

Compton Bassett Chapel
A Historic Structure Report

Derek N. Anderson

HISP 710/711 HISP Final Project

May 2013



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PRESERVATION ISSUE
ADDRESSED
- RESEARCH QUESTIONS
- METHODOLOGY
- PROJECT DETAILS
- CONCLUSIONS

PRESERVATION PROBLEM

- HOW CAN THE COMPTON BASSETT CHAPEL, A UNIQUE STRUCTURE OF HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE, BE PRESERVED IN A MANNER THAT RESPECTS THE STRUCTURE'S MULTIPLE VALUES AND CHANGES OVER TIME?

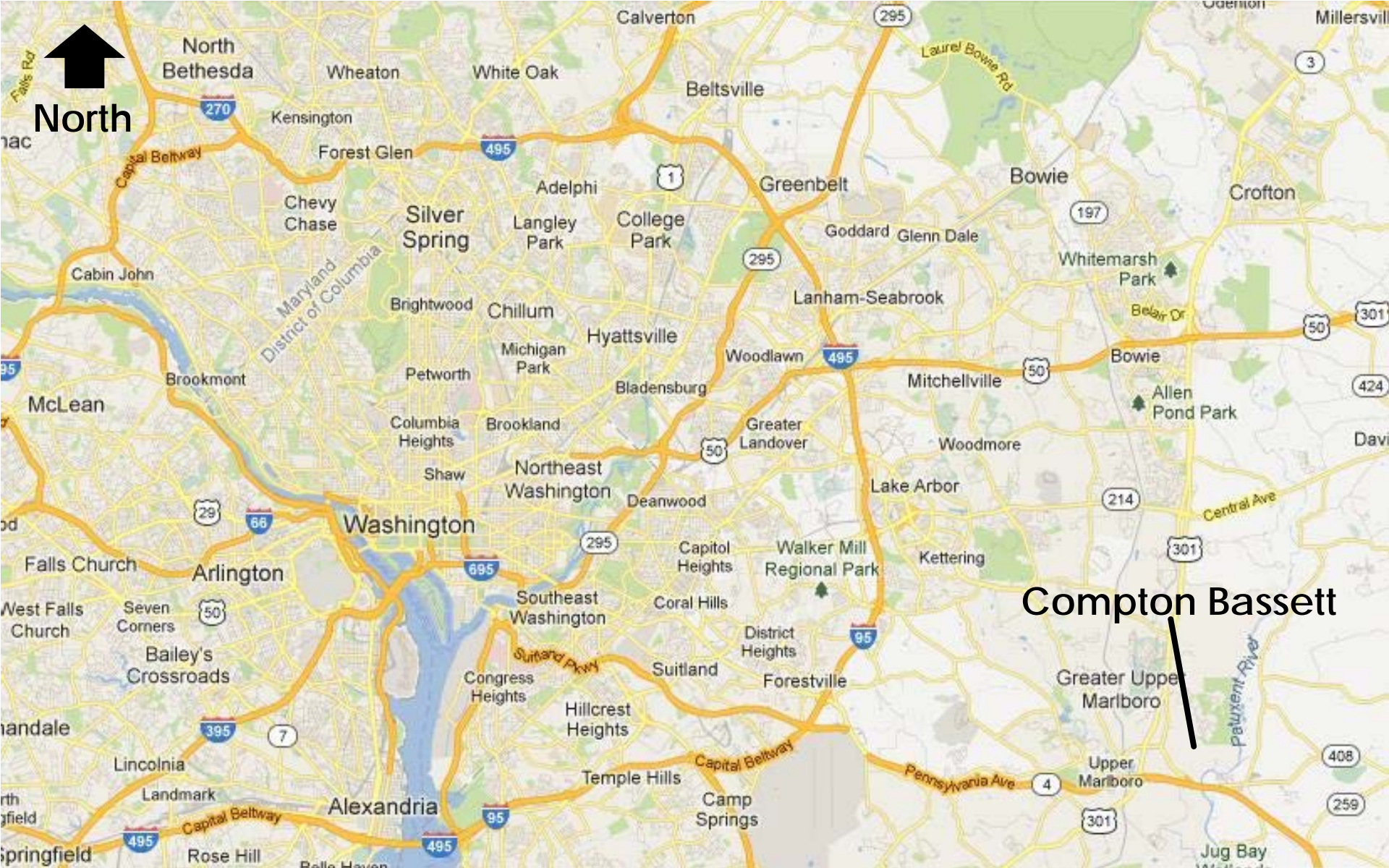
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- IS THE CURRENT BUILDING HISTORY CORRECT?
- HOW DID THIS CHAPEL EVOLVE OVER TIME?
- WHAT ARE THE VALUES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BUILDING?
- WHAT IS THE BEST COURSE OF TREATMENT FOR THE COMPTON BASSETT CHAPEL?

