missing; cellar openings covered

Doors: single entry (front) board & batten, clinched nails, wood sill, thumb latch missing; two short cellar doors covered, with corrugated sheet, on lower long side

Roof: V-crimped galvanized iron sheet, painted red, applied over wood shingles, square edged, double coursed; rake covered; box cornice, shaped end boards

Chimneys: two, exterior construction, rough-hewn rubble fieldstone, with clay pointing and later mortaring of various vintages

Porch: none: poured concrete paving at entry door

#### Interior

2 rooms on main floor and in attic

Floors: random, about 6"

Walls: north room, horizontal t & g boards, 10", some replacements with 6" boarding; south room, vertical board & batten panelling, boards with 12" wide, battens 3-3/4", about 1" thick; partition, horizontal boards, both sides

Ceilings: exposed joists with corner beads in north room; south room, exposed rough-hewn joints; all whitewashed

Door: at partition, missing

Trim: plain applied strip 2-3/8 x 1/2", corners mitred

Cabinetry: none

Fireplaces: stone construction and flagstone hearths; north end, 61 x 54" high, opening 34 x 31" high; crude mantel with applied strips across center of mantel board, and at sides to simulate pilasters; shelf 6-3/4" wide, 1-1/8" thick, protruding at ends 2"; south end, 70 x 58", opening 39 x 32", mantel missing

Stair: crude, open riser, 42" wide, enclosure, rough-sawn butted vertical boards on inside, horizontal in part plus vertical board & batten on outside

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## PRIMARY SOURCES

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#### Probate Records

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Land Acquisition Records

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Charlottesville, Virginia. Albemarle County Court House.

Surveyor's Book, No. 1, Part 1, 1744-1755, Albemarle County  
Surveyor's Book, No. 1, Part 2, 1756-1790, Albemarle County  
Will Book, II, 1748-1798, Albemarle County  
Wills, Deeds, I, 1748-1798, Albemarle County

Farmville, Virginia. Prince Edward County Court House.

Land Records  
Probate Records

Lynchburg, Virginia. Jones Memorial Library.

1820 Census Population Schedules, Buckingham County

The manuscript materials of most use in the preparation of this report were the land and probate records at Appomattox County Court House, the Surveyor's Books at Buckingham Court House, and the park files at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. The land records at Appomattox County Court House were useful in tracing the history of the Flood estate known first as "Pleasant Retreat."

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### Maps

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John Wood's Map of Prce. Edward County, Executed in the Year 1820 and now reproduced from the sole remaining copy preserved in the State Library. (Copy on file at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park).

Map of Buckingham & Appomattox Counties. Surveyed under direction of 'A. H. Campbell, Capt. Engrs. & Chief of Topogl. Dept. DNV.' By Charles E. Cassell, Lieut. Engrs. P.A.C.S. December 25th, 1863.

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All of these studies, particularly the historic base maps, troop movement maps, the 1978-79 stabilization file, and the studies by Moore and Carroll, were useful in the preparation of this report.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1

Up-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery," April 30, 1959.

Photograph taken by Henry Judd, Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC), National Park Service (NPS).



Photograph No. 2

Down-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery," April 30, 1959.

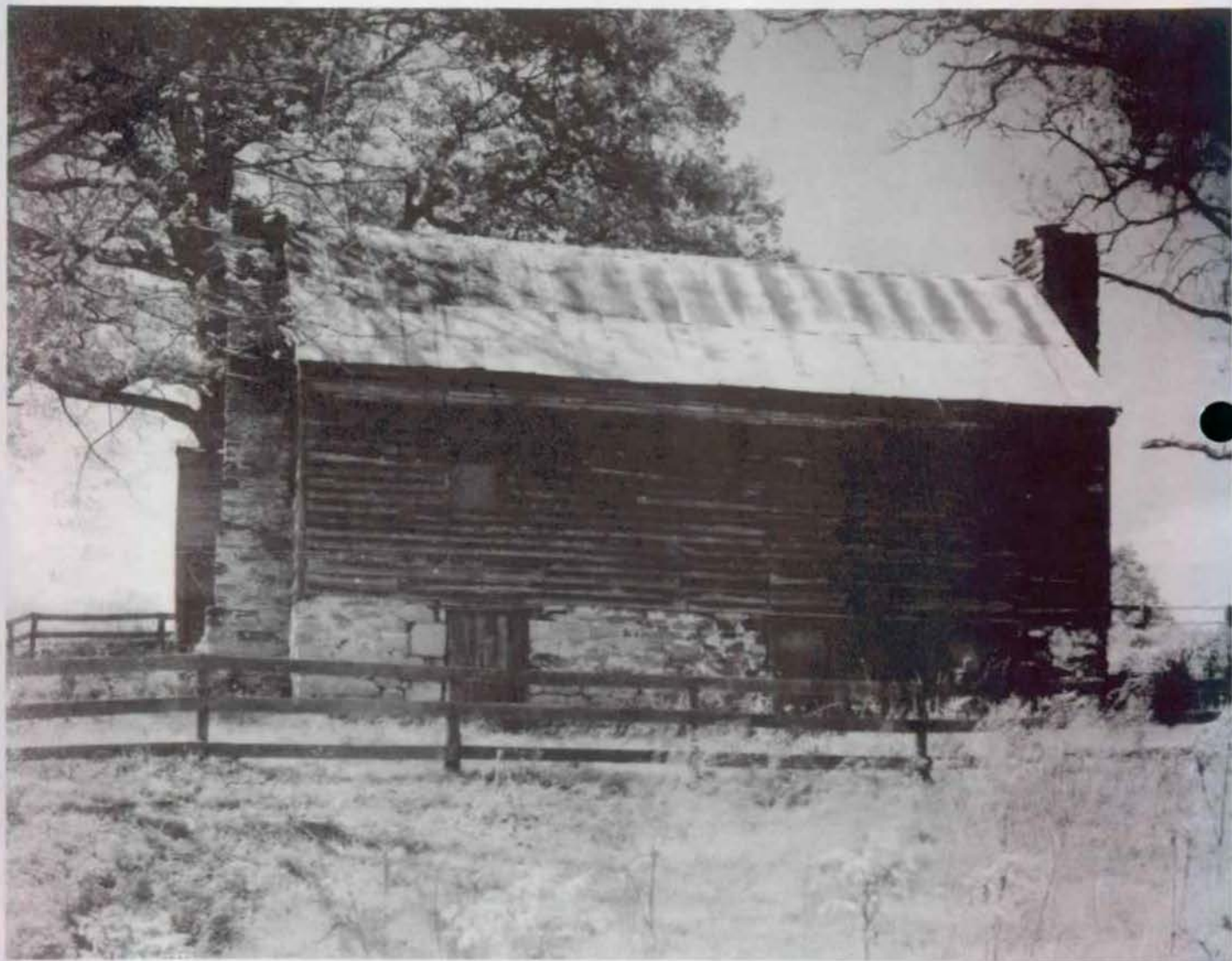
Photograph taken by Henry Judd, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 3

Down-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery," April 30, 1959.

Photograph taken by Henry Judd, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 4

End Elevation from South, "Sweeney Prizery," April 30, 1959.

Photograph taken by Henry Judd, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 5

End Elevation From South, "Sweeney Prizery," April 30, 1959.

Photograph taken by Henry Judd, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 6

End Elevation from North, "Sweeney Prizery," April 30, 1959.

Photograph taken by Henry Judd, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 7

Stabilization Work Underway on Down-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery,"  
May 1959.

Photograph taken by Henry Judd, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 8

Completed Stabilization Work on Up-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery,"  
June 16, 1959.