METHODOLOGY

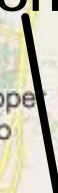
- CONDUCTED DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH
- CONDUCTED PHYSICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BUILDING
- CONSULTED OUTSIDE EXPERTS

PROJECT DETAILS



North

Compton Bassett





North

Dairy

Smoke House

Main House

Chapel





HABS Photograph - 1936



HABS Photograph -1980s



Prince George's County Historic Preservation – 2007















HISTORICAL CONTEXT

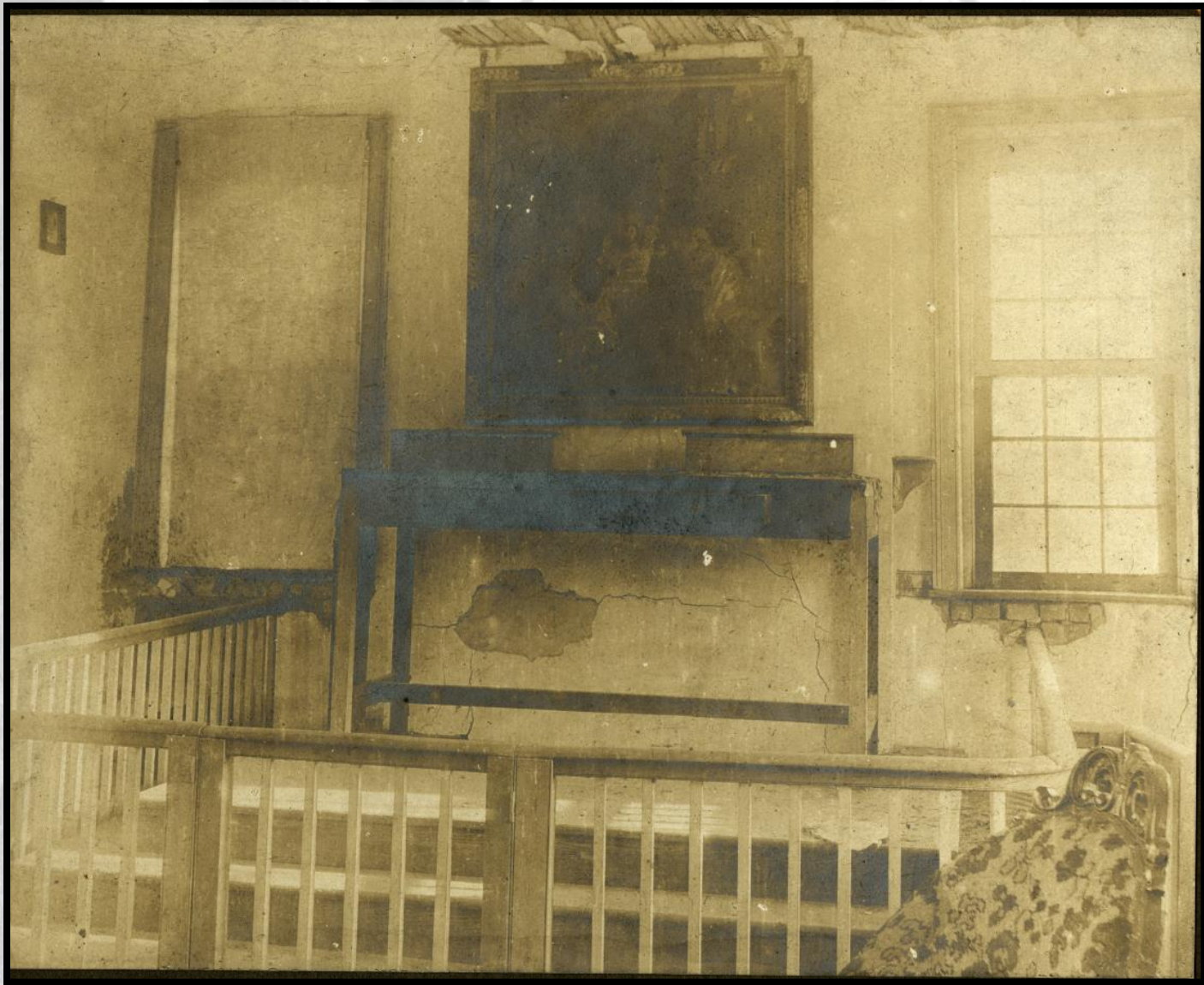
CATHOLICISM IN COLONIAL MARYLAND



St. Mary's City

COMPTON BASSETT HISTORY





Maryland
Historical
Society

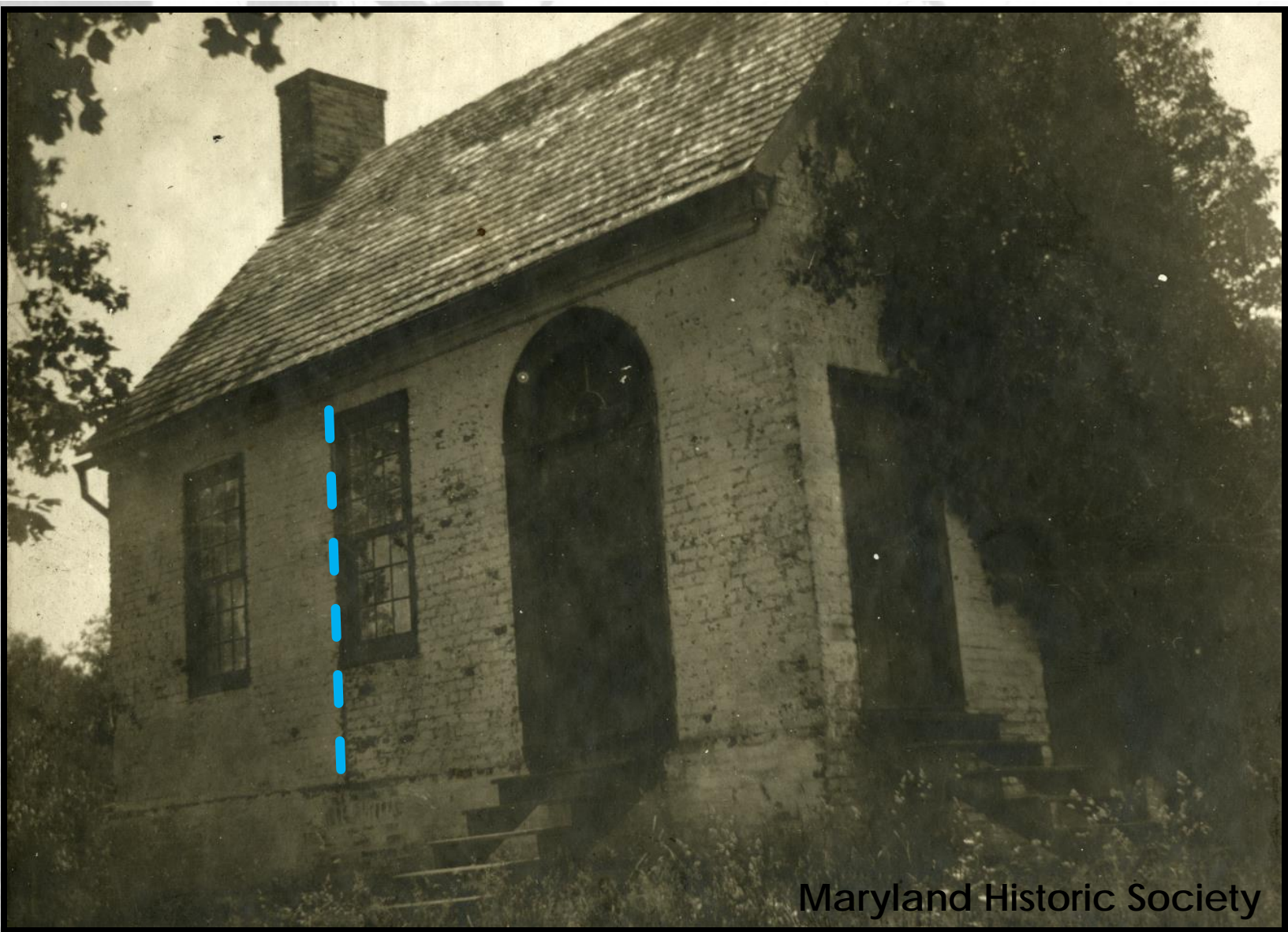


Maryland Historic Society



George H. Page May the 23rd 184