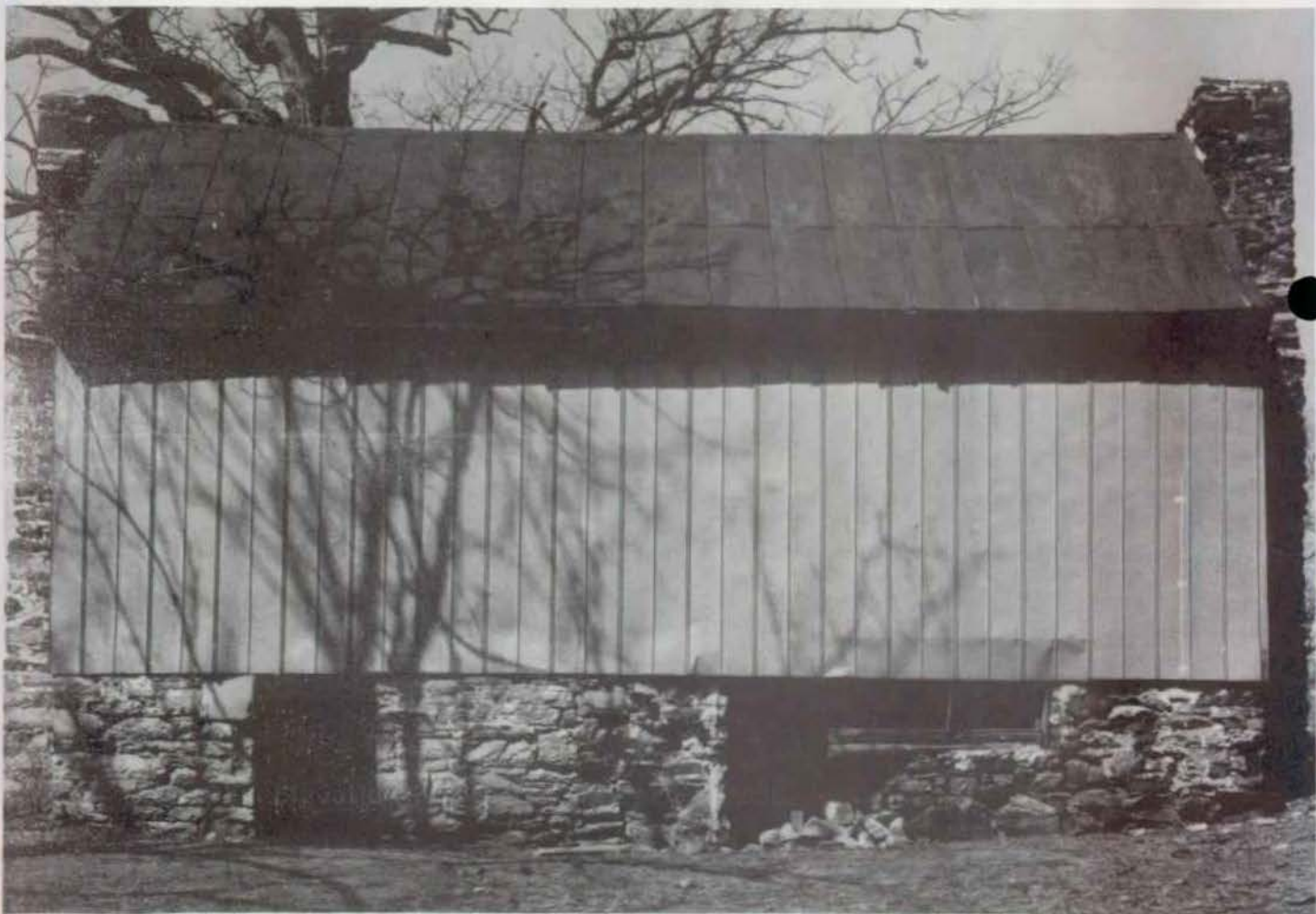
Photograph taken by Jack Boucher, EODC, NPS.



Photograph No. 9

Down-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery," 1978.