PHYSICAL INVESTIGATION OF BUILDING



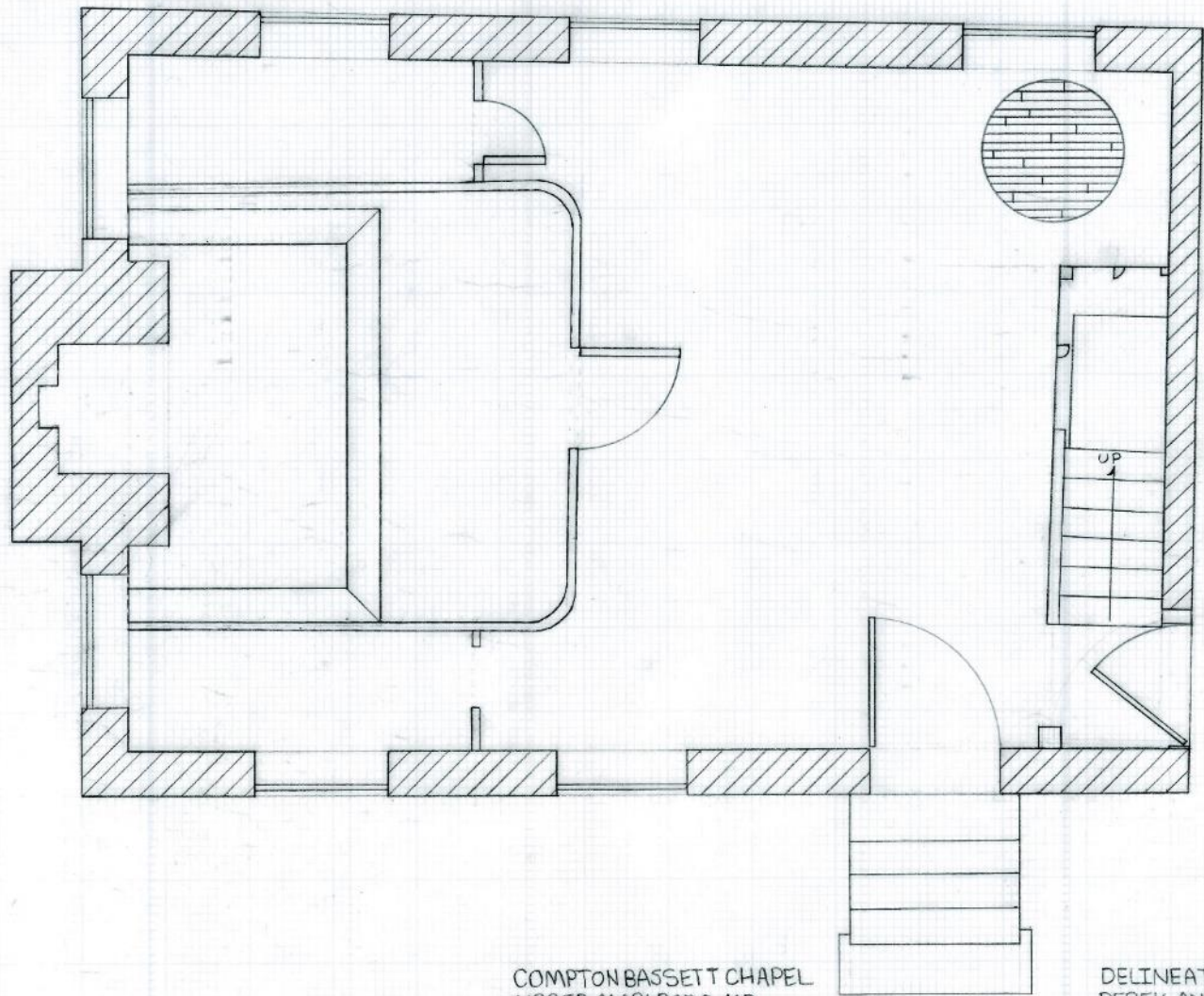
Maryland Historic Society





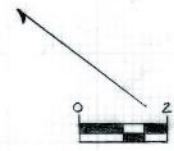






COMPTON BASSETT CHAPEL
UPPER MARLBORO, MD
SANCTUARY AND NAVE FLOOR PLAN

DELINEATED BY:
DEREK ANDERSON
APRIL 5, 2013



Spring of 1779!



20	To 1 Roasting pigg	@.
1.	To 1 bushell Corn	@.
7.	To 2 1/2 bushells. Corn	@.
9	To 1/2 Cord Wood. 7/6 14 th To 1/2 Cord Wood	

1779. Motty Young

Jan'y . . . 10. To 15. Cord Wood
 To 1 Load of puntions
 To Wood

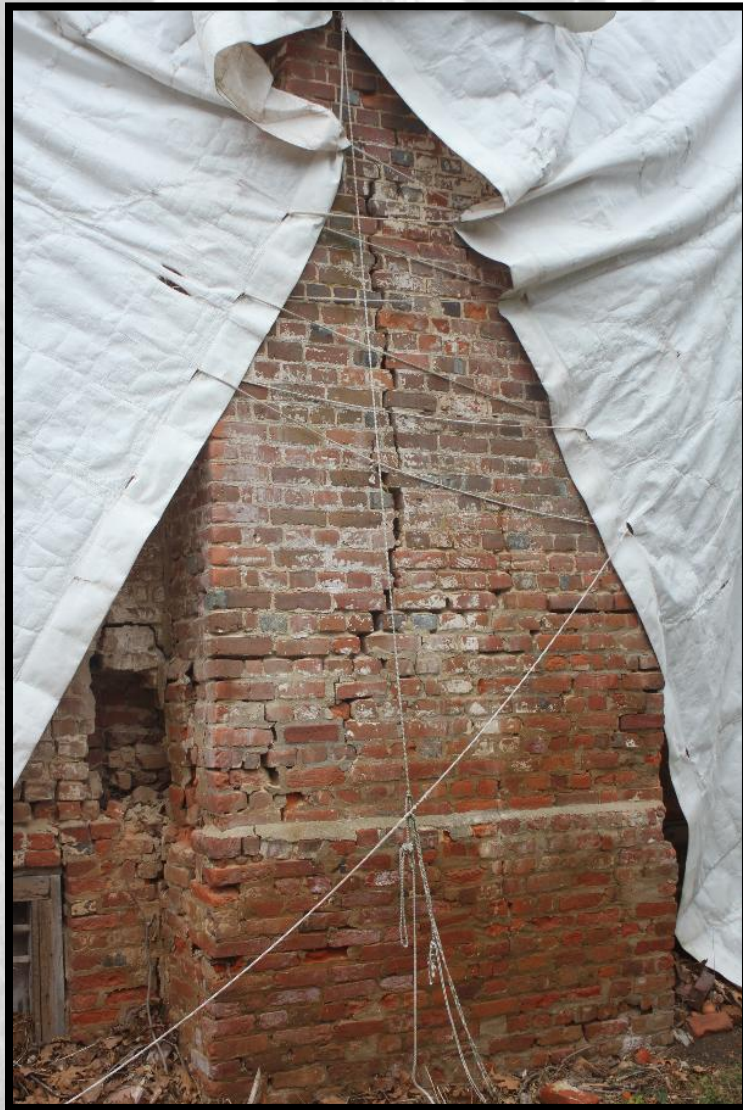
1780. : To Wood

EVOLUTION OF BUILDING



- STARTED AS A SMALLER BUILDING
- LIKELY CONVERTED INTO CHAPEL IN EARLY-19TH CENTURY
- UNCLEAR WHEN BUILDING WENT OUT OF USE AS A CHAPEL