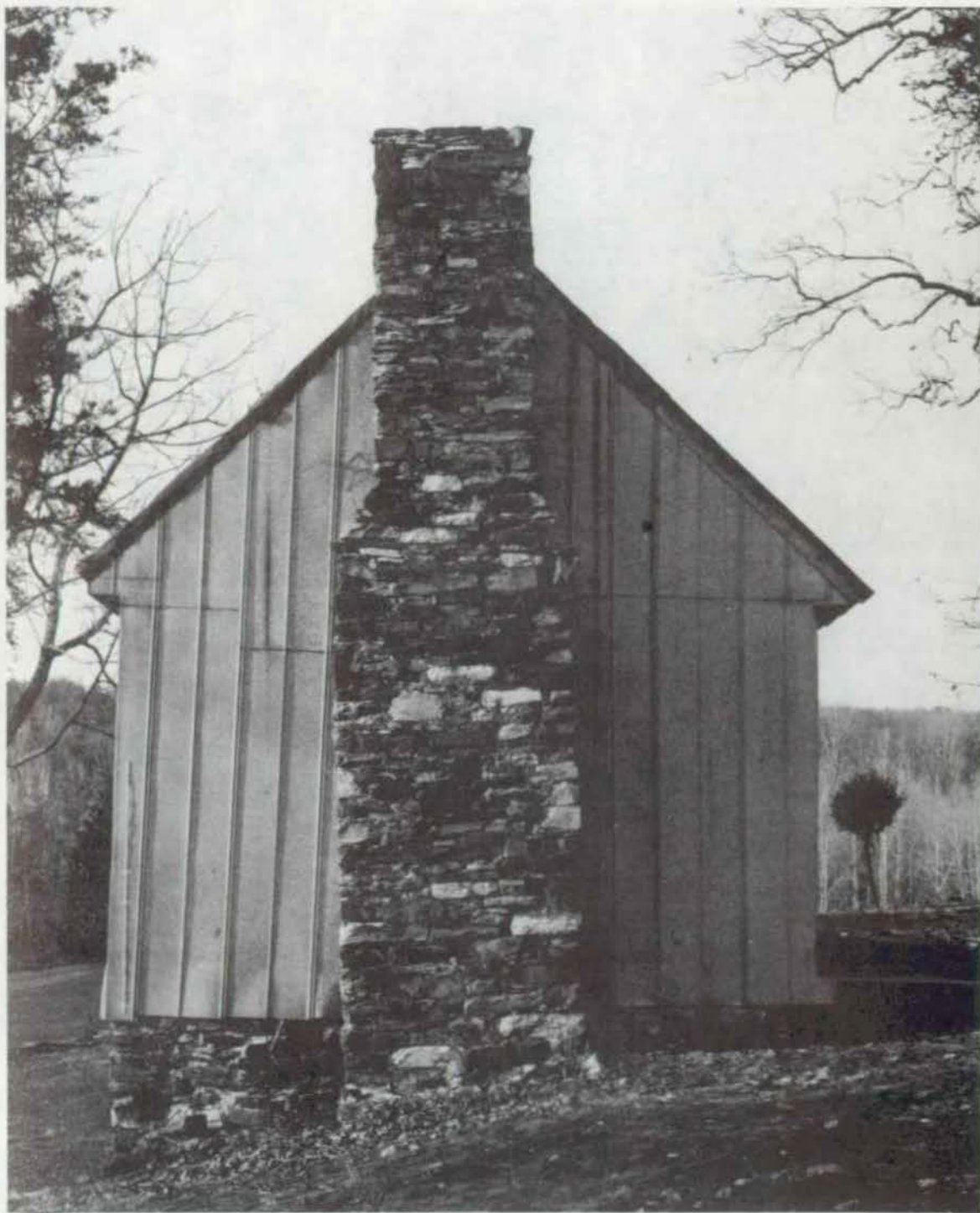
Photograph taken by Anthony S. Bley, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, for inclusion in "Photographic Survey of Condition of Foundations, Sweeney Prizery, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, by National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Office of Planning and Resource Preservation, Division of Resources Preservation - John Ingle, Architect."



Photograph No. 10

End Elevation from North, "Sweeney Prizery," 1978.

Photograph taken by Anthony S. Bley, U.S. Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District, for inclusion in "Photographic Surveys."



Photograph No. 11

Up-Hill Elevation, "Sweeney Prizery," 1978.

Photograph taken by Anthony S. Bley, U.S. Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District, for inclusion in "Photographic Survey."



Photograph No. 12

End Elevation from South, "Sweeney Prizery," 1978.

Photograph taken by Anthony S. Bley, U.S. Corps of Engineers,  
Philadelphia District, for inclusion in "Photographic Survey."



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Publication services were provided by the graphics staff of the Denver Service Center. NPS 1822