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



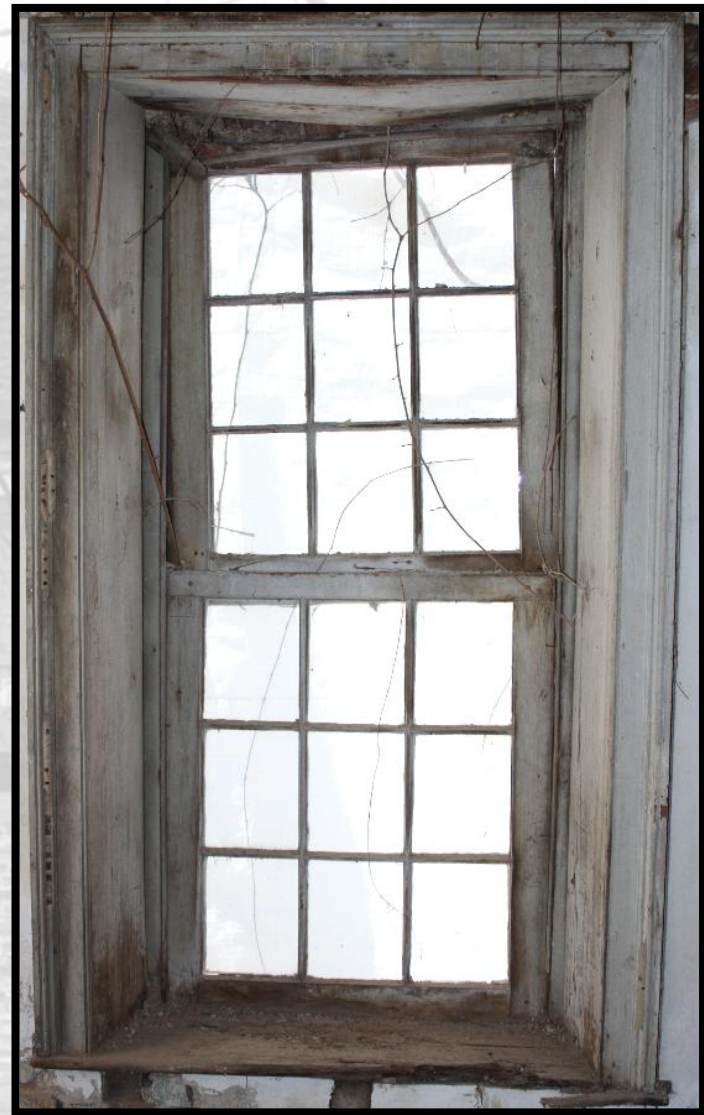
Structural Problems



Close-Up View



Spalling Masonry



Deteriorating Windows

Deteriorated
Plaster

Unfinished
Modern Repairs

Rotten Flooring

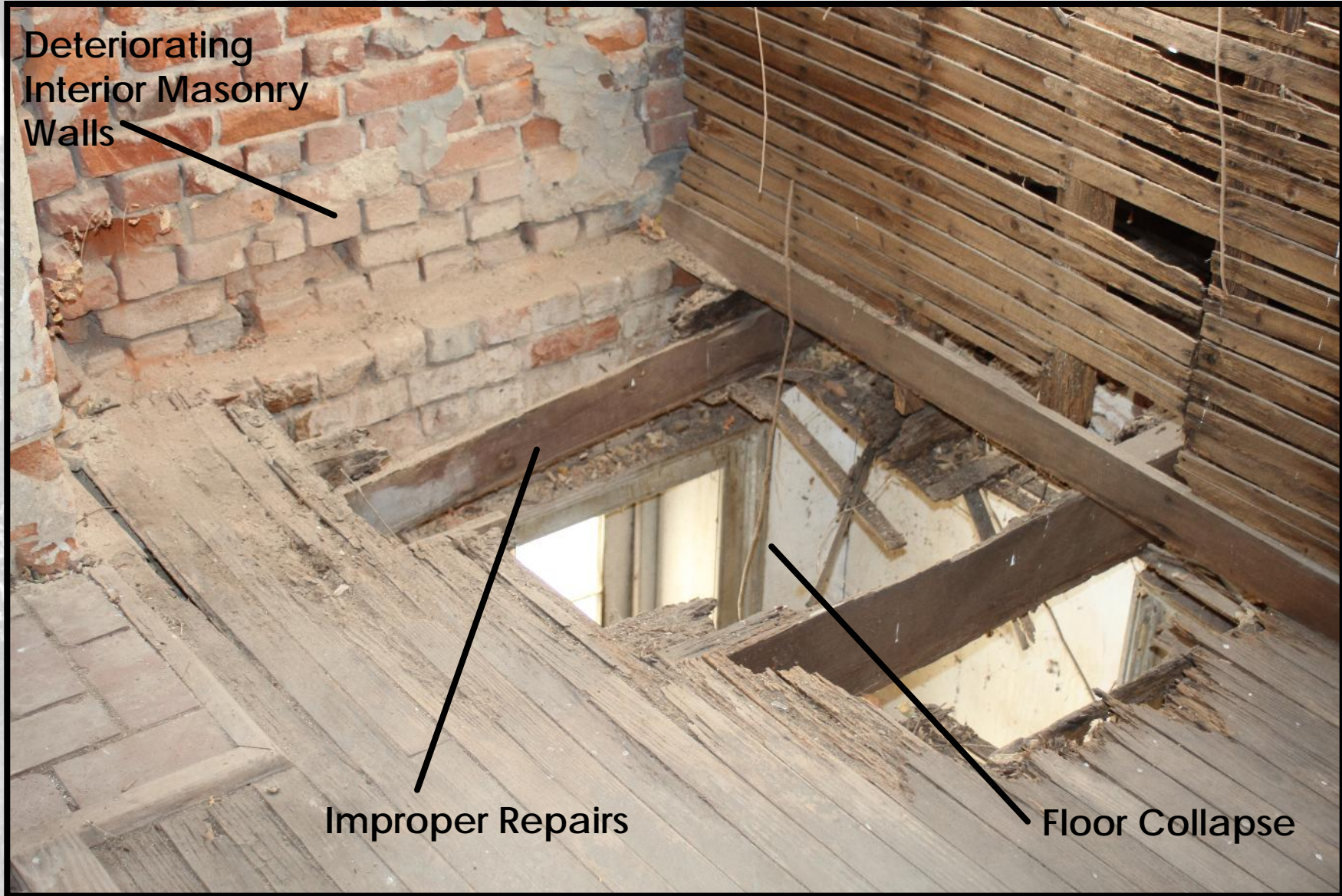
Missing Building
Components



Deteriorating
Interior Masonry
Walls

Improper Repairs

Floor Collapse



TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- *PRESERVATION*-BASED TREATMENT APPROACH
- SET STABILIZATION EFFORTS APART
- PROVIDED DETAILED TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
- ARCHAEOLOGY

REEVALUATION OF BUILDING HISTORY

CONFLICTING HISTORIES

- ~~• BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT CA. 1740~~
- TIMBERS IN FIRST PERIOD DATE TO CA. SPRING 1779
- EARLIEST MENTION OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT COMPTON BASSETT WERE IN 1773
- NO DIRECT MENTION OF BUILDING IN DOCUMENTARY HISTORICAL RECORD

PRESERVATION TAKEAWAYS

- SHOULD REGULARLY REEVALUATE HISTORIC RESOURCES
- SHOULD NOT ALWAYS ACCEPTED THE “KNOWN” HISTORY
- VALUES ASSOCIATED WITH RESOURCE SHOULD BE EXPLORED
- MUST TAILOR TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH HISTORIC RESOURCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- PROFESSOR DONALD W. LINEBAUGH
- FREDERICK STACHURA
- THOMAS REINHART
- DR. DENNIS POGUE
- MICHAEL WORTHINGTON
- DR. CARL LOUNSBURY
- JOHN SINES
- M-NCPPC
- COMPTON BASSETT STUDIO CLASS
- CRISTINA MOSCOSO



THANK YOU



QUESTIONS?